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 Grin-
nell, 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 hus-
band served in many Congregational
churches, the couple lived in Iowa,
Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Michi-
gan, 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 com-

munity as a volunteer peer counselor at
the Poweshiek County Mental Health
Center and as a member of the Grinnell
United Church of Christ-Congrega-
tional and its Women’s Fellowship.

She enjoyed handicrafts and needle-
work, 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 Eliza-
beth 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.