

WISE COUNTY
MESSENGER

DECEMBER 29, 2021

DECATUR

**Nina
Robinson
passes**

Almost two months after turning 111, Nina Robinson died after a short illness Monday morning.

See Nina on page 7

Nina: Beloved resident passes



ARCHIVES

LIFE WELL LIVED — Nina Robinson died Tuesday morning at the age of 111.

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Nina is survived by her two daughters, seven grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, five step-great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

"It was a blessing for her that she doesn't have to struggle anymore and that's what she was doing, she was struggling for eight days maybe a little longer," said her daughter Connie Pruett. "The last eight days were the hardest of her life I think."

Nina was born in Greenwood Nov. 11, 1910, to Felix Johnson England and Dannie Rebecca Brewer England. She lived in Wise County her whole life besides living for one year in Fresno, Calif. for work with her husband Cecil Claude Robinson. They didn't like California and quickly moved back to Wise County and lived there the rest of their lives.

"She was born here. She has always been here," said her granddaughter Robin Stout.

Robinson has lived through many historical moments such as the first walk on the moon, President Kennedy's assassination, Watergate, The Cold War and much more. She was telling stories of her past up until her final days.

"She had an impeccable memory. She knew everyone, everything, where they lived and who their relatives

having to isolate from friends and family took a huge toll. She nursed her son Harold through polio and her daughter Sylvia through measles. Nina even held the hands of her sister sick with smallpox and never contracted it.

"She's been through so much and she is so resilient and so strong," Robin said.

Nina created a special dynamic throughout the family that keeps them each connected. "She made it to where we are all a part of each other's lives and she knew everything that was going on with each one of us," Stout said. Nina started a tradition where every new baby in the family received a "Grandma Quilt" handmade by her and later in life her granddaughter Frieda Lasater started helping her. The family hopes to continue the tradition in her honor.

In her final days, she even wanted to see one of her great-great grandson's she hadn't seen in a while, and as she was telling this to Robin within 15 minutes a nurse walked in with a card from him. Nina hoped the card included a picture and it did.

"It just made her whole night. She just glowed," Robin said.

The family is very thankful to have had so many years with Nina. She was a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother.

"It's almost indescrib-

who their relatives were,” said Robin. Robin was right next to her during her final days listening to all her wonderful stories feeling as though she was a child again listening to her grandma tell her bedtime stories.

Robinson was born long before cars were the main form of transportation. She went from using horses, wagons and buggies to Model As and Ts but she never received a driver’s license. She always had her family around to help her get to work in Denton and would drive only in the pastures while feeding livestock.

Nina has not only lived through COVID-19 but also the Spanish Flu, polio and more. Fortunately, she never contracted COVID-19, but

“It’s almost indescribable. We’re so thankful and blessed to have been cared for for so many years, most people do not have that privilege. She did take care of us,” Connie said.

“There’s just an abundance of love; she had enough for everybody. And she loved every single one of our family members. She loved us all,” said Robin. “She left a legacy and it was a legacy of love.”

Nina was the *Messenger’s* oldest subscriber and loved to stay up-to-date of current events.

Service will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28, at New Hope Fellowship with the burial following at Oak Lawn Cemetery. Visitation will be 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, at Hawkins Funeral Home in Decatur.

