Bessie M. Blackwell


She was born May 24, 1910, at Independence to Robert B. and Florence (Freeman) Beard. She was a graduate of Fredonia High School and attended Kansas State Teachers College, now Pittsburg State University. She taught school in Wilson County for five years, Mrs. Blackwell was then employed by Montgomery Ward and the Kansas Ordnance Plant. She worked for more than 20 years for the U.S. Census Bureau, retiring in 1972.

Mrs. Blackwell was a member of the Presbyterian Church, Retired Federal Employees, AARP, a longtime member of the Business and Professional Women's Club, American Legion Auxiliary and the Good Sam Recreational Vehicle Club.

She was united in marriage to Carl Blackwell on April 8, 1933, at Fredonia. He preceded her in death on Dec. 27, 1993.

She was also preceded in death by a brother, Floyd Beard, and two sisters, Dorothy Weeks and Evelyn O'Toole.

Graveside services will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday at the Garden of Memories Cemetery with Dan Muter, minister, officiating. Burial will follow in the Garden of Memories. Friends may call from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday at Brenner Mortuary Chapel. Friends are asked to gather at the cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Brenner Mortuary, 114 E. Fourth.
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