

Ella Madsen, 87

July 7, 1909 - April 23, 1997

SHELBY - Ella Madsen was born in Vrensted, Denmark, July 7, 1909, daughter of Hans and Maren Eriksen Thomsen. She spent her childhood and early womanhood with her family on farms near Vrensted.

March 4, 1931, she married Oga Madsen of Borglum, Denmark, who returned to Denmark to marry her after working for two years on farms in the Shelby and Persia area. They then immigrated to the United States arriving in New York on Easter Sunday, April 5, 1931. The couple farmed and fed cattle in this area until 1972. After their retirement, they continued to live at their home on Eastern Avenue in Shelby. She died April 23, 1997, at St. Joseph's Villa in Omaha, NE at age 87 years, nine months and 16 days.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Oga, who died shortly after they celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary; and two sisters, Anna and Esther, who died in infancy. She is survived by four daughters, Mitzi (Jim) Fox of Albion, NE; Margit Paulsen of Co. Bluffs; Mary Jane Kaplan of New York City, NY and Karen Helene Madsen of Boston, MA; eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren, Lisa Putnam (David) and their children, Lindsay, Leslie, Zachary and Tyler; Steven Fox (Teresa); Andrea Olson (Allan) and their children, Leah and Brian; Ann Smith (Mark); Joel Paulsen (Corina) and their children, Thomas and Emma; Larry Fox; Paul Fox; Robert Fox (Jean) and their son, Andrew; two brothers, Chresten and Simon, and two sisters, Agnes and Esther, living in Denmark, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 25, 1997, at the United Lutheran Church, Shelby, with Pastor Stan Nielsen officiating. Burial was in the Shelby Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Paul Fox, Lisa Putnam, Ann Smith and Andrea Olson. Casket bearers were Steven Fox, Joel Paulsen, Larry-Fox, Mark Smith, Robert Fox, David Putnam and Allan Olson. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.