

(Nathaniel CLAIRE)

Blanche McIlrath

Mrs. Blanche McIlrath, 92, of Mesa, Ariz., died Monday, Feb. 5, 2001, at the Odyssey Hospice House, Mesa, Ariz. She was a former resident of Hartwick and Brooklyn.

Funeral services for Mrs. McIlrath were held at 10 a.m., Monday, Feb. 12, 2001, at Nevenhoven Funeral Home, Brooklyn. Rev. David Rogula, Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church of Brooklyn, officiated. Casket-bearers were Duane Ferneau, Don Ferneau, Darrell Ferneau, Dallas Ferneau, Brent Ferneau and Craig McIlrath. Interment was in Brooklyn Memorial Cemetery.

Anna Blanche Force McIlrath, was born Jan. 17, 1909, in Fremont, Neb. Her parents were Benjamin Franklin Force and Bertie Roudabush Force. Blanche received her education in Brooklyn.

On June 3, 1926, she was married to Nathaniel Claire McIlrath at Hartwick. They were the parents of four children, Max, Velma, Wallace and Violet. Blanche and Claire farmed near Hartwick and operated a store in Hartwick before moving to Brooklyn in 1939.

In Brooklyn they operated a paint and wallpaper store and Blanche worked at the U.S. Post Office. In 1966, they moved to Mesa, Ariz. Mr. McIlrath died June 1, 1990.

Mrs. McIlrath was a member of Grace United Methodist Church, Mesa, Ariz. She was also a member of the Legion Auxiliary and a former member of the Pythian Sisters.

Her parents; her husband; a brother Earl Force; and a sister, Viola Lineweaver, preceded her in death.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Velma Shaw of Bullhead City, Ariz. and Mrs. Violet Ferneau of Montezuma; two sons and their wives, Max and Dorothy McIlrath of Aurora, Colorado and Wallace and Jane Ellen McIlrath of Houston, Texas; two sisters, Bernice Dayton and Daisy Miller, both of Grinnell; 18 grandchildren; 25 great grandchildren; and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

A memorial fund has been established for Odyssey Hospice House, 6215 East Arbor Rd., Mesa, AZ 85206.

BC February 17, 2001