

# OBITUARIES

**RAY HORNE**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Ray Horne, 61, 117 McGinnis Street, died Wednesday, March 15, 2000 at his home.



A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late George Guy and Mildred Ware Horne. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Kay Horne Smith. He attended Resurrection Lutheran Church and was self-employed.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Cobb Horne of Kings Mountain; sons, Bobby Horne and wife, Sharon, and Kenny Horne and wife, Paulette, of Kings Mountain; daughter, Dana McCarter and husband, Terry, of St. Louis, MO; six grandchildren, Lauren Horne, Lindsay Horne, Savannah Horne, Brianna McCarter, Brad Myers and Taylor Myers; and one great-grandchild, Lexy Myers.

The funeral was conducted by the Revs. John Futterer and Terry Bird at 11 a.m. Saturday at Ollie Harris Memorial Chapel. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, NC 28150 or Resurrection Lutheran Church, 600 Crescent Circle, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**HELEN WEATHERS**  
SHELBY- Helen Jones Weathers, 90, 1285 Spurlin Street, died March 20, 2000 at Hospice of Wendenover.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Dock and Sally Ponder Jones and the wife of the late Paul Weathers. She was also preceded in death by her brothers Love Jones, Dr. Clyde Jones, Herschel Jones and sister Christine Hilton. She was a homemaker and a member of Ross Grove Baptist Church where she was a lifetime member and member of the Mother's Sunday School Class.

She is survived by her son and daughter in law Donald and Margaret Weathers of Shelby; daughter Betty Howland of Shelby; sister Margaret Goodman of Shelby; grandchildren Jeffrey Weathers of Myrtle Beach and Brenda Cook and her husband James of Casar; great granddaughters Shelley Bundy of Casar; step great grandchildren Wade and Nathan Cook.

The funeral was conducted Wednesday at Ross Grove Baptist Church by the Rev. Gene Daggenghart. Burial was in Ross Grove Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Ross Grove Baptist Church, 1225 Fallston Road, Shelby 28150, or Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby 28150.

Clay Barnette Funeral Home served the family.

**EVELYN GRAHAM**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN- Evelyn Lucille Welch Graham, 70, 716 Sipes Street, died March 14, 2000 at White Oak Manor, Kings Mountain.

A native of Gaston County, she was the daughter of the late Richard and Eula Mae Hamby Welch and the wife of the late Hugh Clinton Graham. She was also preceded in death by her brothers Harold and Jimmy Welch. She was a 20 year worker at Goody-Goody Barbecue and also worked in Home Health Care. She was a member of Cherokee Street Baptist Church.

She is survived by her son and daughter in law David Eugene and Kathy Graham of Kings Mountain; son Timothy James Graham of Grover; daughters Kathy Graham of Kings Mountain, and Teresa Mae Ruiz of Brandon, Florida; brothers Charles L. and Junia R. Welch of Kings Mountain; brother and sister in law Billy Ray and Angeline Welch of Bessemer City; sister Joyce Green of Kings Mountain; also four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

The graveside service was held Friday at 3 p.m. at Mountain Rest Cemetery. The Revs. George Leigh and Herman Green officiated. Pallbearers were Johnny Alley, Ricky Alley, Chad Byrd, John Byrd, Michael Carter, and Kelly Welch.

Memorials may be made to Cherokee Street Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, 28086, phone 704-739-7697.

Greene Funeral Service handled the arrangements.

