



## Opal Nadine (McPherson) Simpson

December 19, 1920 - March 1, 2026

Opal Nadine (McPherson) Simpson, 105, passed away on March 1, 2026. Opal was the first born of four children to Elmer Geoffrey and Pattie Huntas (Malone) McPherson on December 19, 1920 in Blytheville, Arkansas. On October 10, 1940 she married James Marshall Simpson in Springfield, Missouri. Their marriage was blessed with two daughters. She was employed in retail sales in the 1960's – 70's at Eastgate Plaza in East Alton and enjoyed working at Carousel Children's Shop and Nathan Marcus Ladies Apparel. She was a charter member of Heartland Baptist Church in Alton and attended faithfully until circumstances prohibited it. Her survivors include her daughter, Karen (Roger) Pace of Brighton, and their children, Amanda Ashley (Bryan) Smith and Corey Matthew (Brittney) Pace. Also surviving are grandchildren, Lori (Steve) Merkel and Staci (Brian) Hayes, great grandchildren, Bailey (Naomi) and Jordan Merkel, Olivia (Kaden Manning) and Jackson (Emily) Dufer, Hudson and Holden Hayes, Harrison Pace, Peyton and Colton Smith and great-great granddaughter, Harley Dufer, as well as Winsley Manning due later this month. Her brother, George (Doris) McPherson also survives, along with several loving and much-loved nieces and nephews and one aunt, Della Mauro. Her husband, James preceded her in death on June 13, 2007. She was also preceded in death by her daughter and son-in-law, Kathie and Stephen Taylor, her sister and brother -in-law, Anna Laura and Webb Frazier, her brother and sister-in-law, John and Sammie McPherson, and her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Norma Lee (Simpson) and Bill Schrempf.

Services will be private. Memorials may be made to Heartland Baptist Church. Let all who knew and loved her be at peace knowing that she is finally rejoicing with those who have gone before her.

Gent Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Additional information and online guestbook may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ Oh Opal, my heart is so sad☹️ You were such a beautiful person and I will miss you so much! Thinking of you always ❤️

Brittani Hoyle - March 13 at 11:28 AM

BH

“ Oh Opal, you touched my heart immensely and I am so thankful to have known you. I will always cherish the memories I have with you. I know your body and mind were weary and you are happy to have eternal rest. Much love to Karen and her family.

Barbara Houck - March 13 at 08:47 AM

VJ

“ Karen & family. So sorry to hear of your mother's passing. We've known Opal for many years. One of the sweetest people I know. Always a smile on her face. You are in our thoughts & prayers.. With Love Van & Jane Johnson

Van & Jane Johnson - March 03 at 10:54 AM

MW

“ What A beautiful lady inside and outside. We have wonderful memories of Opal and her family. My love and prayers . Mary Wiley  
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Mary Wiley - March 03 at 08:17 AM

SA

“ *Karen and family,  
Sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. It's been along time but I  
remember she was a sweetie. My thoughts and  
prayers are with your family.*  
*Sue Ansell*

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**sue ansell** - March 02 at 08:00 PM

AO

“ *We only meet Opal a couple of times. She was a very sweet lady.  
I'm sure she will be dearly missed. Deepest Sympathy, Al & Barb  
Oleson*

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**Albert Oleson** - March 02 at 05:21 PM