

Lila Church, 98, former AU campus nurse, dies

7/03/08

Lila Gagen Church, 98, who was a nurse at Crandall Health Center for several years until her retirement in 1974, died June 12, 2008, after a brief illness. A former resident of Wellsville, NY, she had resided in the retirement home of Winter Park Towers in Winter Park for the past 24 years. Friends and family may call from 9-10:30 a.m. July 12 at the Mulholland-Crowell Funeral Home, North Main Street, Wellsville, with a memorial service following at 11 a.m. Lila was born Dec. 29, 1909, in St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada. She came to Buffalo, N.Y., in 1925 and attended nursing school at Myer Memorial Hospital, graduating in 1929. In 1936, in Wellsville, she married John Church, who died in 1958. Lila worked as a staff and private duty nurse at Jones Memorial Hospital in Wellsville during the '50s. After John died, she worked as a nurse for Alfred University's Crandall Health Center until she retired at the age of 65. She also worked summers as the staff nurse for Camp Whippoorwill in the Adirondacks for approximately 12 years. Lila also was the relief nurse at Worthington Corp. (now Dresser-Rand) in Wellsville. She loved volunteering for the Red Cross Blood Bank, delivering books or working the snack bar at Jones Memorial. She loved to play bridge with her friends, knit and do crewel in her spare time. She was a faithful member of the United Methodist Church in Wellsville, participating in the choir, was a twig member and volunteered for many church activities. She is survived by their three children, Maynard (Bonnie) Church of York, Pa.; Tom (Linda) Church of Fort Worth, Texas and Annabelle (Hank) Osgood of Sunland, Calif; six grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. The family would ask that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Jones Memorial Hospital, 191 N. Main Street, Wellsville, NY 14895, c/o Judy Burt, Community Relations.