



## Erika Katharina Fordham

May 28, 1928 - November 3, 2018

Erika K. Fordham age 90 of Dixon died Saturday Nov. 3, 2018 at the home of her daughter surrounded by family. She was born May 28, 1928 in Buchen, Germany the daughter of Anton and Wilhelmina (Wachter) Merl. She was a member of St. Anne Catholic Church in Dixon.

Erika married Jesse W. Fordham Jr Sept. 30, 1947 in Buchen, Germany. He preceded her in death Sept. 25, 1997. She was also preceded in death by her parents and brothers Herbert, Wendel and Fred Merl.

Erika is survived by her children, Judy (Maury Zagnoli) Downie of Leesburg, FL, Herb (Barb) Fordham of Dixon, Kathy Wyble of The Villages, FL, Bill (Chris Emery) Fordham of Dixon, Tom (Yvette) Fordham of Highland Mills, NY, Jamie (Colleen) Fordham of Ashton, Vikki (Frank) Anderies of Centennial, CO, Lisa (Brian) Goad of Dixon and Pat (Tracy) Fordham of Howard Lake, MN; 15 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren and one brother Pirmin (Ursula) Merl of Mannheim, Germany.

Her loved ones will remember with gratitude and love her constant and selfless devotion to faith and family.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday Nov. 7, 2018 beginning with a 10:00 AM prayer services at the Jones Funeral Home followed by a 10:30 AM Mass of Christian Burial at St. Anne Catholic Church with the Rev. Richard Kramer officiating. Burial will follow at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Dixon. Visitation will be on Tuesday from 5:00 to 8:00 PM with a Rosary at 7:30 PM at the funeral home. A memorial has been established to St. Anne School in

Dixon.

# Cemetery Details

## Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens

1121 N. Galena Ave  
Dixon, IL 61021

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 6. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Jones Funeral Home, Dixon  
204 South Ottawa  
Dixon, IL 61021  
Ph: 815-288-2241  
[info@thejonesfh.com](mailto:info@thejonesfh.com)  
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

## Service

NOV 7. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Anne Catholic Church  
1104 N Brinton Ave  
Dixon, IL 61021  
(815) 288-3131  
[http://www.stanneschooldixon.org/st\\_anne\\_parish.htm](http://www.stanneschooldixon.org/st_anne_parish.htm)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Erika Katharina Fordham*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Erika Katharina Fordham*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *Erika worked for my grandparents the Lesages and cleaned their house in the 70s. They thought the world of her. She was always smiling and friendly to my brother and me when we visited in the summers, and I'm glad I knew her. My sincere condolences to Erika's family. Anne (Sylvia) Hutchins*

**Anne Hutchins** - November 09, 2018 at 11:09 PM



“ *Erika's husband Jesse was my first cousin. His mother was the sister of my mother, Florence (Alshouse) Fane. I did visit Erika some years both at her house and in a nursng home. She was a fine woman. I love the picture you put with her obituary. My prayers and thoughts are with all of you.*

*Richard (Fr. Kevin) Fane*

**Richard (Fr. Kevin) Fane** - November 07, 2018 at 06:21 PM



*Thank you Richard, she touched so many lives.*

**Jamie Fordham** - November 08, 2018 at 10:48 AM

AM

“ We would like to express our most sincere condolences to Erikas family. Thomas, Josefin & Ameli from Germany



Ameli Merl - November 07, 2018 at 05:27 AM

JF

Thank you Ameli.

Jamie Fordham - November 08, 2018 at 08:49 AM

AW

“ Let me try again.

*I did not find out until the late 80's that I found family in Germany. cousin Herman Wachter and others. They told me I had a cousin. Erika in Dixon Illinois and that her mother Wilhelmina was a Wachter - Merl. What a wonderful loving and sweetheart Erkis was, she was someone really special. We got to meet many of her children and only wished we could have spent more time together.*

*We loved her dearly.*

*Artie and Dixie Wachter*

Artie Wachter - November 06, 2018 at 09:21 PM

JF

Mom was so happy to have you in her life.

Jamie Fordham - November 08, 2018 at 08:47 AM

AW

“ I did not find out until the late 80's that I found my family in Germany and cousin Herman Wachter and others. They told me I had a cousin Erika in Illinois and her mother was Wilhelmina Wachter-Merl. What a wonderful loving and sweetheart Erika was, she was someone really special . We got to know many of her children through out the years but wished we could have spent more time together.

We loved her dearly,

Artie and Dixie Wachter

Our email is [adwachter@aol.com](mailto:adwachter@aol.com).

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**Artie Wachter** - November 06, 2018 at 05:31 PM

JF

Mom was so happy to have you in her life.

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**Jamie Fordham** - November 08, 2018 at 08:49 AM

CB

“ Bill, sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. Remember all of the wonderful times you shared with her. Thinking of you at this difficult time. With heartfelt sympathy,  
Chris, Rick and Landon Bollman



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**Christine Bollman** - November 06, 2018 at 04:16 PM

JF

Thank you.

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**Jamie Fordham** - November 08, 2018 at 10:49 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Erika Katharina Fordham.*



November 06, 2018 at 03:15 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Erika Katharina Fordham.*



November 06, 2018 at 02:57 PM



“ *Matthias Merl lit a candle in memory of Erika Katharina Fordham*



**Matthias Merl** - November 06, 2018 at 02:20 PM



*Thank you Matthias, our condolences to your dad and the rest of the family as well.*

**Jamie Fordham** - November 08, 2018 at 07:52 AM

TF

“ *The Anderies Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Erika Katharina Fordham.*



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**The Anderies Family** - November 06, 2018 at 02:10 PM

JD

“ *Judy Downie lit a candle in memory of Erika Katharina Fordham*



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**Judy Downie** - November 06, 2018 at 01:50 PM

CH

“ *Im a member of the Halpern Family and Erika was considered family. I live in Chicago, and very often Id call home and Erika would answer. She always wanted to know what was going on with me and if I had a problem she would give advice and even a scolding if she thought I deserved it. I loved talking to her. she was a strong spirit -and always full of positivity. I will miss her.*

*Charna Halpern*

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**charna Halpern** - November 06, 2018 at 01:48 PM

JF

*Thank you, mom touched so many with her kindness.*

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**Jamie Fordham** - November 08, 2018 at 08:53 AM

PW

*My name is Pete Wood. I live in Manchester Iowa. My mother is Hertha Katharina (Baeurlien) Wood. Like Erika she was born in Buchen Im Odenwald Germany. Mom came to the United States (Iowa) in 1948 and married my Dad Warren Wood. Mom always talked about she had a friend named Erika. She was from Buchen but lives in Dixon IL. So I am wondering if your mother was the Ericka my mom talked about. I am sorry to hear of your loss. My mother died on Friday November 2nd. A day before Ericka.... I just wanted to share this... Maybe they are visiting now after all those years.*

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**Pete Wood** - December 05, 2018 at 08:56 PM

JF

“ *Jamie Fordham lit a candle in memory of Erika Katharina Fordham*



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**Jamie Fordham** - November 06, 2018 at 12:47 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Erika Katharina Fordham.*

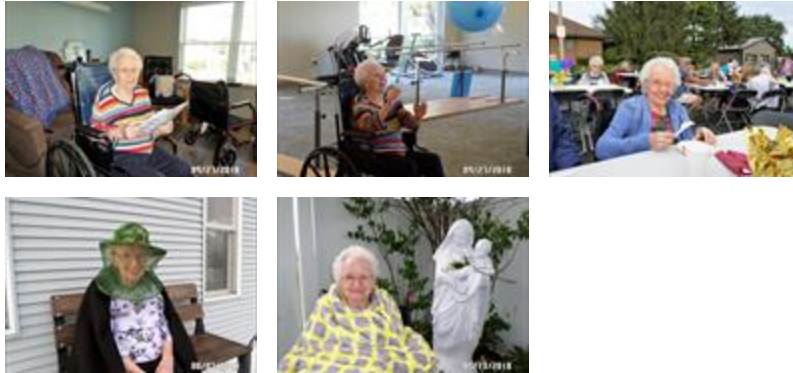


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November 06, 2018 at 11:49 AM

JF

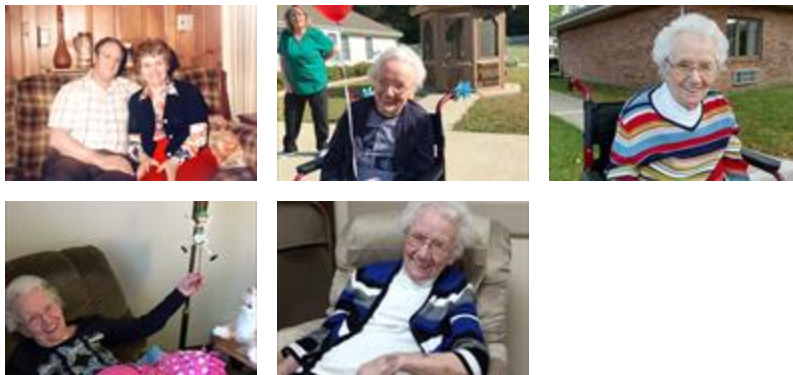
“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Jamie Fordham - November 06, 2018 at 11:42 AM

JF

“ 24 files added to the album Memories Album



Jamie Fordham - November 06, 2018 at 11:36 AM

JM

“ Vikki and Family sending healing prayers and comforting hugs. I am so sorry for your loss.

