



Odell Mae Lodge Williams

May 10, 2007

Surrounded by those who loved her best and longest, Odell Mae Lodge Williams, 98, passed into eternal rest Thursday evening, May 10, 2007. Mrs. Williams, known affectionately as "Nana" is survived by a daughter, Virginia Williams Vass, of Portsmouth; a son, William "Buddy" Williams and wife, Barbara of Clifton, Va; four grandchildren, Steve Vass, Greg Vass, Tuesdee Florence, and Tony Williams; seven great grandchildren, and a great-great grandchild. She was predeceased by her husband of 48 years, William Armistead "Willie" Williams, Sr.; her father, John Wesley Lodge, mother, Mattie Lodge Morris and step-father, Ruby Morris; and a brother, William Lodge.

A North Carolina native, she was a Portsmouth resident since an early age and was graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1927. She met and courted her future husband at South Street Baptist Church, now Western Branch Baptist Church. She taught Sunday school there and was a dedicated member of the Faithful Workers Class.

Along with many church friends and neighbors, including her good friend Helen Corbitt, she was active in the Happy-Go-Lucky Sewing Circle from her twenties well into her sixties. Although she never drove a car, she and her husband logged hundreds of miles visiting those sick or hospitalized, delivering cards, treats from her kitchen and beautiful flower arrangements raised from their backyard.

A homemaker, she also spent many years caring for her grandmother and her

mother in her home. Her savior Jesus Christ rewards his faithful workers well, and she received similar care in her home in her later years from devoted family and friends. She found joy in many of the simple things in life, including sunrises, her dogwood tree and redbird, and baking the best lemon meringue pie in town. One her favorite philosophies came from musician Lawrence Welk: "I love you and don't you forget it!"

A funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday May 15, 2007 in Loving Funeral Home, Churchland Chapel by Dr. Walter L. Black. The family will receive friends in the funeral home Monday from 6-7:30 p.m. and they suggest memorial contributions to Western Branch Baptist Church. Condolences may be made at www.lovingfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Nana was such a wonderful person. She was a true southern woman and so kind. She will be greatly missed I am sure. We loved her.##imported-begin##Roberta Kerns##imported-end##*

May 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Virginia,
I remember your mother and the Happy Go Luckey Sewing Club with fondness. I wonder if we are the only ones left that know anything about it. Mother, Mary Griffin Haynes, used to drage me to the "meetings" as my father would be working at the automobile business at night. Often, I would go with her to your home. What fun the ladies would have. I think the last time they got together was at my house in Elizabeth Manor.
You were blessed to have you mother for so many years. Mother died in 1994 at age 91. She had been in my care in my home for ten years. My sympathies are with you and your family.
Muriel Haynes Shumate##imported-begin##Muriel Haynes Shumate##imported-end##*

May 15, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Greg and Family,

I am so sorry to hear about Nana; I know she was an important part of your lives. You have a treasury of many wonderful memories and vignettes of her life story.

With prayers,

Helen Jackson##imported-begin##Helen Jackson##imported-end##

May 14, 2007 at 12:00 AM