

Rebecca French

Rebecca Conard French, 92, of Decatur, Ill., formerly of Grinnell, died July 6 in Decatur.

Her body, which has been given to science, will be interred at a later date in Westfield Cemetery, rural Grinnell.

She was born Oct. 18, 1909, in Grinnell, the daughter of Henry S. and Laetitia Moon Conard. She was a 1930 graduate of Grinnell College and a 1932 graduate of the Boston School of Occupational Therapy.

She was married on Feb. 16, 1935, in Chicago, Ill., to Herbert Porter French, a minister of the United Church of Christ-Congregational. While her husband served in many Congregational churches, the couple lived in Iowa, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Michigan, Colorado and Ohio. In 1974 they retired to Grinnell to the house at 1310 Elm St. which had been her childhood home. She was a generous volunteer with her time in the church and community as a volunteer peer counselor at the Poweshiek County Mental Health Center and as a member of the Grinnell United Church of Christ-Congregational and its Women's Fellowship. She enjoyed handcrafts and needlework, was a skilled weaver and quilter, and was a weekly attendant at Sit & Knit Club. Both she and her husband were seen frequently throughout the community riding their bicycles.

She is survived by two daughters Laura Bickers, Decatur, Ill., and Elizabeth Hagg, Stenestad, Sweden; one son Alfred French, Roseville, Calif.; eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

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