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Nov 12, 1975

Bessie O'Harra rites Friday

11-5-75 Mrs. Bessie Ethel O'Harra, 88, of 502 Park St., Grinnell, died Wednesday evening at Embassy Manor in Newton. She had been in failing health the past few years.

Funeral services for Mrs. O'Harra were held at 3:30 p.m. Friday at the Smith Funeral Home, with the Rev. Charles Fry, pastor of the Christian Church at Garwin, Iowa, officiating. Organist was Mrs. Willard Heffner. Pallbearers were Eddie Ettelson, Tim Ettelson, Dave Faircloth, Dick O'Harra, Tom O'Harra and Chuck Stevens. Honorary pallbearers were Wes Casady, Art Faircloth, Mark Faircloth, Paul Johnson and Jeff Stevens.

Burial was at Hazelwood Cemetery.

The daughter of Joseph and Melinda Speas Wilkinson, she was born Aug. 28, 1887, in Poweshiek County. She attended rural school in Madison Township and normal school at LeGrand.

On March 27, 1907, she was married to Thomas O'Harra in Montezuma. The couple had five children: Mrs. O'Harra had lived all of her life in Poweshiek County; she lived in Grinnell since 1922.

Survivors include four children, Mrs. Beulah Hinegardner of Newton and Clyde O'Harra, Mrs. Wilma E. Renbarger, and Paul O'Harra, all of Grinnell; eight grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and 15 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, who died in 1942; a daughter, Mrs. Linda Berschied; one grandson; one great-grandson; two sisters, Mrs. Jennie Kline and Mrs. Florence Brush; and three brothers, Harold, Clyde and Carl Wilkinson.

Thomas