

Florence Belden

2002

Florence Belden, 99, Groton, died Saturday, June 1, 2002, at Beverly Healthcare Center, Groton. Her funeral will be held Wednesday, June 5, 3 p.m., at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton, with the Rev. Stephen D. Swenson officiating. Burial will follow at Riverside Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. with a prayer service at 7 p.m. and will resume one hour prior to the service on Wednesday.

Florence Hilma Lewis was born near Chandler, Minn., on December 29, 1902, to Nels F. and Caroline (Jacobson) Lewis. At the age of 2 she came with her family to South Dakota and grew up in the Groton vicinity. She graduated from Groton High School in 1921. She then attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls and Northern Normal in Aberdeen. She taught rural schools for two years before her marriage. Florence married Richard Hansen in April of 1925. The couple lived and farmed in the Houghton area. She taught rural schools in Brown County for another 15 years. They moved to Aberdeen in 1937. She worked as a civilian employee at the Navy Supply Depot in Oakland, Calif., for two years during World War II, registering the train car numbers. Florence returned to Aberdeen in 1945 and went to work at the Brown County Courthouse in the auditor's and later the treasurer's office for a total of 22 years. Richard died May 31, 1963. She married Oliver L. Belden on April 26, 1967 and they retired to their home in Groton. She walked before it became fashionable to walk and everyone in town always wanted to give her a ride. Oliver died November 23, 1981.

Florence was a member of Emmanuel



Lutheran Church, Groton, WELCA, India Circle, Groton Legion Auxiliary and Augustana Alumni. She was the original starter of the quilting ladies at Emmanuel and made over 1,000 quilts of her own for Lutheran World Relief.

Survivors include her foster family, Gerald (Carol) Osterman, Groton; two grandsons, Todd and Sandy Osterman and Robert and Angie Osterman; six great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Preceding her in death were both husbands, a son, Frank, her parents, two sisters and one brother.

Casketbearers will be Todd Osterman, Robert Osterman, Jason Osterman, Loren Osterman, Richard Siefkes and David Siefkes.

Honorary casketbearers will be the quilting ladies.

The family prefers memorials to Emmanuel Lutheran Church Building Fund, 1006 N. 2nd St., Groton SD 57445.