

Wilma Andersen, 97

Dec. 25, 1905 - Nov. 27, 2003

HARLAN – Wilma Mae Andersen, daughter of Oliver D. and Della Mae (DeBord) Ferry, was born Dec. 25, 1905, at home in Kirkman. Her early years were spent growing up on several Shelby County farms. She attended school in Tennant and Kirkman, and graduated from Kirkman High School in 1924.

At age 19 Wilma attended a house party, where she met Mathies Andersen. The couple were married Sept. 23, 1924, at the Jacksonville Lutheran parsonage. They farmed in the Jacksonville and Redline area for many years. In 1965, the couple retired from farming and moved to Harlan. She remained in her home following Mathies' death in November, 1974. She became a resident of the Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn, Sept. 9, 2003. Wilma was an active member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, where she participated in the Women of the Church Circles. She was instrumental in starting the annual May Breakfast held by the church women each year. She was a member of the Neighborhood Club, Happy Home Social Club, a knitting club and the Rebecca's. She was a member of several card clubs. She died Nov. 27, 2003, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 97 years, 11 months and two days.

Preceding Wilma in death were her parents; her husband, Mathies Andersen; one daughter, Phyllis Larsen; and three brothers, Ray Ferry, Virgil Ferry and Victor Ferry. She is survived by one son, Keith (Marilyn) Andersen of Jacksonville; eight grandchildren; 23 great grandchildren; 16 great great grandchildren; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Nov. 29, 2003, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, with Pastor Henry Flessner officiating. Casket bearers were Paul Larson, Jim Clark, Alan Larson, Mark Larson, Doug Andersen and Bob Andersen. Burial was in the Jacksonville Cemetery. The Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

