



## Beatrice - Fairfield

June 14, 1914 - April 23, 2011

Beatrice Dell (Mama) Keaton    Beatrice Dell (Mama) Keaton was born on June 14, 1914 in Freestone County, Texas and she was a lifelong resident of Fairfield, Texas. Her early childhood was part of the pre-industrialized era in Freestone County that included dirt farming for subsistence and livelihood. She lived through the daunting and often harsh conditions of the depression and grew up without many of the conveniences we now identify as necessities. Mama Keaton was married to William Lee (Daddy Dick) Keaton in 1933 and remained married for 58 years. They raised their three children and operated the Crystal Ice & Locker Storage Company in Fairfield. There were no electric refrigerators at that time and most people owned a large wooden box that held a 50 lb block of ice in the top enclosure for cold storage. It was known as an “ice box”. The Crystal Ice & Locker Storage Company supplied ice to Freestone County and also served as a meat processing facility, cold storage operation, and general food storefront. Many in Fairfield may remember receiving their first ICEE from Mama Keaton in that same storefront. Mama Keaton enjoyed hunting, fishing, and gardening and was very involved with her children’s schooling. Mama Keaton, like many of her time, lived a value-driven traditional lifestyle yet was not afraid to speak her mind on many issues. I once asked Mama Keaton in her later years what she wanted for Christmas and her reply was simply “cool water and kind words”. This easy uncomplicated manner was the way that Mama Keaton lived her life and what she brought to our family as the matriarch. Mama

Keaton went to be with her spiritual family on April 23, 2011 in Corsicana Texas. Beatrice Dell (Mama) Keaton is preceded in death by her parents Mack Simpson Sanchez, and Emma, numerous brothers and sisters, her husband William Lee Keaton, her daughter Mae Dell (Keaton) Whiteside and son in-law Glenn Whiteside. She is survived by her daughter Marie (Keaton) Battles and husband Larry of Corsicana and son Richard Keaton of Fairfield. Her grandchildren, [who faced the daunting task of retrieving their own disciplinary switch from the tree outside her house] include Amanda (Whiteside) Lee, Wendell Whiteside, Kim (Keaton) Page, Russell Keaton, Melissa Battles, Larry Jr. Battles and numerous great and great-great grand children. Visitation services will be in Fairfield at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home on Monday April 25 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Graveside services will be held Tuesday April 26th at 11:00am at Fairfield Cemetery with Bro. Ed Ridge officiating.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beatrice - Fairfield*

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *I am truly going to miss my feisty little Grandmother! Thank you God for allowing us to have her for so many years. She touched so many lives with her wit and candor. When she told you she loved you, you knew she meant it. I remember her talking about the streets of gold in heaven and how beautiful they must be. Guess what, she is walking them now with Daddy Dick, her parents, brothers, sisters, Mom and Daddy! Praise God!*

**Amanda Lee** - April 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Richard, your mom was a sweet lady.  
My prayers are with you and your family.*

**Lucille (Crouch) Carter** - April 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *She was a wonderful and loving grandmother and mother. Also a great cook. We will miss her very much. May the Lord comfort our family during this time of grief.*

**Russell Keaton** - April 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *Marie and Family,  
Just kinda of hard to believe she's gone. Mamma Keaton will always have a special place in my heart. I smile everytime I think of her. She could keep you on your toes. I also know she had a very loving heart. No one can ever take the place of our Mom's but we have such wonderful memories to cherish forever. We have had them so long, and we have been luckier than most. Marie you have been such and awesome daughter all these years especially these last few that were so hard on you all. I know Mama Keaton is up there bragging on her special daughter and family still here. What an awesome reunion it must be for her. My heart goes out to you all and I'm including a huge hug. My prayer is that you can find comfort knowing she is free of pain and so happy to be with your Daddy and Sister now. You know how much I love you guys and will be there for you anytime.*

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**Diane Douglas** - April 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ *I am so saddened at the loss of Mrs. Keaton. Please know that each of you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Sincerely,*

*Beverly Huntsman  
Administrator*

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**Beverly Huntsman** - April 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WC

“ *Beatrice - Fairfield*

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**William L. Carroll** - April 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Marie, Larry,

*Please accept mine and Jeannean's condolences for your lose.*

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**Paul Smith** - April 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ She was a pistol. I loved to mess with her. we will miss her.

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**Larry W Battles Sr** - April 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Richard, Marie and Families, We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

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**John & Sharon Johnson** - April 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ Mrs. Keaton was both a joy and a challenge--exactly what you'd expect from someone you truly care about. We will miss her smiling face! It was a privilege to be able to take care of her the last few years. I hope that, even though you will miss her every day, you can take comfort in knowing that she is no longer suffering the frailties of this life. Thank you so much for sharing her with us! She will be dearly missed...

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**Audra Phillips** - April 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM