



## Virginia Mae Pickarts

August 24, 1925 - January 19, 2014

Virginia Mae Pickarts, 88, of Humboldt, KS passed away Sunday, January 19, 2014 at Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center in Chanute, KS. Virginia was born August 24, 1925 the daughter of Edward and Esther (Steenbock) Pickarts in Humboldt, KS.

Virginia graduated from Humboldt High School and went on to receive a Master's Degree from the University of Kansas. She devoted her life to missionary work, teaching for 40 years at the Harford School for young ladies in Sierra Leone, Africa. Virginia was a member of the Humboldt United Methodist Church, and served as a Sunday school teacher.

She is survived by her brother Edward Alan Pickarts and wife Lu of Colorado Springs, CO, numerous nieces and nephews, and her many friends.

Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Esther; a sister, Evelyn Nachtigal; and a cousin, Beth Ray.

Funeral services will be held Friday, January 24, 2014, 10:30 a.m. at the Humboldt United Methodist Church in Humboldt, KS, with Pastor Marge Cox officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Hope Cemetery in Humboldt.

Visitation will be Thursday, January 23, 2014, from 12:00 until 5:00 p.m. at

Countryside Funeral Home in Humboldt, KS.

Suggested memorial is to the Humboldt United Methodist Church, and will be sent to the Harford School for young ladies in Sierra Leone, Africa. Services are entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home of Humboldt.

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Hope Cemetery

1282 Hawaii Rd.  
Humboldt, KS

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 23. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Countryside Funeral Home - Humboldt  
908 Central  
Humboldt, KS 66748  
(620) 473-2311  
<https://www.countrysidefh.com>

## Service

JAN 24. 10:30 AM (CT)

Humboldt United Methodist Church  
Humboldt, KS 66748

# Tribute Wall



“ *As a former PC teacher at Harford, I had great respect for Virginia Pickarts. My best to her family and friends. She will be greatly missed.*

*Sincerely,  
Vicki (Hebert) Stevens*

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**Vicki Stevens** - February 25, 2014 at 01:04 PM

PC

“ *To our dear Ms Pickarts, May you find internal rest in our Lord and Saviour. Thank you for the sacrifices you made and for your commitment in helping shape the lives of so many young girls at Harford. We will forever be grateful to you and to your family.*

*Princess Campbell-Seisay*

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**Princess Campbell** - January 27, 2014 at 08:50 PM

A(

“What vivid memories we cherish of Ms. Pickarts. Like her dear bird Polly use to call out to her ..... "Ms. Pickarts wake up", "Ms. Pickarts can't you see". She took the challenge of following God's call to cast her net in a small town - Moyamba where she became a fisher of men. With a pattern of humility and a flame of charity, we received the graces and blessings God bestowed upon her. A mirror of perfect obedience, a respectful listener to others, she portrayed Romans 8:28 - "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose".

Thank you Ms. Pickarts. We will live to tell your story. May God grant you eternal rest and peace. We love you and will miss you dearly.

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**Anna Dancy (Seisay)** - January 27, 2014 at 02:54 AM

PF

“Aunt Gin, you will be greatly missed! I have always looked forward to your letters and knowing that even though we didn't get to see each other often you always cared deeply about my family. I wish we were able to spend more time together over the years and I wish you could have met the boys. God bless you! Love, Paula (Nachtigal) Furman & family.

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**Paula Furman** - January 26, 2014 at 03:46 PM

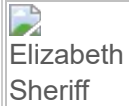
RN

“Aunt Gin, was loved by all and will be missed.

*Ralph Nachtigal and family*

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**Ralph Nachtigal** - January 26, 2014 at 03:35 PM



Elizabeth Sheriff

“ On behalf of my brother Frank Romeo Harding and family who now reside in Bo, Sierra Leone, still shares found memories of Virginia and Anna Morford. I extend our deepest sympathy to family and friends of Virginia. May her soul rest in peace Amen  
Elizabeth Harding-Sheriff

Elizabeth Sheriff - January 25, 2014 at 08:49 PM

MJ

“ Virginia was a lovely caring person who dedicated her life to others. She fought a good fight, now Virginia can rest and be free of her challenges. I will remember her as a friend and a mentor during my mission assignment at Hartford School as a teacher. May God Bless Virginia.



