

DONOR STORIES

MABEL A. BURROW

“Mabel A. Burrow Memorial Scholarship Fund”

Mabel Alice Ferrin was born on October 26, 1887 on the family farm north of Winthrop, Iowa. At the age of eight, following the death of her mother, she and her sister, Mary, made their home with their aunt and uncle. She completed her grade school education at a local country school and then attended high school in Independence.



MABEL A. FERRIN



Leo and Mabel Burrow on their wedding day

Although it was unusual for young women of her generation to pursue higher education, she completed one year of education at Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls and graduated with a nursing degree from the University of Iowa College of Nursing in 1910. After graduation, she practiced her profession for five years. During that time, she met her future husband, Leo A. Burrow, when she was providing nursing care for his mother.

Leo and Mabel were married at the farm home where she grew up on December 16, 1915. They farmed in the Sumner area until 1939 when they purchased a farm near Frederika where they lived the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of four children: Virginia, William, George, and Maxine.

Mabel was active in the United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women. She loved to garden, cook, and bake. Her family particularly remembers her home-baked bread, cookies, and buckwheat pancakes. Although Mabel was never employed as a nurse following her marriage, she was always “on call” for family, friends, and neighbors who needed medical attention or advice.

Mabel died at the age of 90 at the Sumner Community Hospital in June 17, 1978. Following her death, her husband, Leo, established the Mabel A. Burrow Memorial Scholarship with a local bank to assist deserving students with the costs of obtaining a nursing degree. In 2013, Mabel’s family chose to move the scholarship fund to the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. “We decided to move the fund to the Community Foundation to perpetuate Grandma’s memory and her passion for nursing, knowing they would continue to select deserving scholarship applicants as generations move on,” said Nancy Magnall, granddaughter of Mabel. “We know the good work the Community Foundation does, and we know they will carry on her legacy for our family.”



Mabel and Leo Burrow