

Gerda Christensen, 91

March 17, 1916 - Jan. 10, 2008

**HARLAN** — Gerda Christensen was born on March 17, 1916, to Soren and Petrea (Christensen) Nielsen in Harlan, IA. She attended school in Harlan and after graduating from Harlan High School, she went on to receive her normal training as a teacher. She taught for a short while in Shelby County country schools. She became a caretaker of children for various families in the Harlan area and had also worked for E. M. Christensen and Pauley Funeral Home in Harlan.

It was at the funeral home that she met and began working with Arnold C. Christensen, whom she wed on June 8, 1964 in Denison, Iowa. After their marriage, the couple resided in Harlan. Gerda continued to live in their Harlan residence after Arnold died in 1988 and only became a resident of Elm Crest Retirement Community in August of 2007. It was there that she died on January 10, 2008, having attained the age of ninety-one years, nine months, and twenty-four days.

Gerda was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Arnold, her brother Richard Paulsen, and her sister Norma Christensen. She is survived by her sisters Lillian Paulsen of Harlan, IA, and Glenda and her husband Franklin Hanson of Omaha, NE, nieces and nephews, other family members, and friends.

Graveside services were held on Monday, January 14, 2008, with Pastor Heather Ploen presiding over the 2:00 PM service at the Harlan Cemetery in Harlan, IA.



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