

Obituaries

Claudia Thorsen

Claudia Clark Thorsen, 42, of 100 S. Bear Creek Road, Marshall, died March 15 in an Asheville hospital.

A native of Kalamazoo, Mich., she had lived in Madison County for the past 15 years. She was an employee of Mary's Restaurant.

Surviving are her husband, Jon C. Thorsen; a son, Jon F. Thorsen of U.S. Naval Air Station, Glenview, Ill.; two daughters, Lisa Sluder of Weaverville and Erika Thorsen of the home; her mother, Crystal Clark of Phoenix, Ariz.; a brother, Mark Clark of Kalamazoo; two sisters, Kathy Campbell of Portage, Mich. and Marlene Boff of Kalamazoo; and, a grandchild.

Services were held Friday in the chapel of Bowman Funeral Home. The Rev. Jennis Sluder officiated.

Belle West

Belle Wilson West, 94, of 465 Bend of Ivy Road, Marshall, died March 17 in a Madison County rest home.

A native of Yancey County, she had lived in Madison County for most of her life. She was a daughter of the late David and Louduska Maney Wilson and the wife of Robert Garfield West, who died in 1959. She was a member of Laurel Branch Baptist Church.

Surviving are two daughters, Polly W. Book of Alexander and Betty W. Sams of Marshall; two sons, Solon West of Marshall and Robel West of Mars Hill; a brother, Gudger Wilson of Alexander; a sister, Estie Wilson of Asheville; 27 grandchildren; and, several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Services were held Friday in the chapel of Bowman Funeral Home. The Rev. Tommy Lipe officiated. Burial was in Bailey Cemetery.

Ada Franklin

Ada Mace Franklin, 88, of Bruce Road, Mars Hill, died March 18 in an Asheville hospital.

A lifelong resident of Madison County, she was a member of Peek's Chapel Baptist Church. She was the daughter of the late Gaither and Betty Mace.

Surviving are her husband, Grant Franklin; two daughters, Mildred Proffitt and Eula Wheeler of Mars Hill; two sons, McKinley Franklin of Morganton and Taylor Franklin of Mars Hill; 15 grandchildren; and, 16 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Friday in Little Ivy Baptist Church. The Revs. Joe Honeycutt and Troy Rogers officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Floyd Ledford

Floyd E. Ledford, 87, of Port Huron, Mich., died March 16.

A native of Madison County, he was a son of the late James and Matilda Ledford.

He is survived by his wife, Wilma Ledford; a son, Edward Ledford; a daughter, Marjorie Ange; six grandchildren; and, two great-grandchildren.

Services were held Thursday at Jowett Funeral Home. Burial was in Riverlawn Cemetery, Marysville, Mich.

Clarence Wilson Jr.

Clarence Wilson Jr., 42, of Lawrenceville, Ga., formerly of Marshall, died March 18 at his residence.

A native of Madison County, he had lived in Georgia for the past six years. He was a son of Pauline Tyson Wilson of Marshall and the late Clarence Wilson Sr. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Surviving, in addition to his mother, are two sisters, Shirley W. Payne of Barnardsville and Lillian W. Peek of Marshall; and, two brothers, Jackie Wilson of Stuttgart, Germany, and Kenneth Cody of Akron, Ohio.

Services were held Saturday in the chapel of Bowman Funeral Home. Burial was in Rector Chapel Cemetery.

Mack Tipton

Mack Tipton, 84, of 51 Ballard Branch Road, Weaverville, died last Thursday in an Asheville hospital.

A native of Yancey County, he had lived in Buncombe County for the past 30 years. He was a retired farmer and formerly served in the Merchant Marines. He was the son of the late Crale and Minnie Tipton.

Surviving are his wife, Iris Fisher Tipton; a daughter, Barbara Gwaltney of Weaverville; three sons, Robert Tipton of White Oak, Roy and Randall Tipton of Weaverville; a sister, Allie Higgins of Apopka, Fla.; and, four grandchildren.

