Reginald 'Bill' Scurr

Reginald "Bill" Scurr, 90, of Grinnell and formerly of Gilman died Friday, Nov. 3, 2006, at the Mayflower Home Health Care Center in Grinnell.

Funeral services for Reginald Scurr will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. John Saxton of the Mayflower officiating. Pallbearers will include Chad Anthony, Jim Buitendorp, Grant Ferguson, and Blake, Clayton, Harry, Joe, and Steve Scurr. Burial will be in Prairie View Cemetery in Gilman.

Visitation with the family present will be held an hour prior to the service.

Born May 6, 1916, in Gilman, he was the son of Harry and Ida Eunice Clark Scurr. He was raised on the family farm and graduated from Gilman High School in 1933, then attended Iowa State University and received his bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College. He later received a master's in library science from the University of Chicago and had 96 hours of graduate work toward a doctorate from the University of Iowa. He had made his home in Iowa City for several years and later moved to Chicago in the late 1940s.

While in Chicago, he held several professional positions with the University of Chicago and later the Chicago Public Library including chief of the Humanities Department and chief of the Literature and Philosophy Division.

Following his retirement, he returned in 1980 to the family farm in Gilman. He moved to the Mayflower Home in 2002.

He was a member of the Illinois and American Library Associations and served on various ALA committees. He was advertising manager for the Illinois Library Association from 1956 to 1958 and contributed articles to many journals.

He is survived by members of his extended family. He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Susan and Opal Scurr; a brother, J. Clark Scurr; and a niece.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Mayflower Human Needs Fund.