



## Fern Adele Gash

*November 19, 1941 - September 4, 2026*

St. Joseph, Missouri

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Fern Adele Gash died in St. Joseph on September 4, 2026. She was eighty-four. Born there on November 19, 1941, she grew up knowing the stockyards as a clock that did not sleep, and she learned a ledger before she learned a highway. A correct total, she said, is a form of respect.

She spent thirty years as a clerk in a livestock office that smelled of paper and coffee. She typed the sick list, the sale list, and the quiet list of men who needed a ride and would not ask. She did not put her name on a committee. She put other people's names in the right order. When a buyer left in a hurry she kept the keys and the coffee and the calendar until the next one learned which door stuck.

She married Howard Gash in 1962. He sold insurance and died in 2000. They raised a son and a daughter who still argue about who got the last piece of caramel cake. Fern kept the garden of cannas, and the habit of leaving a casserole on a porch without a speech. She sat through long meetings the way other people sit through weather.

Grandchildren remember a woman who corrected their thank-you notes more than their homework, who kept a biscuit tin of paper clips, and who could name every clerk in the building by the mug she no longer used. She died in St. Joseph, in the heat she had always said you could live with if you dressed for it. The office is someone else's now. The patience she practiced there is harder to replace than a ledger.

### Services

A funeral in St. Joseph with one familiar hymn, sung slowly. A gift to a church benevolence fund is welcome.

NN-OBIT-2026-C206

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