

Mildred Clay Smith

(Walter P.)

Mildred Clay Smith, 84, of Williamsburg, formerly of Grinnell, died Sept. 14.

Funeral services were conducted Sept. 18 at Williamsburg funeral Home Chapel, with burial in Williamsburg Memorial Park.

She was born June 11, 1912, in Poweshiek County, the daughter of James Frank and Mabel Shelton Clay. She grew up in Grinnell and was a graduate of Grinnell High School.

She was married to Walter P. Smith June 22, 1935, in Brooklyn.

Mrs. Smith was a master gardener and was a member of the American Iris society. She was credited with creating and registering several hybrid flowers and was the author of "Growing Beautiful Tall Bearded Irises in Williamsburg, Va.," which is in its third printing.

She and her husband operated Fragrance Iris Gardens at their Williamsburg home for several years. Mrs. Smith was a member of the Williamsburg United Methodist Church, the Virginia Genealogical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Surviving are one son, Steven of Williamsburg; two daughters, Sandra Underwood of Anchorage, Alaska, and Marilyn Neilans of Melbourne, Australia; one sister, Gladys Strovers of Grinnell; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

H-R October 10, 1996