



Dorothy Crandall Bliss

Academy Fellow Dorothy Bliss, 97, of Lynchburg, died Monday, October 14, 2013. She was the wife of the late Paul Dayton Bliss. Dorothy was born February 20, 1916, in Westerly, Rhode Island, a daughter of the late Frank H. Crandall and the late Alice Arnold Crandall. Dorothy received her Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Dorothy was a member of the faculty of Randolph College (formerly Randolph Macon Women's College) in Lynchburg, Virginia from 1949 to 1983, serving as Assistant Professor, Professor and Department Head for the Biology Department. Upon her retirement she was named Professor Emeritus. In 2008, Randolph College dedicated the Botanic Garden at the college as the Dorothy Crandall Bliss Botanic Garden.

Dorothy was a founding member of Peakland Baptist Church, a member of the Virginia Academy of Science (VAS), the Appalachian Trail Club, the Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS) and the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society (BRWS). She was an active member of the VAS Botany Section serving on the Virginia Flora Committee and was elected as a VAS Fellow. An early supporter of the Foundation of the Flora of Virginia Project (FFVP), she served on the FFVP Flora Advisory Committee. Dorothy was a charter member of BRWS and served as one of the first Botany Chairs of VNPS. While serving as Botany Chair, she organized the VNPS Registry Program which seeks to work with landowners to protect native plants. Dorothy's lifelong interest and passion for education, native plants, and nature was an inspiration to her students, colleagues, and friends. The Randolph College Dorothy Crandall Bliss Botanic Garden and the VNPS Registry Program are part of her living legacy.

She is survived by her stepdaughter, Dorothy Bliss Raines of Franklin, Tenn.; a brother, Frank Crandall of Rhode Island; a sister, Ruth C. Greenhalgh of Florida; seven nieces and nephews, all of Rhode Island; two step-grandchildren, six step great-grandchildren and her husband's niece, Laura Bliss of Westminster Canterbury. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Charles Crandall; and two sisters, Eleanor C. Thayer and Marguerite C. Purnell.