

Over the years, Ida had three different Seeing Eye dogs. The dogs would lead her all around town, Ellen noted that “When she went to the doctor’s office, she would count the steps when she stepped up on the curb, at the corner to the door that lead to his office. She would then stop, and the dog would turn to the door and she would go up the stairs.”

According to Ellen Boppel, Ida never spoke of herself in a tone of self pity.

“My life has been rich blessed from the deep friendship that existed between us,” said Ellen Boppel. “Never did I have a sense of pity for her., She was so humorous and witty.”

Ida Gertrude May Gjerdrum Buck died on October 9, 1957. She is buried at Valley Cemetery in Shakopee.

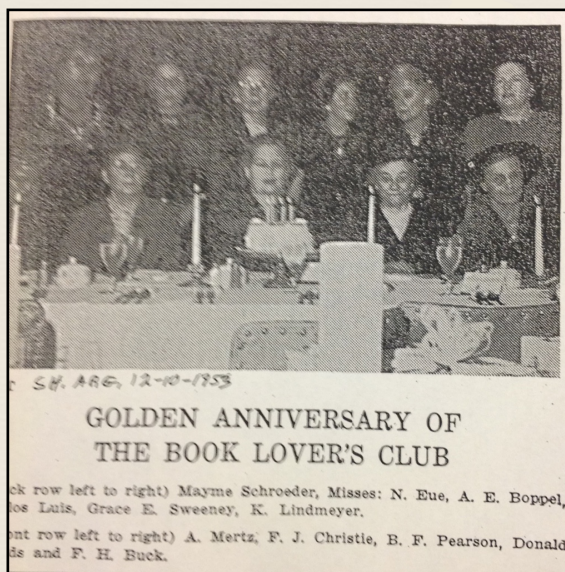
At age 95, Dr. Frederick Buck, Ida’s husband, died. He had served the people in and around Shakopee for many, many years. He was buried in Valley Cemetery next to his wife.



Ida Gertrude Gjerdrum Buck tombstone at Valley Cemetery



Ida got a reading machine in order to read the books for the Book Club. Below is a picture from the Scott County Argus on December 10, 1953. Ida is in the front row, on the right.



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Ida Gertrude May Gjerdrum Buck 1883-1957

Compiled and written by David R. Schleper, Shakopee Heritage Society © 2020



Ida Gertrude May Gjerdrum was born on January 16, 1883 in Kennebec, Frontenac, Ontario, Canada. Her father was Eiling Odd Gjerdrum, and her mother was Mary Keefer.

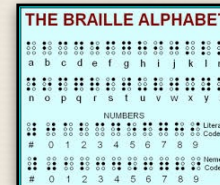
As she grew up, Ida's boyfriend was Frederick Buck. Ida was a registered nurse who took her training in a New York City hospital.

In 1912, Ida learned from her boyfriend, Frederick, that he wanted to get married. Dr. Buck returned to Canada, married Ida, and returned to Shakopee with his blushing bride.

In Shakopee, there was no public library, and the school library was inadequate. On October 1903 Ona Peck got together with a few other women in Shakopee and decided to organize the Shakopee Book Lover's Club. Each woman contributed \$1.00 to buy books. Ida loved to read.



When Ida Gjerdrum Buck lost her sight, she went to the Minnesota School for the Blind in Faribault, Minnesota to learn Braille. She also got a Seeing Eye dog, and a reading machine in order to learn how to "read" the books for the Shakopee Book Club in Shakopee.



The Book Lover's Club met promptly at 3 p.m. Many of the mothers brought their babies along. It was not excusable for arrive later. According to Ellen Boppel in a booklet called "As I Remember Scott County," which was published in 1980, it was considered unacceptable to arrive even five minutes late!

According to Ellen Boppel, Mr. Dean had a bob sled and big bay horses, "Whenever the weather was inclement, he would hitch the big horses to the bob sled that always had a little hay in it, covered over with blankets, and he'd go to every home to pluck up the members. Later, he would call for them to take them home." Once in awhile, the Shakopee Book Lover's Club would attend a play, opera, or special musicals in St. Paul. With the help of Mr. Dean, everyone would join in the bob sled to go the the depot, as their was only one train a day.

"It left in the morning and returned in the evening, He'd be at the station again in the evening, to call for the ladies and deliver them to their respective homes, wind howling and snow knee deep," said Ellen Boppel.

When Ida and Frederick moved to Shakopee in 1912, Ida joined the Book Lover's Club. On December 5, 1914, Ida and Frederick had a child, Marion Bell Betty Buck (1914–2007) in Shakopee. When Ida went to the book club, her baby went along.

A few years after Marion was born, Ida became blind.

Ida went to Faribault School for the Blind to learned Braille. She got a reading machine in order to read the books for the Shakopee Book Lover's Club. And Ida received a Seeing Eye Dog to roam around downtown Shakopee.