

Brief biography of Lelia (Burmood) Olson

Lelia B. Olson is a native of Wood River, having been born here in 1897. Her parents were Lewis W. and Alice (Kunz) Burmood. Her grandparents, Eberhardt Kunz and Mitchell Burmood were pioneer homesteaders in Hall County.

Following graduation from Wood River High School in 1915, she attended Kearney Normal (now UN-K) for 1 year; then taught in rural schools in Cedar, Cherry, Cheyenne, Hall, and Polk counties. In 1922, she married Whitman C. Olson of Osceola NE. They had two sons: James W. and William L.

She and her husband farmed until 1941. Later, they operated the Wood River Oil Company. For a number of years she served as Secretary of the Wood River Cemetery Association. As a result of her teaching background, she maintained a lifelong interest in education.

In May of 1989, she passed away at the age of 92.