

Gladys Nora Smith Dow



Gladys Nora Smith Dow, 104, of Orlando, Fla., and formerly of Grinnell, died Saturday, Aug. 13, at Life Care Center in Orlando.

Memorial services for Gladys Dow will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 14, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell. Inurnment will be in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Visitation will be held the morning of the service, from 9:30 until 11 a.m.

She was born July 21, 1901, in Wilton Junction, Iowa, to Thomas Jefferson and Catherine Lavine Horn Smith. She was raised and educated in Grinnell. Her father owned the first auto dealership in Grinnell and sent Gladys out with customers, beginning as early as age 14, to demonstrate the cars.

On July 21, 1921, she married Dr. Donald "Doc" V. Dow in Grinnell. The couple made their home on the corner of Sixth Ave. and Park St. for many years; her husband had his dental office in their home. The couple spent many hours working in their flower garden. People driving through town on U.S. Highway 6 often stopped to see their yard and chat.

Her husband died in 1964. She continued to live in Grinnell until 1980, when she sold her home to Grinnell College and moved to Florida, to be near her daughter. She lived there for 25 years and remained in good health until days before her death.

While residing in Grinnell, she was a member of the United Church of Christ-Congregational, the Order of the Eastern Star and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She is survived by a daughter, Donna Jean Miller of Winter Springs, Fla.; four grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and ten great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and a son, Harold Dwight Dow.

H.R. OCT. 10, 2003