

February, 27, 2008

Houston County Courier

Refuge

ERA (OWENS) THETFORD

Mrs. Era (Owens) Thetford, age 94, passed away Monday, September 10, 2007 at ETMC in Crockett. Mrs. Thetford was born March 23, 1913 in the Refuge Community East of Grapeland to the late Telitha Virginia (Brown) Owens and William Claude Owens.

Mrs. Thetford was a descendant of pioneer Houston County families who had made their homes in this area since 1930, 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.

Mrs. Thetford was formerly a clerk in downtown Grapeland stores, including Pat Taylor Grocery, Grapeland Dry Goods and Darsey's. Mrs. Thetford had proudly been an Avon "lady" for over 20 years.

Survivors include her son William Thetford, of Leander; three daughters Virginia McArthur, of Houston, Marjorie Spake and husband Roger, of the Villages, Fla. and LaWanda Pennington and husband Troy of Grapeland; six grandchildren Sandy Talley, Shawna Linck and husband Tom, Chad Myers, Stephanie Kleiner and husband Mike, Aaron Pennington and Ross Pennington and wife Kim; 11 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; nieces and nephews Nelda Johnson, Bonnie Keen, Carol Owens, Billy Owens, Bobby Owens, James Owens, W.A. Brown; and special caretaker Velma Walker.

Preceded in death by her parents Telitha Virginia (Brown) Owens and William Claude Owens; husband Luther Howell Thetford; daughter Mary Gene Thetford; grandson Russell Brent Pennington, son-in-law W.H. McArthur; and three brothers Grady Owens, Golden Owens and Garland Owens.

Funeral Services for Mrs. Era (Owens) Thetford were held Thursday, September 13, at 3:00 p.m. at Grapeland's First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Bill Denham officiating. Interment followed in the Refuge Cemetery off FM 227 East.

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

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

Bailey&Foster Funeral Home

ERIC MARQUISE GRAY