

Blanche Harris, 94

Blanche Harris, 94, of Grinnell, died on Friday, March 27, 2009, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service was held at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 31, at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. Walt Claussen, pastor of the Newburg-Chester Congregational Church officiating. Pianist was Denise Baustian and vocalist was Rhonda Minner. Casket Bearers were Tom Harris, Walter Harris, Henry Harris, Brad Harris, Dave Harris, Chris Harris, Mike Harris, Cindy Harris and Richele Smith. Honorary Bearers were Perry and Karen Fenner. Interment was at the Chester Cemetery near Grinnell.



PCCR
Apr 1, 2009

Memorials may be directed to either the Chester Cemetery or to the Newburg-Chester Congregational Church.

Blanche was born on Feb. 8, 1915, on the family farm in Highland Township, Tama County near Gilman, to John and Stella Baustian Siehl. She attended rural school in Tama County and later graduated from Grinnell High School with the Class of 1932. She also attended the former Iowa State Teacher's College in Cedar Falls, and taught at the Chester #1 School for three years.

On Feb. 28, 1937, she was married to Merle Harris at her parent's home. The couple operated a grain and livestock farm in Chester Township. She was a homemaker and enjoyed cooking, sewing, giving piano lessons and baking cakes for weddings and anniversaries. Her most important role was being a mother to her three sons, Dale, Dennis and Dean.

Blanche was a member of the Chester Congregational Church and later the Newburg-Chester Congregational Church. She was a member of the Sonora Grange for over 60 years and was Past President of the Poweshiek County 4-H. She competed in a National Grange Baking Contest in Long Beach, Calif., and won a red ribbon and kitchen appliances for her recipe for whole wheat bread.

She is survived by one son, Dennis (Betty) Harris of Grinnell; one daughter-in-law, Doris Harris of Ankeny; four grandchildren, Brad (Lynette) Harris of Grinnell, Richele (Dwayne) Smith of Lee's Summit, Mo., Cindy (Tim Carnovale) Harris of Sydney, Australia, and Stella David of Indianapolis, Ind.; seven great-grandchildren, Dain, Dilyn and Daysi Harris, Miles Serig, Colin Smith, Andrea and Natalie David.

Blanche was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; two sons, Dale and Dean Harris; one sister, Dona Faye Park; and one brother, Farrell G. Siehl.

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A funeral service will be held Tuesday, March 31, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. at Smith Funeral Home with interment at the Chester Cemetery, rural Grinnell.

Friends may call at the funeral home beginning at 12 noon on Monday with family members present from 6 to 8 p.m.

Memorials may be directed to the Chester Cemetery or to the Newburg-Chester Congregational Church.

HR Mar 30, 2009