

Esther McMartin, 79

Sept. 8, 1920 - Dec. 2, 1999

HANCOCK - Esther Faye King McMartin was born Sept. 8, 1920, in Oakland, to Charles and Luella Bates King. She died after a short illness at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha, NE, Dec. 2, 1999 at age 79 years, two months and 24 days. She was the youngest of four children, all have preceded her in death, a brother, Charles King, Jr.; sisters, Mary Jane Jordan and Ruth Haskins. She graduated from Oakland High School in 1937, after which she attended nurses training at the Methodist Hospital in Omaha.

She married Ernest Keith McMartin March 17, 1940, and they started their 59 years of married life in Oakland, working for Parker Dairy. In the spring of 1941, they lived a short time in Omaha before moving to Buffalo, NY, where they were employed by Bell Aircraft. They spent three years repairing airplanes during WWII. In 1945, they returned to Iowa where they started farming near Oakland and Carson. Since 1959 they have lived on the King farm near Hancock. She was a member of the Hancock United Methodist Church, where she faithfully played the organ for Sunday service, weddings and for funerals for many of the members. She belonged to the United Methodist Women and served as treasurer, was a dedicated volunteer for years at the Oakland Manor Nursing Home and donated her talent to play for services at area nursing homes.

Esther is survived by her children and their families, Kelly (Darlene) Wendt and their children, Chyrstal, Amy and Travis of Hancock; Robert and his children, Brittney and Codey of Atlantic; Robin McMartin of Lewis and her son, Justin (Kathy) and stepdaughter, Lexi of Estherville; brothers-in-law, William C. McMartin (Muriel) of Carson and Chester McMartin (Arlene) Appleton of Keene, NH; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 5, 1999, at the United Methodist Church, Hancock, with Rev. Dr. Judy R. Flanegin officiating. Inurnment was in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Hancock. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.