

# Mathilda Underwood, 94

Funeral services for Mathilda Underwood, 94, of Tyler, Texas, were held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8, at First Christian Church in Tyler. She died Feb. 4, 2007, at her home. Lloyd James Funeral Home of Tyler, was in charge of arrangements. Burial was in Tyler Memorial Park Cemetery. The online guestbook may be signed at [www.tylerpaper.com](http://www.tylerpaper.com).

Mathilda Frieda Maria Underwood was born Oct. 19, 1912, in Poweshiek County, the third of seven children born to Heinrich and Emma Burke Freundt. She was raised near Guernsey and graduated as valedictorian of her high school class in 1930. She attended the American Institute of Business, Des Moines. In 1932, she began working for the Boy Scouts of America in Des Moines, where she met and married J.C. Underwood.

She and her husband, who served as the Scout Executive of the East Texas Area Council of Boy Scouts of America for 27 years, moved to Tyler, Texas in 1939. She worked in the Scout office with him for many years and continued working part-time there after his death in 1969. A devoted mother, she and her husband raised two daughters.

She also worked in later years for Manpower Inc., as well as serving as a charter member from 1977 to 1993 of the East Texas Genealogical Society, where she compiled, typed and edited more than 18 books. She was a 67-year member of the First Christian Church of Tyler.

Underwood is survived by her daughters, Carol Underwood of Tyler, Texas and Harriet Underwood Shepard of Laurel, Md.; one stepdaughter, Alice Underwood Smith of Houston, Texas; five step-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a stepdaughter, Virginia Underwood Wright; two sisters, Alma Meyer and Viola Behnke; and four brothers, Arnold, Otto, Walter and Everett Freundt.

BC - Feb 8, 2007