



A MEMORIAL
to
Bertha Marie Boya Thompson
1917-2009
Professor Emerita of Teacher Education

Bertha Marie Boya Thompson, Professor Emerita of Teacher Education, was born in 1917 in New Castle, Pennsylvania, and died at the age of 92 on March 16, 2009, at the Knolls of Oxford. She is survived by her husband John (professor emeritus, geography), daughter Kay Lynn (William “Skip” Koolage) of Winnipeg, Canada, son Scott McClain (Nereida Cordero) of Leesburg, Virginia, and her grandchildren.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree, Suma Cum Laude, from Slippery Rock State Teachers College with majors in English, geography, and social studies for both elementary and secondary certificates. In 1954, after completing her thesis, *History of Miami from 1855-1900*, she received her Master of Arts degree in history from Miami University. She received her Doctorate of Education with an emphasis in beginning reading from Indiana University in 1964.

Bertha had a long career teaching in public schools. She taught at the elementary level in New Castle, Pennsylvania, from 1940-1946 and taught kindergarten in Badger Village, Wisconsin, from 1947-1948. In 1952, after moving to Oxford with her husband John, Bertha taught at both the junior and senior high school levels. She taught at Stewart School in 1954 before transferring to the Talawanda High School in 1955. From 1960-1963, Bertha was the department coordinator for social studies and was one of ten high school geography teachers in the United States chosen to help develop a new high school geography curriculum under a National Science Foundation Grant.

She joined the faculty of Western College for Women in 1963 as professor and chair of the Education Department. She also taught many summers at Earlham College and Miami. Upon the closing of Western College in 1974, she became a Professor of Teacher Education at Miami from 1974-1978 specializing in clinical reading and teacher supervision. She retired from Miami in 1978.

A person of many interests, Bertha embarked on a new career in 1979 as owner of Cottage Grove Antique Shop in Indiana. She showed her fine Victorian period antiques at numerous shows in the surrounding areas. She became a certified antique appraiser as well. At the age of 88 she retired again hoping to write a novel, which, unfortunately, she was unable to finish.

Prepared and submitted by Dr. Robert L. Wendel, professor emeritus and former department chair, teacher education.