Graveside services were held Saturday in Ashelawn Gardens of Memory. The Rev. Jack Johnson officiated.

Samuel Gordon

Samuel Paul Gordon, infant son of Chris and Kay Cherry Gordon of Upward Road, Hendersonville, died March 18 in a Hendersonville hospital.

Surviving, in addition to the parents, are a sister, Sarah Christen Gordon of the home; the maternal grandparents, John E. Cherry Sr. of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Doris LaGette Bradley of Weaverville; the paternal grandparents, Paul and Frances Gordon of Saluda; the paternal great-grandparents, George and Gertrude Corn Jordan of Hendersonville; and, the maternal great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gordon of Saluda.

Graveside services were held Friday in Shepherd Memorial Park. Elder Ralph Hollenbeck officiated.

Sam Roy Bryant

Sam Roy Bryant, 66, of 551 Halewood Road, Marshall, died last Thursday in an Asheville hospital.

A lifelong resident of Madison County, he was a son of the late Braskia and Ellis Blankenship Bryant. He was an Army veteran of World War II and a member of VFW Post No. 891 and Disabled American Veterans No. 2.

Surviving are his wife, Grace Walker Bryant; a daughter, Wildean Buckner of Leicester; two sons, Gary Bryant of Enka and James Bryant of Leicester; a stepdaughter, Linda Cutshall of Marshall; four stepsons, James, Edward and Donald Pressley, all of Enka, and Ronald Pressley of West Palm Beach, Fla.; a foster son, Jerry Quinn of Asheville; two foster daughters, Ina Quinn of Asheville and Judy Quinn of Indiana; two brothers, Ralph and Carl Bryant of Marshall; a sister, Ernie Edmonds of Mars Hill; 22 grandchildren; and, a great-great-grandchild.

Services were held Saturday in Grapevine Baptist Church. The Rev. Joe Rice officiated. Burial was in Bryant Family Cemetery.

Ola Snelson

Ola Snelson of 175 Mason St., Greeneville, Tenn., died March 14 at a Tennessee hospital.

She had retired from Sam Moore after 25 years of service. She was the wife of the late Clyde Snelson.

Surviving are four sons, Glenn Snelson of Bulls Gap, Tenn., Arthur Snelson of Nokomis, Fla., Billy Snelson of Charlotte and Rex Snelson of Greeneville; one daughter, Berlin (Iray) Wilburn of Greeneville; two sisters, Pearl Dunbar and Ollie Hagood of Knoxville, Tenn.; three brothers, Austin Cook of Greeneville, Elmer Cook of Knoxville and Milburn Cook of Concord; 17 grandchildren; and, eight great-grandchildren.

Services were held March 16 at Doughty-Stevens Chapel. The Rev. Glen Daugherty officiated. Burial was at Greenlawn Memory Gardens.

Mallie Reeves

Mallie Cordell Reeves, 91, of Route 2, Leicester, died last Thursday in an Asheville hospital.

A native of Madison County, he had lived in Buncombe County for the past 10 years. He was a retired farmer and an Army veteran of World War I. He was the son of the late Elbert and Ella Harbin Reeves.

Surviving is a sister, Carrie Reeves of Candler.

Graveside services were held Sunday in Little Sandy Mush Cemetery. The Rev. Larry Melton officiated.

Joseph Bolinski

Joseph John Bolinski, 59, of 141 Hayes Run Road, Marshall, died last Thursday at his residence.

He was a native of Philadelphia, Pa., and had lived in Madison County for six months. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Alice Knetter Bolinski; a son, Peter Bolinski of

Marshall; two daughters, Judith and Irene Bolinski of Marshall; and, a brother, John Gurczynski of Philadelphia.

Services were held Monday in Mars Hill Methodist Church. Father Frank Reece officiated. Burial was in National Cemetery in Salisbury.

