



Robert "Bob" R. Sampson

July 23, 1937 - May 15, 2024

Robert "Bob" R. Sampson, 86, of Petersburg, Illinois, passed away at his home on May 15, 2024. He was born in Petersburg on July 23, 1937. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Ann (Kruse) Sampson, his sister, Joan (Sampson) Anderson, and his parents, S. Roy Sampson and Frances Marie (Geriets) Sampson. He is survived by two daughters, Barbara Sampson of Petersburg and Julie Morrison of Lake Forest, and two sons, Blake Sampson of Petersburg and Barry Sampson (Karyn) of Sherman, and grandchildren Matthew Sampson and Alexa Sampson.

Bob attended school in a one-room country schoolhouse in Tice and graduated from Harris High School in Petersburg. He attended Western Illinois University in Macomb. He served two years in a combat engineer battalion with the U.S. Army in Fort Carson, Colorado, followed by four years in the Reserve. He returned to Petersburg to farm with his father. As a lifetime farmer, he gained interest in soil conservation, building over twenty soil conservation structures, and serving on the committee for the Menard County Soil and Water Conservation District and state board where his activities earned his family the runner up for Illinois Soil Conservation Family of the Year. He retired from farming in 2020.

He was a devoted member of Central Presbyterian Church of Petersburg where he served a majority of his life as an elder along with many committees.

He was also a 60-year member of the Masonic Clinton Lodge and Knights Templar. Bob served on the Rose Hill Cemetery Board for 30 years.

He enjoyed designing and building many things made of steel for the farm, with welding being a serious hobby. He treasured his many hunting and fishing experiences and enjoyed wildlife. He had ancestral connections with Abraham Lincoln with his great-great-grandfather being fourth to settle in Menard County in 1819. He connected many people with his interests in Lincoln history.

Bob had many friends and said a stranger was somebody he just had not met yet.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Clinton Lodge #19 will perform Masonic rites on Monday, May 20, 2024, at Central Presbyterian Church in Petersburg beginning at 10:00 am immediately followed by the funeral service. Pastor Ryan Edgecombe will be officiating the funeral service. Interment will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery with the Menard County Inter Veterans performing military rites.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Central Presbyterian Church, Land of Lincoln Honor Flight, or the New Salem Lincoln League.

Hurley Funeral Home in Petersburg is assisting Bob's family with final arrangements. Please visit hurleyfh.com for Bob's online obituary.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

IL-123
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-3022

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 19. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Petersburg
122 West Douglas Avenue
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-2500
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Funeral Service

MAY 20. 10:00 AM (CT)

Central Presbyterian Church of Petersburg
210 W. Douglas
Petersburg, IL 62675

Masonic Rites

MAY **20**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Central Presbyterian Church of Petersburg
210 W. Douglas
Petersburg, IL 62675

Interment

MAY **20** (CT)

Rose Hill Cemetery
IL-123
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-3022

Tribute Wall

KN

“ Bob became a good friend to my son Kyle, several years ago, through their shared love of Lincoln and the rich history they both enjoyed & embraced. Being Kyle's mom, I would travel with him from MN & WI to Petersburg & New Salem & Springfield, where we'd stay 3 or 4 days exploring everything-Lincoln. It became an annual tradition most years (once both spring and fall of the same year). Especially Kyle, but we both became well-acquainted with Bob, his wife Ruth Ann and daughter Barb. It was always such a pleasure visiting them at their farm home, sharing dinners out, visiting historical places, having them attend Kyle's musical performances (connections Bob helped us make), etc. etc. They were always so gracious, right from our first visit, in hosting us to all the best and must-see venues, including our first time in Springfield to the Lincoln Presidential Museum, and his family home and neighborhood. That was only the beginning. We went to and did so many things together. Kyle spent hours scavenging the farm field for relics, on the land of the Berry-Lincoln Home. Bob was an encyclopedia of deep-dive Lincoln information, with he and Ruth Ann having plethora of interesting and informative collectibles & history. We would spend hours in their home (with Bob, Ruth Ann & Barb) looking at and discussing Lincoln history & ancestral connection. Bob was a vital, curious, interesting, enthusiastic individual to his mid-80's. And a story-teller. We cherished our time knowing and being with these people. Kyle was very fond of Bob and saw him as a role model. Both will be missed and remembered always. We hope to stay in touch with Barb in years to come. God bless you all, Sampson family.

