Florence Mae Watts, 99

Florence Mae Watts, 99, of Montezuma, died Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009, at the Montezuma Nursing and Rehab Center. Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, at the Holland-Coble Funeral Home in Montezuma. Burial was at the Jackson Township Cemetery in Montezuma. Memorials may be made to the Montezuma Fire Department. Friends and family may give condolences at www.hollandcoblefuneralhome.com.

Florence Mae Watts was born the daughter of Jonathan and Christena Furname Strong on Dec. 4, 1909, in What Cheer. She attended the Fisher country school and was baptized at the Indianapolis Christian Church. On Dec. 4, 1926, Mae was united in marriage to Warren Dale Watts at the Oskaloosa Christian Church Parsonage by Rev. George Purdy. Mae worked for 23 years at the Rabenolds Department Store in Montezuma, attended the Christian Church, and was a member of the Beulah Community Club. Her home was always open to her niece and nephew, Juanita Gregory and Gene Baker. Mae was also recognized as an excellent cook, rarely did she ever use a cookbook, and her noodles will always be remembered as simply “The Best”.

Mae is survived by a son, Lyle Watts of Des Moines; two daughters, Joetta (John) Bates of Deep River, and Phyllis Mann of Carlisle; a twin sister, Fae Vail of Des Moines; 12 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; 30 great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Warren Watts; two sons, Keith (Bernice) Watts and Dennis Watts; her three brothers, Lloyd, Dwight and Lee Strong; a sister, Ina Stabler; her son-in-law, Edwin Mann; two grandchildren, Kerry Mann and Craig Watts; one great-grandson, Tyler Hilsabeck.