



Thelma M. Nelson

July 23, 1922 - February 10, 2021

Thelma M. Nelson, age 98, wife of the late Donald A. Nelson, of Royerford, PA, passed away on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 in the Columbia Cottage. Born on July 23, 1922 on her parents' farm on the corner of Bridge Street and Rt. 724 in Spring City, PA, she was a daughter of the late Milton and Bessie (Latshaw) Mowrer. She was the last of three children: Clifford Mowrer who preceded her in death and Katharine Wheatley, age 101, who resides in Rochester Hills, MI. Thelma graduated from Spring City High School in 1940, and then attended Norristown Business College. She was employed as a telephone operator at Bell Telephone, and as a clerk typist at Valley Forge Army Hospital.

Mrs. Nelson married Donald A. Nelson on April 27, 1945. After her marriage, she became a homemaker for her husband and children. She gave birth to three children: Ruth Ann Nelson-Abbott, Katharine Elaine Nelson and David Arthur Nelson.

She was a life-long member of Brownback's United Church of Christ. She had a beautiful soprano voice and sang in the choir, taught Sunday school, and served as both a Deacon and an Elder. After her children were grown, she devoted her life to volunteer service. She delivered Meals-on-Wheels for 25 years, drove cancer patients to their doctors appointments for 10 years, and worked in the office of Project Outreach for 20 years.

Mrs. Nelson was a member of the Phoenixville Senior Center for 10 years, and was a 50 year member of the Woman's Club of Royersford. Until she suffered a stroke in 2012, Thelma led a very active life. She traveled the world, enjoyed hiking, exercising, swimming, yoga, and loved relaxing in her hammock. In addition to her Church choir, she also sang in several community choirs.

Mrs. Nelson is survived by three children, Dr. Ruth Ann Nelson-Abbott, wife of Hank Abbott of Lovettsville, VA, Katharine Nelson, wife of Charles Pitchford of Royersford, PA, and David, husband of Barbara (Hughes) Nelson of Royersford, PA; nine grandchildren: Dr. Carolyn Hildebeitel of New York, NY, Jessica Dufour of Gettysburg, PA, Julia Summers of Lovettsville, VA, Briana Whyte Harris of Brooklyn, NY, Brittany Whyte of Royersford, PA, Daniel Nelson of Milanville, PA, Patrick Nelson of Royersford, PA, Brigitte Geiss of Royersford, PA, and Gary Stec of Seneca Falls, NY; thirteen great-grandchildren: Jared Feingold of Baltimore, MD, Talia and Daniella Feingold of New York, NY, Kayla Nicholson of Gettysburg, PA, John and Lydia Dufour of Gettysburg, PA, Lillian and Logan Summers of Lovettsville, VA, Annelise, Finnegan, and Addisynn Geiss of Royersford, PA, and Evalyn and Fitzgerald Nelson of Royersford, PA; two great-great grandchildren: John and Milton Nicholson of Gettysburg, PA; sister, Katharine Wheatley of Rochester Hills, MI; three step-grandchildren: Jeff Pitchford of Skippack, PA, Carrie Kehl of Gilbertsville, PA and Greg Pitchford of Royersford, PA; and four step-great-grandchildren: Brynn and Carter Kehl of Gilbertsville, PA and Keira and Hailey Pitchford of Skippack, PA. In addition to her husband and parents, Mrs. Nelson was preceded in death by one brother, Clifford Mowrer.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 12:00 pm, at Brownback's United Church of Christ. Officiating will be the Rev. Ronald Hughes. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Thelma's

name to Brownback's United Church of Christ, 640 Ridge Road, Spring City, PA 19475 or the American Cancer Society, 1818 Market St., Suite 2820, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Arrangements are being handled by the Cattermole - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Royersford. Condolences may be offered online at www.RoyersfordFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall

“Memories from Katharine – Thelma’s sister. (These are my mom’s recollections – when she heard that Thelma had passed away.)

“I haven’t seen my sister Thelma for the last 10 years, and was so sorry to miss her. I really have missed her for such a long time, we haven’t lived that close for many years [60+].

“I always remember the good times we had at the Poconos - We had a lot of good times together there and even had vesper times - I remember we liked to sing those songs like “We are climbing Jacob’s Ladder, and Jesus Loves Me.” I remember those days were wonderful. Then - We had the hurricane. It rained all night, and we had to shovel a ditch around the main house to keep it from flooding – Thelma and I were digging right along with the men. We were in our bathing suits. The next day Thelma and I told the kids that the lake looked like chocolate milk because it flooded so high on the muddy banks. We had to go home by putting planks across a creek because so many roads were washed out.

“In our childhood, I always took care of her because I was older. When I was a teenager I had a part time job with one of the stores that sold clothes in Royersford. Thelma was still in grammar school. I bought myself a reversible red coat – they were all the rage. And Thelma thought it was so wonderful, that I went back and bought her a blue one. She sure liked that coat and wore it many years until she grew out of it.

“But then there was one time she stuck up for me.

“When I got married I wanted to make my own wedding dress, but I didn’t have time because LeRoy was scheduled to go into the army in WW2. So, Mother and Thelma and I went to Philadelphia on the train to look for a red-dy-made dress. I wanted a long dress with a train and a veil – all the trimmings. Mother said, ‘Look, that dress is very beautiful, but it is too much for us to spend, we just can’t do it.’ But I wanted that the kind of dress and begged her to get it , but she

still said no. Finally Thelma said, "Mother , what if I promise to wear that dress when I get married some day?" And then Mother said yes, and , so both of us got married in that same dress.

Later in life Thelma said that she and Don wanted to travel, and she told Don that she would agree to go if Roy and I went along too. So we all agreed to try it. Thelma was sometimes scared of heights, and I would try to talk her into trying things, like the time we when we went to Machu Picchu. Our travels together worked out so well that we took many wonderful trips together."

Katharine Wheatley - February 28, 2021 at 11:46 AM

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“ I remember Aunt Thelma as an always kind, caring woman committed to her family and her church, who contributed so much to the welfare of her community and extended family. Aunt Thelma was the matriarch of the Nelson vacation home on Lake Wallenpaupak where we spent 2 weeks every summer with our cousins and had so much fun! Aunt Thelma packed us all in the car on Sunday to find a church service near the lake home so we could get our visitors buttons to help our attendance record with our home church. She and Uncle Don took us to the drive-in in White Beauty and she planned so many treasure hunts with her sister Katharine for us kids to enjoy at the Poconos. Lakeside Doggie roasts, s'mores, peaches and ice cream, and corn pudding always make me think of Aunt Thelma. Such beautiful, everlasting, childhood memories. Thank you Aunt Thelma!

*With much love,
Your niece, Susan Wheatley*

Susan Wheatley - February 25, 2021 at 12:10 PM



“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



Campbell-Ennis-Klotzbach Funeral Home - February 23, 2021 at 08:00 PM