

Willena R. Birch



GH-R 1-28-10

Willena R. Burch, 83, of Grinnell died Friday Jan. 22, 2010, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.

A funeral service will be held Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 10:30 a.m. at Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. John Epperson officiating. Interment will follow in Hazelwood Cemetery. Visitation beginning at 9 a.m. will precede the service.

Memorials may be made to the Willena R. Burch Memorial Fund, PO Box 368, Grinnell IA 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with her family at www.smithfh.com

She was born Oct. 7, 1924, in Tama, the daughter of John and Jessie Reavis Jochims. She was a 1942 graduate of Tama High School after which she received her teaching certificate and taught in rural schools in Tama County.

She was united in marriage with Beverley G. Burch on May 5, 1948, in Grinnell and they became the parents of nine children. They lived in Grinnell for the majority of their married life with the exception of one year, 1966-67, when they resided in Rockford, Ill. She was employed at the Tama Paper Mill and also at Grinnell Glove Factory.

She was a member of the Tama and Grinnell United Methodist Churches.

She is survived by her sons and daughter, David Burch, John Burch, Diane Hill, Kevin Burch and Danny Burch, all of Grinnell, and Ed Burch of Newton, and her brother Victor Jochims of Loves Park, Ill. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her daughter and sons Linda Norman, Larry Burch and Jeffrey Burch; and her siblings, Donald Jochims, Gordon Jochims and Delores Fetter.