

Johanna Edna Nielsen, 83[✓]

May 31, 1917 – May 23, 2001

KIMBALLTON – Johanna Edna Nielsen, daughter of John and Sophia (Paulsen) Nielsen, was born May 31, 1917, in Kimballton. She was baptized at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton, and confirmed at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church in Elk Horn. She graduated from Audubon High School in 1935, and attended teachers training at Iowa State Teachers College (now University of Northern Iowa, UNI) in Cedar Falls. For a time, she taught school in Hamlin Township, Griswold and Walnut. After completing her Physical Education degree at UNI, she taught girl's physical education classes at the May Goodriel Junior High School in Des Moines, for many years. Upon retirement in 1972, she returned to live in her family home in Kimballton.

Johanna married Donald Esbeck Feb. 21, 1975, in Harlan. The couple worked for Garst Seed in Coon Rapids, in the fall and spent the winters in Weslaco, TX. They later divorced. She became a resident of Heritage House in Atlantic, in 1992. She died May 23, 2001, at the Cass County Memorial Hospital at age 83 years, 11 months and 22 days.

Preceding Johanna in death were her parents; two brothers, Ralph Nielsen and Arthur J. Nielsen; and four sisters, Dagmar Nielsen, Mary Juhl and two in infancy. Survivors include two sisters-in-law, LaVerne Nielsen of Harlan and Lena Nielsen of Kimballton; four nieces, Lois (Richard) Bishop of Wiota; Phyllis (Donald) Madsen of Kimballton; Carolyn (Don) Fox of Spring, TX and Ardith (George) Forsyth of Nevada; and one nephew, Emmert (Shirley) Juhl of Exira.

Funeral services were held May 25, 2001, at the Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home with Pastor W. Clayton Nielsen officiating. Casket bearers were Richard Bishop, Kenneth Bishop, Donald Madsen and Phyllis Madsen. Burial was in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Kimballton.