

Gertrude Thies, 87

March 14, 1915 - Feb. 19, 2003

MINDEN – Gertrude Ellen Thies was born March 14, 1915, on her parents' farm near Neola, the daughter of Wenzel and Anna Beck Biederman. As a young girl, she attended country school and grew to adulthood on the family farm.

June 26, 1936, she married Elmer John Thies in Harlan. After their marriage, they lived on a farm near Minden. In 1948, they moved to the Thies family farm where they lived until Elmer's death in 1977. Gertrude worked alongside her husband on the family farm. She worked as a resident counselor at REM Leadway in Shelby for many years. She was a member of the Minden United Church of Christ. She died Feb. 19, 2003, at the Elm Crest Retirement Community at age 87 years, 11 months and five days.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Elmer; a daughter, Charlene Ann Thies; three brothers, Wenzel, Jr., Edward and Henry Biederman; two sisters, Edith Harmsen and Betty Christensen. She is survived by two daughters, Joan Brown (Quincy) of Minneapolis, MN and Gayle Prokupek (Robert) of Avoca; a son, Gene Thies of Minneapolis; five grandchildren, Chris Brown (LaTanya); Robert Prokupek (Dianna); Andrea Bolte (Travis); Matthew Prokupek; and Sarah Prokupek; five great grandchildren; three sisters, Hilda Iverson of Sioux City; Alda Price and Phyllis Delph, both of Council Bluffs; three brothers, Joseph Biederman (Phyllis) of Logan; Robert Biederman (Jeanette); and Donald Biederman (Beth), all of Sioux City; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Feb. 23, 2003, at the Minden United Church of Christ with Pastor Denny Peterson officiating. Burial was in the Minden Cemetery. Casket bearers were Chris Brown, Matthew Prokupek, Bryan Biederman, Robert Prokupek, Brent Christensen and Roger Biederman. Pauley Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.