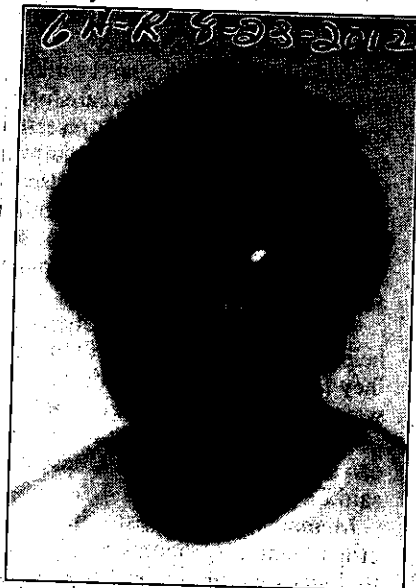# Mary D. Russell

Mary D. Russell, 90, of Grinnell, died Monday, Aug. 20, 2012, at St. Francis Manor in Grinnell.

A graveside service will be held 1 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25, at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell with Rev. Howard Lord officiating. Friends attending the service may meet at Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell beginning 12 noon on Saturday.

Memorials may be directed to Grinnell Regional Hospice and sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

Mary was born on May 19, 1922, near Grinnell, to William and Viola Parmley Russell. She spent her childhood on the family farm southwest of Grinnell and attended country school. She graduated with the Class of 1939 from Grinnell High School and later received a nursing degree from St. Luke's School of Nursing in Cedar Rapids. Following her education she was employed in the surgical departments at Kahler Hospital in Rochester, Minn., and Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. In 1953, she became employed in the Clinical Center at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Md. She returned to Iowa in 1963 and worked at the Veterans Medical Center in Iowa City until her retirement in 1983. After her retirement she resided in Iowa City and she continued her interest in medicine and nursing practices. She was a mentor to her niece, Michelle, and many others who followed her in the nursing profession.

Mary was member of the Bethany Baptist Church in Iowa City and numerous nursing associations. She was an avid reader, and enjoyed music and reading scriptures.

Survivors include her three sisters, Wilma Lord and Ruth Jones, both of Grinnell, and Maxine Rines of Hartford, Maine; and many relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Robert Russell.