

# Oldest woman in county passes away

Mineola Smith was born on June 6, 1898 in Walker County to Paul and Gertrude Carter Harris, the first of eight children born to the couple. On Sept. 30, she departed from this earth at East Texas Medical Center, Crockett at the age of 108.

She was preceded in death by six siblings and her parents.

Ms. Smith was a resident of Crockett Care Center and was known as the oldest woman in Houston County according to Activity Director Shirie Taylor.

After attending school in Walker County, she moved to Houston and worked as a domestic both in Houston and Mexia for a period of 80 plus years.

She was married to Henry Steward, James Williams and Doc Ray Smith with whom she moved to Mexia. Smith passed away in 1961 and Ms. Smith continued her involvement and service with St. Luke United Methodist Church until 1998 when she moved to Centerville with her brother Mose Harris.

Soon afterward she was transferred to Crockett Care Center and received the care she needed. After regaining her strength, she became active with jobs, which she asked to do, and participated in the center's activities, going places, seeing sights and being involved with children. She was Grandma to many.

Accepting Christ as a child, she learned the true meaning of salvation. In her lifetime she served as a Sunday school teacher, Sunday school secretary, sang in the choir, worked and involved herself in the HELPS Ministries.

Ms. Smith's favorite Scripture was the twenty-third Psalms and she repeated this



**Mineola Smith**

scripture many times a day, "The Lord is my shepherd: I shall no want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake, Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Miss Mineola was buried at Mexia Memorial Cemetery in Mexia on Oct. 7.

Her brother, sister-in-law and a host of nephews, nieces, grands, great-grands and one great-great grandnephew are left to cherish her memory, as are the many friends she made in Houston County.