LOWELL SUN

Anna E. Shipherd Reed

BEDFORD – Anna Elizabeth Shipherd Reed, known as "Sally," age 94, died peacefully in her sleep on Feb. 25, 2010, at Carleton Willard Village in Bedford where she had lived since 2004.

Sally spent 50 years of her long life in her Littleton home off Harvard Road at the base of Oak Hill, designed by her husband Everett.

Sally and Everett raised their four children there, Ted, David, Eleanor, and Esther, all of whom attended Littleton High School and went on to college and graduate school. Eventually the Reeds built a smaller house on their property for the Rev. Theodore Shipherd, a retired Congregational minister, and his wife, Esther, Sally's parents.

For many years the Reed family raised sheep on their rolling green hillside, planted a large vegetable garden, and hosted a children's nursery school in their basement playroom run by Littleton resident Marianne Karplus.

A graduate of Oberlin College with a bachelor's degree in sociology, Sally pursued a secretarial course at Simmons College. After working in the Littleton Town Library she obtained her master's degree in library science at Boston University and was appointed librarian at the Littleton Middle School. When she retired from that position, she volunteered at the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Ayer, and at Littleton House, a halfway house for delinquent girls. She was a consistent and outspoken advocate for civil rights, and supported the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee that trained such people as Rosa Parks of Montgomery Bus Boycott fame.

The Reeds were lifelong members of Littleton's Congregational Church, where Sally

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sang in the choir and was active as a deacon and a member of the world service and hospitality committees. Sally was widely known for her hospitality, serving simple home-cooked meals (with her garden's vegetables) not only to local friends but to soldiers from Fort Devens and a wide variety of people from other countries who loved the conversation and home-like setting at Sally and Everett's. After their own children were grown, Sally and Everett's home became a favorite destination of grandchildren and they became much loved "grandparents" to many of their friends' children.

After Everett's death and the sale of their Harvard Road property for senior housing (Reed Meadows), Sally settled into two sunny rooms at Carleton Willard where the welcoming door was always open and Sally's warmth and lively wit continued to attract visitors. She loved the musical and lecture events at the Village, the Jim Lehrer show and political debates, and she particularly enjoyed spending holidays with her daughter Esther's family at their home in Chelmsford.

In addition to her four children, Sally is survived by 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service is planned at Carleton-Willard Village for early April.

Sally's favorite charities were the Southern Poverty Law Center and Loaves and Fishes. Please see www.badgerfuneral.com.