Mildred Ellan (Olson) Sampson, 97

Mildred Elin (Olson) Sampson, 97, of Grinnell, went to be with the Lord on June 20, 2012, at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center in Grinnell.

Memorial services are scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 28, at the Grinnell First Baptist Church with Pastor Linda Bergeon officiating. Organist will be Denise Baustian and vocalist Milton Severe. Honorary bearers will be Kirk and Greg Sampson, Megan Buske and Heather Johannessen. A private family burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the Grinnell First Baptist Church.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Mayflower Community.

Mildred was born Oct. 29, 1914, on a farm near Grinnell, to John C. and Ellen Enerson Olson. She graduated from Grinnell High School in 1933.

On Aug. 10, 1935, she married Lynn O. Sampson. They moved to Sioux City, and then Barrington, Ill., before moving back to Grinnell in 1948. While in Grinnell she was an office manager at Grinnell General Hospital for 32 years, retiring in 1982.

She helped care for her mother until her death in 1980, while also caring for her sister, Fern. She became a taxi driver for many who were unable to go out to eat, or get to church, or go to club, and also enjoyed lunch, dominoes and card games with friends.

She was a long-time member of the First Baptist Church, the Helping Workers Club and the Grinnell Christian Women's Club. For many years, she was an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan who enjoyed keeping game stats of the Iowa basketball team while never missing a televised game.

One thing you always noticed at the corner of 4th & East Street, were all the colorful flowers. Mostly tulips and geraniums but Mildred loved to see color through the spring and fall so she always had lots of variety. When she still lived at home, you would often see her out pulling weeds or working in the garden.

Mildred was also dedicated to her family. The grandkids all have special memories of their time at Grandma Sampson's, of the tricks they played and the things they got away with. Christmas Eve was the big family gathering at her house and everyone was invited—family and friends. The house was packed with people and food and gifts and then everyone would walk to church for the Christmas Eve Service.

In November of 2006, Mildred moved to Beebe Hall at the Mayflower Community and in September of 2010, she moved into the Mayflower Health Care Center.

She is survived by two sons, John (Carole) of Grinnell and Bob (Sally) of West Des Moines; four grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Annette Latcham, Evelyn Heisel and Fern Olson; two brothers, Arthur "Bobby" and Raymond Olson; one son, Lynn Sampson, Jr.; and one grandson, Jeff Sampson.