

Myrtle Obrecht, 89

Sept. 12, 1914 - June 27, 2004

HARLAN – Myrtle Carrie Petersen Obrecht was the youngest child of Chris and Lena (Hess) Petersen. She was born Sept. 12, 1914, at her home northeast of Jacksonville. She grew up on the same farm where she was born. She attended Jackson No. 6 country school, where she graduated from the eighth grade. She was baptized and confirmed at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville.

June 25, 1933, Myrtle married Lloyd William Obrecht at her parents' home. Two children were born to this union. After their marriage, they farmed south of Jacksonville until they purchased a farm east of Harlan in 1939. Myrtle was a homemaker, 4-H leader for Center Wild Rose 4-H Club, Center Community Club member, charter member of the Shelby County Historical Society, serving as president in 1968, a charter member of the Shelby County Genealogical Society, Shelby County Fair Hall of Fame, Shelby County 4-H Honorary Member, Nishna Valley China Dolls china painting and a knitters group. She was also a member of the First United Methodist Church in Harlan and was a charter member of the Women's Society of Christian Services, now called the United Methodist Women, and she held every office. She and Lloyd were the fifth generation to raise purebred Shorthorn cattle. June 27, 2004, she died at the Elm Crest Retirement Community at age 89 years, nine months and 15 days.

In addition to her parents, Myrtle was preceded in death by her husband, Lloyd; grandson, Robert Dale Obrecht; brother, Clinton; and sister, Ethel Petersen Mikkelsen. Survivors include her children, LaVerne Obrecht (Pam) of Malvern and Julienne (Richard) Ferry of Harlan; her grandchildren, Richelle (Todd) Richardson of Harlan; Brandt Ferry (Stacy) of Kirkman; Darren Obrecht (Sherr) of Omaha, NE; Adam Obrecht (Denise) of Des Moines; her great-grandchildren, Matthew and Grant Richardson; Rachel, Gabe and Kristen Ferry; and Ryan and Tyler Obrecht; one sister-in-law, Nadine Griener of Omaha, NE; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 30, 2004, at the First United Methodist Church in Harlan, with Rev. Ed Frank officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with Jerry Lapke, Dr. Richard McClure, Paul A Pauley, Randy Fiscus, Marvin Mikkelsen and Charles Obrecht honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were Brandt Ferry, Todd Richardson, John Criss, Adam Obrecht, Darren Obrecht and Bud Petersen. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

