

## Bertha Udem, 100 ✓

*April 24, 1906 - Oct. 6, 2006*

**WALNUT** – Bertha Helen Drake was born in Layton Township Walnut, April 24, 1906, the only child of John and Elsie (Mertz) Drake. She attended rural schools and Walnut Public School. She was salutatorian of the Walnut High School Class of 1923 and continued her education through most of her life including studies at Iowa State Teachers College and Drake University. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Omaha University in 1960. She continued a year of graduate study at the same school and attended education classes throughout her teaching career. Starting in 1942 Bertha taught 10 years in rural school in the Walnut area, seven in Walnut Community School, nine years in Junior High at Elk Horn-Kimballton Community School and tutored privately for one year.

Dec. 8, 1926, Bertha married Abner Udem of Walnut. Until retirement they farmed in the Walnut area, living the last 40 years on the family farm in Monroe Township. After Abner's death in 1977, Bertha continued to live on the farm until moving to Peace Haven in 1996. Bertha was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church of Walnut. She was a charter member of the Thursday Federated Club and belonged to the Order of Eastern Star, Walnut Historical society, Walnut Creek Questers and was a charter member of the Beta Iota Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. In 2001, she moved to Knute Nelson Memorial Home in Alexandria, MN where she died Oct. 6, 2006, at age 100 years, five months and 12 days.

Bertha is preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Abner, and granddaughter, Cynthia Udem. She is survived by her son, Dale (JoAnn) Udem, and grandchildren, Jan (Mark) Wortham; John (Linda) Udem; Susan Gorham; Allyn (Chris) Mattes; Lori (Ken) Feeken; Angie (Scott) Kennedy and 14 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Oct. 10, 2006, with Pastor David Krueger and Pastor Orris Drake officiating. Casket bearers were Jan Wortham, Lori Feeken, Susan Gorham, Angie Kennedy and Allyn Mattes. Burial was held in the Layton Township Cemetery, Walnut. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in Avoca, in charge of arrangements.