Mabel E. Johnson-Berry - January 24, 2014 at 06:43 PM

SS

“ To our dear departed cousin and friend, these past three years that we were re-acquainted have been an inspiration. Our talks on the phone will be greatly missed. You were and are an inspiration. God Bless your family in this time of remembrance and a peace only God can give. We wanted so much to be there but, at this time it was not possible, you are in our prayers and hearts.  
In Christ, Sharon Seeright (second cousin) and Evelyn Baker (first cousin)

Sharon Seeright - January 24, 2014 at 08:57 AM

BI

“ Miss Pickarts was a real blessing to our family (Verghese Family) where myself , Mom and Dad (Mr & Mrs Verghese) and my two sisters Ejje and Jiji spent our childhood days, back in Moyamba Harford school. A true servant of God who practiced what she preached. She will be ever remembered for her love , affection, hospitality she showed to all who met her at atleast once. A true inspiration to the many students she taught at Harford. Our condolences to the greiving family.

Bijoy - January 23, 2014 at 10:43 PM

JB

“ Some people come and go and are forgotten. But there are other people who share a part in our destinies. They come and they go, but they are never forgotten and you Ms. Pickarts is one of them. You will always be in our hearts. We were truly blest to have you share your life with us for 40 years.

Jubilee Brainerd - January 23, 2014 at 06:21 PM

JB

“ Jubilee Brainerd lit a candle in memory of Virginia Mae Pickarts



Jubilee Brainerd - January 23, 2014 at 05:45 PM

Favor-Grace Kpaka

“ Favor-Grace Kpaka lit a candle in memory of Virginia Mae Pickarts



Favor-Grace Kpaka - January 23, 2014 at 02:05 PM

JL

“ Some people come and go and are forgotten. But there are other people who share a part of our destinies. They come, they go, but they are never forgotten. You Ms. Pickarts happen to be one of those people. You made a great impact on our lives at Harford School. You touched so many lives. Thanks for sharing your life with us. Rest in peace.



Jubilee Lisk

Jubilee Lisk - January 23, 2014 at 01:35 PM

FM

“ Ms. Pickarts was undoubtedly influential to all her students at Harford School. She was a great teacher and a great human being. As we mourn her loss, let us honor her memory by ensuring that Harford's primary educational purpose is preserved, protected, and strengthened for the future. Let us strive to keep her legacy alive.

Fatmata McCormack - January 23, 2014 at 12:50 PM

SS

“ Sarah Gulama Suma lit a candle in memory of Virginia Mae Pickarts



Sarah Gulama Suma - January 23, 2014 at 12:17 PM

SS

“ Miss Pickarts was a dedicated teacher, who challenged us to be very good students, and better human beings. She was very loving and kind, and helped a lot of students, achieve their dreams. May God grant her eternal rest, and comfort her grieving family, through this difficult time. Smile on Miss Pickarts, Smile on, until we meet again.



Sarah Gulama Suma - January 23, 2014 at 12:13 PM



“ May your soul rest in perfect peace. You were well respected in harford school. I salute you.

Musu Sheriff - January 23, 2014 at 11:50 AM

BF

“ Betty Bangura Finoh lit a candle in memory of Virginia Mae Pickarts



Betty Bangura Finoh - January 23, 2014 at 08:32 AM

Jl

“ Miss Pickarts is etched in our memory , hard to erase from our hearts--the Verghese Family at Harford School. To me she left a legacy- the picture of taking me with her on her Sunday afternoon long walks to the villages around Moyamba through those dusty roads and hot afternoons to share the gospel- pulled at my heart strings to go back to SL years later. The Good Lord has allowed our paths to cross with a purpose and surely for a blessing! May her life continue to inspire many! -Jijie Mary Mathew

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**Jijie** - January 23, 2014 at 03:19 AM

AM

“ Our deepest condolences to the family. Myself, Annie, my parents, Mr.& Mrs. Verghese, my sister Jijie & my brother Bijoy were in Harford, Moyamba, while Ms. Pickarts was a teacher there. We have great, fond memories & were truly touched of her commitment & dedication ; as well as her zeal for the Lord. I praise her for her great life & the great blessing she was to our family. She will be fondly remembered by me, my mom, sister & brother.

