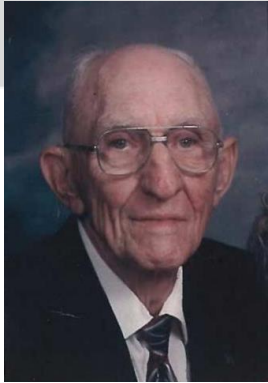


## Andrew Brackenridge

*Outstanding Service to the School and Community*



Andy was born and reared on the family farm south of Vincent. He attended Vincent High School from 1934 to March 1938 when he went to work on the farm. He played some basketball during his years at Vincent High School.

From April 1942 to August 1945, Andy served in the U.S. Army being in 10 countries including Normandy, France during WW II. He received the Silver Star, Bronze Star with Cluster, 7 Battle Stars, and Good Conduct Medal.

Returning from the war, Andy worked at Brick Wede's Furniture Company. Then in 1945 he was hired as a bus driver for Vincent School. One day Mr. Loren Weinstock met Andy as he brought the bus in at the end of the day and asked if he would like to sweep. So he turned in the bus keys and picked up a broom each work day for the next 36 years.

Andy always tried to help around the schools where he could and worked at Barlow, Bartlett and Cutler schools when needed. When the construction of the Warren Local High School and Barlow-Vincent Elementary began, Andy was making sure everything was going well. Superintendent, Mr. Harvey Graham, said that Andy knew more about the buildings than the construction company. He served under six superintendents and only two principals, Mr. Loren Weinstock and Mr. Allen Short.

Andy helped the kids of the school whether it was to find missing items, setting up for school events, or saying kind words to the students. Most of the Warren students from 1960 to 1982 knew Andy as well or better than they knew many of the teachers. The Shield of 1980 was dedicated to him with the comment: *Andy Brackenridge - Students Treasure Congenial Janitor.*

After returning from the service, Andy was one of 233 members to sign the charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #5108 in Marietta. He was also a life member of the Disabled Veterans of America and a life member of the American Legion. He was a retired and a life member of the Barlow Volunteer Fire Department and a trustee and member of the Vincent United Methodist Church. In 2007 he was honored as the Grand Marshal of the Barlow Fair Parade.

On January 19, 1946 Andy married Caroline (Ullman) Brackenridge, who worked in the Vincent School kitchen as a cook. They had two children, Sidney (wife Lois Dotson) both 1965 Warren graduates, and Patty Ann, a 1967 graduate (husband Rev. James Sands).

Caroline and Andy bought a house in Vincent in 1947 which they moved from the back of the property to the front and turned it around. In 1958 Andy began building their new home on the upper corner of the family farm. They lived in the basement for two years while Andy finished the upstairs in February 1960. In May of 1960 the family farm of 142 acres, owned by William D. Brackenridge, was sold because State Route 339 split the farm in half, and the cattle just would not go through the big culvert under State Route 339. As homes were being built along County Road 805 (now named Brackenridge Road in honor of the Brackenridge family), Andy was helping to build some of those homes.

Andy was known as a friend to all school students and staff and as a philanthropist to neighbors and friends in need of his many talents.

Andrew Brackenridge passed away April 3, 2010.