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Ruth Hudgins, 101, teacher, music lover

By THE DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE Staff Writer

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Wednesday, April 29, 2009

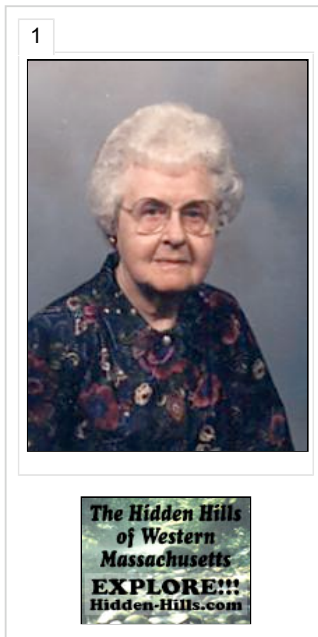
NORTHAMPTON - Ruth F. (Bahr) Hudgins, 101, longtime resident of Northampton, passed away Saturday after a brief illness.

Ruth was born Dec. 24, 1907, in Brooklyn, N.Y. She was the widow of Dr. Clarence V. Hudgins, who died in 1962. She graduated from Oberlin College and received her M.Ed. from Smith College. She started at an early age training to become a classical pianist, which continued throughout her Oberlin College days. Ruth taught nursery school for several years and joined the staff at the Clarke School for the Deaf, teaching in the lower school and later served as director of the heredity of deafness division of the research department. She retired in 1974. After her retirement, she volunteered at Jackson Street School as an ESL tutor.

She was a member of First Church of Christ, UCC in Northampton, served on several church committees and sang in the choir. She was known for her beautiful garden and her love of roses. She was an avid reader and lover of classical music. Ruth recently celebrated her 101st birthday, surrounded by loving family and friends.

She leaves her daughter, Joan Benham of Easthampton; son-in-law, Andrew Paciorek and his wife, Karen, of Northampton; and several grandchildren, Terri Humphrey of Hingham, Tom Benham of Franklin, Scott Paciorek of Avon, Ind., Alan Paciorek of San Francisco, Calif., and Holly Gadoury of Pomfret, Conn. A daughter, Carol Paciorek, predeceased her. She is also survived by nine great-grandchildren.

Calling hours will be May 14 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Ahearn Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at the First Church of Christ on Main Street in Northampton on May 15 at a time to be announced. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make a donation to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts in Hatfield.



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