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Martha Jorgensen Petersen, 90 ✓

Feb. 17, 1901 — May 5, 1991

ELK HORN – Martha Jorgensen Petersen was born Feb. 17, 1901 on a farm north of Jacksonville in Shelby county. She died May 5, 1991, at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, NE. She was the daughter of Hans Hansen Jorgensen and Maren Christina Petersen Jorgensen. She was baptized and confirmed in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Jacksonville and attended Jackson #5 Elementary School. She attended summer school at Harlan, Mo. Valley and Atlantic and took correspondence courses from Omaha and Drake University. She received her Normal Training from Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, and after graduation taught school at Jackson #2. In 1923, she decided to continue her education and attended Dana College for two years. Upon graduation, she moved to Spokane, WA., and was a secretary in a real estate office and a mining company. When she returned to Iowa, she continued her career as a school teacher and taught at Polk #1 by Fiscus.

April 28, 1928, she married Lars Jorgen Petersen at her parents home near Jacksonville. At this time her career as a teacher ended because it was illegal to be a married school teacher, but when the laws changed in Iowa, she returned to teaching and taught at #6, #8, and #9 in Jackson twp. They farmed at various farms in Audubon and Shelby county in Iowa and Washington and Dodge counties in NE. She began working at the Salem Nursing Home in 1959 and worked there for 20 years, retiring in 1979.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jorgen in 1981; an infant son; an infant granddaughter; two sisters, and four brothers. Survivors include her children and their spouses, Merle (Joy) Petersen of Kimballton; Pauline (Bill) Bahnke of Omaha, NE., and Ellen (Warren) Whitaker of Blair, NE.; six grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren and one sister, Agnes Sorensen of Harlan.

Funeral services were held May 8, 1991 at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church with Pastor Tim Johnson, officiating. Burial was in the Bethany Lutheran cemetery east of Kimballton. Casketbearers were her grandsons, Curt Petersen, Dick Bahnke, Don Bahnke, Mark Steen, Sam Sacco and Shane Petersen.