

Thomas W. Reeder, (5 Dec 1932 – 18 Apr 2009), Perry County Times, Thursday, April 30, 2009

Thomas W. Reeder, 76, formerly of New Bloomfield, died Saturday, April 18, 2009 at Lewistown Hospital. He had been a resident of Brookline Manor, Mifflintown, since April 9, 2008.

He was the only son and youngest child of **T. Wesley** and **Mary E. (Toomey) Reeder**, born Dec. 5, 1932 in Wila.

He was stricken with bulbar and paralytic polio at age 15 in September 1948. He spent three days in an iron lung at Harrisburg Hospital's contagious diseases unit and then transferred to Crippled Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, where he stayed for 18 months.

When transferred from Harrisburg Hospital, he could move only three fingers on his left hand and blink his eyes. He regained use of his arms and upper body while at Pittsburgh, but never walked again. He spent 60 years in a wheelchair, his lungs were damaged by polio and his right arm and shoulder weakened.

He spent 16 months at Woodrow Wilson Technical School in Fishersville, Va., to learn horology (watch making). He worked a full-time job with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania repairing typewriters, repaired watches in a workshop at home and was a tax collector for Centre Twp. He retired from the Commonwealth and as a watchmaker in 1980.

He was a lifetime member of Mannsville Lutheran Church, Elliottsburg, where he was past council president, longtime council member and an advocate for the disabled within the Lutheran Church of America in the 1970s.

He was the widower of **Ruth A. (Good) Reeder**, who died Aug. 9, 2008.

Surviving are three daughters, **Debra E. Reeder** and **Pamela J. Dobbs**, both of New Bloomfield, and **Lorraine K. Baughman** of Landisburg; twin sons, **Thomas R.** of New Bloomfield and **Russell R.** of Loysville; five grandsons, **Dr. Brent A.R. Hege** of Indianapolis, Ind., **Adam J.R. Hege** of New Bloomfield, **Tristan W. Baughman** of Landisburg and **Brandon K.** and **Ethen T. Reeder**, both of Loysville; two step grandchildren, **Andrew T. Snook** of Loysville and **Sharon E. Snook** of Millerstown; five step great-grandchildren; and two sisters, **Ruth E. Gantt** of Newport and **Violet R. McAlister** of Marysville.

He was preceded in death by three sisters, **Pearle C. Blaine**, **Florence L. Barkley** and **Annie C. Campbell**.

Services were held April 25 in his church.

Burial was in Bloomfield Cemetery.

David M. Myers Funeral Home, Newport, handled arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Brookline Manor, RR 1, Box 463, Mifflintown 17059.

www.theperryhistorians.org