

## Mary R. Emperley

Mary Rayl Emperley, 86, of Grinnell, formerly of Newton, died Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008, at Grinnell Regional Medical Center.



A funeral service is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 15, at 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church with the Rev. Tim Stewart officiating. Organist will be Denise Baustian. Pallbearers will be Jason and Jeff Dickerson, Jeremy Coleman, James Plumb, Kim and David Cooper and Joel Clifton. Burial will be in Rock Creek Cemetery, rural Jasper County. Visitation with family members present will be from 1 to 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church. Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church or Grinnell Regional Hospice.

The daughter of C. Fred and Miriam Gault Rayl, she was born March 21, 1922, in Grinnell. She was raised in Grinnell and was a 1940 graduate of Grinnell High School. She was united in marriage with Kenneth Clifton and to this union were born two children, Sandra Cooper and Tom Clifton. She later was married to Dean Koger and to this union were born three children, John Koger, Katy Trotter and Susan Harlow. She moved to Newton in 1950 where she was employed for 20 years with Winpower Corporation, retiring in 1985. On May 11, 1993, she was married to William "Del" Emperley in Grayois Mills, Mo. The couple lived in Newton prior to moving to Grinnell in 1999.

She was a member of First Baptist Church in which she was active with American Baptist Women, and also the Rebekah Lodge. She devoted many hours to volunteer work including RSVP in Newton, Prison Ministries in Mitchellville, Jasper County Museum, Kellogg Historical Museum, and Grinnell Regional Medical Center. She was an active Cubs and Hawkeye fan. She enjoyed traveling with her family, playing cards with family and friends and dining out, as well as crocheting, knitting and exercising.

She is survived by her sons and daughters, Sandra Cooper and Tom Clifton of Grinnell; John Koger of Omaha, Neb., and Kathy Trotter and Susan Harlow of Newton; two step children Karen Schilling, Kennesaw, Ga. and Dennis Emperley, of Morganton, N. C.; 14 grandchildren; four step grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; two great great grandchildren and one brother, Don Rayl of Park Hill, Okla. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Del in 2007; two former husbands, Kenneth and Dean and one granddaughter.

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