

## Mrs. Selma Nelson, Wenona's Oldest Citizen, Died Friday

Mrs. Selma Nelson, Wenona's oldest citizen, departed this life last Friday afternoon, November 1st at 2:10 p. m. at Wenona Rest Haven where she had been residing.

Selma Natalia, daughter of John and Christina (Blomberg) Lundgren was born Nov. 12, 1864 in Blisberg, Vastergotland, Sweden. At the age of 16, she came to America alone on a ticket sent her by her older brother, Richard Lundgren. She found employment at Havana, Ill., later moving to Varna. In 1888, she was married to John Nelson and they lived in Streator for a short time. Here their only child, a daughter, Mabel was born.

They soon started farming and lived south of Rutland for many years, farming side by side with his brother and her sister, namely the Fritz Nelsons, and here they raised their families together.

Mrs. Nelson had been a member of Bethany Lutheran Church for 65 years and was



MRS. SELMA NELSON

very active as long as her health permitted. She drove a distance of seven miles with horse and buggy for many years to attend the Ladies' Aid meetings. She at one time served the society as its president and she and her husband helped out as custodians of the church for a short time.

She and her husband built a new home in Wenona in 1920 and moved in 1921 after Mr. Nelson had been injured in a horse drawn corn picker accident.

That home was the scene of repeated large family gatherings for many years. Supply pastors found room and board there as did also a few local high school students during the winter months before the days of school buses and excellent roads. In later years she made a home for a few retired men and she mothered them all, young or old. At the age of 89 she fell and broke her hip but after surgery and a time spent in a wheel chair, she again took up her home duties.

She was a great cook and a familiar sight any morning was to see her cutting across her back yard to her neighbor with something from her oven.

She had resided at Wenona Rest Haven for the past four and one half years and will long be remembered there for her wit and uncomplaining nature, always wanting to help rather than be helped. Mrs. Nelson would have celebrated her 99th birthday had she lived until Nov. 12th. So ends another long and useful life and her memory will be cherished by all who ever came in contact with her.

Survivors include her daughter, Mrs. Mabel Hakes, of Dana; three grandsons, namely Harry, Ralph and Glenn Hakes, their wives; seven great-grandchildren all of Dana and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband in 1938, her only granddaughter, Evelyn Hakes, one sister and five brothers.

A host of relatives and friends called at the Thierry funeral home Saturday afternoon and evening, some returning for the funeral services on Sunday. A short prayer service was held at the funeral parlors on Sunday afternoon at 1:45 p. m. by Pastor Paul V. Randolph and the cortege moved to Bethany Lutheran Church where the funeral service was held. Mrs. Paul Randolph and Miss Blanche Lind-

gren sang two appropriate duets with Miss Lindgren as the accompanist. Burial was made in the Rutland cemetery. Those who carried "Aunt Selma" to her last resting place were five nephews namely Oliver Lundgren of Rockford, Gilbert and Carl Lundgren, Fred Carlson, Kenneth Grimm and one friend, Alan Jackson.

Relatives and friends attending from a distance were Mr. and Mrs. Pete Neu, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ward, and Dean Nelson from Peoria; Miss Hattie Lundgren or Normal; Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Lundgren, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gustafson and son David of Rockford; Mr. and Mrs. Everett Aeschliman and family of Roanoke; Miss Florence Gustafson, J. C. and Maynard Austin of Varna, beside a host of relatives and friends from Minonk, Dana, Streator, Rutland, Toluca and Wenona.