

Ruth A. Gross



Ruth Gross, 92, of Grinnell died Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011, at Mayflower Community Health Care Center.

A celebration of life service was held Monday, Jan. 24, at Sheridan United Methodist Church, rural Grinnell, with the Rev. Bonnie Koeppen officiating and Peggy Parker as pianist. Pallbearers were Mark Allen, David Beck, Mark Burkhead, Raymond Graham, John Leris and John Schmidt. Interment was in Sheridan Cemetery.

Memorials may be designated to Sheridan United Methodist Church or to Grinnell Regional Hospice. Memories and condolences may be shared with her family at www.smithfh.com.

She was born Aug. 14, 1918, in Oskaloosa, the daughter of William and Melyia Warstler Parker. She attended school in Oskaloosa, then graduated from Searsboro High School in 1936.

She was united in marriage with Cloyd Gross on Aug. 16, 1936, in Unionville, Mo. They began farming on his family's farm in Sheridan Township northeast of Grinnell. She taught

Sunday School and Bible School, was a Methodist Youth Fellowship counselor and choir director, and volunteered as a 4-H leader.

In 1971 she and her husband adopted her brother Don who had lived with them for many of his childhood years.

She was a life-long member of Sheridan United Methodist Church where she served on its administrative council, played the organ and piano, participated in United Methodist Women and served as district officer for nine years. She also was a long-time member of LGT Club and Sheridan Homemakers Club.

She is survived by her brother/adopted son, Donald Parker of Malcom; two granddaughters; and three great grandsons. She was preceded in death by her husband; her sister Doris Chute; and her brother William (Billy) Parker.

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OBITUARIES

Ruth Gross, 92

Ruth A. Gross, age 92, of Grinnell, died Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011 at the Mayflower Community Health Care Center in Grinnell.

A celebration of life service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Monday, Jan. 24, 2011 at the Sheridan United Methodist Church northeast of Grinnell with the Rev. Bonnie Koeppen officiating and Peggy Parker, the pianist. Pallbearers are Mark Allen, David Beck, Mark Burkhead, Raymond Graham, John Leris, and John Schmidt. Interment will be in Sheridan Cemetery northeast of Grinnell.

Memorials may be designated to the Sheridan United Methodist Church or to Grinnell Regional Hospice. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.smithfh.com.

Ruth was born on Aug. 14, 1918 in Oskaloosa, Iowa, the daughter of William and Melvia Warstler Parker. She attended school in Oskaloosa and she graduated from Searsboro High School in 1936.

On August 16, 1936, she was united marriage to Cloyd Gross in Unionville, Mo. They began farming on his family farm in the Sheridan Township northeast of Grinnell. Living on the farm brought Ruth great joy, especially vegetable gardening and canning, tending to baby animals, and cooking and caring for their hired help.

One of Ruth's passions was nurturing children. Ruth and Cloyd were blessed with many nieces and nephews who spent countless hours on their farm. Ruth taught Sunday School and Bible School, was an M.Y.F. counselor and choir director, and volunteered as a 4-H leader for many years. In 1971, Ruth and Cloyd adopted her brother Don, who had lived with them for many of his childhood years and was like a son to them.

She was a lifelong member of the Sheridan United Methodist Church, where she served various roles on the Administrative Council, played the organ and piano, participated in United Methodist Women and served as district officer for nine years. She was a longtime member of the LGT club and Sheridan Homemaker's club.

Ruth is survived by her brother and adopted son, Donald (Frances) Parker of Malcom; two granddaughters, Jody (David) Beck of Davenport, Iowa, and Peggy Parker (Mark Burkhead) of Grinnell; and three great grandsons, Parker Beck, William and Foster Burkhead.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Cloyd; a sister, Doris Chute; and a brother, William "Billy" Parker.



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