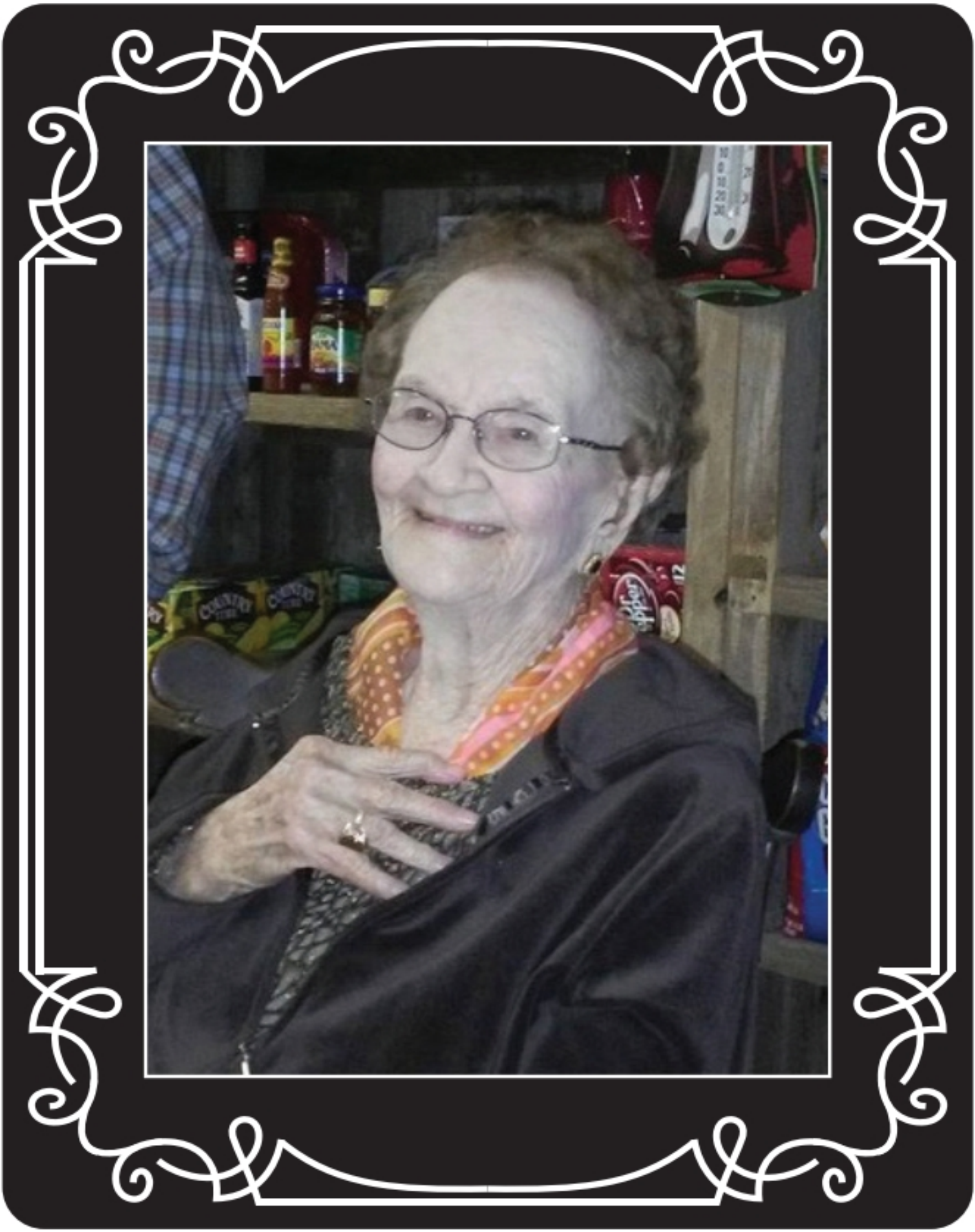


ARCHIVES

LOVING FAMILY — Nina Robinson celebrated her 111th birthday last month with a drive-by parade. Family and friends shared their love for Nina with sweet signs and birthday cards.

Nina Ruth England Robinson

1910-2021



ROBINSON

Nina Ruth England Robinson was born Nov. 11, 1910 in Greenwood to Felix Johnson England of Dalton, Ga., and Dannie Rebecca Brewer England of Decatur.

She was born right off the east side of Farm Road 1204 on what is now known as the T.N. Maxwell place. Nina was the oldest of six siblings. She had two brothers, Joseph Robert England (Wilemma) and James, a baby boy who died close to birth but whom she loved dearly.

