



Beatrice Dickson

Mrs. Beatrice Patterson Dickson, 93, died at her home in Clayton on Dec. 14, 2001 after a brief illness.

Mrs. Dickson was widow of William P. Dickson and is survived by three children, Norris S. Dickson and wife Madelyn of Anderson, S.C.; Laverne D. Howlett and husband Granville of Charlotte, N.C.; Jenni D. Wilson and husband Jack of Lawrenceville; two sisters, Daisy Thomas of Toccoa and Selina Pinkston of Santa Rosa Beach, FL. She had six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren that also survive.

Mrs. Dickson, known simply as "Bea" to her family and many friends, was remarkably independent and self-reliant since her husband's death and she lived a life of dedicated service to her family, multiple churches and the community.

Bea communicated her love for God, life and others in many ways, perhaps none more eloquently than through her music. She began playing the piano in church services at age 13 and 80 years later was still playing. Bea's first church service music was in support of her father, the Reverend D. S. Patterson, who, at one time, was pastor of the First Methodist Church in Clayton. For over 40 years she was the principal organist at the First United Methodist Church in Clayton, and after retirement there continued to play in local area churches, most recently at New Hope Methodist near Clayton. Over the years, Bea spread her love far and wide by teaching piano to countless students ranging in age from 5 to 85.

Bea was a dedicated Christian lady who befriended strangers and was generous in helping those in need. Bea touched many lives and her influence will be felt and missed throughout the local area.

Funeral services were held on Dec. 17, 2001 at the First United Methodist Church in Clayton, followed by a meal at the church Fellowship Hall and then interment at the Toccoa City Cemetery in Toccoa.

Bea loved flowers and they would be most appropriate in celebrating her life, however, memorial contributions to the General Music Fund of the First United Methodist Church or other favorite charity would be equally appropriate.

Daniels Mortuary and Crematory was in charge of arrangements.