

Lela Davis, 94

March 10, 1911 - March 3, 2006

PERSIA — Lela Rebecca Davis, the daughter of Anna Salmon and Paris Seely Balcom, was born March 10, 1911, in Belleville, KS. She attended school and grew into adulthood in Moran, KS. After completing her education, she helped her parents operate a hotel in Weeping Water, NE. She then accepted a housekeeping job for Alvin Davis near Persia.

Lela married Alvin Davis June 18, 1932, in Rockport, MO. They spent most of their married lives on this farm that Alvin was born on. Alvin died May 2, 1992, and Lela remained on that farm until moving to Elm Crest Retirement Community. She was a member of the Tennant United Methodist Church, the Women's Federated Club and the Pioneer Club. She was a district officer for United Methodist Women. She was active as a 4-H leader and as a county extension committee member. She was also a talented seamstress, making many of her own clothes, made ceramics and often baked cakes and pies for other people. She was also involved with a neighborhood group that played Canasta every Saturday night. She died March 3, 2006, at Elm Crest Retirement Community in Harlan, at age 94 years, 11 months and 23 days.

Lela was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Alvin; five brothers and one sister, Delores Curtis, Riley, Glen, Merle, George and Charles Balcom. She is survived by her stepdaughter, Dorothy Hall of Shelby; five grandchildren, Beverly (Rich) Goshorn; Dixie (Robert) Nihsen; Danny Hall (Linda); Barbara (Randy) Lund, all of Shelby; and Steven Hall (Amy) of Huxley; 27 great-grandchildren; and 23 great-great-grandchildren; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held March 5, 2006, at Elm Crest Chapel with Jim Boardman officiating. Casket bearers were Lela's great-grandchildren. Burial was in the Shelby Cemetery. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.