

Gladys Sams, 89

March 16, 1916 - Aug. 22, 2005

AVOCA — Gladys Marie Sams, daughter of Clarence and Nora Smith Cunningham, was born March 16, 1916, on a farm east of Shelby. She attended school in Shelby through the ninth grade.

Nov. 25, 1942, Gladys married Alvin Sams at the United Methodist parsonage in Maryville, MO. After their marriage, they made their home south of Walnut until 1948 when they purchased a farm near Avoca. They were the parents of two sons, Gary Dean and Allan Lee, and two daughters, Jo Ann and Donna Marie. In 1971, Alvin died and Gladys moved into Avoca. In 2002, she became a resident of the Avoca Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. She died Aug. 22, 2005, at the Avoca Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Avoca, at age 89 years, five months and six days.

In addition to her parents and her husband, Alvin, Gladys was preceded in death by her daughter, Jo Ann; three sisters, Ethel Delph, Vera Krohn and Pearl Nelsen; three brothers-in-law, Ray Delph, Emil Krohn and Harvey Nelsen. Survivors include her children, Gary Sams of Des Moines; daughter, Michelle Schmit of Mason City; Allan Sams (Nan) of Avoca; sons, Brian (Trisha) of Woodward and Mark of Council Bluffs; daughter, Jennifer, and her fiance, Kevin Gee of Avoca; one daughter, Donna (Gail) Larsen of Emerson; daughters, Tina of Omaha, NE and Trisha (Troy) Nichols of Council Bluffs; three great-grandchildren, Tyler B. Vankeuren, Ellie M. Schmit and George W. Schmit; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 25, 2005, at the United Church of Avoca with Pastor Nancy Ross-Hullinger officiating. Burial was in the Shelby Cemetery. Honorary casket bearers were Darrell Krohn, Norman Nelsen, Wayne Arnold, Elmer Shriver, Ronald Krohn and Melvin Nelsen. Casket bearers were Brian Sams, Dan Nelsen, Kevin Krohn, Troy Nichols, Mark Sams and Kevin Gee. Pauley Jones Funeral Home, Avoca, in charge of arrangements.