Pearl Stamey

Pearl Hazel Stamey, 69, of Route 1 Candler, died last Thursday in an Asheville hospital.

A native of Madison County, she was a daughter of the late John and Maggie Moore Worley.

Surviving are her husband, Thomas H. Stamey; a son, Kenneth Ray Brown of Candler; a daughter, Zelma Mae Waldroup of Hot Springs; a brother, Henry Worley of Leicester; a sister, Venrie Allison of Hot Springs; five grandchildren; and, four great-grandchildren.

Services were held Sunday in Liberty Baptist Church. The Revs. Floyd Watts and Bill Gillespie officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

William English

William Kye English, 59, of Route 3 Mars Hill, died Saturday in an Asheville hospital.

A lifelong resident of Madison

County, was a sales representative for Home Beneficial Life Insurance Co. He was a member of the Principle Quartet and was the son of Myrtle Fox English of Mars Hill and the late Ed English.

Surviving, in addition to the mother, are his wife, Linda Shelton English; a daughter, Sharon Marlene Jenkins of Mars Hill; a son, Allen English of Weaverville; and, a grandchild.

Services were held Monday in Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, where he was a member. The Revs. Furman Deal and J.D. Deyton officiated. Burial was in Upper Laurel Cemetery.

Nannie Hunter

Nannie Ball Hunter, 83, of Route 6, Walnut Creek Road, Marshall, died Friday at her residence.

A lifelong resident of Madison County, she was a daughter of the late Melvin and Maggie Waldrop Ball and wife of the late Burns Hunter.

Surviving are four daughters, Ruby Ball and Genell Lewis, both of Marshall, Lucille Deal of Knoxville, Tenn., and Dorothy Warren of Enka; four sons, Melvin Hunter of Asheville, and Clarence, Wade and Leonard Hunter of Marshall; a sister, Ella Rice of Marshall; 19 grandchildren; and, nine great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday in Walnut Creek Baptist Church, of which she was a member. The Revs. Edward Hoyle and John Goforth officiated. Burial was in Ball-Hunter Cemetery.

David S. Gillis

David S. Gillis, 60, of Dulla Spring Road, Weaverville, died Friday in an Asheville nursing home.

A native of Haywood County and a Buncombe County resident most of his life, he was a World War II Army veteran. He was a son of the late Robert L. and Sue Haney Gillis.

Surviving are two sons, D.L. Gillis of Nebo and Jerry Gillis of Newport, Tenn.; two sisters, Jenny Reiseg and Eva Hayes of Asheville; two brothers, Roy Gillis of Asheville and Paul Gillis of Barnardsville; a half brother, Clyde Gillis of Candler; and, two grandchildren.

Services were held Monday in the chapel of West Funeral Home. The Revs. Joe Rice and James Rice officiated. Burial was in Clark's Chapel Church cemetery.

Frances Rector

Frances Morrow Rector, 90, of Sumter, S.C., died Saturday in Sumter.

A native of Bryson City, she had liv-

ed most of her life in Madison County. She was the wife of Willard C. Rector Sr., who died in 1974, and the daughter of the late Amelia Lipscomb and Charles James Morrow.

Surviving are a daughter, Amelia Rector Mathis of Sumter; three grandchildren; and, a great-great-grandchild.

Services were held Tuesday in Marshall Presbyterian Church, where she was a member, organist, vocalist and Sunday school teacher. The Revs. George Moore and Drayton Cooper officiated. Burial was in Rector's Chapel Cemetery.

Ernest D. Ferguson

Ernest D. Ferguson, 86, of 123 Chestnut St., Mars Hill, died Monday in an Asheville hospital.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Capps Funeral Home.

Card Of Thanks

Words can not say what we really feel, for all the love and kindness you all have shown, for all the gifts you have given and time you all have spent helping us. God bless each of you. We love all of you.

Woodrow and Belvia Bishop



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