

Harlan Tribune - ~~68~~ Tuesday, January 29, 2008
Freda Alwill, 96

May 4, 1911 - Jan. 19, 2008

IRWIN — Freda Margaretha Rattenborg Alwill was born on May 4, 1911, at home near Hamlin, IA, the daughter of Nels and Anna Catherine (Holm) Rattenborg. She was baptized and confirmed at the Hamlin Lutheran Church and was a member there until transferring to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin. In April of 1922, when Freda was ten years old, the Rattenborg family moved to Standard, Alberta, Canada, where they farmed for approximately six months before returning to the home place in Hamlin. Freda attended school in Hamlin through the eighth grade. She worked at the Hamlin bank, the Hamlin grocery store, and drove to Long Beach, CA to work for a family before her marriage.



February 25, 1940, Freda married Arlo Alwill at the Lutheran Church in Hamlin. Three children were born to this union: Orville, Nadine, and Ramona. After their marriage, Freda and Arlo continued to farm the 160 acre Alwill family farm east of Irwin. Freda raised and cleaned chickens and capons for many years while on the farm until retiring in 1972 and moving into Irwin. The couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in February of 1990 before Arlo's death on May 16, 1990. After becoming a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin, Freda was an active member of the WELCA women's organizations where she held many offices, including president and vice president. She was an active member of the Pleasant Valley Club for over thirty-five years serving as president and holding many other offices. She was also an active member of the Irwin Keenagers and the Irwin Library Club. For several years, Freda cooked and baked pies for an Irwin café and the Keenagers. In 1976, she and Ramona traveled to Denmark where she visited relatives and saw her parents' birthplaces. She enjoyed many crafts, including quilting, crocheting, knitting, playing cards, entertaining, and having coffee and cookies with friends, neighbors, and family. Freda became a resident of the Friendship Home in Audubon, IA, in February of 1998, and it was there that she died on Saturday, January 19, 2008, having attained the age of ninety-six years, eight months, and fifteen days.

Freda was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Arlo, her infant son Orville, her sisters: Christina, Anna, Marie, Agnes, Ella, and Emma, her brothers: Soren, Willard, Otto, and Herbert. She is survived by her daughters: Nadine and her husband Jack Hough of Spirit Lake, IA, and Ramona and her husband John Klaasmeyer of Omaha, NE; two granddaughters: Lisa and her husband Mike Moret of Spencer, IA, and Lynette and her husband Tom Dickinson of Cedar Falls, IA; three great-grandsons; three step-granddaughters, eight step-great-grandchildren; and one step-great-great grandchild; her sister-in-law Sylvia Rattenborg; nieces and nephews; other family members; and many friends.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday,

January 23, 2008, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Irwin, IA. Pastor Ron Rasmussen officiated the 1:30 PM service with burial at the Hamlin Cemetery in Hamlin, IA. Serving as casket bearers were: Carl French, Tom Dickinson, Mike Morst, Dennis Erb, Gaylin Huey, and Jim Nelson.

*Pauley
L. Jones*

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