



Reino Ernest Uponen

February 12, 1928 - November 23, 2015

Reino Ernest Uponen, age 87, of Rudyard, Michigan, died Monday, November 23, 2015, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. One of thirteen children, he was born February 12, 1928, on his family's farm in Fibre, Michigan, to John and Aini Lydia (Laitala) Uponen

Reino attended school through eighth grade when he had to quit to stay home to work the farm and help raise his siblings when their parents died. Reino continued to live on the farm for his entire life. He married June Ann Smith on May 14, 1955, at the Lutheran parsonage in Rudyard. In addition to farming, Reino worked on various construction jobs throughout the area. He also cut pulpwood each winter. He enjoyed working and never really retired.

Reino enjoyed camping, playing horseshoes, playing guitar, and fishing with his children and grandchildren. He also enjoyed watching game shows, baseball, and football on television.

Reino is survived by his wife, June; daughter, Debora (Robert) Churchill of Dafter, Michigan; son, Neil Uponen of Fibre; grandchildren, Ben Churchill, Nicholas (Rebekah) Churchill, Wayne (Denise) Uponen, Hilary Uponen, and Ryan Uponen; and great grandchildren, Kaiden, Lilly, and Mason Uponen. He is also survived by brother-in-law, Jack (Carolyn) Welcher of Gaylord; sisters-in-law, Grace Smith of Kawkawlin, Michigan, and Maxine Fenner of Coldwater,

Michigan; and many nieces and nephews.

Reino was preceded in death by all of his siblings, sisters, Elma Schminkey, Esther Cowman, Gertrude Augustson, Martha Wilman, Dagmar Nayback, Miriam Welcher, and Ruth Barens; brothers, Sulo, Martin, Edwin, and Oiva "Jack" Uponen; and an infant.

Services will be held Saturday, November 28 at R. Galer Funeral Home, 24549 S. M-129, in Pickford, Michigan. Visitation will be held from 11:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. with the funeral service to follow at 1:00 P.M.

Burial will be in North Rudyard Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

North Rudyard Township Cemetery

15141 S Tilson Rd
Rudyard, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 28. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Family Life Funeral Homes - Pickford
24549 S. M-129
Pickford, MI 49774
(906) 647-3400
flfh@familylifefh.com
<https://www.familylifefuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

NOV 28. 1:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Reino Ernest Uponen*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Reino Ernest Uponen*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Reino Ernest Uponen*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *I always enjoyed when Uncle Reino would play his guitar and sing at family gatherings. I'm so glad I stopped to visit him in Sept. Rest in peace.*

Mary Cowman - December 01, 2015 at 02:09 PM



“ *With deepest sympathy and prayers for the family.*

Joann Nayback Smith - November 29, 2015 at 10:56 AM

JH

“ *God our Father, we ask that you bless and keep Mr. Reino close as he leaves this world and awaits his spirit's awakening in the next. May you bless and keep Miss June and all Mr. Reino's family and friends as they mourn his passing and remember good times. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ your son. ~ Jim & Jamie Harvey & Family*

Jamie Harvey - November 24, 2015 at 01:08 PM