

Mary Dolph (Mrs. Palmer Dolph, Sr.)

She was born Elzina Mary Henry on October 2, 1894, but everyone called her Mary. She was the middle daughter to John and Alberta Dolph; the family lived in Farwell, Clare County, Michigan. Her mother died when Mary was only 6 years old and her sisters were 8 and 2 years old. Her father remarried.

Miss Mary Henry married Palmer C. Dolph on September 25, 1916, in Mason, Michigan. In 1920, as many in their community did, they moved to Muskegon seeking job opportunities. Palmer found work as a machinist in the motor works industry.

As is the case for many women, most of what we can learn about Mary is through the activities of the men in her family or the society columns of local newspapers.

Mary's stepmother had been active in her community, and Mary and her sisters followed in her footsteps. Mary was a member of the Women's Division Greater Muskegon Chamber of Commerce and co-chaired the Patron Committee with Pat Reese for the Get-Acquainted Dance in 1959. Mary had interests in knitting and bridge. She was very close to her father, stepmother, and sisters, trading visits often between Muskegon and Farwell, Michigan.

Mary and her husband had two children: Palmer C. Dolph, Jr., born in 1918, and Norma Ann, born in 1926. Neither Mary nor Palmer, Sr. attended school or college, but both of their children did.

Palmer, Sr., is listed in the 1940 census as a service man in the motor specialty industry and made \$3,000 a year. In 1957, he is listed in the Muskegon City Directory as Continental Motors Corporation's Vice President, Assistant Sales Manager Automotive and Agricultural. At that time, Palmer and Mary lived at 2340 Maffett Street in Muskegon Heights.

Mary's husband died in July 1962 at the age of 67. Mary died in 1989 just short of her 95th birthday. She is buried in Oakwood Cemetery next to her husband. She outlived her son, a US Navy veteran who died in 1983 at 65 years old. She had at least two grandchildren.