

Nellie F. Peterson, 98

July 12, 1898 - June 16, 1997

AVOCA - Nellie Fern Peterson was born July 12, 1898, in Union County, daughter of John C. and Keziah Ann Agler Butler. Her parents farmed in the county near the big tree dividing the four counties: Union, Adams, Ringgold and Taylor. She was one of ten children in the family. She attended country school until the eighth grade. She moved to Elgin, NE, to live with her maternal aunts.

She married Ernest William Petersen Feb. 28, 1921 in Elgin, NE. They were the parents of four children, Charles, Audrey and Ernest and Elane, both who died in infancy. They ran a grocery store until the fall of 1938 when they moved to Lenox. Ernest taught country school and Nellie did domestic work. In 1969, after Ernest's death, she moved to Avoca, where she then did domestic work and child care. She was a member of the Lenox Methodist Church and a friend of the Avoca United Church. She was a choir member and a soloist. In 1976, she was recognized as a 50 year member of the Grand Chapter of Iowa Order of the Eastern Star wherein she held many offices. When her health began to fail, she entered the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center in Avoca June 2, 1985. She died June 16, 1997, at the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center at age 98 years, 11 months and four days.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Ernest; a son, Ernest; a daughter, Elane; five sisters and four brothers. She is survived by her children, Charles (Julia) of Avoca; Audrey Shaffer (Delbert) of Boulder, CO; six grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held June 19, 1997, at the United Church of Avoca with Rev. Will Bynagte officiating. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Lenox. Casket bearers were Mark Peterson, Kurt Peterson, Josh Peterson, Jeff Peterson, Mike Hadfield, Jessie Peterson and Paula Hadfield. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.