Naomi B. Gerard

Naomi B. Gerard, 91, of Grinnell died September 26, 2015, at St. Francis Manor.

Funeral services are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Thursday, October 1st at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell with the Rev. John Epperson officiating. Pallbearers will be David and Jerry Barns, Dennis and Jim Parrott and Jason and John Roush. Burial will be in Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell.
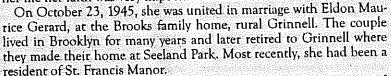
Visitation with the family present will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be directed to PALS in Grinnell.

Naomi was born August 29, 1924, in Grinnell, the daughter of Michael C. and Ethel May Graham Brooks. She was raised in Grinnell and was a 1942 graduate of Grinnell High School. While in high school she became a born again Christian and throughout the rest of her life her faith was very important to her.

On October 23, 1945, she was united in marriage with Eldon Maurice Gerard, at the Brooks family home, rural Grinnell. The couple lived in Brooklyn for many years and later retired to Grinnell where they made their home at Seeland Park. Most recently, she had been a resident of St. Francis Manor.

Naomi was employed at Grinnell State Bank for several years and while living in Brooklyn she assisted her husband running Gerard Feed Store. She was later employed as a bookkeeper at Lavern's Repair Shop and then Brookhaven Nursing Home, both located in Brooklyn. She retired in 1982.

Naomi was an active member of the First Assembly of God Church in Grinnell and for many years taught Sunday school. She enjoyed hand crafts, reading and cooking. Making desserts was her specialty and she always had home-baked cookies for everyone who visited. She held a passion for collecting ceramic cats and after many years her collection grew to almost seven hundred pieces. She loved people and was very kind, very giving and very forgiving. She held a positive outlook in life and her encouragement to others was evident.

Survivors include two daughters, Lavon Roush of Kansas City, Missouri, and Linda (Jerry) Barns of Grinnell; four grandchildren, John and Jason Roush and David and Julie Barns; four great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Eldon in 2009; and one sister, Verleen Eggman in 2015.   GH-R 9-28-2015