

**Dr. Edwin Garfield Claxton**, 99, Johnson Boulevard, Seminole, Florida and formerly of Ogdensburg, NY, died Monday, November 18, 2002 at the Freedom Square Nursing Home in Seminole, Florida where he had been a patient for the past few months. Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Ogdensburg with Rev. Thomas Patterson and Rev. Robert Spratt, officiating. Burial will be in Ogdensburg Cemetery. Arrangements are with the Lawrence Funeral Home in Canton. Friends may call at the "Ruth Room" of the First Presbyterian Church on Franklin Street in Ogdensburg from 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Friday. This room was made possible through the generosity of Dr. Claxton in memory of his first wife. If friends so desire, contributions maybe made to the Charity of one's choice. Surviving are his wife, Helena Louise (Laidlaw-Livermore) and a sister, Mrs. John (Elaine) Pidgeon, Sun City Center, Florida and one niece. Predeceasing Dr. Claxton are his first wife, Ruth E. Young, who died in 1984; a son, John E. Claxton in 1968; brother, Rev. John W. Claxton and a sister Ruth. Born near Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, March 31, 1903, a son of Eva Nina (Graham) and the Rev. Edwin Claxton, a Wesleyan Methodist minister. He grew up in Winchester, Ontario. As a teen, his leg was crushed by a stone crusher while on a summer highway construction project. He went through extensive rehabilitation before attending Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, where he received his medical degree in 1929. During the summers, while attending college, he worked as a porter at the resorts in Alexandria Bay. Dr. Claxton did his internship at St. John's General, St. Giles Orthopedic Hospital, Children's Hospital and completed his residency at Kings County Hospital, all in Brooklyn. He completed his post-graduate in Obstetrics & Gynecology at Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal as well as at Polyclinic Hospital in New York City. In 1932, he moved to Ogdensburg, where he began his practice of medicine at Hepburn Hospital. He married Ruth E. Young of Montreal in 1935. On December 6, 1985, Dr. Claxton married Helena Louis Laidlaw-Livermore in St. Petersburg, Florida. The couple resided in Seminole, Florida. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War II, rising to the rank of Major. He entered the army in 1942, serving with the field artillery at Camp Livingston. He later served with the 136th Evacuation Hospital at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He studied tropical disease medicine at Walter Reed Medical School in Washington, D.C. He transferred to Rhoads General Hospital in Utica working as an orthopedist and as an internist until he was discharged from the Army. In 1946, he returned to Ogdensburg and was Hepburn Hospital's first Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He was also a founding member of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In 1971, he funded the construction of the emergency department and outpatient services at Hepburn Hospital.. In 1996, he helped fund the new wing at the Folts Home in Herkimer, New York. In 2000, the Board of Directors of Hepburn Medical Center renamed the hospital Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center in his honor after he donated \$7.5 million to the hospital to fund its recent renovation projects. Dr. Claxton established the Ruth Claxton fund for Medical Ethics at Queens University and he had a chapel built in memory of his first wife at the Pasadena Community Church near St. Petersburg. Over the years, he was also a major supporter of United Helpers, the First Presbyterian Church, The Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club; the Frederic Remington Art Museum and helped start the Connection for Women at Hepburn Medical Center. While living in Ogdensburg, Dr. Claxton was a consultant at the St. Lawrence State Hospital. Dr. Claxton was involved with many organizations throughout his life. He was a life member of the American Medical Association and New York State Medical Society; past President of the Bahia Shores Community Association in St. Pete Beach; a Past President and Board Member of the Friends of St. Pete Beach Library; an Elder of the Pasadena Presbyterian Church and a past president and member of the Kiwanis Club in Ogdensburg.