



Helen L Dixon

MAR 24, 1934 - FEB 7, 2019



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Helen L Dixon

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Helen L. Dixon, 84, passed away quietly Thursday evening, in her farm home in Viewtown, Virginia.

Born 1934 in Belleville, Illinois, Mrs. Dixon was a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. City born, Mrs. Dixon for years taught kindergarten. In 1968 she and her late husband, John Dixon, bought and began clearing, improving, and expanding their first farm in Rappahannock County. There Mrs. Dixon, always an animal lover, was drawn to the unusual and rare, exotic animals.

A self-taught farmer, Mrs. Dixon soon filled her farm with cattle and exotic animals that included zebras, camels, endangered African antelope, dall sheep, and water buffalo, among others. She also raised a variety of donkeys, emu, ostriches, and peacocks, and other fowl.

Mrs. Dixon was well known as a cattle breeder. Amongst her contributions to Virginia's agriculture was the import of the first herd of Simmental cattle directly from Ireland to her Virginia farm in the 1980s.

She was the first in Virginia to use embryo transplant and artificial insemination in her breeding program. Mrs. Dixon also bred Brahman and Zebu cattle. She later turned to rare breed Legacy Dexter Cattle and Scottish Highland Cattle.

By the 1990s Mrs. Dixon became an expert in both exotic and domestic farm animal husbandry, for which she was well known and respected. Since 2006, Mrs. Dixon has been active in the preservation of the rare Heck Tarpan Horses originally imported to the USA in 1959. At the time of her death she owned the only herd of Heck Tarpan Horses in the United States.

Mrs. Dixon is survived by her eldest son, Dr. Gregory K. Dixon OD, an optometrist in Culpeper, as well as three other adult children, five grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and her loyal service dog, May.

A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Found



Obituary

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and Sons Funeral Chapel, 850 Sperryville Pike, Culpeper, VA . The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

An online guestbook and tribute wall are available at www.foundandsons.com

Found and Sons Funeral Chapel of Culpeper is serving the family.



Tribute Wall

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OY

Olivia Yancey posted:

I will miss Helen very much. She was a good friend/neighbor to my granny and was very supportive after the loss of my granny and treated me like family. I loved going on her farm and seeing the animals, it brought so much joy. So sad to know she's gone. I'd like to think her and my granny are having good times together again.

February 13 at 6:53 AM

JK

Jennifer&Philip Keyser Jr posted:

We are sorry for your loss.

February 13 at 5:53 AM

WS

Wayne Sheads posted:

The town of Viewtown Va. has lost yet another well known and loved pillar of the community. Mrs. Dixons contributions to us will live on through her iconic legacy. Our family always loved to see what exotic animals we might see driving down viewtown road. May the Lord God give comfort to the family as only he can do, and may he sustain them in this time of great loss.

February 12 at 5:01 AM

VC

Victoria Croft posted:

Sorry for your loss. I loved going over to see Helen and talk to her about her Tarpans and all her exotic animals. hatching her peafowl eggs and watching them grow has been wonderful. The oldest ones are now 3 years old. I was just thinking of visiting her and May. I am very sorry i did not get out there for a visit. Victoria Croft

February 11 at 6:21 PM



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Melinda Smale shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Dear Family of Helen Dixon, I knew Helen but a short time but we were united in our love of her Tarpans. Two years ago this April, I purchased 5 of her young geldings to keep in a special pasture of Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue (Afton, VA) as ambassadors of the history of the horse. During the first 7 months, they remained with Helen and I visited them once a month. Each time I saw them I also visited with Helen and her little dog. Those were very special moments. She guided me. We shared stories about the Tarpans and how unique they are. The joy those 5 Tarpans give me is indescribable. I attach a photo of them. I changed their names to Jupiter, Mars, Mercury, Neptune and Saturn. We regularly have a picnic breakfast with them in the pasture. I wanted you to have this little memory in your loss, and to let you know that I am there to help in any way that I can to make sure this extraordinary herd finds the right home. Melinda Smale



February 11 at 11:13 AM



Debbie Capasso posted:

Gregg - I am so sorry for the loss of your mother. I will always be thankful for the opportunity to share her love of the Tarpans, and will forever remember how her face lit up as she drove her Chevy Suburban all over the farm feeding them cookies. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers, and that I am here if you need any help with the horses. May your mom's dream of saving the breed from extinction live on.....!Debbie Capasso

February 11 at 7:29 AM



Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Dixon family.



February 10 at 4:46 PM



Anonymous sent a Pretty Please to the Dixon family.



February 10 at 1:17 PM



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DT

Donald & Mary Teague sent a Fairest of All to the Dixon family.



February 9 at 4:45 PM

DK

Deborah L Knighting posted:

Dr. Dixon, So sorry for the loss of your mother. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

February 9 at 3:38 PM

DE

Deborah posted:

Sincerest loving condolences to Helen's family. May there be peace in the coming days, Deborah L. Napier

February 9 at 2:43 PM

PB

Patricia Bowen posted:

Deepest condolences to the family.

February 9 at 2:33 PM



Media

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Melinda Smale shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 11 at 11:13 AM



Five of Helen's beloved Tarpans in their second home at Hope's Legacy Equine Rescue



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Helen by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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