Vera Van Gilst, 89, Newton -

Vera Van Gilst, 89, of Newton passed away April 3, 2006. Funeral services were held April 6, at Pence-Reese Funeral Home in Newton. Burial was held at Mt. Zion Cemetery at rural Newton. Memorials can be given to Park Centre, Killduff United Methodist Church or Kellogg Garden Club.

Vera was born Aug. 4, 1916, at rural Knoxville to James Albert and Myrtle Mary (Smith) Welch. She graduated from Knoxville High School with the class of 1935.

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She taught rural school in Marion County and was a homemaker after 1939.

She was united in marriage to James Clair Van Gilst on June 8,

1939, at the Knoxville Christian Church. She was a member of the Killduff United Methodist Church; Order of Eastern Star Past Worthy Matron; White Shrine; Kellogg Garden Club; and 4-H Club leader.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law: Gary and Karen Van Gilst of Newton; a daughter: Serana Means of Newton; four grandchildren: Lesa Udelhoven, Angie Gettys, Denise Williams, and Jeni Wickliff; and eight greatgrandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; three brothers: Wyatt Welch, Myron Welch and Howard Welch; and one sister, Thelma Welch.