



Laura Ileen Woods Swenson, beloved mother and grandmother, passed away Friday, September 25, 2009 after a stroke. She and her twin sister, Lorene were born June 1, 1921 delivered by their father in a log cabin at Wolf Creek, Montana. Laura is one of thirteen children born to Harry and Mary Wilson Woods.

Her grandfather and great grandfather came to Montana by wagon train from Missouri in 1864 to avoid the Civil War. They wintered by Bozeman, then moved to Helena to raise produce for the miners. She was very proud of being related to Queen Victoria and Mary Queen Scots.

She met her future husband, Emil Swenson, at a dance and married after her graduation. Laura and Emil worked in Helena and Great Falls before purchasing a grain farm near Kenmare, North Dakota.

Laura enjoyed gardening and canning food for her family. Laura and Emil purchased a larger farm and moved to Sykeston, North Dakota in 1961. They loved square dancing in Carrington and dancing at the Eagles in New Rockford.

After retiring from farming in 1975, she and her husband owned and operated Swenson's Furniture on East Main in Bozeman, Montana. Later they spent their winters in Apache Junction, Arizona. Laura enjoyed bingo, clogging, and flea markets.

Emil preceded her in death by 12 years. She is survived by her twin sister, Lorene Brown of Auburn, California; sons, Jerry (Karlene) Swenson and Jack (Deb) Swenson, both of Belgrade, Montana; daughters, Jeanne (Gerald) Stahl, of Dallas, Georgia, Janice Peterson, of San Diego, California and Jane (Robert) Cazier, of Toston, Montana; 15 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

The family wants to thank Parkhaven of Manhattan for their loving care and Bozeman Deaconess Hospice for help with her final journey.