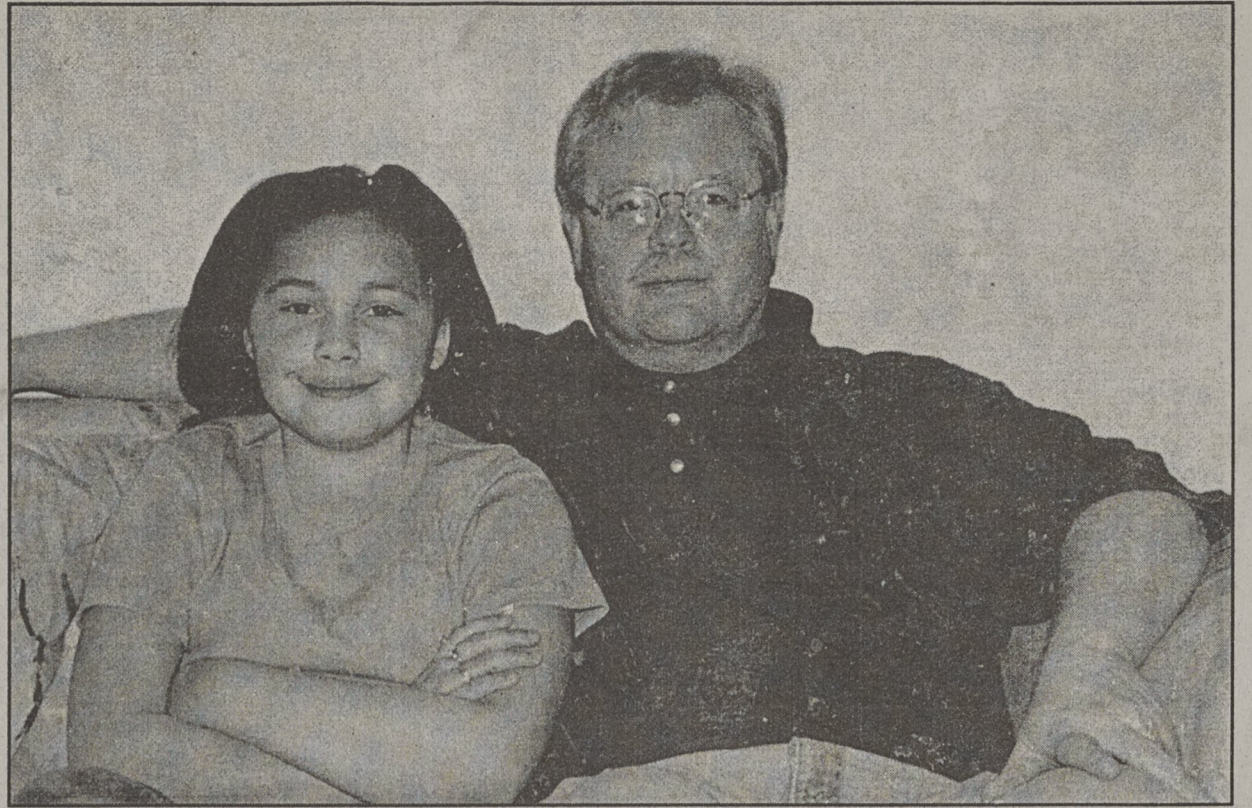
**CHARLES DYLAN BOLIN**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN- Charles Dylan Bolin, 4 days, 405 York Road, died Saturday, March 18, 2000 at Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte.

He was a native of Gaston County.

He is survived by his mother, Melissa Elaine Bolin of Kings Mountain; father, Heath Hallberg of Sac City, IA; brother, William Timothy Luke West of Kings Mountain; sister, Stacie Michelle Bridges of Kings Mountain and Carmen Annette Heffernan and Shannon Elizabeth Heffernan of Virginia Beach, VA; maternal grandmother, Annette Chen of Kings Mountain; maternal grandfather, Randy Reid Bolin of Clover, SC; maternal great-grandparents, Colleen and Ed Philbeck of Kings Mountain; paternal grandparents, Roger and Sandra Hallberg of Sac City, IA; paternal great-grandmother, Marge Veerhusen of Sac City, IA; and numerous uncles and aunts.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Darrell Alexander and Timothy Whitaker at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Kings Lighthouse Worship Center. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



Kings Mountain's Brittany Houser, left, gave Charlotte writer Charlie Lawing the inspiration for Harvard workshop presentation on the Mixed Race Experience.

## A Loving Tribute

KM girl's research on mixed marriage inspired Harvard presentation

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

A Charlotte man who will make a presentation at a national mixed race experience conference at Harvard University April 14-16 credits an 11-year-old Kings Mountain girl for giving him the inspiration.

