

Lena Nielsen, 94

Dec. 18, 1911 - June 10, 2006

KIMBALLTON — Lena Velma, daughter of John J. and Annie (Larsen) Petersen, was born Dec. 18, 1911, on the family farm near Jacksonville in Shelby County. She was baptized and confirmed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Jacksonville. She attended country school at Jacksonville #8 and Harlan High School.

Sept. 30, 1931, Lena married Ralph C. Nielsen in Shelby County. Two daughters were born to this union. Lena and Ralph farmed in Shelby County before settling on a farm at Sharon Township in Audubon County. Ralph died in 1971 and Lena remained on the farm until 1978 when she moved into Kimballton. In 2002 she moved to Elm Crest in Harlan. She was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church and the Sunshine Club. For 11 years she worked at the Audubon Community High School. In August of 2005, she became a resident of the Heritage House in Atlantic, and died there June 10, 2006 at age 94 years, five months, and 23 days.

Besides her parents and husband, Lena was preceded in death by two sisters, Helen Christiansen (Carl) and Edna Jessen (Tommy). She is survived by her daughters, Phyllis (Donald) Madsen of Atlantic; Carolyn (Don) Fox of Spring, TX; two grandchildren, Lynn (Ward) Utter of Englewood, CO; Sherry (Kevin) Carley of Spring, TX; four great-grandchildren, Katelyn and Ryan Carley and Andrew and Ellie Utter, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 14, 2006, at Bethany Lutheran Church, rural Kimballton, with Rev. Stephen Gronseth officiating. Burial was in the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton with Sherry and Kevin Carley, Lynn and Ward Utter, Donald Madsen and Don Fox casket bearers. Ohde Funeral Home in Kimballton in charge of arrangements.