

Alma McConnell Cathcart, 97, died Friday, Oct. 17, 2008, at Mountain Lakes Medical Center.

She was born Aug. 6, 1911, in Gainesville to William Ross and Jane Ware McConnell. She went to school in Gainesville and moved with her family to Lake Burton, where she managed Cherokee Lodge for many years. She earned an education degree and a master's degree in library science from Appalachian State University. She served as librarian at Piedmont College and Tallulah Falls School. She spent the last 40 years of her life at her home, "Tranquillity," on Lake Burton. Most recently, she lived at Traces of Tiger. She had a passion for reading and gardening. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Clarkesville.

She was preceded in death by: a sister, Jane McConnell; two brothers, William Ross "Bill" McConnell and John Campbell McConnell; two husbands, the Rev. Foster D. Smith and Earl Stanley Cathcart; and a great niece, Caroline McConnell.

Survivors include: a nephew, William Ross McConnell; three nieces, Ann Alexander, Sherry Elder and Fran Dawson; two great nephews, John McConnell and Matthew Alexander; a great niece, Ellen Graham; and three great-great nieces.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. today at First Presbyterian Church of Clarkesville. There will be a time to share memories after the service in the fellowship hall.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Clarkesville or to a charity of one's choice.

Hillside Memorial Chapel in Clarkesville was in charge of arrangements.

The Clayton Tribune, Oct. 23, 2008