FOELKER, Blanche (Hemphill)

May 18, 1899
rural Centerville
February 12, 2001
Viborg

Viborg Enterprise
February 22, 2001

Blanche Foelker

Blanche Foelker was born May 18, 1899, on a farm southeast of Centerville, to parents Robert and Geneva (Hemstock) Hemphill. She attended Joy School, District 77, in rural Lincoln County.

She was united in marriage to Elmer A. Foelker on September 22, 1921, which was her mother's birthday. To this union a son, Robert William and a daughter, Janet Lee were born. The couple farmed in the Centerville area until Elmer's death in October of 1977. A short time later, Blanche moved into Centerville. She moved into the Pioneer Memorial Villa in Viborg in 1987, and in 1990 she became a resident at the Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home. On May 18, 1999, she reached the age of 100 years and was recognized by the Century Club. At the time of her passing, Blanche was the oldest person in the family lineage, the oldest member of the Federated United Church of Christ, and was the oldest resident at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home.

Blanche was a member of the Federated United Church of Christ in Centerville and was active in the Ladies Aid. She sewed, cooked, and was a helpmate to her husband in the field picking corn, chopping sunflowers, and pulled cockleburs as there were no chemicals in those days. She raised a big garden and canned. On February 12, 2001, at midnight, she went to her heavenly home to join her loved ones.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband Elmer, son Robert, grandson Bruce, sisters Edith Glassing and Pearl Hemphill, and brothers Forrest, Erwin, and Wallace.

Those who survive and gratefully shared her life are her daughter Janet and her son-in-law Allen Hansen of Viborg, grandchildren Craig Hansen and wife Dee of Irene, and Janine Pfeifer and husband Merlin of Devils Lake, ND; great-grandchildren Debra Ann Hansen and Bradley Allen Pfeifer; her sister LaVerna Peterson of Beresford and three nieces.

Funeral Services were held on February 17, 2001 at the Federated United Church of Christ in Centerville, SD with Rev. Patti Helmer officiating. Patty Weeks was the organist. Alan Ward was the soloist with Ethel Ward being the accompanist.

Casket Bearers were Gary Ward, Steve Pool, Roger Peterson, Don Poll, Harrison Weeks, and Paul Peterson. Internment was at the Riverview Cemetery, rural Centerville.