

Irena Fossell

Irena Fossell, the former Irena Steenhusen, daughter of Peter and Emma Boldt Steenhusen, was born at Irwin on Nov. 18, 1901. She died at Myrtue Memorial hospital in Harlan on March 14, 1977, at age 75 years, three months and 26 days. She attended school and grew to adulthood in Irwin, graduating from the Irwin high school in 1919. She then attended the University of Northern Iowa which was at that time known as Iowa State Teacher's College. After graduating, she taught in the rural schools of Shelby county for two years. In 1923 she joined the staff of the Sioux City Public schools and taught there until 1941. On July 2, 1941, she married Gustav Fossell in Westerville, So. Dak. A nephew, Cyrus Savereide, pastor of the Lutheran church there, performed the ceremony. After their marriage, Mr and Mrs Fossell settled in Holstein and this was their home until becoming residents of the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan in Jan. of 1977. This has been her home since that time. Mrs Fossell was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran church in Holstein; the A.L.C.W.; O.E.S.; Past Matrons club; P.E.O. Sisterhood; Cherokee County WW I Veterans Auxiliary; and the State and National Retired Teachers Assn. She served as assistant librarian in Holstein for many years and was a very active in community affairs.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Henry and Peter Steenhusen and by one sister, Alys S. Rasmussen. Her survivors include her husband, Gustav of Harlan; four sisters - Mary Welsch of Irwin, Dora (Mrs Walter Andersen) of Harlan, Laura (Mrs Edgar Mellor) of Tucson, Ariz., and Edith (Mrs Lester Frees) of Lakefield, Minn.; one brother, John Steenhusen of Irwin; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at Pauley Funeral Home in Harlan on Wednesday, March 16, 1977 with Pastor Roger Peterson of St. Paul's Lutheran church in Holstein officiating. Burial was in the Oak Hill cemetery in Irwin with Iner Kvamme, Richard Wooster, George Steenhusen, John L. Steenhusen, Peter Steenhusen Jr., and Merlene J. Thompson serving as casket bearers.