

2-20-2014

JENNIE WILLEMSSEN

Jennie Willemsen, 97½ of Oskaloosa and formerly of New Sharon passed away Saturday, February 15, 2014 at the Crystal Heights Care Center in Oskaloosa. Funeral services were Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at the Holland-Coble Funeral Home in New Sharon. Burial was in the Friends Cemetery in New Sharon. Memorial contributions may be made to Iowa Hospice.

Jennie Willemsen, daughter of John and Christina (Terlouw) Meppelink, was born on July 17, 1916 near Kilduff. She graduated from the Sudlow Country School near Kilduff. On June 1, 1938, Jennie was united in marriage to Henry Willemsen. To this union five children were born, Bruce, Dolores "Dee", Wayne, Verna and Allen. Jennie and Henry farmed and raised their family in the Taintor area, moving to New Sharon in 1978 following retirement. Jennie was a wonderful mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Her family was the light of her life, and she truly enjoyed spending time with them. Jennie was an excellent cook and an avid reader. She enjoyed gardening, growing flowers, playing the organ and most of all her family. Jennie's faith was very important to her, and she attended church while her health allowed. She also enjoyed sharing her love of music at local nursing homes.

Her memory will be cherished by her four children, Dolores "Dee" Willemsen of Wind-Creek Heights, Wayne (Jane) Willemsen of Walnut Creek, Calif., Verna (Gary) Conry of University Park and Allen Willemsen of New Sharon; her daughter-in-law, Margaret Willemsen of Oelwein; her five grandchildren, Christina (Kino Ruth) Willemsen, Jeffrey (Mary Fitzpatrick) Willemsen, Angie (Chris) Jedlicka, Matthew (Jaclynn) Willemsen and Colin (Jessica Ivry) Willemsen; her eight great-grandchildren, Andrew Jedlicka, Noah Jedlicka, Emmerson Jedlicka, Addelynn Jedlicka, Haley Willemsen, Rebecca Willemsen, Connor Willemsen and Jennifer Willemsen; and several nieces, nephews and friends.

Jennie was preceded in death by her parents, John and Christina Meppelink; her husband, Henry Willemsen; her eldest son, Bruce Willemsen; and seven siblings, John Meppelink, Johanna Vande Krol, Lena Meppelink, Marie Barsness, Susie Meppelink, Stella Meppelink and a brother in infancy.