



## Polly Winkler Mitchell

September 16, 1938 - November 18, 2019

Polly Janice Winkler-Mitchell, age 81 of Carbondale, passed away at home on Monday, November 18, 2019.

She was born in Berwyn, Illinois in 1938 to Clyde V. Winkler and Elma Spiller Winkler. After her childhood in Cicero, the family moved to Carbondale. There Polly attended the University School and Southern Illinois Normal University, making life-long friends along the way. Her love of the past manifested itself early, and she opened her first antiques shop when she was sixteen.

Polly married Marion W. Mitchell in 1958. The couple has two daughters, Susan and Sarah.

Polly and Marion were pioneers of the heritage crafts movement, and spent much of their sixty-one year marriage reenacting, teaching, and preserving eighteenth century lifeways and arts. Polly's scherenschnitte (elaborate paper cutting) and Marion's bentwood boxes are nationally known for their beauty, and fidelity to antique patterns and construction techniques.

For many years Polly and Marion traveled the world on cruises, with Polly teaching scherenschnitte, and Marion giving destination lectures. After they tired of working, they kept traveling, effectively squandering whatever fortune the family may have had—they did this with their daughters' encouragement, of course. They went from China to Patagonia—but their favorite place, to which they returned again and again, was Alaska. Polly will be sorely missed by all who knew her or admired her art. She is survived by her devoted husband, Marion, daughters, Susan Mitchell Sommers and Sarah Gribbins, their husbands, Dallas Sommers and Neil Gribbins, grandchildren, Alexander and Sophia Sommers, and more friends than you could shake a stick at.

Polly was predeceased by her parents, Clyde and Elma, and her older brother, Malcolm. Cremation rites have been accorded.

A Graveside Service will be Friday, November 22, 2019 at 10:30 am in Pleasant Grove Memorial Park. Family and Friends are asked to go directly to the cemetery. Inurnment will follow.

A Memorial Service for Polly Janice Winkler-Mitchell will be Friday, January 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm in Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home with Lay Chaplain, Ted Mueller,

officiating.

Visitation will be from 5:00 pm until the hour of service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society and will be accepted at the funeral home.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Pleasant Grove Memorial Park**

31 Memorial Dr.  
Murphysboro, IL, 62966

**NOV 22**

**Graveside - Pleasant Grove Memorial Park**

10:30AM -  
11:30AM

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Pleasant Grove Memorial Cemetery  
31 Memorial Dr., Murphysboro, IL, US, 62966

**JAN 10**

**Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

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Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home  
31 Memorial Dr., Murphysboro, IL, US, 62966

**JAN 10**

**Memorial Service** 07:00PM - 08:00PM

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Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home  
31 Memorial Dr., Murphysboro, IL, US, 62966

# Comments

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“ Susan, Mitch and Sarah,

I didn't realize Polly was not well and just learned of her passing while talking to Ruth Goodin and John Lipe at the annual SIU Christmas craft sale, where they noted your missing booth, which formerly had always been across from them. Now I'm reading more here. I'm glad she was able to continue to travel awhile, even after your teaching gigs on the cruises. Of course I'll remember her for her wonderful scherenschnitte, her fascination with all manner of things historical, and the many weekends at your home during my high school years.

Take care.

Sabrina Hardenbergh

Sabrina Hardenbergh - December 09, 2019 at 12:19 AM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Polly Winkler Mitchell.



November 22, 2019 at 12:13 PM

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“ I've only really known Polly and Marion for a couple of years, but it was love at first sight! They came into my store and we became instant friends and more like family. I will miss Polly so much. She wasn't in my life long enough. My prayers for Marion and his family. I love you!

Kandy Mahurin  
Sassafras Creek Originals

Kandy Mahurin - November 22, 2019 at 12:08 PM

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“ Prayers and hugs! I’m a friend of Angie’s. You both welcomed me in for a night when I was having troubles. I will always remember the chat around the wood stove. May you find comfort during this time.

**Christy Patterson** - November 20, 2019 at 10:18 PM

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“ My dear friends, both Polly and Marion, are always on my mind and in my heart. On behalf of my children and my self, we will always consider the Mitchell’s our surrogate grandparents as they never made us feel any less than family. My heart goes out to whoever was fortunate enough to experience this amazing pair as they role model genuine love. My love and affection goes out to “Grampa Mitch” and surviving family and friends.



**Angela McFadden** - November 20, 2019 at 12:10 PM

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“ My condolences to Marion and the family. Polly was a most talented individual and shared and was admired by many. Her memory will live on through her beautiful craft pieces. Whenever I saw and visited with her, it was always a memorable event.

Emily Lyons



**Emily Lyons** - November 19, 2019 at 08:48 PM

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“ Polly was so welcoming in her home to me & my daughter & some of my friends. And she was so talented with her scherisnitte skills. I have many of her art pieces in my home. She will be missed.

**Lynn Tucker** - November 19, 2019 at 11:08 AM



“ Polly was a remarkable talented woman and will be sorely missed. I admire the skill and beauty of her art enormously. My thoughts are with her family.

**Andrew Prescott** - November 19, 2019 at 05:12 PM



“ My family has known the Mitchell's for about 40 years. I remember them mostly from doing re-enactments together at Fort Du Chartres. I also recall how fun it was to go to the antique store and attend special events at their home, which was very warm and inviting. I am pleased that we each have a silhouette cut for us by Polly. I remember the intricate details, including the shape of the earrings I was wearing at the time. Polly was a sweet, talented and beautiful women and she will be missed. Our thoughts are with Mitch, Susan, Sarah and family.

Michele, Jack and Sus Whitlock

**Michele Whitlock** - January 09, 2020 at 07:21 PM



“ My mother's name is really spelled Sue Whitlock.

**Michele Whitlock** - January 09, 2020 at 07:24 PM