

Elizabeth Fautleroy Smith Bentien

April 16, 2008

NEWPORT NEWS — Elizabeth Fautleroy Smith Bentien, 95, passed away Sunday, April 13, 2008. She was the widow of William A. Bentien and the last granddaughter of Dr. Humphrey Harwood Curtis and Maria Whitaker Curtis of End View Plantation.

A lifetime resident of the Denbigh area, she was preceded in death by her parents, Benjamin P. Smith, postmaster at Denbigh for many years; her mother, Mary Curtis Smith and a nephew, Dr. Benjamin D. Smith of Colonial Beach, Va.

She graduated from Newport News High School. During her senior year, she was 'Miss Warwick County' at the opening of the original James River Bridge span in Nov. 1928. After graduating from the College of William and Mary, she taught for a number of years in the Warwick County and Newport News School systems.

Mrs. Bentien was a member of Lebanon Christian Church, where she was organist for many years and a member of the Ladies Missionary Society. She was the first president of the Moore House Society CAR, a member and former regent of the Comte de Grasse Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, the Tidewater Regents Club, the Yorktown branch of the APVA and The Peninsula Campaign Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She was Honorary Mayor of Denbigh Day in 2003.

Survivors include her brother, Prentis P. Smith; niece, Nellie Smith Schultz; nephew, James P. Smith and his wife, Armanda, and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

A graveside service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 19, 2008, in Peninsula Memorial Park, officiated by pastor Dennis Worsham. The family will be at the residence from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 18, 2008 .

Memorial contributions may be made to the Building Fund of Lebanon Church, 409 Yorktown Road, Newport News, VA 23603.

Peninsula Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.