She also had three sisters, Alma Louise Allen (Jasper), Edna Marie Hill (Lomer) and Mona Fern Mann (J.W.). All of the siblings resided in Wise County most of their lives with their families and were always very close.

Nina's father began her education by teaching his children through the Bible, books, and newspapers, which seemed to influence so many aspects of her adult life. She later attended schools in Sycamore and Brumelow and completed the ninth grade at Brumelow, which was the highest grade available at the time. She stayed an additional year as a teacher.

When she was young she played softball and was known for always hitting a home run. She and her family also enjoyed local community gatherings, which may have segued into her writing a column for the local paper in Greenwood. The column featured social and community happenings. She knew all the latest.

Nina was also a lifelong seamstress. As a young lady, she made dresses for others and accepted fabric in exchange, which she then used to keep her mom, sisters and herself in nice dresses. She also made suit coats for gentlemen and could turn a collar as nice and neat as anyone could. She was an avid quilter. Her stitches were perfectly spaced and placed. Her quilts became a testament to her love for her children, grandchildren and loved ones. Each quilt could tell a story through the different fabrics that were worn or obtained throughout the years.

Additionally, Nina cut hair for everyone around and was an accomplished gardener and cook.

On Nov. 7, 1934, she married Cecil Claude Robinson in Love County in Oklahoma. They met when Claude came to visit his brother Earl who was married to Nina's sister Alma.

Nina and Claude had four children: Harold Ray Robinson (June), Sylvia Ruth Taylor (Charles), Mona Claudine Haley (Bob) and Connie Sue Pruett, all of Decatur.

The young couple began their married life on the Rucker Place near Rush Creek north of Decatur, where Harold and Sylvia were born at home. When Sylvia was one month old the family moved to the Albert Smith Place also north of Decatur, which is still home and has been to six generations now.

Claudine and Connie were both born at Darwin Hospital in Decatur. In the fall of 1941, Nina's Mom and sisters moved into the Albert Smith Place and the little family struck out for California in a 1939 Chevrolet sedan. They became so homesick they moved back in the fall of 1942. That same sedan eventually had the seats removed periodically so that they could haul raw milk to meet the milk truck and haul feed when necessary. The seats popped back in for the family to go to the movies or rodeos on Saturdays.

After her marriage, she was a homemaker, worked on the farm and dairy that she and her husband bought from the Smith Family. She eventually worked at and retired from the Denton State School, where she attended to special needs children.

Sylvia remembered a little book of poetry from when she was a child: Just Folks by Edgar A Guest and knows the following poem by heart.

Home

It takes a heap o' livin' in a house t' make it home,
A heap o' sun an' shadder, an' ye sometimes have t' roam
Afore ye really 'preciate the things ye lef' behind,
An' hunger fer 'em somehow, with 'em allus on yer mind.
It don't make any differunce how rich ye get t' be,
How much yer chairs an' tables cost, how great yer luxury;
It ain't home t' ye, though it be the palace of a king,
Until somehow yer soul is sort o' wrapped round everything.
Home ain't a place that gold can buy or get up in a minute;
Afore it's home there's got t' be a heap o' livin' in it;
Within the walls there's got t' be some babies born, and then
Right there ye've got t' bring 'em up t' women good, an' men;
And gradjerly as time goes on, ye find ye wouldn't part
With anything they ever used -- they've grown into yer heart:
The old high chairs, the playthings, too, the little shoes they wore
Ye hoard; an' if ye could ye'd keep the thumb-marks on the door.
Ye've got t' weep t' make it home, ye've got t' sit an' sigh
An' watch beside a loved one's bed, an' know that Death is nigh;
An' in the stillness o' the night t' see Death's angel come,
An' close the eyes o' her that smiled, an' leave her sweet voice dumb.
Fer these are scenes that grip the heart, an' when yer tears are dried,
Ye find the home is dearer than it was, an' sanctified;
An' tuggin' at ye always are the pleasant memories
O' her that was an' is no more -- ye can't escape from these.
Ye've got t' sing an' dance fer years, ye've got t' romp an' play,
An' learn t' love the things ye have by usin' 'em each day;
Even the roses 'round the porch must blossom year by year
Afore they 'come a part o' ye, suggestin' someone dear
Who used t' love 'em long ago, an' trained 'em jes t' run
The way they do, so's they would get the early mornin' sun;
Ye've got t' love each brick an' stone from cellar up t' dome:
It takes a heap o' livin' in a house t' make it home.

