

## Bertha Schwery, 101

Feb. 12, 1897 - Nov. 29, 1998

**PANAMA** - Bertha Schwery, daughter of Theodore and Mary (Foxhoven) Schwery, was born Feb. 12, 1897, in Westphalia. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. The family lived in Westphalia until 1911, when they moved to a farm northwest of Panama. She was the St. Mary's Parish housekeeper in Panama, starting in 1930, for Msgr. Schiltz for 55 years. After he retired, she continued to be Msgr. Schiltz's housekeeper, even when he moved into a small house close to the church. Her main interest in life was caring for St. Mary's Parish and School. In July of 1994, she became a resident of Little Flower Haven. She was honored at an open house for her 100th birthday Feb. 12, 1997, at Little Flower Haven. She was awarded a State of Iowa certificate from Governor Terry Branstad's office in recognition of her 100th birthday. The Area Southwest Eight Senior Services presented her with the certificate. Bertha has been a Shelby County resident all of her life. She died Nov. 29, 1998, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 101 years, nine months and 17 days.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters, John, William, Katie, Tony, Isadore, Louis, Lawrence, Agnes and Alice. She is survived by her sister, Emmarita Freund of Panama; nieces and nephews; her sister-in-law, Rose Schwery of Harlan, and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Dec. 1, 1998, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, with Rev. Michael G. Peters celebrant with Rev. Fred Reischl and Rev. Michael Berner concelebrating. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama, with Jim Schwery, George Schwery, Bill Schwery, Dick Schwery, Ralph Schwery and Don Schwery casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.