

## LAMB

### Prudence Hutchinson

Prudence Hutchinson Lamb, age 101, of Maumee, OH, passed away Friday, December 30, 2005, in the Hospice Center of Northwest Ohio, Perrysburg. Prue was born



December 27, 1904, in Toledo to Harry and Alice (Pruden) Hutchinson. She graduated from Smead School, Toledo and received her B.A. from Smith College, Northampton, MA, in 1927. She married Edward O. "Ted" Lamb on June 21, 1930, in Toledo. He preceded her in death on March 23, 1987.

Prue was an active supporter of the Maumee community and was the recipient of many awards including the Exchange Club Book of Golden Deeds in 1978, Prudence Lamb Recognition Day by the City of Maumee, Maumee Community Service Medal, Outstanding Citizen of Maumee, Wolcott House Museum Guild recognition for meritorious service and the Daughters of the American Revolution award for excellence in community service. The Toledo area Metro Parks recognized her and her husband's commitment to the nature parks by naming the Lamb Heritage Center at Sidecut Park in their honor. The Chamber of Commerce gave her the Maumee River award in 2003 for 50 years of community service to Maumee.

She was especially active with the Maumee Valley Historical Society and the Wolcott House Museum complex. She served as president, vice-president and secretary of the historical society over a span of four decades. Prue had a passion for history and was instrumental in the development and success of the Wolcott House Museum. The Wolcott house named the 1840 period flower garden in her name. Her dedication and involvement in the Maumee Garden Club provided many opportunities to beautify the city with crabapple trees on the Anthony Wayne Trail and flowers on Conant and Wayne Streets. Prue was a long time devoted and active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Maumee.

Prue is survived by her son, Edward "Hutch" Lamb of Erie, PA; daughter, Priscilla L. (Frederick) Schwier of Perrysburg, OH; 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. A sister, Helen, also preceded her in death.

A memorial service celebrating Prue's life will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2006, at 11:30 a.m. in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 310 Elizabeth St., Maumee. Private Interment services will take place in Riverside Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make a memorial contribution in Prue's name are asked to consider St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Maumee, Maumee Valley Historical Society/Wolcott House or the charity of the donor's choice. Arrangements by **Maison-Dardenne-Walker Funeral Home**, Maumee.

[www.walkerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.walkerfuneralhomes.com)

# Historian poured passion into Wolcott House rehab

Prudence Hutchinson Lamb, the widow of Toledo industrialist Edward O. Lamb and a local historian who helped to establish the Wolcott House Museum Complex in Maumee, died Friday in Hospice of Northwest Ohio, Perrysburg Township. She was 101.

Mrs. Lamb's cause of death was unknown, said her daughter, Priscilla Schwier.

While Mr. Lamb was well-known as a businessman, labor attorney, and human rights advocate with friends such as Martin Luther King, Jr., and Fidel Castro, Mrs. Lamb pursued her own interests in local history, gardening, and charitable work.

"She supported him in his interests, but she had her own," Mrs. Schwier said. "She always stood by her man. She was passionate about her interests and he was passionate about his."

Mr. Lamb made numerous visits to Cuba and the former Soviet Union and stirred controversy in the 1960s by calling for the United States to merge with Canada and sponsor communist China for membership in the United Nations.

Mrs. Schwier said her mother accompanied Mr. Lamb on one of his trips to the Soviet Union and enjoyed experiencing Russian culture. But for the most part, Mrs. Lamb preferred digging into northwest Ohio's history and culture.

"She just loved it here," Mrs. Schwier said. "She loved being involved in her projects. She just did not have a lot of free time to travel with him. She had her own projects."

Chief among them was the Wolcott House, the two-story, Federal-style mansion built along the Maumee River between 1827 and 1836 by businessman James Wolcott.

As an officer in the Maumee Valley Historical Society, Mrs.

Lamb spearheaded the restoration of the historic 14-room home and its opening as a museum in 1961.

She made numerous trips to Connecticut, where the Wolcott family lived before settling in northwest Ohio, to do research and to find period furniture.

"She did a lot of research on the Wolcott family and then she researched the kind of furnishings that were appropriate, plus the colors of paint that should be used," Mrs. Schwier said. "She was a real scholar when she became interested in a subject."

Mrs. Lamb also worked to have an 1840s Greek Revival house and an 1850s log cabin moved onto the museum property, which includes an 1880 train depot and a Gothic-style church built in 1901. The Wolcott House's 1840 period flower garden was named in her honor.

"She was very instrumental in getting the place up and running to begin with, so her contributions were many," said Jack Hiles, executive director of the museum. "I'm not sure the complex would even have survived in the early days without her."

Mr. Hiles said Mrs. Lamb remained interested in the complex's operations past her 100th birthday and visited the site last summer. "She went through the Wolcott House with us and was explaining where some of the pieces in the house came from," Mr. Hiles said.

Mrs. Lamb celebrated her 100th birthday in December, 2004, at the Toledo Club, where she received a proclamation from Maumee Mayor Tim Wagner declaring Prudence Lamb Recognition Day. In 2003, the Maumee Chamber of Commerce gave her its Maumee River Award in recognition of her community service.

Mrs. Lamb and her husband were longtime supporters of the

Toledo Area Metroparks, which named the Lamb Heritage Center at Sidecut Metropark in the couple's honor in November, 1986. Mr. Lamb died in March, 1987.

Mrs. Lamb was born Dec. 27, 1904, in Toledo's Old West End and attended Fulton Elementary School. She graduated from the Smead School for Girls (which became Maumee Valley Country Day School in the 1930s) in 1923 and received a bachelor of arts degree from Smith College in Northampton, Mass., in 1927.

She married Mr. Lamb on June 21, 1930, in Toledo.

Besides her historical work, Mrs. Lamb was an avid gardener and a 45-year member of the Maumee Garden Club. While involved with the club, she helped plant crabapple trees along the Anthony Wayne Trail and flowers on Conant and Wayne streets.

"Her therapy was either planting flowers or weeding or digging in the dirt," Mrs. Schwier said. "She loved it."

Mrs. Lamb was an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Maumee and enjoyed working at the church's rummage sales. "She was quite an antiques lover, so she loved to get a bargain," her daughter said. "I would imagine in 50 years, she didn't miss a rummage sale. She would work many hours at them — 8, 10 hours a day, so she had a lot of fun doing that."

Surviving are her son, Edward "Hutch" Lamb; daughter, Priscilla Schwier; five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday in St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Arrangements are by the Maison-Dardenne-Walker Funeral Home.

The family requests tributes to the Maumee Valley Historical Society/Wolcott House, the church, or a charity of the donor's choice.