

Ella Sophia (Nielsen) Miles – July 18, 1907 – April 4, 2000

Funeral services for Ella Miles of Riceville were held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 8 at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Riceville. The Rev. Thomas Mowbray and Rev. Dan Duggan officiated. Interment will be at a later date in Riverside Cemetery in Riceville. Lindstrom Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

Ella, 92, died Tuesday, April 4, 2000, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN.

Ella Sophia Miles was born July 18, 1907 in Gronhoj, Denmark, the daughter of Lars and Louise Nielsen. She worked as a nanny for a family in Instrup and later as a mother's helper in Copenhagen. This enabled her to earn money for her passage to the United States while she waited for her quota number to be reached.

At the age of seventeen, Ella arrived in the United States to join her brother Niels and sister Marie realizing she may never be reunited with her family again. She landed at Ellis Island Immigration Center on November 24, 1924. She came to Iowa by train where she lived with her sister and family and attended country school for six weeks to learn English.

Ella worked at Kakac's Store and in their home in Saratoga.

On December 8, 1926 she married Donald Miles. They farmed east of Riceville and lived there until Donald's death in 1984.

Ella served on the Howard County Social Welfare Board for over 40 years. She was a member of the Congregational Church and of the Eastern Star.

She enjoyed gardening, needlepoint, knitting, cooking, and travel.

Although Ella never saw her parents again, she made several trips to Denmark to visit relatives.

Survivors include two sons: Nelson of Green Valley, AZ and Philip of Prescott, AZ; two daughters: Louise Swanson of Mason City and Linda Pagel of Sumner; 17 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren; and one sister: Carla in Denmark.

Ella was preceded in death by her husband Donald; two granddaughters; and her parents.

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