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Laura Thiles, 108

July 6, 1883 — July 28, 1991

DUNLAP – Laura M. (Smith) Thiles was born July 6, 1883 near Panama, the daughter of Elmer and Sarah (Hemstreet) Smith. She died at the Dunlap Care Center, July 28, 1991, at age 108 years and 22 days. She received her education at Washington No. 3 School, nine miles southwest of Dunlap near a farm where she was raised. While a young girl, she stayed at home and helped her parents.

Feb. 6, 1903, she married Chris Thiles in Harlan. The couple settled on a farm in Harrison County and were blessed with the birth of three daughters and one son. They continued farming from 1903 to 1929 at which time they moved to Dunlap. As a child, she was an active member in a little country church. She continued going to the United Methodist Church until well past the century mark. She was a member and honorary member of the United Methodist Women; she taught Sunday school for a number of years and was a member of the Rebecca Lodge for more than 50 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Chris; one sister, Grace; three brothers, Ross, Ray and Jess; and one son-in-law, Charlie Hard. Survivors include three daughters, Pearl Hard of Dunlap; Virginia Simpson (Hugh) of Theodore, AL., and Grace Anderson (John) of Olympia, WA.; one son, Herbert Thiles (Helen) of Bellevue, NE.; 12 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; 29 great-great-grandchildren and countless nieces and nephews.

Services were Aug. 2, 1991, at the First United Methodist Church of Dunlap, Rev. Richard Russell, officiating. Casketbearers were Charlie Hard, Burdette Hard, Craig Davis, Duane Hard, Darrell Hard and Alan Druivenga. Fouts Funeral Home in charge of the service.