

## **Anna Mae Cummings Remembered**

*by Janette E. Smith*

It is with sadness that I report the passing of Anna Mae Cummings on July 12, 2013 at St Luke Health Facility in Oswego NY. She was eighty-seven. Anna Mae was a member of The American Iris Society, Region 2, and Central New York Iris Society for twenty-seven years.

She and her husband Robert grew mostly tall bearded irises at their home, Iris Haven, in Mexico NY. On one of my first visits to her garden, I noticed that she knew almost every iris by name. Rarely did she refer to a garden marker. In 2000 her garden was on display for the HIPS mini convention. Her lawn, including a large hillside, was almost entirely planted in irises. Anna Mae was proud of the awards that she won at iris shows and displayed the large purple rosettes on the walls of her home.

Where hundreds of irises used to grow, very few remain today. Without her tender loving care, most of them are gone, and the beds have returned to lawn.

I will always remember Anna Mae, with her friendly smile and large floppy hat, welcoming guests to her garden. Central New York extends our sympathy to Diane Crandall on the passing of her mom. She will be missed.