Irene Hamilton, 85, of Grinnell died Friday, Oct. 17, 2008, at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Oct. 22, at Grace Community Church with Pastor Rick Magstadt officiating. Organist was Sharon Magstadt. Vocal music was by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Price.

She was born Oct. 4, 1923, in Little Rock, Ark., the daughter of O.C. and Hulda Belle Kime Harrah. She was united in marriage with Donald L. Hamilton on Dec. 10, 1944, in Little Rock. Following their marriage they moved to Belle Plaine, Iowa, then to Grinnell in 1955. She worked at the former Monroe Hotel and at Weyrauch's Nursery before joining the chemistry department at Grinnell College from which she retired after 31 years. She was a lifetime member of the National Association of Scientific Material Managers and enjoyed attending their annual conferences at various cities throughout the United States. She was a Camp Fire leader and enjoyed helping her husband with his Boy Scout troop. She also enjoyed camping and fishing with her family and attending Blue Grass concerts with her husband. In addition, she enjoyed playing table games with her family and especially enjoyed word games.

She is survived by two sons, Ron Hamilton of Springfield, Mo., and Dusty Hamilton of Grinnell, and three daughters, Donnette Gossen of Belle Plaine and Kandy Wilson and Shanna Wathen of Grinnell; 12 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; two grandchildren and one great grandchild.