

Olive G. Abel

A joint funeral service was held Friday morning, March 12, at the Grinnell Christian Church for Olive G. Abel, 87, of Grinnell, and her husband, Burdette Abel. Mrs. Abel died Tuesday, March 9, 1999, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center after a short illness. Burdette Abel died a couple of weeks prior to his wife, and had been buried in a private family ceremony.

The Rev. John Epperson, pastor of the church, officiated, and the organist was Marlene Toney. Vocalists were Rich and Karolyn Milliken. Casket bearers were her grandchildren, and burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.

Mrs. Abel was born Dec. 31, 1911, near Brooklyn, to Brownlie Graham and Dora Hayes Graham. She graduated from Brooklyn High School in 1929. She attended Grinnell College and taught school in Madison Township.

She married Burdette F. Abel in 1933 and they farmed near Grinnell and in Madison Township until 1947 when they moved back to Grinnell.

She was a charter member of Grinnell Christian Church, serving as clerk for many years. She was a longtime member of the auxiliary at Grinnell Regional Medical Center and of the Care Review Committee at St. Francis Manor. She was also a member of the Grinnell Historical Museum Board and the Historical and Literary Book Club.

She was preceded in death by her husband; four sisters, Jeanetta Hartshorn, Sarah Burnell, Agnes Lang, and Carric Bolen; and two brothers, Paul and Archie Graham.

She is survived by her daughter, Nancy Abel Wagner of University City, Mo.; four sons, Burdette Jr., Gordon and John, all of Grinnell, and David of Mankato, Minn.; a sister, Frances Kleiss of Brooklyn; 14 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grinnell Historical Museum, Grinnell.

Olive Abel

Olive G. Abel, 87, of Grinnell died after a short illness Tuesday, March 9, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A joint funeral service for Olive and Burdette Abel, who died Feb. 18, will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Grinnell Christian Church, with the Rev. John Epperson officiating. Organist will be Marlene Toney, and vocalists will be Rich and Karolyn Milliken.

Casket bearers will be her grandchildren, and burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home, where the family will be present from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday.

She was the daughter of Brownlie and Dora Hayes Graham and was born Dec. 31, 1911, near Brooklyn. She graduated from Brooklyn High School in 1929. She attended Grinnell College and taught school in Madison Township.

She was married to Burdette F. Abel in 1933, and they farmed near Grinnell and in Madison Township until 1947 when they moved back to Grinnell.

Mrs. Abel was a charter member of Grinnell Christian Church, serving as clerk for many years. She was a long-time member of the Grinnell Regional Medical Center Auxiliary and the Care Review Committee at St. Francis Manor. She was also a member of the Grinnell Historical Museum Board and the Historical and Literary Book Club.

Surviving are her daughter Nancy Abel Wagner of University City, Mo.; four sons, Burdette Jr., Gordon and John, all of Grinnell and David of Mankato, Minn.; one sister, Frances Kleiss of Brooklyn; 14 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband; four sisters, Jeanett Hartshorn, Sarah Burnell, Agne Lang and Carric Bolen; and two brothers, Paul and Archie Graham.

Memorials may be made to the Grinnell Historical Museum.

BC March 17, 1999

H-R March 11, 1999