

Marjorie Virginia Clark Richards

Marjorie Richards was born Marjorie Virginia Clark on February 4, 1914 in Navasota, Texas. She died early on Wednesday morning, August 18, 2011 at the age of ninety-seven years, six months and fourteen days, with her family at her side. Marjorie was a longtime member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter #105 in Austin and was one of the last "Real Daughters".

Marjorie's mother, Marjorie Virginia Jameson, married her father, Isaac Benton Clark, in April 1904 in Grimes County, long after the War Between the States had ended. Her mother was a thirty-two year old widow with five children and her father, born in 1844 in Tulia, Mississippi, was a sixty year old widower with four grown children when they married. By the time Marjorie came along, her mother was forty-two and her father was seventy.

Isaac Benton Clark enlisted at the age of eighteen in the army of the Confederate States of America at Chambers Creek, Texas, as a private in Co. C, 19th Regt. He served three years with Colonel Pyron's Brigade, Co. E, 24th Cavalry and fought in Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi, receiving an honorable discharge at the end of the War in 1865. Marjorie felt honored to be a "Real Daughter" and never failed to share the history and memories of her loved ones who served this country so bravely. She took great pride in the character and mission of her father and her grandfather and told her children and grandchildren about them.

After the War, Isaac settled in Navasota, Texas, where he became a successful businessman. Friends always found him ready and willing to do his part in the reconstruction and considered him to be honest and upright in all his dealings. During reconstruction and the thirty-nine years that followed before he met Marjorie's mother, Isaac built a business and a family but eventually lost his first wife in death. Of Isaac Benton Clark it has been written, *"He was a man of few words but carried within him a big heart. He was kind, generous and charitably disposed. In all things he was liberal to a fault and was ever ready to extend to those in need of a helping hand, and charity never left his door empty handed."*

Marjorie's mother was born Marjorie Virginia Jameson, the daughter of Dr. David Jameson who practiced medicine in Galveston, Texas. Dr. Jameson enlisted in the War as a surgeon stationed first in Galveston, then in Vicksburg, Mississippi and finally in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. For many years his Old Coat of Gray was among his most cherished possessions. In 1866 he married Elizabeth Brookshire, and had three children one of which was Marjorie's mother.

Marjorie was born prematurely, weighing less than two pounds. Her sister related the story of how Marjorie was placed in a shoebox and laid close to the fireplace for warmth. Marjorie lost her father in May 1921, when she was only six years old. After his death, the family moved to Houston where Marjorie's mother worked as a practical nurse. Difficult times dictated that Marjorie also seek employment, so she only received an eighth grade education at that time.

Marjorie married Earl Thomas Richards three months before her twentieth birthday and they were married 59-1/2 years. They had two sons, Lawrence & Lonnie, who gave them five grandchildren & seventeen great-grandchildren.

Marjorie was a businesswoman before it became fashionable. By the time she was forty-four years old, she owned two beauty shops. She completed her GED, got her teacher's certificate, became an instructor in a private school then taught twelve years in the North Forest ISD.

Immediately following her husband's death, Marjorie moved to the Island on Lake Travis and lived there for thirteen years. She served as Chairman of the Library Committee, Chairman of the Care Wear Committee (sewing, knitting & crocheting for Austin-area hospital preemies), taught a Sunday School class in her church, and was a fifty-plus year member of Eastern Star. Most importantly all, Marjorie told us of God's goodness and His grace to her. She acknowledged God's leadership throughout her ninety-seven years of life and thanked Him for the ability to stay active until a few short months before her death. She will leave a large hole in God's kingdom here on earth.