



## Dorothy M. Shank Martin

November 29, 1927 - November 24, 2022

Dorothy M. Shank Martin, 94 of Conestoga passed away peacefully Thursday afternoon, November 24, 2022 with her daughter, Debra by her side at Susquehanna Nursing and Rehab in Columbia. Born in Manor Township on November 29, 1927, she was the daughter of the late Harry M. and Esther M. Gerlach Shank. Dorothy was the wife of Melvin H. Martin who preceded her in death on January 28, 1997.

Dorothy appreciated the sunrise and the promise from God of a new day. Dorothy attended River Corner Mennonite Church, Conestoga in the 1960's and was a member of Refton Brethren In Christ Church. Early in life, she was employed at Hamilton Watch Factory and Keppel's Candy Factory.

Dorothy was a true farmer and farm wife at heart. She lived for over 70 years on her family farm and worked tirelessly to keep the farm in her family after her death. Her desire was to have their farmland in agriculture preserve and it has been. Dorothy owned and operated a stand on Southern, Central and West End Markets in Lancaster during the 1980's and 1990's, selling eggs, baked goods and vegetables.

Dorothy began to exhibit at the West Lampeter Fair in 1950. She started by taking Chow Chow, sugar cookies and red zinnias. She placed 1st with all of them that 1st year. She and her daughter, Debra entered many local fairs,

cooking and baking contests along with the Pennsylvania Farm Show with their assortment of delicious homemade creations. Dorothy is a 2 time winner of the Best Apple Pie in Pennsylvania and the winner of over 1000 other ribbons and awards. She also supported the Lancaster County 4-H benefit auction for over 25 years, donating baskets of her homemade jams and jellies. Buried with a fork in her hand, which is a sign that a good desert is yet to come....pie or cake, not Jello!

Dorothy will be missed by her daughter, Debra Martin, wife of Steven J. Berkoski of Conestoga; her sons, Pastor M. Steven, husband of Robin Martin of Elizabethtown and C. Brian Martin of Conestoga; grandchildren, Sarah, Tim and Angie; step grandchildren, Saul and Emma and great grandchildren, Brooke, Ava and Jackson. She is also survived by her sister, Esther A. Sangrey of Lancaster and J. David, husband of Janice Shank of Lancaster and many nieces and nephews. Dorothy was preceded in death by her brothers, Harry G. and E. Benjamin Shank and her sister, R. Naomi Witmer.

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend Dorothy's Funeral Service on Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 3PM from the Refton Brethren in Christ Church, 110 Church Street, Refton with Pastors Scott MacFeat and Mike Anderson officiating. Friends will be received at church on Sunday from 2 to 3PM. A family graveside service will be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, Dorothy's 95th Birthday at 2PM in the Millersville Mennonite Cemetery. Memorial remembrances may be made in Dorothy's memory to World Vision International, [www.wvi.org](http://www.wvi.org), an organization she always supported.

# Cemetery Details

## Millersville Mennonite Cemetery

Millersville, PA

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

NOV 29. 2:00 PM (ET)

Millersville Mennonite Cemetery  
Millersville, PA

## Visitation

DEC 4. 2:00 PM (ET)

Refton Brethren in Christ Church  
110 Church Street  
Refton, PA

## Funeral Service

DEC 4. 3:00 PM (ET)

Refton Brethren in Christ Church  
110 Church Street  
Refton, PA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dorothy M. Shank Martin*

October 22, 2023 at 10:35 PM



“ *Dorothy M. Shank Martin*

October 06, 2023 at 08:29 AM



“ *Dorothy M. Shank Martin*

October 05, 2023 at 11:43 PM



“ *I was so sorry to hear of the loss of your Mother. She was my first cousin. My Mother and your Grandmother were Sisters, Mary and Esther Gerlach. Again Im sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts are with you. Don Saurbaugh*

**Don Saurbaugh** - December 14, 2022 at 01:27 PM

DB

*Thank you for your note of sympathy ----Debra Martin Berkoski*

**Debra Martin Berkoski** - December 28, 2022 at 12:14 PM

JM

“ *Deb and family, sorry for the loss of your mother. Steve and Julie McMichael*

**Julia McMichael** - November 29, 2022 at 01:04 AM

DB

*Thank you. We appreciate your thoughts*

**Debra Martin Berkoski** - December 28, 2022 at 12:15 PM

TA

“ Dorothy was an amazing women. Words can't express how thankful I am to God placing me in her loving/caring arms, as a Foster Parent, during a time of my life I needed to feel safe and loved. I am forever grateful for her serving heart to take me into home and willing to make an exception in the length of time I stayed there. I instantly felt like I was a part of the family and had so many great memories there; eating strawberries right out of the field, getting fresh eggs from the chickens and fresh milk from barn, many trips to the Saturday markets to sell Dorothy's amazing bake goods, having Dorothy's delicious potatoe soup from time-to-time Sunday afternoons when we got home from church (which became my favorite), a trip to Niagara Falls and getting sick in the car, and so many more. Dorothy and her family helped make their home a safe place for me, as a little girl, and it still is today emotionally and spiritually for me. Dorothy lived an amazing life helping so many along the way. She will be missed but will forever be in my heart ❤️ !!!

**Terry M Axe** - November 28, 2022 at 10:07 PM

CS

*So sorry to hear about your mother Deb She lived a long and wonderful life And was always good Baker I'm so glad I had a chance of meeting her. My love and prayers are with you and your family*

**Connie shuff** - December 04, 2022 at 07:27 PM

DB

*Thank you Connie.*

**Debra Martin Berkoski** - December 28, 2022 at 12:16 PM

KM

“ Our sympathy to the Martin family. B.G. Mellinger & Son Inc

Ken Mellinger - November 28, 2022 at 01:22 PM

CB

“ To Deb, Steve and all your family: I'm sorry to read of your mothers passing. I hope you're comforted knowing she'll be in Heaven and lived a joyous and long life.

Carol Barton

Carol Barton - November 27, 2022 at 03:17 PM

KD

“ My thoughts of love ❤️ and comfort to Deb and family. Thankful Deb was raised by a loving christian woman. God blessed them with so many wonderful memories. Love in Jesus , kyra dobler a past coworker with Deb at good ol skh

kyra m dobler - November 27, 2022 at 08:13 AM

DB

Thank you Kyra

Debra Martin Berkoski - December 28, 2022 at 12:17 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dorothy M. Shank Martin.



November 27, 2022 at 07:54 AM

GM

“ Dorothy was a true testimony of strength. She was an inspiration to her family and friends. A true testimony of love. I am so glad I had the opportunity to meet her. ❤️

Gordon & Linda Moore - November 27, 2022 at 06:51 AM

DB

Thank you

Debra Martin Berkoski - December 28, 2022 at 12:17 PM

PD

“ Dorothy was a very special person in my life she was a very hard worker with her baking, farm work and foster care. I admired her so much, she was a testimony of her love for God , she shared wisdom and insights that I respected her so much. She will be missed, but she lived a long but meaningful life. Thankyou Dorothy for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of your life ❤️

Patricia Doeler - November 26, 2022 at 09:21 PM

DB

Being the Mother of her Grandchildren you will always be a part of our family history. Thank you for the kind words

Debra Martin Berkoski - December 28, 2022 at 12:19 PM