

Willie Raye James, 85, of Lakemont, died Wednesday, April 6, 2005, at her home.

She was born in Robbinsville, N.C., to Josie Kilby and Wilbur Nations. She and her husband ran Tom James' Store. She later worked at Clayburne Manufacturing. She was a member of Rocky Grove Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Leroy James; two sisters, Rosell Dillard and Nora Sawyer; a brother, Bill Nations; and a son-in-law, Don Gore.

Survivors include: a son and daughter-in-law, Tommy Ray and Esther James of Lakemont; three daughters and sons-in-law, Brenda Gore and Herbert McConnell of Lakemont, Wanda and Frank Darnell of Persimmon and Sandy and Dwain Smith of Lakemont; 11 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Saturday at Rocky Grove Baptist Church with the Revs. Dexter James and Rusty Wolfrey officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Beck Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. An online memorial register is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.

The Clayton Tribune, April 14, 2005