Ferne M. Madill, 86, died Wednesday, July 9, 2003, at St. Francis Manor. A funeral service was held Monday, July 14, at Gilman Community-United Church of Christ with the Rev. William Lammatteo-Code and the Rev. Carol Lammattoo-Code, co-pastors of the church, officiating. Organist was Ron Rainey. Casket bearers were Jon Dunn, Jeremy Dunn, Shawn Madill, Christopher Madill, Nate Clapham, Ross Clapham, Jennifer Whitney, Amanda Madill, Alison Maulsby and Melissa Maulsby. Interment was in Prairie View Cemetery at Gilman. 

She was born Dec. 16, 1916, in Grinnell to Frank and Anna Nielandt Rathe. She was raised in the Gilman area and was a graduate of Gilman High School. She received normal training in Marshalltown and Cedar Falls and taught rural school near Dillon. She was married on June 10, 1941, to Howard W. Madill in Marshalltown and the couple operated a grain and livestock farm near Gilman until their retirement in 1976. They moved to Gilman in 1983 and Mrs. Madill moved to Grinnell in March 2001. She was an active member of the Gilman Community-United Church of Christ, teaching Sunday School and as a member of its women's guild. She also was active in 4-H, Tuesday Progress Club and the Federated Women's Club. She enjoyed reading, raising flowers, cross stitching and activities with her grandchildren.

She is survived by two daughters, Barbara A. Dunn, Independence, and Kristine I. Clapham, Greene, and two sons, James H. Madill, Cedar Falls, and Craig N. Madill, Marshalltown; ten grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, one daughter Elaine Sue Madill and one granddaughter Angie Beth Dunn.