

Martha E. Davitt, 89

Sept. 13, 1909 – March 28, 1999

AUDUBON – Martha McCristal Wickland Davitt, the daughter of Clarence Fred and Letta Jane Jay McCristal, was born Sept. 13, 1909, in Audubon and died March 28, 1999, at the Friendship Home in Audubon, at age 89 years, six months and 15 days. The family resided on a farm 7 1/2 miles north of Audubon. She attended the McCristal rural school and graduated from Audubon High School in 1928 as class queen.

July 25, 1929, she married Erick F. Wickland in Guthrie Center. Two daughters were born to this union, Norma Lou and Wilma Fay. In 1939 the family moved to Armstrong, where she and her family were active in the Methodist Church. She often served as pianist and organist and she taught vacation church school. In 1945 Martha and Erick opened their home to their nephew, Gordon Campbell. Martha and Erick moved to Lanesboro, in 1950. She returned to Audubon after Erick's death.

In 1962 she married Walter M. Davitt. They celebrated their 37th anniversary March 4, 1999. She played piano and organ, especially at Super Valu promotions. She was a member of the "Grandmother Group" playing often at the Friendship Home. She was an accomplished seamstress and did needlework.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Erick F. Wickland; her parents; a sister, Mildred Elizabeth Campbell; and a nephew, Michael Campbell. She is survived by her husband, Walter M. Davitt of Audubon; her daughters and their spouses, Norma West Heiny (James) of Mason City; Wilma F. Western (Raymond) of Wilmette, IL; a special nephew, Gordon A. Campbell (Mimi) of Woodburn, OR; her grandchildren, George West (Anne) of Minneapolis, MN; Martha West Krone (Phil) of Sioux City; Jane Western Polachek (Paul) of Chicago, IL; Peggy Western Massello (David) of Deerfield, IL; Paul E. West (Jennifer) of Whitefish Bay, WI; Sara R. Western of Chicago, IL; Elizabeth West Tusler (Jeff) of Mason City; Walter's children, Patrick Davitt (Jan) of Harlan; Rosemary Davitt Williamson (Gary) of Audubon; Robert (Connie) Davitt of Des Moines; Colleen Davitt Dankenbring (Dave) of Overland Park, KS; a nephew, Donald Campbell of Jupiter, FL; and other relatives. Together Martha and Walter have 25 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Dwayne L. Ferguson March 31, 1999, at the First United Methodist Church in Audubon. Burial was in the Lansboro Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Phillip Krone, Jeffrey Tusler, Paul Polachek, David Massello and David Dankenbring. The casket bearers were George H. West, Paul E. West, Robert J. Davitt, Gary L. Williamson, Donald E. Campbell and Gordon A. Campbell. Kessler Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.