Charlie Lawing, a 43-year-old writer and UNC Charlotte student, will speak at the Pan Collegiate Conference on The Mixed Race Experience on the story of Mildred and Richard Loving of Virginia, whose mixed marriage of 1958 led to the Supreme Court ruling that laws forbidding mixed marriage are unconstitutional.

Lawing, who is white, and his wife, Clare, who is black, can relate to the Lovings even though their marriage in 1997 came years after the 1967 Supreme Court ruling.

The Lovings can also relate to Kings Mountain's Leslie Houser and her 11-year-old daughter, Brittany. Brittany, whose father is black, became interested in the Lovings after seeing their story in a TV movie two years ago and it was her persistence that led to Mrs. Loving relating her experiences to the Housers and the Lovings.

Mildred Loving, who was 18 at the time, had no idea mixed couples were not allowed to live in Virginia when she and Richard married in Washington, DC in 1958. As soon as they returned home, they were arrested and jailed. Eventually, they were given suspended sentences provided they left Virginia for 25 years.

When their story reached Senator Bobby Kennedy the wheels of justice were put into motion and the law was eventually changed.

Richard Loving died in an automobile accident in 1975, shortly after the couple built a new home in their old neighborhood. Mrs. Loving all but went into seclusion, not seeking publicity nor wanting any notoriety for her part in the history-making decision.

When Brittany Houser saw the movie, her immediate response was to go to Virginia and interview Mrs. Loving for a school report. Although Mrs. Loving normally does not tell her story, she told it to Brittany because she didn't feel threatened by the young girl and, in a way, related to her. They formed a lasting friendship and Brittany now calls her "Grandmother."

Because of their interest in the Lovings through the Supreme Court case, the Lawings struck up a friendship with the Housers after reading of Brittany's visit with Mrs. Loving in local newspapers.

"I was struck by the notion that someone so young would make such an effort to try to meet somebody like this," Lawing said. "Brittany reminded me a bit of myself when I was a kid. I had the same attitude that if you believe in something, go after it."

When Lawing was contacted about doing the

workshop at Harvard, he knew the perfect topic: Mildred Loving. With the help of the Housers, a meeting was arranged.

"All the people who will be attending this workshop could not be legally married if it were not for what Mr. and Mrs. Loving went through," Lawing noted. "I decided if it would be possible to meet Mrs. Loving - or just to go with Leslie and Brittany up there to see the area where she grew up and see the jail where they were put - it would give me a feeling for what I would be talking about."

Like the Housers, the Lawings found a lasting friend, too.

"It was just a wonderful experience," Lawing said. "There is no pretension about Mrs. Loving. She has no interest in seeking the limelight. She doesn't feel like a Civil Rights hero at all. The only thing she sought was to live married in the state of Virginia. When she finally got that she was satisfied."

"After Richard died life sort of stopped for Mildred," he continued. "She loved him so much. But she really has the strength of a lot of good family and friends. She is reluctant to make herself very visible and very public, but she has an easy and quick friendship that she established with Leslie and Brittany because of what she went through in 1958 and in the early sixties."

Lawing's workshop topic, "Thank You: A Personal Tribute to Richard and Mildred Loving," will touch on the history of the old race laws, but also on love, the Lovings' legacy, and how it has touched the lives of other mixed couples and children, including Brittany Houser, who will be in attendance.

"It's also about the illusion of race and how people trap their own ideas looking at racial categories other than individual human beings," he said. "I owe a huge debt to Brittany and Leslie for sharing their experiences with me, and trusting my wife and me and for taking us into their family the same way Mildred Loving trusted them. We all think of ourselves as sisters and brothers now."

Lawing said children of mixed marriages face a lot of difficulties and prejudices growing up, but like Brittany Houser they can turn all of those problems into positives.

"Even though society may not 100 percent accept these marriages and children of these marriages, in its own way it strengthens children," he said. "They learn that people have to be effective by what they are and how they behave, not how they look. I suppose when it comes down to it, that is the thing that has drawn my wife and me to Leslie and Brittany. I believe that they are models of behavior. You can see that they are the type of people that really judge people on what a person is like, not how a person looks or how a person talks or dresses. I have no doubt in my mind that Brittany Houser will do something that makes a real strong contribution to society. In fact, she already has."

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