



## Frances Heloise Gardner

May 21, 1918 - December 6, 2015

Frances Gardner, 97 of Bartlesville, died, Sunday in Dewey.

Frances Heloise Gardner was born May 21, 1918, near Burbank, OK, to Daniel Fulton and Mary Catherine (Jacques) Hammon. She was raised in Burbank and graduated from Burbank High School in 1935 before moving to Ponca City where she worked for the famous Poncan Theatre. She met and married the love of her life Joseph Wilson Gardner on May 20, 1945, shortly after the end of WWII. They lived in Ponca City for a short time before moving to Kansas City where they managed a polo farm for a few years.

They moved back to Oklahoma, to Osage County. Joe worked for Montgomery Ward and Frances began her career spanning 25 years. She was a tape librarian for Cities Service and went with them to Tulsa. The couple loved their Osage ranch where they had cows and horses and loved the many different animals they kept on the farm. They loved to travel westward, to Arizona and Yellowstone.

Frances was an avid gardener with a green thumb. In addition to charity work and membership in the First Christian Church of Bartlesville and the Eastern Star order, Frances was active in the Garden Club, Washington County' Cattle Women, Osage County Cattle Women (Cow Bells), OHCE Pen and Tuck, Sandcreek clubs, 4-H Farm Bureau, Jubilee Quilters, as well as a volunteer at

the Salvation Army and Bartlesville Community Center. Frances participated in various area competitions, even reaching the national level; her oriental beef steak strips was a star at the 1979 OK Beef Cook-off. She was instrumental in starting many well-known local projects including Boo Boo Bears, Christmas stockings for December's new born babies and Tooth Ferry Pillows. Frances and Joe did not raise children of their own, but doted on their two nephews and extended family.

Frances loved people and her community throughout her life. She was named Bartlesville Citizen of the Year 2001, and in 2014, she served as the grand marshal at the Dewey Christmas Parade. Comfortable in her own skin and often at the center of attention, Frances acted in two movies shot in the area: the locally produced "Pruning the Family Tree" and "To the Wonder," the Ben Affleck art film where she had one of the few speaking parts.

Joe preceded Frances in death in 1985, after forty years of marriage. Frances is survived by her beloved nephews, Maynard Tanner and Lakita, and Rodger Tanner and Patty, all of Bartlesville; one great nephew Christopher Tanner and Renee of Bartlesville; four grand nieces, Stephanie Tanner of Shidler, and Crystal Huey and Derrick, Andrea Granger, and Breanna Haller and Faron, all of Bartlesville; as well as 13 great great nephews and niece; and one great great great nephew. In addition to Joe, Frances was preceded in death by her parents, one brother Daniel Arthur "Bud" Hammon, and one sister Vivian F. Tanner.

Visitation will be Sat., Dec. 12, 9-5 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 13, 12-5 p.m. At the Davis Family Funeral Home, 918-534-3030, 113 S. Osage (Hwy. 75), Dewey. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Washington County SPCA or the Bartlesville Salvation Army.

Funeral services will be held 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 14 at the First Christian

Church of Bartlesville. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. in the Grandview Cemetery of Kaw City, OK. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared with Frances' family at [www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Grandview Cemetery

Grandview Dr.  
Kaw City, OK 74641

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 12. 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home - Dewey Chapel  
113 S Osage Ave  
Dewey, OK 74029  
(918) 534-3030  
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Visitation

DEC 13. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home - Dewey Chapel  
113 S Osage Ave  
Dewey, OK 74029  
(918) 534-3030  
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Service

DEC 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Christian Church  
520 S Osage Ave.  
Bartlesville, OK 74003  
<http://bvillefcc.org/>

## Graveside Service

DEC 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

Grandview Cemetery  
Grandview Dr.  
Kaw City, OK 74641

# Tribute Wall

JE

“ And another member of the "greatest generation" passes. I remember Cousin Heloise at a family reunion in 1993. She beat out my mom (Cousin Pat) by a year for oldest participant. From that same reunion I remember her having all the cousins over to the ranch, and my 3 year old son chasing frogs by the pond. I remember feeding the goat, and it eating anything! Heloise will be missed.

*Jennifer G. Eckel, Alexandria, VA*

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**Jennifer Eckel** - December 23, 2015 at 09:29 AM

SP

“ Frances, was one of the first neighbors to stop and pay Joe and I a visit after we moved to our new home Sand Creek Ranch. (1994) I became a member of Show and Tell and our friendship flourished. We were in several different groups together I always enjoyed her company. I visited her one day and she told me she needed a new hair style, so I came back the next day with scissors and curlers to give her a new style. (pageboy) she really liked it, and was able to roll it up herself. She loved trying out for the movies and we all loved listening to her tell about it. She was full of ideas that we used in OHCE.

*she collected all of the materials we used for making lap robes, bibs, boo-boo bears. and so much more. Rest in peace my dear friend. I will miss seeing you Frances, your friend. Shirley Paidl*

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**Shirley Paidl** - December 14, 2015 at 09:18 AM

AW

“ To the Family of Francis Gardner,  
I have known Francis since 1974, she and I belonged to the Show and Tell extension group. Lots of activities we have been involved with together, such as 4-H, the fairs ( she was always active with the flower displays) I was active with the animals. We helped cook in the fair kitchen for the meals, making pie crust for the holidays. We also belonged to the Washington county cowbells. A lot of years we have spent time with each other amongst other friends in the different clubs. She was a great cook, and I would have loved to look through all her good recipes, but never took the time to get it done. You will be greatly missed by all, and I know I will miss you so very much.

*Avis Woodward December 13. 2015*

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**Avis Woodward** - December 13, 2015 at 11:56 PM

KG

“ *What a privilege it was in my life to have Frances as a friend! I met her in 2002 at a meeting of the Sand Creek Home Extension group and our friendship flourished from there. Fond memories include: concerts at the Community Center, some plays at Theater Bartlesville, breakfast at some local restaurants (she always got a large pancake and ended up taking half of it home), a wonderful weekend at Christmas time in OKC at a Farm Bureau Convention, waiting patiently in a long line for movie auditions, then trying out and nailing a part...complete with a limo ride to Pawhuska to do the shooting, painting Christmas bulbs and making decorations, sharing recipes and gardening tips, telling cattle stories, shopping, and her beloved Farmers' Market, which we attended many times over the past few years. Much like my own mother, she was a godly woman who was a gentle servant full of kindness and those attributes were contagious. Now when I think of angels, I see her sweet face and precious smile and I'm flooded with a sense of peace and joy and I thank God for the gift of her presence in my life.*

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**Karen Goins** - December 08, 2015 at 05:28 PM

LC

“ *Mrs. Gardner was one of the nicest, kindest, and hardworking ladies. She always had a smile. I remember going to her and Joe's to have our sheep sheered and to Roger and Mannard's birthday parties.*

*She was a great lady and will be missed by many.*

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**Linda Warehime Corbett** - December 08, 2015 at 08:18 AM