

**Raymond Saunders, 97**

Feb. 15, 1911 - Feb. 4, 2009

**MANILLA** — Raymond M. (Ray) Saunders was born February 15, 1911, to John R. and Marie Schoenig Saunders on the Saunders Farm south of Manilla. Ray passed away February 4, 2009, at the age of ninety-seven years, eleven months and twenty days. Ray received his elementary education in rural Greeley Township (Shelby County) schools and his high school education at Manilla High School, Manilla. After graduating in 1928, he began his farming career with his father.

June 24, 1934, Ray was united in marriage to Trudy Arnold. To this union four sons were born. The couple made their lifetime home on the family farm, south of Manilla, for the next 71 years before moving to the Manilla Manor in 2005. They were married for 73 years and eleven months. Ray was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Manilla, where he served several terms as an elder. He was instrumental in starting a 4-H club in Shelby County called the Nishnabotna Hot Shots, and served several years as club leader. Ray also served on various regional and state dairy boards. In 1948 he won the Shelby County contour corn growers contest with a yield of 170.42 bushels per acre. Ray was an avid local and family historian. He enjoyed many nostalgic memories with friends and family. At age 93, Ray and his son Craig co-authored a book of family and historic events entitled, "Blessed."

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Trudy and two sisters: Margaret and Wilma. He is survived by four sons: Dean and his wife Rosemary; Dr. Craig and his wife JoDee; Dale and his wife Johnet; and Doug and his wife Patty; fourteen grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren; other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were held Monday, February 9, 2009 at 2 P.M. at the Huebner Funeral Home in Denison.



## **Huebner Funeral Home**

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