

DONOR STORIES

ROSS & ARLENE PINKERTON “Ross and Arlene Pinkerton Education Fund”

The Ross and Arlene Pinkerton Education Fund was established as a way to honor Arlene’s belief in and dedication to the value of education. Her husband Ross C. Pinkerton championed the conservation of their farmland and its proper utilization his entire life through both active participation on County ASCS projects and usage of those same practices on the family’s farm. Iowa State University was selected as recipient of this fund due to its excellent record in providing education to its students and for its Biospheres and Conservation programs, which are some of the best in the nation. Through this fund Ross and Arlene participate in the education of future generations at Iowa State University forever.



ROSS & ARLENE PINKERTON

Arlene Jane Bugh was born August 8, 1919, in Rock Township, Cherokee County, Iowa, to Earl and Lulu (Foust) Bugh. She graduated from Country School #2 in Afton Township, Aurelia, Iowa, on May 26, 1932. On May 31, 1936, she received her high school diploma from Wilson High School in Cherokee, Iowa. Sometime between graduating from 8th grade in 1932 and earning her high school diploma in 1936 she decided that she wanted to become a teacher. With that in mind she worked for several years to earn the money she needed for a higher education, and then enrolled at the Teachers College in Wayne, Nebraska. She graduated from their 2-year course on August 2, 1946. After teaching for several years she earned her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado and graduated on August 26, 1953. Finally, on August 9, 1957, Arlene graduated from the State University of South Dakota in Vermillion, South Dakota, with a Master’s degree in education.

“The fund was established as a way to honor Arlene’s belief in and dedication to a value of education.”

Arlene taught during a time when teachers were expected to remain single. However, she met Ross Cavanaugh Pinkerton shortly after completing her Master’s and decided it was time for her to start a family. Ross and Arlene were married on September 4, 1960, in Cherokee, Iowa. Although Arlene gave up her teaching career to have a family, that did not mean that she retired her teacher skills altogether. It was not unusual to see her working alongside her two sons during the evening or on the weekends on math, grammar,

history or geography. Her sons had read the works of Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Mark Twain, Melville as well as a countless number of other classic authors before they were twelve years old. She supported their musical education by placing both boys in formal piano lessons with professors of music at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa, and the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, South Dakota, and allowing them to compete in local, state and regional competitions. In addition, both boys participated in the Northwest Iowa Choral Festival as well as competed in local, regional and state vocal competitions each high school year.

Arlene was involved in her local Garden Club and led the girl's 4-H club in Willow Township for years. She directly influenced countless generations of children through her time as an educator and 4-H. She instilled a love for knowledge and information in her children that has been carried down to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Arlene Jane Pinkerton passed away on October 30, 2009, but has ensured that central themes in her family member's lives continue to be the value of receiving an education and learning about all that the world has to offer.

***Historical vignette prepared by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.*