



Ella Marie Gremmel DuBois with daughter Marjean Brooks in 2018. (Family photo)

April 18, Kansas

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Ella Marie Gremmel DuBois grew up on a farm in Kansas during the Dust Bowl, sidelined by ear infections and stuck inside doing chores while her nine siblings worked outside.

In her own home years later, she spent hours cleaning shelves and furniture and wrapping and storing books and clothing in plastic, much like she did in the 1930s in tiny Agra, Kan., about 220 miles from Wichita.

“Her job was to dust, and it really affected her,” said her oldest son, Dwight DuBois. “I guess only people that lived through it could understand that fear.”

DuBois died at Brighton Gardens of Prairie Village in Kansas April 18. She was 92.

As a girl, DuBois rode her pony to the one-room schoolhouse a couple of miles away from her home. In high school, she met her future husband, LeRoy Clyde DuBois. They married when she was 19 and were together for almost 70 years.

When her husband returned from serving in the Navy during World War II, DuBois used her salary as a secretary to supplement the family's income while her husband studied at Kansas State University. He worked as a professional sales trainer for most of his life.

They spent 50 years in Birmingham, Ala., where Ella DuBois volunteered at the children's hospital. At home, she passed along her love of grammar to her four children, said Marjean Brooks, her daughter.

"We got the literary genes," Brooks said. "She couldn't stand it when people didn't have proper English."

All four of DuBois' children became proficient writers, and two have published books.

Though DuBois spent much of her life in Alabama, her family members said she always considered Kansas home.

"They were farmers," Brooks said. "They lived on the land, they lived from it. They felt really at peace there. Whenever they went to other states, it never quite felt like home, especially to Mom."

— *Eleanna Eimer*

April 20: Nearly 1 in 10 nursing homes in the United States publicly report cases of the coronavirus, [The Post reports](#).

**Agnes Greene was a
fierce advocate for son's
education.**