

Era (Owens) Thetford

Funeral services for Era (Owens) Thetford, age 94, will be held Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 3 p.m. at Grapeland's First United Methodist Church. Rev. Bill Denham will officiate with Rev. Morris Ivey assisting and interment will be at Refuge Cemetery off FM 227E. Funeral services will be under the direction of Bailey and Foster, Palestine. Visitation will be Wednesday, September 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. the funeral home in Grapeland.

Pallbearers will be grandsons: Aaron Pennington, Ross Pennington, Chad Myers, Scott Talley, Alan Foster and great-nephew Stuart McLen.

Mrs. Thetford was born March 23, 1913 in the Refuge Community east of Grapeland. Her parents were the late Telitha Virginia (Brown) Owens and William Claude Owens. She passed away Monday, September 10, 2007 at ETMC, Crockett. Mrs. Thetford was a descendant of pioneer Houston County families who had made their homes in this area since 1830, and she was a member of Sunset Christian Church. Mrs. Thetford received a Family Land Heritage Certificate of Honor from the Texas Agriculture Commission for a century or more of continuous ownership and operation of a family agricultural enterprise. She was formerly a clerk in downtown Grapeland stores, including Pat Taylor Grocery, Grapeland Dry Goods and Darsey's. She had

proudly been an Avon "lady" for over 20 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Claude and Jennie Owens; her husband, Luther Howell Thetford; a daughter, Mary Gene Thetford; a grandson, Russell Brent Pennington, a son-in-law, W.H. McArthur, and three brothers, Grady Owens, Golden Owens, and Garland Owens. Survivors include her son, William Thetford of Leander, and three daughters, Virginia McArthur of Houston, Marjorie Spake and husband, Roger of The Villages, Florida, and LaWanda Pennington and husband, Troy of Grapeland. She is also survived by six grandchildren: Sandy Talley, Shawna Linck and husband, Tom, Chad Myers, Stephanie Kleiner and husband Mike, Aaron Pennington and Ross Pennington and wife, Kim. Also by eleven great grandchildren: Kristi Foster and husband, Alan; Scott Talley and wife Nikki; Justin, Anna, Madison, Jennie and Meg Linck; Ashton Norris; Cody and Abby Kleiner and Taylor Pennington. She is survived by nieces and nephews, Nelda Johnson, Bonnie Keen, Carol Owens, Billy Owens, Bobby Owens, James Owens, W.A. Brown and her special caretaker, Velma Walker.

The family requests in lieu of flowers memorials be made to First United Methodist Church, Grapeland or Sunset Christian Church, Grapeland.