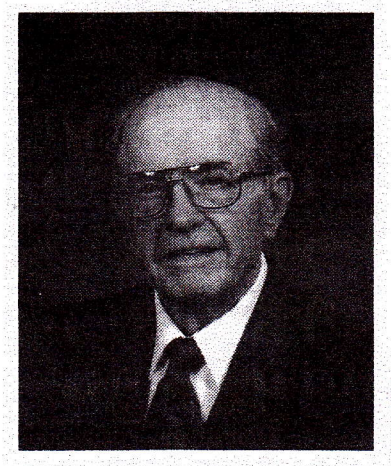
OAKLAND, James Merlin

November 16, 1916
rural Viborg
January 4, 2002
Sioux Falls

Viborg Enterprise
February 14, 2002



James Oakland

James Merlin Oakland was born November 16, 1916 in rural Viborg. His parents were Peter and Emma (Skonhovd) Oakland.

James received his education in the Centerville area schools. He was a WWII veteran entering the service March 6, 1942 and serving 3 years, 7 months in the South Pacific with the US Army Medical Corp. After his discharge in December of 1945, he returned to resume his farming operation. He married Ada F. Rasmussen on June 12, 1947 at Viborg. They farmed in the Viborg area until moving into Viborg in 1987. James took pride and worked hard in his dairying, livestock, and farming operation. He served on the Viborg Coop Oil Co. board and on his church council where he was an usher and a faithful member. He belonged to the Viborg American Legion, and the Augustana Fellows and Booster Club. He and Ada enjoyed traveling and time spent with their family.

James passed away on February 4, 2002 at the Centennial Hospice Cottage in Sioux Falls. He had attained the age of 85.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Palmer Oakland, and 2 sisters Violet Blake and Blanche Oakland.

James is survived by his wife of nearly 55 years Ada of Viborg; 2 sons Dr. James A. & wife Carol of Sioux Falls, and Philip of Viborg; a daughter Ranae & husband Lee Andersen of Sioux Falls; 5 grandchildren Kristin & Jeffrey Oakland, and Darin, Carrie, & Kyle Andersen all of Sioux Falls; a brother Vandal of Centerville; 3 sisters Ida Peterson, Mildred Rist, & Fern Knutson all of Centerville; and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Thursday, February 7, 2002 at Bethany Lutheran Church, Viborg, with Pastor Mindy Erhke officiating. The organist was Helen Holm and Vernon Andersen was the soloist.

Pallbearers were Dean Knutston, Ron Peterson, Roger Blake, John rasmussen, Gordon Rasmussen, and Chris Rasmussen. Interment was in the Holland Cemetery, Centerville.