

Bessie Olsen

HARLAN — Bessie Olsen, daughter of Enoch and Carrie Gunderson Erickson, was born on a farm in Lincoln Twp. in Shelby county, on Aug. 5, 1889. She died at Myrtue Memorial hospital in Harlan on April 5, 1977 at age of 87 years and 8 months. She attended country school and grew to adulthood on her parent's farm. At the age of 20 she moved into Harlan and on Aug. 22, 1917, she married Jens Christian Jensen at Harlan. Two daughters were born to this union. After their marriage, Mr and Mrs Jensen farmed three miles south of Harlan for four years and then returned to Harlan. After Mr Jensen's death in 1922, Bessie continued to make her home in Harlan. On Nov. 3, 1926, she married Lars Olsen at Harlan. One daughter was born to this union. Mr and Mrs Olsen made their home in Harlan. After Mr Olsen's death in 1938, Bessie continued to live in Harlan. She became a resident of the Baptist Memorial Home in 1966 and this has been her home since that time. Bessie was a member of the Bethel Baptist church in Harlan all her adult life.

In addition, she was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Elsie and Emma; and by a brother, Edward Erickson. Her survivors include three daughters - Margaret (Mrs Ronald Goodner) of Boulder, Colo., Arlene (Mrs Merrel Calloway) of Tangier, Morocco and Huldah (Mrs Arthur Anderson) of Council Bluffs; 11 grandchildren and six great grandchildren, also survived by her twin sister, Jessie Block of Harlan; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at Pauley Funeral Home in Harlan, on Friday, April 8, 1977, with Pastor A. B. Neuenschwander, pastor of the Bethel Baptist church in Harlan, officiating. Burial was in Cuppy's Grove cemetery, Shelby county, with Gene Block, Ralph Hansen, Marion Olsen, Russell Block, Nels Block, Jr., and James Mortensen serving as casketbearers.