



## **Katie Mertens, 98**

**Nov. 28, 1895 - Jan. 12, 1994**

**Defiance** — Katie Lenora Mertens, daughter of Robert and Barbara (Schleier) Kirschbaum was born Nov. 28, 1895 near Defiance. She died Jan. 12, 1994 at the Baptist Memorial Home at age 98 years, one month and 15 days. She attended rural school and graduated from Defiance High School. She then attended a teacher's college in Harlan before teaching rural school.

Feb. 11, 1918 she married Henry Mertens. Five children were born to this union. After their marriage, they farmed near Defiance and built a new modern brick farm home there. In 1960,

they moved to a smaller home on the farm. After the death of her husband Aug. 23, 1969, she continued to reside in her own home until August 1, 1972, when she became a resident of the Baptist Memorial Home in Harlan. This has been her home since that time. She especially enjoyed reading and writing poetry, and in 1983 wrote a historic article for the Defiance Centennial Book. She was also the recipient of a special award given by the Carroll Writers Club. She was a member of St. Peter's Catholic church in Defiance, St. Peter's Altar Society and the Defiance Centennial Committee.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters - William, Gertrude, Ann, John, Michael and Mayme and a daughter Kathryn Casey. She is survived by her children - Ellen Rosmann of Harlan; Virginia (Dr. Richard) Thomas of Scottsdale, AZ; Robert (Jeanette) Mertens of Fonda; and Marie (William) Casey of Griswold; 15 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian burial was concelebrated Jan. 15, 1994 at St. Peter's Catholic church in Defiance with Rev. Thomas Crowley celebrant and Rev. Eugene Klein concelebrating. Burial was in Sts. Peter & Paul cemetery in Defiance with Pat Casey, Mike Rosmann, Roger Dirks, Rick Harlan, Ron Rosmann and Jason Siemer casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.