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**Annie Mathew** - January 23, 2014 at 12:20 AM

ER

“ Enid Rogers lit a candle in memory of Virginia Mae Pickarts



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**Enid Rogers** - January 22, 2014 at 07:49 PM

LH

“ *Laura Hassan lit a candle in memory of Virginia Mae Pickarts*



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**Laura Hassan** - January 22, 2014 at 06:45 PM

BW

“ *I was a Peace Corps teacher at Harford School from 1969-72, and remember teaching with Virginia fondly. I always looked forward to her Christmas messages and news of Moyamba and Harford School. May her memory and influence live on in the many lives she touched! Barbara Pyle Ward*

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**Barbara Pyle Ward** - January 22, 2014 at 06:16 PM

LA

“ *8uazq N*



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**Linda Issa Allen** - January 22, 2014 at 05:30 PM

MB

“ *I will miss our weekend chats, letters & Christmas cards. Thank you for all. May your soul rest in perfect peace. Your care and love for Harford was unbelievable. Am glad you know we were grateful, thanks to all who kept you informed and checked on you.*

*God bless!*

*Your former student and friend Maimunata*

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**Maimunata Bah** - January 22, 2014 at 04:28 PM

MB

“ Maimunata Bah lit a candle in memory of Virginia Mae Pickarts



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Maimunata Bah - January 22, 2014 at 04:10 PM

KB

“ First, I would like to say that the deceased was a mother who dedicated herself, time and intellectuality help us, the children of Harford School. I know that Harfordians would always be grateful to for all her givings. May the good Lord send her perpetual light in her grave. I know within my soul that she is resting peacefully because she did God's work gracefully.

During my years at Harford, Ms. Pickarts showed committment, was helpful, protective of Harford Girls, and was a dedicated human being. In my words, a white in an African country, far away from the city of Freetown, lived in Moyamba for so long to educate girls was a complete pride and a blessing therefore, I am honored. However, i was not the perfect student, well as any other teenager. I will not say much but enjoyed teasing her, calling her pickarts..pickarts. She would turn around quickly and approach me. She would talk with her arms across and a finger close to her mouth like waiting to be answered. Once she leaves, I will start laughing provockingly. She loved keds and sandals, which was an easy to sneak on us and I was caught. She always used to correct me, wanted me to stay within the school bounds, and I would tell her that I am hungry. Her home smelled good well maybe different, and cookies were mostly available. The cook became a friend. A great woman with a great heart. Thank you for everything. May your love for us and your dedication give you an everlasting peaceful rest.

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KB - January 22, 2014 at 03:16 PM

KB

“ *Kipiani Bangura sent a virtual gift in memory of Virginia Mae Pickarts*



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**kipiani bangura** - January 22, 2014 at 02:44 PM

KB

“ *Kipiani Beddor lit a candle in memory of Virginia Mae Pickarts*



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**Kipiani Beddor** - January 22, 2014 at 02:41 PM

FM

“ *Fatmata McCormack lit a candle in memory of Virginia Mae Pickarts*



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**Fatmata McCormack** - January 22, 2014 at 02:23 PM

HA

“ *Harford Alumnae Association North America purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Virginia Mae Pickarts.*



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**Harford Alumnae Association North America** - January 22, 2014 at 02:01 PM

AM

“ So many memories center around Virginia: it was her visit to the Philomath Evangelical United Brethren Church that started my journey toward Harford School for Girls in Sierra Leone; it was Virginia who helped me learn about and understand another culture; it was while living in her home in Moyamba that I first experienced what it was to be a schoolteacher; and it was years later, while living again with her in Moyamba that we got involved in the adoption of her namesake, Virginia Mariama Conteh who lives with me still in Philomath, Oregon. Virginia was indeed, sister and mother, and a presence in my life for which I will forever be grateful. ~~Anna Morford

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**Anna Morford** - January 22, 2014 at 01:57 PM

AL

“ Anna Morford for Servants of Sierra Leone purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Virginia Mae Pickarts.