*Caring thoughts are with you,  
Steve and Jeanine McCollom*



Jeanine McCollom - November 06, 2018 at 11:08 AM

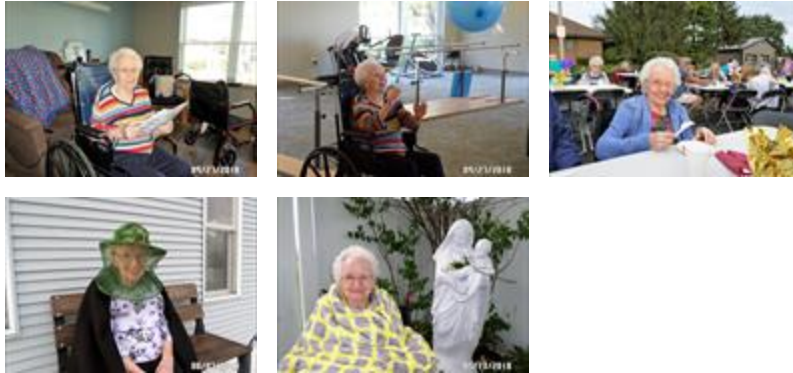
JF

*Thank you Jeanine*

**Jamie Fordham** - November 06, 2018 at 01:45 PM

JF

“ *31 files added to the album Erika*



**Jamie Fordham** - November 06, 2018 at 10:53 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Erika Katharina Fordham.*



November 06, 2018 at 09:42 AM

JC

“ Jamie and Family sorry for the loss of you're Beloved Mother ! I didn't know her personally but grew to love her through Facebook seeing photos and reading the comments. Such a sweet face and that infectious smile ! Remembering all in our thoughts and Prayers, may she RIP.

Sincerely,  
~ Jeannette and Don Caldwell ~

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**Jeannette Caldwell** - November 06, 2018 at 12:23 AM

JF

*Thank you Jeannette and Don.*

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**Jamie Fordham** - November 06, 2018 at 10:28 AM

BM

“ So sorry for your loss. Your mother was such a special part of our family life! I will always cherish her memory over the years with my parents, Jack & Iris. We spent many holidays together over the years and loved her special desserts. Our thoughts are with you all at this difficult time. Sending love to you all.

*Bonnie & Jim Malow and family.*

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**bonnie malow** - November 05, 2018 at 08:45 PM

JF

*Thank you.*

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**Jamie Fordham** - November 06, 2018 at 01:46 PM

MS

“ *Very sad to hear of Mrs. Fordham’s passing. She was always a bright shiny light at St. Anne’s. Our deepest condolences to the family.*

*Marti and Susan Swegle*

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**Marti and Susan Swegle** - November 05, 2018 at 08:39 PM

JF

*Thank you*

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**Jamie Fordham** - November 06, 2018 at 02:47 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Erika Katharina Fordham.*



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November 05, 2018 at 05:03 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Erika Katharina Fordham.*



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November 05, 2018 at 03:05 PM

AN

“ AZZ Nebraska purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Erika Katharina Fordham.



AZZ Nebraska - November 05, 2018 at 01:28 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Erika Katharina Fordham.



November 05, 2018 at 12:46 PM

FF

“ From, Your AZZ Joliet Family purchased the *Tender Tribute* for the family of Erika Katharina Fordham.



From, Your AZZ Joliet Family - November 05, 2018 at 12:19 PM



“ Tranquil Seas was purchased for the family of Erika Katharina Fordham.



November 05, 2018 at 10:09 AM

MD

“ *Erika was a wonderful lady.  
Mary Jo and Duane Moser*

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**Mary Jo and Duane** - November 05, 2018 at 09:40 AM

JF

*Thank you*

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**Jamie Fordham** - November 06, 2018 at 02:47 PM

YC

“ *Your friends at AZZ Corporate purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Erika Katharina Fordham.*



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**Your friends at AZZ Corporate** - November 05, 2018 at 09:29 AM