

Death claims Mrs. O. C. Tuner, 103, Class of 1912; oldest living alumna

Mary Wiggins Turner, 103, the oldest living graduate of Chowan College and a former director of the Chowan Alumni Association, died early Friday, February 17.

Mrs. Turner was born in Gates County and died at her "Sunnyside Manor" home on Route 1 after a long battle with congestive heart failure and kidney problems.

The daughter of the late William Samuel and Mrs. Sarah Cordelia Carter Wiggins, she was the wife of the late O. C. Turner, Sr. She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Mary Miller Turner, and her son, Ensign O. C. Turner, Jr.

After graduation from S. L. Sheep Private School in Elizabeth City in 1906, she enrolled in Chowan College which was known then as the Chowan Baptist Female Institute.

After studying to become a teacher as well as art and china painting, Mrs. Turner graduated with the Class of 1912. She taught at Carter's Crossroads in Hobbsville and later in the Wiggins Hill community in Gates County.

She operated a hardware and implement business with her husband and served as postmistress until his death in 1933. She then operated the farms left by her father and husband and continued active management until 1952.

A member of Gatesville Baptist Church where her funeral was held, she had taught Sunday School for 26 years. She was a charter and life member of Gates County Chapter No. 335, the Order of the Eastern Star.

Mrs. Turner was instrumental in the re-opening of Chowan College after it had closed during World War II. She served as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1951 to 1955.

Kevin Clary, director of alumni services,

said Mrs. Turner "has meant a lot to Chowan College."

Clary continued by saying that "her dream was for Chowan to return to four-year status."

In an interview in 1990, she said "I hope I live long enough to see my dear Chowan College return to be a four-year institution once again."

"We are so very pleased that she was present for the 1994 graduation exercises when baccalaureate degrees were awarded for the first time in 57 years. During the ceremonies she was presented a dozen red roses which was the custom at Chowan in 1912 when she received her degree," Clary continued.

Surviving are three nieces, Elizabeth R. Twin of Hobbsville, Sarah Baumgardner of Camp Springs, Md., and Susan Kosch of Indianapolis, Ind.; two nephews, William S. Wiggins, Jr., of Hobbsville, and Loring Jeff Wiggins of Richmond, Va.; six great-nieces, Olivia Winslow Mundle of Hobbsville, Lucille Twine Stephens of Tyner, Tracy Wiggins of Richmond, Christine Smith of Indianapolis, Iva Rose Rountree Miller of Clinton, and Donna Rountree Melvin of White Oak, N. C.

Mrs. Turner was also survived by ten great-nephews: Walter D. "Buck" Tatem and Graham Lewis Twine, Jr., both of Hobbsville, Elton Winslow of Gatesville, Elmer T. Johnston, Jr., of the home, William S. Wiggins, III of Florida, Robert M. Wiggins of Tyner, Kenneth Wiggins of Elizabeth city, Loring Wiggins of Richmond, Derek Smith of Indianapolis and Walter DeWitt Rountree of St. Pauls, N. C., and seven great-great-nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held in Gatesville Baptist Church by the Rev. Ric Durham, the Rev. Gene Asbill and Dr. Jerry F. Jackson, president of Chowan College. Interment was in the Turner family cemetery.

Mrs. Turner requested prior to her death that in lieu of flowers memorial contributions be made to Gatesville Baptist Church, Chowan College, Roanoke-Chowan Hospice, or the Gates County Rescue Squad.

"Group of Four" exhibit art in Green Hall Gallery

An exhibit of four area artists featuring photographs, paintings and drawings was on exhibit in the Green Hall Gallery during the month of February.

The "Group of Four" included Tom Brennan, chairman of the Department of Printing Production and Imaging Technology; Molly Eubank, a local artist; Everett Adelman, a North Carolina painter; and Blake Praytor, of South Carolina.

Brennan, who lives in Sunbeam, VA, is exhibited his photographs of eccentric and personal viewpoints which were taken in Europe and various places of the United States. All of his black-and-white work was made with an old \$1.50 "Diana" camera.

Eubank's work included acrylic, pencil, color pencil and ink. The pieces were a combination of drawings and painting of local area landscapes as well as solitary still life groupings.

The paintings created with extruded acrylic by Adelman were post-modernist images and a cross between the Greco-Roman era and cutting-edge technology.

Praytor's photographic work was intimate and personal minimalist but social and political at times.

Staying in touch

Alumni Happenings

Betty Ann Holloman and Loren Douglas Beard will be married on August 5. They plan to reside in Franklin, VA, where they are both associated with Franklin Equipment Company.

Jessica Ruth Kiser ('95) and Lt. Jason Chad Drake ('92) were married on Dec. 28, 1994, in historic St. Luke's Church in Smithfield, VA. The couple will reside in Woodbridge, VA.

Jeannie Jenkins Kind ('78), and her husband, Bob, have moved from Avon, CT, to Seattle, WA, where he was transferred with Unisource, a subsidiary of Alco Standard. The couple now has three children.

Kenneth D. Wright ('70) is president of Wright Government Relations Group, Inc., a Raleigh lobbying firm formed in 1994.

Ann Kellam Lawson ('81) is a public health nurse at Accomack County Health Department, where she has been employed for the past eight years. She is the mother of a son, Robert, who is four years old.

Patricia A. Etheridge ('64) received her BA degree, magna cum laude, from Salem College, Winston-Salem, in August 1988. She was awarded a MA in Liberal Studies from Wake Forest University in May 1994 and is now employed as a legal assistant for private law firms in Winston-Salem.

Betsy Cadle DePaul ('57) continues to be associated with AMG Resources Corporation as an office assistant. She and her husband, who is also with AMG Resources, have three children who are all now married, and she also has three step-grandchildren. Her mother, Lois Cadle, who worked in Whitaker Library for a number of years, lives in Birmingham, AL.

Anne N. Hogewood ('85) and her husband have a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth, born on April 17, 1994.

Paige Myers ('88) entered the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, on January 4, 1995, to pursue graduate studies in museum curatorship. Her emphasis will be on the conservation and preservation of textiles and fibers as it relates to clothing artifacts.

Laura Sykes Edge ('83) has been married for nine and one-half years and has a daughter, Kristina, 4 years old, and an 18 year old stepson. She is employed by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company as a sales manager.

Bobby Hunter Ross, Jr., died on November 3, 1994, of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Susan, a son, Andy, and a daughter, Sarah, of Durham. Prior to his illness, Bob was employed for 17 years by Cavin's Inc., in Durham and Raleigh as manager of the Copy Products Division.

Gerald Vance Hilton ('67) is a resident engineer with the North Carolina Department of Transportation in Salisbury. He has been employed with the department for 28 years.

Bennie E. Hudson ('76) is employed at Duke University Federal Credit Union as Vice President and Operations Manager. He has a son, Benjamin E. Hudson, II, who is fourteen years old.

Kenneth D. Lyons ('85) won first place honors in general news photography in the annual Virginia Press Association competition. Lyons, who is associated with *The Newport News Daily Press*, also won "Best in Show" for his photo of an Army paratrooper landing.

Witnessed her dream come true when her alma mater returned to four year status in 1994

Mrs. Turner is pictured as she observed the 1994 graduation exercises when she was a special guest.

