

Pioneer, 95, Died Wednesday

E-2 11/26/64
Mrs. Victoria Smith
Grew Up Here
During Indian Days

Mrs. Victoria Smith—a pioneer Washington County woman, died early Wednesday at St. Joseph Hospital in Omaha. She was 95 years, 7 months old.

Mrs. Smith was born April 24, 1869 at DeSoto when Nebraska was in its infancy and only 6 weeks after the first lots were staked out for the City of Blair. At that time DeSoto was still quite a town although the population was shifting to Blair because of the railroad being established.

Mrs. Smith was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Seltz who operated a grocery store and the post office at De Soto, which at that time was located alongside Highway 73 at about the location of the Dr. G. E. Stanley farm. The population of DeSoto was still in excess of 400 persons and Indians roamed the area and wild game of all kinds abounded. When Mrs. Smith was still a child the Indians traded hides at her father's store for groceries. Fox and Bobcats were commonplace in the woods.

After a time the family moved to a farm near the present De Soto store and for the remainder of her life Mrs. Smith's interests were in agriculture.

As a young woman she was married to Lee Smith who was also interested in farming and the family became permanent residents of the DeSoto vicinity.

Through her lifetime, Mrs. Smith watched the growth of Washington County and took an active interest in community affairs. As she grew older, she had a special interest in the Washington County Pioneers and Old Settlers Society and finally became the oldest person to attend the annual picnic of the organization.

For the past year she has been living at the Orchard Hill Rest Home in Omaha. Prior to her death early Monday, she had been ill and hospitalized for about a week.

Mrs. R. Walter Nielsen Died Late Wednesday

T-10-1-64
Mrs. R. Walter Nielsen passed away at the Blair Community Memorial Hospital Wednesday evening, September 30th.

Maude Ethel Anderson was born to the late Mr. and Mrs. Peter Anderson on July 2, 1890, in the Rose Hill area. She was united in marriage on June 4, 1904, to R. Walter Nielsen. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary this year and their three children and many of their grandchildren were present.

Mrs. Nielsen was a member of the First Lutheran Church of Blair.

Survivors besides her husband are one daughter, Mrs. Delbert Fletcher (Muriel) of Hayward California, two sons, Ralph Nielsen, also of Hayward and Philip Nielsen of Dublin, California. Also eleven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one brother, Carl G. Anderson, of Chicago.

Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church with the Rev. George Pallesen officiating. Burial will be in the Blair Cemetery with the Campbell Mortuary in charge.

Mrs. Katie Larsen Funeral Is Today

T-9-10-64 + 9/11
Funeral services are being held today for Mrs. Katie S. Larsen, widow of the late Harry Larsen, former farmer of the Kennard area. Mrs. Larsen was found dead at her home at 2223 Washington street early Tuesday following a heart attack which it is believed she suffered Monday.

She was born October 1, 1895 at Orum, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Claus Wulf. She was 68 years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Larsen farmed for many years 1½ miles west of Kennard. Mr. Larsen died in 1960.

Mrs. Larsen is survived by a son, Howard C. Larsen who lives in Omaha, and by a daughter, Voneita, now Mrs. Glenn Gottsch, grandchildren and nine great grandchildren survive. Hans Wulf, of Blair is a brother and Mrs. Emma Stork, of Blair, is a sister of the deceased woman.

Funeral services will be held at the Kennard Methodist church with the Rev. Samuel J. Hemphill conducting the service. Burial will be made in the Kennard Cemetery under the direction of the Bendorf Funeral Home of Blair.

Pall bearers will be Fritz Andreassen, Elmer Anderson, LeRoy McCann, Harold Miskeldt, William Vogt and Harry Engelbrecht.

Services Wednesday For Mrs. Wyant

J.P. Warrick
M-9-7-64 + 9/5
Funeral services will be held Wednesday for a former Washington County resident, Mrs. Walter M. Wyant, who died Saturday in Lincoln.

The services will be held at 2 p.m. at Campbell Mortuary with interment in Blair Cemetery.

Mrs. Wyant, the former Irene Warrick, was 57 years of age at the time of her death. She was born in Murdo, South Dakota.

Survivors include her husband, Walter M. of Lincoln; sisters, Mrs. Melvern West of Herman, Mrs. Mary Frances Hansen of Fremont and Mrs. Grace Jackson of Omaha; her mother, Mrs. Dora Garner of Omaha.

She is survived by three children. They are Omaha attorney Seymour Smith, Roland Smith, of Blair and Miss Arline Smith of Omaha. There are three grandchildren, these being Judge Robert L. Smith of Omaha, Roland Smith Jr., of Blair and Mrs. William (Vivian) Mayer of Grand Rapids, Michigan. There are 11 great grandchildren.

Ed Natter, a resident of Crowell Memorial Home in Blair is a cousin of Mrs. Smith. His connection with the family was exceedingly close as he was raised by Mrs. Smith's parents following the death of his own parents.

There will be funeral services for Mrs. Smith at the Brailey and Dorrance Funeral Home in Omaha Friday, November 27th. The body will be brought to Blair for burial and there will be graveside services at the Blair cemetery conducted by Rev. Dale Westalt of the First Methodist church.

Pall bearers will be John Sully, Ernest Kruse, Charles Seltz, Roland Smith Jr., Neil Stanley and Judge Robert Smith.