

Vivian L. Benson



Vivian Lowry Benson, 98, of Grinnell died Wednesday, June 7, at St. Francis Manor.

A funeral service was held Saturday, June 10, at First Friends Church in Grinnell with the Rev. Todd Follette officiating. Organist was Kathleen McCune. Vocalist was Brockie Follette. Pallbearers were Ronald, Dennis and David Lowry, Craig and Mark Paulson and Blake and Brent Cooper. Burial was in West Liberty Cemetery, rural Montezuma. Memorials maybe made to First Friends Church.

The daughter of William and Martha Stansberry Miller, she was born May 11, 1908, near Searsboro. Her father died when she was three. Her mother was married to William (Bill) Johnson when she was six. She was raised by her mother and stepfather in Searsboro and was a graduate of Searsboro High School. She attended the Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls., later named the University of Northern Iowa, in the summer of 1927.

She was married on April 4, 1928, in Newton to Howard F. Lowry. They farmed near Searsboro, then moved to a farm near Gilman in 1943. They returned to the Searsboro area in 1945 where they farmed the Lowry home farm. Her husband died in 1955 and she moved to Grinnell where she was employed at the Grinnell Glove Factory, Young's Paint Store and later Carousel Fabrics.

She was married on April 7, 1969, to Orville O. Benson in Searsboro and the couple resided briefly in Newton while building a new home in Grinnell. She had been a resident of St. Francis Manor since 2001.

She was a member of First Friends Church, USFW Missionary Society and a Bible study group. She was devoted to her church, her children and grandchildren, and enjoyed sewing, crocheting, ceramics and painting, as well as gardening.

She is survived by two daughters Shirley Paulson and Loretta Cooper, both of Grinnell, and one son Richard Lowry of Montezuma; ten grandchildren; 27 great grandchildren and 12 great great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; her stepfather; both husbands; one son Loring Cedric Lowry at the age of one; two brothers, W. Paul Miller and Raymond Miller and one sister, Irene Fudge.

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Her funeral service was held Saturday, June 10, at the First Friends

Church, Grinnell, with the Rev. Tod Follette officiating. Burial was at West Liberty Cemetery near Montezuma. Smith Funeral Home of Grinnell was in charge of the arrangements.

Pallbearers were Ronald, Dennis and David Lowry, Craig and Mark Paulson, and Blake and Brent Cooper.

The daughter of William A. Miller and Martha E. Stansberry Miller Johnson, Vivian was born on May 11, 1908 near Searsboro. Her father died when she was three and her mother married William (Bill) Johnson when she was six and she was raised by her mother and step-father in Searsboro. She graduated from Searsboro High and attended Cedar Falls College the summer of 1927. Vivian was united in marriage with Howard F. Lowry on April 4, 1928, at Newton. To this union four children were born. They farmed near Searsboro until 1943 when they moved to the Gilman area for two years. They returned to the Searsboro

area to the Lowry home farm and farmed until widowed in 1955. She moved to Grinnell, where she worked at the Grinnell Glove Factory, Young's Paint Store, and Carousal Fabrics until she married Orville O. Benson on April 7, 1969, at the Searsboro Friends Church. The couple lived in Newton for a short time while they were building their new home in Grinnell.

She was a member of the Grinnell First Friends Church, USFW Missionary Society, and a local Bible study group. She was devoted to church, her children and grandchildren. She enjoyed gardening and her flowers. She excelled in sewing, crocheting, ceramics, oil painting and numerous other crafts. She always enjoyed being busy with her hands.

She is survived by one son, Richard (and Doris) Lowry of Montezuma; two daughters, Shirley (and Keith) Paulson and Loretta (and Donald) Cooper of Grinnell; 10 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by both husbands, a one-year-old son, Loring Cedric Lowry; two brothers, W. Paul Miller and Raymond Miller; and one sister, Irene Fudge.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the First Friends Church in Grinnell.