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Mary Eleanor Larson, 82

April 23, 1909 — Feb. 15, 1992

HARLAN — Mary Eleanor Larson, daughter of Chandler and Ida Pierce Patterson, was born April 23, 1909 in Harlan. She grew to adulthood in Harlan, attending grade school and graduating from Harlan High School with the class of 1926. She chose to further her education at Drake University in Des Moines, where she received her teaching certificate.

She taught school for three years at Ida Grove, and Harlan before she married Gerald L. Larson July 15, 1931. They raised their three sons while living at 1712 8th St. in Harlan. She helped Gerald plan their new home in Cresthaven in 1957. They traveled through all 48 states of the Continental USA. They then became world travelers, touring American Baptist Mission fields around the world, and the countries of China, Russia, Japan, Europe, Hawaii, England, and Scandinavia. Until Gerald became ill in 1986, they wintered in the warm climates of FL., TX., Mexico, CA., and HI. Gerald died April 29, 1988, and she continued to live in the Elmcrest Apartments until Oct., 1991, when she entered the Baptist Memorial Home. It was there that she died Feb. 15, 1992, at age 82. She was a charter member of First Baptist Church in Harlan and the American Baptist Women. She taught Sunday school and Bible school classes and sang in the church choir for 50 years. She was named "Mother of the Year" in 1967, and was a member of the Shelby County Garden Club.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by four brothers, Dr. George R. Patterson, Herman Patterson, and infant twin brothers. She is survived by three sons, Craig Larson, D.V.M. of Santa Barbara, CA.; Justice Jerry Larson of Harlan; and Douglas Larson, D.D.S. of Storm Lake; 8 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; three sisters, Marie Miller of Rolla, MO.; Margaret Peterson of Honolulu, HI.; and Edna Brookhaus of Harlan; one brother, Robert Patterson of Drexel Hills, PA.; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 18, 1992 at First Baptist Church in Harlan with Pastor Jeff Nielsen, officiating. Burial was in the Harlan cemetery with Jeff Larson, Bob Larson, Scott Larson, Rick Petersen, Jay Christensen, and David Larson casketbearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.