



**Laura Smail (1922 - 2016)**

Obituary

Laura Woolsey Lord Smail CHARLOTTE - Laura Smail, 93, died on May 3, 2016, at the Aldersgate Retirement Community in the company of family and friends.

She was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, on October 31, 1922, grew up in nearby Newton, and attended Smith College, where she majored in History and studied piano. After college, she worked for the Ford Foundation, a position that included a stint in Southeast Asia between 1955 and 1956. She received her M.A. degree in Southeast Asian studies at Cornell University in 1958.

At Cornell, she met a fellow student, John Richard Wharton Smail (d. 2002), and they married in Ithaca, New York, on August 2, 1958. Following a two-year stay in Indonesia, she and her husband and two young children moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where, in 1962, Laura's husband took a position as a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin. In addition to raising her children, Laura worked as an editor at the University of Wisconsin Press and later at the university's Oral History Project. She took up painting during the family's year-long visit to Canberra, Australia (1971-72), and her pastels, many of them featuring rural Wisconsin scenes, received several awards.

She lived in Madison until 2010, when she moved to Charlotte, North Carolina.

Laura is survived by her sons, John and Daniel; their spouses, Tina Wright and Kathleen Smail; and five grandchildren. Please join us for a memorial service at Aldersgate Retirement Community on May 22, at 2pm. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to local charities that were important to her, including the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte and the North Carolina Raptor Center.

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<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/laura-smail-obituary?pid=179891866>