

Crystal Gertrude (Woods) Brockman was born February 16, 1921, on the family farm near Burwell in Garfield County, Nebraska, the third child of Neil Cameron and Mary Marie (Herrick) Woods. On January 2, 1942, she married Herman Chris Brockman, and within the next few years their sons Wayne Odair and Robert Orlyn were born and completed the family. On Sunday, December 16, 2012, she departed this life and went to her eternal home in Heaven at the age of 91 years and 10 months.

Crystal accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior and followed Him closely the rest of her life. She spent her entire childhood growing up on the family farm outside Burwell, attended country schools in her elementary years and graduated from Burwell Jr. Sr. High School in 1939. She tested for and received her teaching certificate following her high school graduation and taught in area country schools. She went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Southern California College in Costa Mesa, California. After retiring from a teaching career that spanned 37 years, she continued to work with children in various church ministries, including 20 years in AWANA.

Crystal and Herman ranched and farmed for many years working in Christian schools. After returning to Burwell, Crystal taught in Ord for 18 years. The couple then bought their retirement home in Burwell where Crystal continued to live following Herman's death.

Crystal, along with her husband, spent many summers in several villages throughout Alaska assisting with vacation Bible schools and building a church in Healy, Alaska. She especially enjoyed the excellent fishing, but didn't like to eat the fish.

Preceding her in death were her husband Herman, son Wayne, parents Neil and Mary, brothers Cameron Woods, Donald Woods, and Vernon Woods. Those remaining to celebrate memories of Crystal are son Robert Brockman and wife Brenda of Ogallala, NE; daughter-in-law Margaret of Wasilla, AK; granddaughter Nicole (Nathan) Holthusen of Ogallala, grandsons Jeremy (Laura) Brockman, Christopher (Cassie) Brockman of Palmer, AK, and Robert Brockman Jr. of Omaha, NE; seven great-grandchildren – Justus, Destiny, Isabella, and Lillian Holthusen; Elijah and Joshua Brockman; and Matthew Brockman; sister Elaine Abbott of Anaheim, CA, brother Marion (Patricia) Woods, sister-in-law Audine Woods all of Burwell, NE, as well as many other loved ones and friends.

Memorial services were held 10:30 a.m. December 20, 2012, in the Burwell Baptist Church in Burwell, Nebraska. Crystal chose her final resting place beside her husband in the Cottonwood Cemetery. Pastor John Wilson and Pastor Dave Busch will officiate. Visitation will be from 5 -7 p.m. Wednesday at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell.