

Vona Smith, UE



Obituary

It is with profound sadness that we announce Vona Edna (DeWitt) Smith UE has passed away peacefully on January 22, 2018. She was born in Sandy Lake, Manitoba, Canada, February 12, 1923 to Ira DeWitt and Edna Belle Barker, the youngest of seven. She graduated with a scholarship from high school and enrolled in Brandon MB Normal School (Teachers College) and taught in rural schools in the province. In 1942 she married Gilbert Doran Smith who served in the Royal Canadian Air Force and they moved to Vancouver, BC in 1948. They had 4 children - Corinne, Gilbert (daughter Kasia), Aida, and Julia (husband Howard Webb; children Brennan and Jenna). Vona lectured in both Canada and the United States and has served as both a Loyalist Librarian and Genealogist for more than 15 years. She was a past President of the Vancouver Branch of the UEL Association of Canada with five UE certificates. Vona (DeWitt) Smith was a skilled lecturer, journalist, researcher and mentor and has been a major part in keeping the Genealogy Association alive working with others to help establish two new Branches in BC. It was Vona's dedication to research that has enabled so many British Columbians to affix UE (Unity of the Empire) after their names; this is the only hereditary title given by the Crown outside of Britain. Vona travelled extensively across Canada and the US in order to do major research on her family, as well as writing her own book on Tierck Clafsen Dewitt and Descendants of his son Luycas Dewitt. She was also a master seamstress with many workshops, conventions, and luncheons that had been graced by Vona's Loyalist costumes. The Vancouver Loyalist Branch was honoured to nominate Vona E. Smith UE for the distinguished Phillip E. M. Leith Memorial Award in 2007, being the first year of its inauguration. Vona was a kind, thoughtful, creative and witty person who loved her family and friends dearly. She was loved by many and will be greatly missed. A special thank you to Belvedere Home Care and Dr. Yap for their kindness and care. A celebration of life will be held at the Poirier Sport & Leisure Complex in Rec Room 2 at 636 Poirier St, Coquitlam, BC on February 10, 2018 from 1:30 – 4:30. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to a charity of your choice in her name. Contact information with Gibbysmith@shaw.ca.