

## Margaret Stemsrud Tubaugh

Margaret Stemsrud Tubaugh, age 94, of Grinnell, died on Saturday, March 5, 2017, at Windsor Manor in Grinnell with her family by her side.

A celebration of her life will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with Pastor John Epperson officiating. Interment will be in Pleasant Township Cemetery in Ewart.

Visitation will be held prior to her service on Wednesday beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be designated in Margaret's name to the Humane Society online at

[www.humanesociety.com](http://www.humanesociety.com) or mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Condolences may be shared with her family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com). The family is grateful to the staff at Windsor Manor in Grinnell for the loving care and comfort they gave Margaret during the time of her residence.

The daughter of Cecil and Pansy Gerard Arthur, Margaret was born in Sugar Creek Township on May 17, 1922. The oldest of ten children, she was the first to go to college. At age 19, she received her teaching certificate from Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, now the University of Northern Iowa, and began teaching in Ewart, where she met and fell in love with the widowed Bert O. Stemsrud. They married in 1941, and became lifelong dancing partners and shared 54 years on their farm until Bert's death in 1995. They had three daughters, Billie, Judith, and Linda.

In 1999, Margaret married Russell Tubaugh, and they had a loving marriage cut short by Russell's sudden death later that same year.

In addition to teaching at several rural schools, Margaret worked for many years at the ASCS office in Montezuma (now the FSA in Malcom). She was also a 4-H leader, volunteered as a candy striper at the Grinnell Hospital, was Esther in the Order of the Eastern Star, taught Sunday school at the Ewart Presbyterian Church, and was an active member of the church until it was deconsecrated and closed in 2010. After Bert's death Margaret quite ably took over the management of the family farm.

Not only was Margaret an accomplished seamstress and cook, she was also a talented writer and painter. "Maggie's" art work, much of it custom ordered, was purchased and enjoyed by many. Her accepting, kind personality attracted love and loyalty from a wide circle of family, friends, and acquaintances. An active and loyal Democrat, she opened her home for primary caucuses for years, prompting an appearance on national television and on National Public Radio in the 2000 election cycle. Her Christmas fudge and divinity were in great demand, and few people left her home without a plate of her homemade cookies. The goodies in her well-stocked freezer were legendary, especially to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A voracious reader, her trips to the Grinnell library were an important part of her weekly routine.

With a book in her hands and a faithful golden retriever at her side, Margaret was happiest on the farm where she lived for over 70 years. In her final years, she lived at Windsor Manor in Grinnell where she was beloved by the staff, renewed old friendships, and made new ones. From ordinary circumstances Margaret created an extraordinary life and will be greatly missed, always remembered. She leaves a legacy of goodness and a family grateful for her presence and longevity on this earth.

Margaret is survived by three daughters, Billie (Wayne) Blevins of Marshall, Mo., Judith (Samuel) D'Amico of Portland, Maine, and Linda (William) Vogt of Fayette, Mo.; siblings, Kenneth Arthur of Newton, Iowa, and Doris Lowry of Montezuma, Iowa; seven grandchildren, Tod Rimrodt of Agoura Hills, Calif., Cara Rimrodt of Montezuma, Iowa, Curtis Stemsrud of Grinnell, Iowa, Matthew D'Amico of Hollywood, Calif., Peter (Bernadert) D'Amico of Tirana, Albania, Jay Vogt of Fayette, Mo., and Dustin Vogt of Fayette Mo.; six great-grandchildren; two step-great granddaughters; many nieces and nephews; and her three adored sons-in-law.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Robert, Keith, and Ward Arthur; her sisters, Aileen Isbell and Betty Lash; and by her step-son, Bob Stemsrud.



64-R 3-6-2017

GRINNELL RESIDENT

# Margaret Stemsrud, 94

PCR  
3-8-2017



Margaret Stemsrud, age 94, of Grinnell, died on Saturday, March 5, 2017, at Windsor

Manor in Grinnell with her family by her side.

A celebration of her life will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with Pastor John Epperson officiating. Interment will be in Pleasant Township Cemetery in Ewart.

Visitation will be held prior to her service on Wednesday beginning at 10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be designated in Margaret's name to the Humane Society online at [www.humanesociety.com](http://www.humanesociety.com) or mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Condolences may be shared with her family online at [www.smithfh.com](http://www.smithfh.com). The family is grateful to the staff at Windsor Manor in Grinnell for the loving care and comfort they gave Margaret during the time of her residence.

The daughter of Cecil and Pansy Gerard Arthur, Margaret was born in Sug-

ar Creek Township on May 17, 1922. The oldest of ten children, she was the first to go to college. At age 19, she received her teaching certificate from Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, now the University of Northern Iowa, and began teaching in Ewart, where she met and fell in love with the widowed Bert O. Stemsrud. They married in 1941, and became lifelong dancing partners and shared 54 years on their farm until Bert's death in 1995. They had three daughters, Billie, Judith, and Linda. In 1999, Margaret married Russell Tubaugh, and they had a loving marriage cut short by Russell's sudden death later that same year.

In addition to teaching at several rural schools, Margaret worked for many years at the ASCS office in Montezuma (now the FSA in Malcom). She was also a 4-H leader, volunteered as a candy stripper at the Grinnell Hospital, was Esther in the Order of the Eastern Star, taught Sunday school at the Ewart Presbyterian Church, and was an active member of the church until it was deconsecrated and closed in 2010. After Bert's death, Margaret quite ably took over the management of

the family farm.

Not only was Margaret an accomplished seamstress and cook, she was also a talented writer and painter. "Maggie's" art work, much of it custom ordered, was purchased and enjoyed by many. Her accepting, kind personality attracted love and loyalty from a wide circle of family, friends, and acquaintances. An active and loyal Democrat, she opened her home for primary caucuses for years, prompting an appearance on national television and on National Public Radio in the 2000 election cycle. Her Christmas fudge and divinity were in great demand, and few people left her home without a plate of her homemade cookies. The goodies in her well-stocked freezer were legendary, especially to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A voracious reader, her trips to the Grinnell library was an important part of her weekly routine.

With a book in her hands and a faithful golden retriever at her side, Margaret was happiest on the farm where she lived for over 70 years. In her final years, she lived at Windsor Manor in Grinnell where she was beloved by the

staff, renewed old friendships, and made new ones. From ordinary circumstances Margaret created an extraordinary life and will be greatly missed, always remembered. She leaves a legacy of goodness and a family grateful for her presence and longevity on this earth.

Margaret is survived by three daughters, Billie (Wayne) Blevins of Marshall, MO, Judith (Samuel) D'Amico of Portland, ME, and Linda (William) Vogt of Fayette, MO; siblings, Kenneth Arthur of Newton, IA and Doris Lowry of Montezuma, IA; seven grandchildren, Tod Rimrod of Agoura Hills, CA, Cara Rimrod of Montezuma, IA, Curtis Stemsrud of Grinnell, IA, Matthew D'Amico of Hollywood, CA, Peter (Bernadett) D'Amico of Tirana, Albania, Jay Vogt of Fayette, MO, and Dustin Vogt of Fayette, MO; six great-grandchildren; two step-great granddaughters; many nieces and nephews; and her three adored sons-in-law. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Robert, Keith, and Ward Arthur; her sisters, Aileen Isbell and Betty Lash; and by her step-son, Bob Stemsrud.