

✓ **Irene Buckner, 81**

**Dec. 30, 1915 - April 5, 1997**

**HARLAN** - Irene Vivian Buckner, the only child of John and Toracy (Petersen) Rasmussen, was born Dec. 30, 1915, on a farm near Jacksonville. She was baptized and confirmed at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, and attended grade school in the rural country school. After graduation from Harlan High School, she attended her first year of college at Dana College and then two years at Iowa State University before graduating from Drake University in 1938. She then began teaching country school, then at Bagley High School, Gray Schools and the Exira High School.

Aug. 11, 1949, she married John Buckner at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. Three children were born to this union. They resided on a farm near Jacksonville until 1970, when they retired and moved into Harlan. This has been her home since that time. From 1973 to 1977, they owned the Harlan Motel. She died April 5, 1997, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 81 years, three months and six days. She was a lifelong member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville as well as the Hope Church Circle and knitting club.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sons, an infant, David Dean Buckner in 1958 and Gregory John Buckner in 1976. She is survived by her husband, John Buckner of Harlan; her daughter, Candace (Dennis) George of West Des Moines, and two grandsons, Daniel and Eric, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 9, 1997, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, with Pastor Mary Ann Lunde officiating. Burial was in the Jacksonville Cemetery with Eric George, Raymond L. Petersen, Daniel George, Wayne L. Petersen, Verner Arnvig and Carl R. Petersen casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.