

Nadjeschda Overgaard, 97

Dec. 23, 1905 - Oct. 13, 2003

KIMBALLTON – Nadjeschda Marie Lynge, daughter of Carl and Anna (Scott) Lynge, was born Dec. 23, 1905, at Tara, Siberia where her father was managing creameries for the Danish government. Her family returned to Denmark in 1910. She attended school in Hovedgaard, Denmark and then in Copenhagen for five years. In 1916, Nadjeschda's family sailed from Copenhagen on the steamship Frederick VIII arriving in New York Feb. 16 through Ellis Island. The family came to Atlantic by train and to West Hamlin by horse and buggy. Nadjeschda attended Adventist schools for five years, and then moved to Elk Horn and Harlan where she graduated from high school in 1925. She then taught school in Kimballton and the surrounding area.

April 9, 1933, Nadjeschda married Niels Jensen Overgaard at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton. Seven children were born to this union. They farmed west of Kimballton and then near Guthrie Center before settling in Kimballton. Nadjeschda stayed at home to care for the children, and after the children completed school she resumed teaching. Niels died Nov. 2, 1976.

Nadjeschda was a leader in many Danish cultural activities. She taught classes in painting, folk dancing, crafts and Danish language and customs. Nadjeschda was twice recognized for the knowledge she shared. In 1990, she received the Iowa Cultural Heritage Fellowship Award for her perpetuation of Danish folk art within her home and community. In 1998, she was recognized as a National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts for her lifelong work in the art of Hardanger cutwork embroidery. Nadjeschda was able to remain in the family home south of Kimballton until Sept. 21, 2000, when she reluctantly became a resident of Salem Lutheran Homes in Elk Horn. She died there Oct. 13, 2003, at age 97 years, nine months and 20 days.

Besides her parents and husband, Nadjeschda was preceded in death by a daughter, Eva O. Leisted; three infant grandchildren; brother, Carl Lynge; sisters, Eva Jersild and Harriett Hartney. She is survived by six children, Annette Andersen of Kimballton; Karma (Howard) Sorensen of Elk Horn; Ardis Petersen of Kansas City, KS; Elsa West of Aurora, CO; Egon Overgaard (Carol) of Northwood; Ebba Johnson of Omaha, NE; 26 grandchildren, Susan Edwards (Jeff), Linette Hadley (Randy), Kurt W. Johnson (Barbara), Kris W. Johnson (Michelle), Marcia Roenfeld (Bruce), Diane Larson (Richard), Janell Hansen (Wayne), Tom Sorensen (Karen), Stacie Larsen (Ryan), Dean Petersen and Madeline Henry, Kim Petersen, Allan Petersen, Sheryl Krueger (Jim), Maria White (Brian), Lori Hayes, John Eckert and Carol Kwiatkowski, Darren Eckert (Christy), Debra Teague (Mark), Michael DuVall, Lisa McLauren, Jeff Overgaard (Tammie), Tricia Jorgenson (Mitch), Heather Hauser (Jason), Denise Levy (David), Willy Johnson and Sarah Johnson; 47 great grandchildren; two great great grandchildren; sister, Erna Powers of Texas; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Oct. 17, 2003, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton, with Pastor John Swenson and Pastor Stephen Gronseth officiating. Burial was in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery. Casket bearers were Kurt Johnson, Allan Petersen, Darren Eckert, Tom Sorensen, Michael DuVall, Jeff Overgaard, Willy Johnson, Kris Johnson, Kim Petersen, John Eckert and Dean Petersen. Ohde Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.