

Evelyn Elizabeth Shanks Davis, 99

Feb. 2, 1900 – Oct. 25, 1999

AUDUBON – Evelyn Elizabeth Shanks Davis, daughter of Lambert and Barbara Kuhn Shanks, one of eight children was born Feb. 2, 1900, in Camden. She died Oct. 25, 1999, at the Friendship Home in Audubon, at age 99 years, eight months and 23 days. She was baptized in the Baptist Church in Camden. She attended Camden Community Schools, graduating in 1918. She then taught school in North Dakota where she met her future husband, George Fred Davis.

They were married July 28, 1920, at her parents' home in Camden. Four daughters were born to this union, Jane Larsen, Mary Conklin, Martha Renftle and Jo Ann Patrick. They resided in North Dakota and Indiana before settling into Iowa. They farmed in Audubon County for many years before moving to Audubon in 1946. Fred died Feb. 14, 1963. She was an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star for over 50 years. She served as Worthy Matron and also Mother Advisor for the Rainbow Girls. She served as Noble Grand in the Rebekah Lodge and was the pianist for many years. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. She was also active in the Legion Auxiliary and the Democratic Party.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Fred Davis; her sons-in-law, John Renftle and Dwight Conklin; her parents; her brothers and sisters, Jessica Shanks, Gladys Kendall, Carl Shanks, Charles Shanks, Ross Shanks, Harry Shanks and Ted Shanks. She is survived by her daughters, Jane Larsen (Dr. L.V.) Larsen of Harlan; Mary Conklin of Grand Island, NE; Martha Renftle of Audubon and JoAnn Patrick (Laurence) Patrick of Carson. She is also survived by eleven grandchildren, Barbara Larsen Boeck (James) of Woodbine; David Larsen (Jacquelyn) of Kalona; Robert Larsen (Gwen) of Boston, MA; Terry Wiges (Nancy) of Shawnee Mission, KS; Randy Wiges of Grand Island, NE; Stephen Renftle (Julie) of Indianola; Louann Renftle Jackson (Mark) of Colorado Springs, CO; Dennis Patrick of Silver City; Richard Patrick (Janet) of Ozark, MO; Stuart Patrick (Julie) of Oakland; and Adam Patrick (Jill) of Carson; 26 great grandchildren; four great great grandchildren; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Peter Larsen Oct. 27, 1999, at Kessler Funeral Home in Audubon. Burial was in Arlington Heights Cemetery in Audubon. Casket bearers were her grandsons, David Larsen, Robert Larsen, Terrell Wiges, Randall Wiges, Stephen Renftle, Dennis Patrick, Richard Patrick, Stuart Patrick and Adam Patrick.