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**Anna Morford for Servants of Sierra Leone** - January 22, 2014 at 01:37 PM

AP

“ Alberta Pratt-Sensie lit a candle in memory of Virginia Mae Pickarts



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**Alberta Pratt-Sensie** - January 22, 2014 at 01:34 PM

FM

“ *Fatu Mansaray lit a candle in memory of Virginia Mae Pickarts*



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**Fatu Mansaray** - January 22, 2014 at 01:18 PM

MC

*Lit a candle in memory of Ms Virginia Mae Pickarts*

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**Mariama Sape Conteh** - January 22, 2014 at 06:40 PM

AA

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Alberta Pratt-Sensie, Harford Alumnae** - January 22, 2014 at 01:13 PM

SC

*Left is The Late Ms Virginia Mae Pickarts giving an awrd to a student at Harford secondary school in Moyamba, Sierra Leone, West Aferica.*

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**Sape Conteh** - January 23, 2014 at 04:40 PM

SC

*Ms Virginai Mae Pickarts, I miss you. Thank you for giving your life to come and educate the women abd girls at Harford secondary school in Moyamba, Sierra Leone, West Africa. I hope the Saints and Angels in heaven will receive you in God's kingdom.*

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**Sape Conteh** - January 23, 2014 at 04:45 PM

AA

“ *Fond Memories of Ms. Virginia Mae Pickarts:*



*Ms. Pickarts loved carrying her pocket book and yes she did and I can attest to it. She told us that a lady must carry a pocket book at all times and that legacy still continues with us young ladies. Rabbiatu Kuyateh even started carrying her pocketbook at vesper times and we dubbed her “Ms. Pickarts”.*

*Ms. Pickarts loved to bake and I remember the sweet smell from her kitchen on Saturdays when she baked cakes. She was also remembered for her kindness to the Massaquoi family, who were neighbors of Kattie’s grandmother. Pa Massaquoi was Ms’ Pickarts Cook for many years and in return for his dedicated services to her, she adopted his entire family. She even helped some of the older Massaquoi kids to migrate to the United States.*

*Thank you for making us growup into charismatic and respected young ladies.*

*Sleep on Ms. Virginia Mae Pickarts, beloved, sleep and take thy rest, lay down thy head upon the Saviour's breast; we Harfordians love thee well, but Jesus loves thee best; Good night! Good night! Good night! RIPP!!*

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**Alberta Pratt-Sensie, Harford Alumnae** - January 22, 2014 at 01:03 PM

MS

“ I will miss our wkend chats, your letters and Christmas cards. You were so involve, remembered most of us. Your love for Harford School showed in your memories of your time there. You were so concern, am not surprise you want your memory to be honored thru Harford. We are very grateful for all you did for us and glad you knew how grateful we were. God bless your gentle soul. Sleep beloved! Maimunata Bah

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**Maimunata Bah(former student)** - January 22, 2014 at 11:31 AM

MS

“ I will miss our wkend chats, your letters and Christmas cards. You were so involve, remembered most of us. Your love for Harford School showed in your memories of your time there. You were so concern, am not surprise you want your memory to be honored thru Harford. We are very grateful for all you did for us and glad you knew how grateful we were. God bless your gentle soul. Sleep beloved! Maimunata Bah

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**Maimunata Bah(former student)** - January 22, 2014 at 11:31 AM

AJ

*I will miss talking to you. R.I.P.*

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**Agnes Jawara** - January 26, 2014 at 05:55 PM

AC

*I will be remiss not to comment on Ms. Pickarts memorial page. The pain of loss reflects how deeply our hearts have loved..... We will surely miss your care and love you dedicated to us. Thank you! Annie Cole Koffa- Former Student at HSG*

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**annie Cole** - September 16, 2014 at 07:01 PM