Kathy Nyeggen - May 19, 2024 at 01:11 PM

VP

“ *Barbara, Julie, Blake, Barry and family we are so sorry of the loss of your Dad. You are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. My younger memories of time spent with your loved ones thru grade school, high school, 4-H and my 1st time at the Illinois State Fair with them. May Robert and Joan rest at peace with Ruth Ann and John. All were wonderful people and will be missed. Velda Hayden Plover & Family*

Velda Hayden Plover - May 18, 2024 at 11:52 AM

KY

“ Bob was a gentleman. I got to know him (and his wife Ruth Ann) very well over the last 10-15 years. First it was through his website detailing the Lincoln connection to the Berry homestead, and then I finally got to visit him in person back in 2018 when I visited Petersburg, IL for the first time. I went back each subsequent year and sometimes twice in a single year. Each time we'd visit at his house, go out to get dinner, tour his property, etc. Bob loved to share stories and show people things in his home and show people around his property. Seeing some of his original artifacts from the Berry house (with proper historical context from Bob) was like going back in time. He knew the history and stories behind everything he preserved and took great pleasure in sharing that information with anyone who was interested. It was always an educational experience talking to Bob. He was a wealth of knowledge and insight about the history of the area. While those of us who knew him will miss the conversations, Bob was a man of strong faith and knew where he was going. God called him home. He lived a long life and a good one. Bob and Ruth Ann were great people. We're going to miss them. Farewell Bob .. until we meet again, of course!

Attached is a picture I took a few years ago of Bob standing in front of his grandfather's old buggy



Kyle - May 17, 2024 at 08:49 PM

GE

“ Bob was always friendly and eager to talk about history. I met a few times with him talking in his kitchen and living room about his family connections with Lincoln and the old Berry homestead and how his dad purchased the Berry land along with the house back in the 1930's. With his boots on, it was special to meet him at the Berry homestead and later when the home was raised to venture out to his shed/barn to receive pieces of wood from the Berry home. He was always welcoming and interesting. Bob truly carried on the family's roots in Menard County connected to the land and people he loved. As ill as he was, I so appreciate his final phone call to me. But that was Bob! Gary

Gary Erickson - May 17, 2024 at 07:41 AM

BV

“ Bill and Sara Vig planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" R. Sampson.

Bill and Sara Vig - May 16, 2024 at 07:49 PM

BV

“ Bill and Sara Vig purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert "Bob" R. Sampson.



Bill and Sara Vig - May 16, 2024 at 07:49 PM

RS

“ Ron and Sue Sanert lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Sampson



Ron and Sue Sanert - May 16, 2024 at 06:14 PM



“ Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" R. Sampson.



May 16, 2024 at 11:48 AM

BH

“ Brian, Sarah, Josie & Sophie Hapack purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Robert "Bob" R. Sampson.



Brian, Sarah, Josie & Sophie Hapack - May 16, 2024 at 11:40 AM



“ Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" R. Sampson.



May 16, 2024 at 11:38 AM

FF

“ From the Stalets family purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of Robert "Bob" R.
Sampson.



From the Stalets family - May 16, 2024 at 08:38 AM

LH

“ Larry and Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in
memory of Robert "Bob" Sampson



Larry and Mary Hundt - May 16, 2024 at 08:36 AM

CG

“ It's going to be so hard and different not to see Bob at church. I will
always remember how he invited me over to show me how to use
my shotgun. That's when I had my first taste of squirrel made by
your mom, RuthAnn. If Bob could help, he did it. He had such a
wealth of knowledge and thank goodness, he shared it with others.
He will be missed greatly. Rest In Peace Bob!

Cindy Godbey - May 15, 2024 at 09:04 PM

RL

“ So sorry to hear this news! Condolences all his kids and family! I loved spending afternoons now and then with Bob while in my capacity as Preacher at Central Presbyterian Church. I loved to see his Lincoln and Menard County stuff (that Bill of Sale with Lincoln's signature...WOW!) and just see the joy on his face as he talked about his family's history in the county, and his pride in his kids. He seemed to initially have a gruff look on his face but as soon as you spoke to him you could see how warm and caring he was. Lucy and I send our sympathies. We know too he left a wonderful legacy in his kids! Robert Lackie



Robert H Lackie - May 15, 2024 at 05:41 PM

MM

“ Barb, Julie, Barry and Blake,
We are so very sorry to hear of your dad's passing. Your dad was a great and kind gentleman. We had some good conversations over the years. He will be truly missed.
Paul and Marilyn Montgomery



marilyn montgomery - May 15, 2024 at 05:25 PM