Sally (Drusilla Marie) Johnson

Sally (Drusilla Marie) Johnson, 87, of Grinnell, died on Sunday, January 25, 2015, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 28, 2015, in the Carman Center of the Mayflower Community with the Rev. Christine Tinker, chaplain of the Mayflower Community, officiating.

Burial will be at the West Liberty Cemetery near Searsboro at a later date with the Smith Funeral Home of Grinnell in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be directed to either the Mayflower Human Needs Fund or to Grinnell Regional Hospice and sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa.

She was born on November 19, 1927, on a farm near Tipton, Iowa, the only child of Gordon and Mabel McElroy Hansen. She was raised in Tipton and graduated from Tipton High School with the Class of 1945. Following high school, she entered the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corp and graduated from St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, MN, in 1946. Following her education, she moved to Grinnell and began her career as a nurse at the former Community Hospital.

On September 21, 1949, she was married to Jesse Lavon Johnson at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, IA. The family lived in Grinnell and later moved to Lynsville. Sally worked as a registered nurse at the former Community Hospital in Grinnell and for twenty years at the office of Dr. John Parish. She was the first registered nurse at the Mayflower Infirmary in Grinnell.

Following the death of her husband, she moved back to Grinnell in 1976 and worked in the OB Department of Grinnell General Hospital. In 1986, she opened the Tender Love Baby Care Center in Grinnell and operated it until 2000. Sally has resided at the Mayflower Community since 2001.

Sally was honored in 2000 by the Ahrens Foundation and received a “Leave it Better Than You Found It” award. Besides enjoying her own children, grandchildren and great grandchildren Sally followed the lives of her “nursery babies.” Her hobbies included family genealogy and collecting antiques. She was a member of a number of historical societies, enjoyed her church work and volunteering at the Mayflower Community.

Survivors include her children, Marie (Dennis) Copie of Johnson City, TN, Gordon (Marcene) Johnson of Newton, IA, and Larry Johnson of Fernandina Beach, FL; four grandchildren, Sandy (David) Dunn, Tim (Jen) Johnson, Lori (Sean) Nore and Todd (Jennifer) Johnson; six great grandchildren, Katie and Jadon Dunn, Samuel Johnson, Natalie and Logan Nore and Hariett Johnson. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.