She and Claude farmed crops, milked cows and had vegetable gardens. In fact, the year she was pregnant with Claudine she canned enough food for each week for a year from the garden. At one time during World War II they operated a large-scale poultry farm. The chicken houses were incredible. They raised and maintained 1500 chickens and sold eggs to Johnson's Hatchery in Bowie.

She recalled selling eggs to the soldiers who trained on the nearby LBJ Grasslands as they marched through the front yard moving to the next government land location.

She also told of many firsts. She transitioned from horses, wagons, buggies to Model A's and Model T's. She never received her driver's license though and only drove in the pastures while feeding livestock. Nina remembered poles being set and electricity being brought down through the field in front of the house as they worked. She paid \$5 to bring it in. She observed the beginnings of missiles being launched, men on the moon, President Kennedy's assassination, Watergate, the Cold War, the Carter/Reagan campaign, all the way through Donald Trump and the present administration.

The importance of voting was instilled in her as a child and was also shared by her husband, and they passed it on.

She first voted at 21 at the Drug Store in Greenwood. At that time, she had to pay for the privilege, and she kept the receipt. Nina rarely missed an opportunity to vote. She voted in the 2020 election at 110 years old and was very certain of her candidate.

She was preceded in death by her husband Claude, her son Harold, daughter-in-law June Robinson, son-in-law Charles Taylor, daughter Claudine Haley and son-in-law Bob Haley, as well as her parents and siblings.

She is survived by her daughters, Sylvia Taylor and Connie Pruett; grandchildren Frieda Lasater and husband, Zane, Robin Stout and husband, William, Danny Taylor and wife, DeAnn, Elizabeth Thompson and husband, Tommy Bell, Nina Tillery and husband, Jace, Carrie Goble and husband, John and Preston Pruett and wife, Tiffany, all of Decatur; great-grandchildren Ryan Davis and wife, Candice, Brittany Jones and husband, Seth, Brooke Stewart and husband, Stephen, Evan Davis and wife, Hannah, Joseph Laremore and fiancée, Madi, Courtney Scarborough and husband, Hayden, Morgan Gage and husband, Eric, Clayton Taylor, Haden Davis, Davin Beaver, Jase Stout, Paislee Pruett, Hayes Pruett and Jayd Tillery, all of Decatur; step- great grandchildren Skylar Stout of Snyder, Avery Thibodeaux and husband, Chris, of Fort Worth, McKenna Stout of Denton and Hayden Goble of Greenwood, Cody Goble and wife, Katie, of Sanger; great-great-grandchildren Taylor, Tatum and Tenlee Scarborough, Gracelyn Jo and Gatlyn Jones, Sophie and Bindi Davis, Beauden Davis, Calvin Haley, Emmaline, Laken and Madeline Stewart, all of Decatur. She is also survived by the close family friends and neighbors that she loved like her very own.

Funeral will be 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28 at New Hope Fellowship in Decatur with burial following at Oak Lawn Cemetery. Jeff Bakker will officiate with the eulogy given by Kerry Clower and welcome and prayer by Jack Sandford.

Pallbearers include Ryan Davis, Jase Stout, Danny Taylor, Joseph Laremore, Jace Tillery, John Goble and Preston Pruett. Honorary Pallbearers will be Robert England, Terry England, Dwayne Hill, Steve Curry and Kerry Clower. Visitation will be 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30 at Hawkins Funeral Home in Decatur.