

Sophia "Meta" Bahnsen, 98

Oct. 18, 1901 – Sept. 25, 2000

AVOCA – Sophia Maria "Meta" Bahnsen was born Oct. 18, 1901, in Bohmstedt, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, daughter of Christian and Anna Jacobsen Christiansen, and the fifth of 10 children in the family. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and helped on the family farm as a young girl. Later she worked as a nanny and housekeeper for a young family.

Meta married Jens Detlef Bahnsen in Germany, Oct. 23, 1925, and together they came to America. They set sail for New York on the ship, The George Washington, arriving April 3, 1926. They then traveled by train, arriving in Avoca, April 5, ready to start a new life, settling in the Hancock and Avoca area. They were the parents of two children, a son, who died at birth and a daughter, Anita Catherine. She was always a homemaker, active in church and a longtime Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid member. Her husband, Jens, died Nov. 7, 1985, two weeks after their 60th wedding anniversary. She moved to Peace Haven Retirement Home in Walnut, May 1, 1988, where she resided for seven years before entering the Carroll Health Center in Carroll, in August of 1995. She died at the Center Sept. 25, 2000, at age 98 years, 11 months and seven days.

She was preceded in death by her parents; an infant son; her husband, Jens; and nine brothers and sisters. She is survived by her daughter, Anita (Howard) Carswell of Lidderdale; a grandson, Kevin Kohlscheen (Kristine) of Omaha, NE; and their three children, a granddaughter, Kendall Kennebeck of Carroll and her four children; one great great grandchild; two nephews, Louis Martensen and Donald Martensen of Chicago, IL; nieces, nephews in Germany and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 28, 2000, at the Knutson Funeral Chapel with Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen, Trinity Lutheran Church officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Casket bearers were Kevin Kohlscheen, J.D. Kennebeck, James Kennebeck, Wayne Krohn, LaVerne Kock and W.C. "Swede" Pattee.