

Kathryn "Kate" Plambeck, 104

Oct. 28, 1892 - July 9, 1997

PORTSMOUTH - Kathryn Gertrude Plambeck, daughter of Frank and Armintha (Champlin) Pursell, was born Oct. 28, 1892, at Yorkshire. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Neola. She attended school at Yorkshire, and normal training at Woodbine.

July 16, 1913, she married Harry Plambeck at Neola. To this union five children were born. The Plambecks farmed south of Portsmouth. She was a school teacher for many years, both in the rural and town schools. After the death of her husband, Harry, in 1941, she continued to live on the farm and attended school at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She went back to teaching in 1950, and taught at Pleasant Ridge east of Persia for eight years and Leland Grove south of Portsmouth for eight years. In 1966, she moved from the farm into Portsmouth. She then taught first grade in Panama where she had 38 pupils. She also taught for three years at St. Peters School in Co. Bluffs. She taught 27 years and three months in all. At age 96, she won the State Spelling Bee in Des Moines. She retired from teaching at age 77 and continued tutoring children until she was in her nineties. She was a member of St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima in Portsmouth, where she also belonged to the church circle and Court of St. Katherine No. 266 Catholic Daughters of the America's. She belonged to the Senior Citizens, American Legion Auxiliary and Quilting Club. She has been a resident of Little Flower Haven since 1993.

July 9, 1997, she died at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 104 years, eight months and 11 days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Harry, and her children, Dennis Plambeck, Doris Rosenthal and Max Plambeck; her grandchildren, Vicki Norgaard, John Plambeck, Ron Rosenthal and Dennis Plambeck, Jr.; her brothers and sisters, Jess Pursell, Leo Pursell, Ruth Freeman, Dora Pursell and Frank Pursell. Survivors include her son, H.W. "Bill" Plambeck (Helen) of Persia, and her daughter, Donna Norgaard (Robert) of Omaha; 40 grandchildren, 79 great grandchildren, 50 great great grandchildren and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated July 12, 1997, at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth, with Msgr. Edward Kelly celebrant and Msgr. Michael W. Schwarte and Rev. Paul Bianchi concelebrating. Burial was in St. Patrick's Cemetery at Neola with Bill Plambeck, Jr., Bob Plambeck, Jim Plambeck, John Plambeck, Jerry Plambeck, Eric Norgaard and Bill Rosenthal casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

