

Mary Frances Hall Gress, 94

Aug. 19, 1904 - Aug. 12, 1999

STORM LAKE - Mary Frances Hall Gress was born Aug. 19, 1904, in Co. Bluffs, daughter of Howard C. and Caroline Rebecca (Chapman) Hall. She attended school in Co. Bluffs, graduating from Abraham Lincoln High School in 1923. While still in high school, she worked as a secretary for the Ainsworth Printing Company in Co. Bluffs and continued to work there after graduation and for several years following her marriage.

She married Arthur A. Gress Nov. 25, 1926, at the Fifth Avenue Methodist Church in Co. Bluffs. She assisted her husband at Gress Gardens in Co. Bluffs, selling plants and produce to the Omaha outdoor market as well as to local customers. In 1938, the couple moved to a farm near Shelby, farming until 1969 when they retired. She was a member of the Shelby Methodist Church. She was a member of a knitting club and the Social Neighbors Club in Shelby for nearly 50 years. She later worked with Green Thumb and at the Baptist Home in Harlan, finally retiring at age 89. She had moved to Storm Lake in recent years to make her home with her daughter and son-in-law, Ardith and Richard Anderson. She died Aug. 12, 1999, at the Buena Vista County Hospital in Storm Lake, following a brief illness at age 94.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Arthur in 1974; a son, Anthony in 1995; and by three brothers, two sisters and their spouses. She is survived by a daughter, Ardith Anderson (Richard) of Storm Lake; a son, Marvin of Minneapolis, MN; a brother, Walter Hall (Marie) of Co. Bluffs; and a sister-in-law, Teresa Gress, Co. Bluffs; nine grandchildren; two special great granddaughters, Emily Winker and Rose Caruso; and a great niece, Abigail Hill; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Aug. 16, 1999, at the Shelby Methodist Church with the Reverend Walter Bernard, Jr. officiating. Burial was in the Shelby Cemetery. The Fratzke Funeral Home of Storm Lake in charge of arrangements.