

Betty Ratcliff ^{GHR} 10-31-2011



Betty Ratcliff

Betty Ratcliff, 83 of Grinnell died Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011, at the Mayflower Care Center in Grinnell.

Funeral services will begin at 10:30 am Saturday, Oct. 29, at the Lynnville Friends Church with Pastor Doug Smiley officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the church. Interment will be held in the Friends Cemetery in Lynnville.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Lynnville Friends Cemetery. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.hardenfuneralhomes.com. Harden Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

GHR 10-27-2011

Betty Ratcliff, 83 of Grinnell died Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011, at the Mayflower Care Center in Grinnell.

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Betty Jean Ratcliff was born March 30, 1928, to Clarence and Rufinia Cook Baldwin in Newton, the third of their four children. The family lived on a farm near Kellogg and Betty attended country school, then eventually Newton high school where she graduated in 1946. Betty worked at Newton Manufacturing for a few years before she was married. On Sept. 1, 1948, Betty was united in marriage with Ross Ratcliff. After Ross returned home from serving in the Korean War, the family resided in a small farm home near Ross' parents.

She was a lifetime farmer and continued interest in farming long after her husband died in 1998. Betty always had a large garden and enjoyed working outside. She loved gospel music and attending the State Fair, and was involved in farm activities, and as a Sunday school teacher and serving in other ways at the Lynnville Friends Church including oversight of the Lynnville Friends Cemetery. Betty was also a news correspondent for the Lynnville area in the Grinnell Herald-Register and the Newton Daily News. She was a member of the Lynnville Friends Church and the Center Friends Church.

Betty is survived by her son, Gary Ratcliff of Sergeant Bluff, a granddaughter; and her sister Marian Wheeler of Marion.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Ross; her sister Lois; her brother Roger; and other family members.