

Harlan, Iowa News Advertiser, Friday July 18, 2003

## Meta Steffen, 93 ✓

*Aug. 17, 1909 - July 5, 2003*

**AVOCA** – Meta Helen Steffen was born Aug. 17, 1909, in Brodersdorf, Holstein Germany, the daughter of Karl and Helene Kalinka Opp.

She married Willie H. Steffen March 22, 1930. Two days after their wedding, Willie returned to America to Marcus, leaving Meta to care for her mother. Then Oct. 4, Meta landed in New York after a four day boat trip. She then continued to Marcus to be with her husband. In 1931, they moved to the Avoca area, working for many years for various farmers in the area. In 1952, Willie suffered a stroke and they moved into Avoca to the old Lutheran parsonage. In addition to her caring for Willie, Meta became a seamstress in her home to earn a living for them. She made many wedding and bridesmaid dresses and she sewed for The Bootery and Olson Cleaners, and had many customers in the surrounding towns. Willie died Feb. 4, 1984 and Meta continued to live in her home until June 1, 2002, when she moved to the Avoca Assisted Living. She was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, the Knox Project Club and the Neighborhood Crochet Club. Meta died July 5, 2003, at the Avoca Nursing and Rehab Center where she had been residing since February, at age 93 years, 10 months and 21 days.

In addition to her husband, Willie, she was preceded in death by her parents and siblings. She is survived by a cousin, Gertrude Meier of Omaha, NE; nieces and nephews and other relatives in Germany and her special family, Carolyn and Harley Spencer and family, Kate and Larry Knudsen and family and Marlene and Bob Secrest and family.

Funeral services were held July 9, 2003, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca, with Pastor Lou Hoger and Lay Assistant Wayne Paulsen officiating. Burial was in the Graceland Cemetery. Casket bearers were Ronald Paasch, Thomas Pattee, Gary Paulsen, Gene Mohr and Dean Henning. Pauley Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.