

Letha Merrill, 94

Letha Merrill, 94, of New Sharon, died Monday, Feb. 27, 2006 at the New Sharon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Her funeral service will be held at 2 p.m., Thursday, March 2, at the New Sharon Friends Church with Pastor Spencer Thury officiating. Interment will follow at Friends Cemetery in New Sharon. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 1, at the Harden Funeral Home in New Sharon with the family present from 6 to 8 p.m.

A complete obituary will follow in the next edition of *The Montezuma Republican*.

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Letha Irene Merrill was born on July 23, 1911 in Mahaska County to Fred and Lita Rogers Briggs. She graduated from New Sharon High School and from William Penn College in Oskaloosa. She moved to New Sharon in 1938 and was a school teacher for

most of her life, having taught at Lacey, Ottumwa and in the New Sharon area. She was united in marriage with Charles Patterson in 1965. He preceded her in death in 1972. She married Elmer Merrill in 1983 and he passed away in 1986. She was a birthright member of the New Sharon Friends Church and enjoyed giving music lessons.

She is survived by a step-son, Joe Merrill of Ridgeville, Ind., and a step-daughter, Elizabeth Nielander, of Kokomo, Ind.; a nephew, Bill Patterson and wife Patty of Montezuma; and many step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by both of her husbands; her sister, Ruth Klampe, and a nephew, Bruce Patterson.

Memorials in her name may be directed to the New Sharon Friends Church.