

Helen Irwin Shuster (1922-2022)

Mom was born in Bloomsburg, PA, Oct. 14, 1922, and died in Arlington, VA, Oct. 18, 2022. She was the wife of Dr. Carl N. Shuster, Jr. (1919-2020). Mom and Dad met as the result of a date arranged by their two fathers when Mom's Dad was Vice President and Dad's Dad Chairman of the Math Department at what is now the College of New Jersey in Trenton. Apparently the fathers' instincts were sound, as Mom and Dad got married in 1944 and enjoyed 76 years of happy marriage together.

They had five sons, including the unique situation that the first four were born as two sets of twins less than a year apart, a circumstance that led to a quite coincidental "small world" story.

Dad was 6'4" and a three-sport letterman at Rutgers; Mom was 5'9" and also athletic. All five sons were well over 6 feet tall, which a good thing for the sport of rowing. One October the four twins (racing in their boat named Twinshell, pronounced either as Twin Shell or Twins Hell) came in second at the Head of the Charles in Boston to a very good four from Dallas. The next month one of the Dallas crew went home to North Carolina for Thanksgiving. He told his parents that he had had fun beating the famous brothers, two sets of twins less than a year apart. His mother asked if he remembered their name. Apparently we were so famous he did not, at which point she asked: "Was their name Shuster?" "How did you know?" "Two sets of twins so close gave it away. Their mother and I were roommates in college!"

Mom was very proud of her Scotch Irwin heritage. She was the eighth Irwin in her line in America and traced the American line back to the Immigrant (see below). She was a long time member of the Clan Irwin Association and she made sure each son had a subscription to "The Holly Leaf Chronicles". She visited Drum Castle. Her third son's middle name is Irwin.

Mom also inherited a healthy dose of Scotch stoicism. When things were not going exactly according to plan, she could often be heard reminding herself and anyone within earshot: "Endure awhile and hope for better things".

She would have been very supportive of the Drum Castle document case project.

George W. Shuster

PS The direct line in America:

- 1) Immigrant (1720) George Irwin (1685-1748) m. Jane Matlack (c.1698-)
- 2) Robert Irwin (1740-1796) m. Mary Means (1726[?]-1829)
- 3) (No. Carolina) Samuel Irwin (1764-1820[?]) m. Elizabeth Worthington (1760-1848)
- 4) John Irwin (1794-) m. Hannah Hitton (-)
- 5) James Irwin (1824-1904) m. Elizabeth Kirkman (1824-1928)
- 6) Robert Irwin (1856-1946) m. Emma Foust (1863-1954)

- 7) (Ohio, Indiana) Forrest A. Irwin (1888-1977) m, Leone Talbert (1893-1984)
- 8) Helen Irwin (1922-2022) m. Carl N. Shuster, Jr. (1919-2020)
- 9) Five sons in order: George, Ken, Chris, Carl III (Neal) and Forrest
- 10) Six grandchildren
- 11) Nine great grandchildren (so far)