
She was born Feb. 11, 1908 in Blue Mound to Elmer and Georgia Gilbert Howerton. She grew up and attended school in Blue Mound.

Mrs. Bowman taught at rural schools in the Blue Mound area, before attending Pittsburg State University. After her graduation from PSU she became an area supervisor for the Farm Security Administration, later known as the Farmers Home Administration.

In 1946, she married John Purdon. The couple lived in Pittsburg until his death in 1953. In 1956, she married Clark Bowman, and he survives.

Mrs. Bowman moved to Iola following the death of her first husband and became a clerk for Farmers Home Administration, retiring in 1969.

She was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church of Iola, the Business and Professional Women’s Club, the After 5 Extension Unit, and the 76 Wheelers Camper Group.

Survivors include a son, Mike Purdon of Meriden; and five grandchildren. A brother, Clark Howerton, died before her.

Services will be 1:30 p.m. today at the Wesley United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Don Hood officiating. Burial will be in Highland Cemetery, Iola, with the Waugh-Yokum-Friskel Memorial Chapel in charge of arrangements.
Elva Bowman


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