

Harlan, Iowa Tribune
Tuesday September 12, 1995 pg 6-B

Ralph Watkins, 89

November 16, 1905-July 26, 1995

Shelby- Ralph H. Watkins, son of George E. and Ida Dean Watkins, was born on a farm south of Shelby, Nov. 16, 1905. The Watkins family were prominent Shelby pioneers. He attended country school and graduated from the Shelby High School in 1924. He was a member of the Shelby Methodist Church.

Feb. 8, 1939 he married Mary Louise Petersen, daughter of Fred and Mary Petersen at the Presbyterian Church in Co. Bluffs. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in Feb. 1989. Following their marriage, they moved to their farm south of Shelby and continued living there after he retired in 1976. He spent his entire life on the farm his grandfather purchased just after the Civil War. He had many interests and won a number of awards, including the World Herald Award for Conservation Practices and many high yield corn contests. He liked trees and planted a number of them. He bowled with the same league for 27 years. He died July 26, 1995 at the Indian Hills Nursing Home in Co. Bluffs at age 89 years, 8 months and 10 days.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a brother and a sister, both who died in infancy. He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou, two nieces and three nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held July 29, 1995 at the Knutson Funeral Chapel with Pastor Stan Nielsen and Pastor Walter J. Bernard, Jr. officiating. Burial was in the Shelby cemetery. Casket bearers were David Lefeber, Jesse Pike, Edmund Michalak, Carmen Schneckloth, Donald Bladt, Delmar Von Eschen and Anthony Wingert.