

Esther Johnson was born on December 22, 1910, a daughter of Ross and Lena (Nesland) Johnson in Hilton Township, Ward County, ND. When she was four years old, she moved to McIntosh, MN and lived with her aunt and grandmother. She attended School in Lester Township, east of Grand Forks. Returning to North Dakota in the 1920's,

On August 31, 1932, Esther was united in marriage to Alvin M. Irwin in Minot, ND. While Alvin was serving in World War II, she lived in Tacoma, WA for one year. Following his discharge, they returned to Minot, where she worked for various businesses.

Esther enjoyed working as a horse trainer and breeder, specializing in Arabian horses, she also had other types including Appaloosa, quarter horses and paint horses. She was also an avid collector of Antiques and personal gifts.

She was a lifetime member of the Minot Trail Riders Association, a lifetime member of the Ward County Historical Society, a local supporter of Make-a-wish foundation, a contributor to the ND Humane Society and a charter member of the ND Arabian Horse Association.

Those Who Shared In Her Life:

Son Robert (Donna) Irwin, Minot; three grandchildren Arnie "Poncho" (Patti) Irwin, Buffalo, WY, Wanda (Rory) Brown, Edgemont, SD, Robert John (Susie) Irwin, Alexander, ND; six great-grandchildren: Myre Jean Irwin, Sam Irwin, Marni Irwin, Rory Irwin, all of Alexander, ND and Hali Irwin, Cameron Irwin, both of Buffalo, WY.

Numerous nieces, nephews and cousins also survive.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Alvin, three brothers and two sisters.