

# OBITUARIES

**ETHEL PETERSON**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Ethel Noblitt Peterson, 86, 810 Rhodes Avenue, died August 19, 2000 at Kings Mountain Hospital.

A native of Gaston County, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Maggie Kiser Noblitt and wife of the late R.A. "Pete" Peterson. She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Mary Helen Peterson, and brothers, Russ Noblitt and Floyd Noblitt.

She was a member of Grace United Methodist Church, and was a homemaker.

She is survived by her daughter, Beth Smith and husband Bert of Spring, TX; brother, Gene Noblitt of Newton; loved like a son, Charlie Noblitt and wife Catherine of Asheville; nieces, Mildred Russell of Kings Mountain Margaret Sigmon of Stanley, and Geneva Hunter and Joann Barringer of Bessemer City; nephew, Bob Noblitt of Bessemer City; five grandchildren, Brenda Koinis and husband Steve of Spring, TX, Brad Smith and wife Cara of Louisville, KY, Rebekah Nanfria and husband Michael of Chicago, IL, Caroline Ackinson and husband Colin of Efland, and Suzanne Buesing and husband Leslie of Hillsborough; and five great-grandchildren, Elizabeth, Tony, Taylor, Madeline and Katie.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Dale Swofford at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Grace United Methodist Church. A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. at Sunset Cemetery, Shelby.

Memorials may be made to Grace United Methodist Church Children's Ministry, 830 Church Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**BOBBY KEZIAH**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Bobby Keziah, 58, 812 West Mountain Street, died August 19, 2000 in Charlotte.

A native of Union County, he was the son of the late John Howard Keziah. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Thomas Keziah. He was retired from Southern Flooring and Acousticals in Charlotte.

He is survived by his wife, Melynda Deanna Askew Keziah of Kings Mountain; sons, Jeff Keziah and wife Janice of Charlotte; mother, Cimilee Deese Keziah of Monroe; brother, Eddie Keziah of Monroe; sister, Loretta Brown of Mt. Holly; grandchildren, Joshua and James Keziah; god-daughter, Tammy Robinson of Gastonia; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Robert Peurifoy at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Hill Harris Memorial Chapel. Burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Charlotte.

Memorials may be made to Harris Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

**J. WILEY BLANTON**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - James Wiley Blanton, 91, lifelong resident of Kings Mountain, died Monday, August 21, 2000 at Hospice at Wendover, Shelby.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Clarence and Ellen Lovelace Blanton. He was the husband of the late Aquilla Bell Blanton, Jay Thornburg Steele Blanton, and Lizzie Lovelace Watterson Blanton.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Harold Blanton; grandson, Tim Blanton; brothers, Colin Blanton, Edmund Blanton, and Johnny Patterson; and sister, Veola White.

He was a member of First Baptist Church and was retired from the U.S. Postal Service.

He is survived by his sons, Rev. Demouth Blanton and wife Beatrice of Union, SC and Howard Blanton and wife Lois of Kings Mountain; stepson, Bill Watterson and wife Hazel of Kings Mountain; daughter-in-law, Dixie Blanton of Kings Mountain; stepdaughters, Melba Boyles of Kings Mountain, Eloise Spiegelmeier of Connecticut, and Judy Woody and husband John of Durham; sister, Dot Weaver and husband Fred of Kings Mountain; 17 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be conducted by Dr. John Sloan and the Rev. Ron Caulder at 2 p.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church. Interment will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 786, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**JUNE HOULDITCH**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - June Houlditch, 80, of Woodbridge, died Monday, August 21, 2000 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A native of Washington, DC, she was the daughter of the late J. Rowe Mehlfelt and Irma Thomas Mehlfelt. She was also predeceased by her husband, Sam Houlditch.

She worked at the Pentagon during World War II, serving as secretary to the newly formed Joint Chiefs of Staff Intelligence Committee.

She moved to Shelby in 1971. She was instrumental in forming the Reach to Recovery program of the American Cancer Society. She was honored with the Terese Laesser and Sword of Hope Awards for her extensive volunteer work for breast cancer survivors.

Other volunteer honors included the Governor's Award and Golden Rule Award.

She was an active member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, where she served as a lay speaker, Sunday School teacher, Stephen minister and Board member.

She is survived by her son, George Sam Houlditch III and wife Gina of Gainesville, GA; son, Jim Houlditch and wife Deborah and daughter Dorothy Houlditch, all of Cleveland County; six grandchildren, Emily, Perry, Chris and Jonathan Houlditch, and Sarah and Kaitlin Houlditch-Fair.

The funeral was conducted by Dr. Delores Queen at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Entombment was at Cleveland Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1207 W. Dixon Dr., Shelby, NC or to the American Cancer Society, Reach to Recovery Program, 500 E. Morehead St. Suite 211, Charlotte, NC 28202.

**THOMAS KEETER**  
GROVER - Thomas Leard "Tommy" Keeter, 64, 101 Ellis Dr., died August 16, 2000 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Marie Roberts Keeter. He was a member of First Baptist Church, Grover, where he served as the Sunday School superintendent, Sunday School teacher, Deacon, Usher, and on various committees. He was a graduate of Appalachian State University. He was a former Grover city councilman and a member of the Grover Library Committee. He taught school in the Charlotte Mecklenburg school system. He later returned to Grover and joined his father T.T. Keeter in managing Keeter Furniture Store.

He is survived by his wife Suzanne Logan Keeter of Grover; sons Chris Keeter and wife Donna of Kings Mountain, Leard Keeter and wife Wendy of Kings Mountain, and Steve Keeter and wife Kim of Grover; daughter Angela Keeter Killian of Grover; father T.T. Keeter of Grover; grandchildren Logan Keeter, Kala Buchanan, Maddison Keeter, Landon Keeter, Graham Keeter, Kelsey Keeter, Garrett Keeter, Gabby Keeter, and Michael Thomas Killian.

The funeral was conducted Saturday at First Baptist Church, Grover, at 11 a.m. by Dr. Tony Fulbright, Dr. Paul Sorrells, and Rev. John Bridges. Burial was in Grover Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, 403 Cleveland Avenue, Grover, N.C. or Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Road, Shelby, 28150.

Harris Funeral Home served the family.

**ISAAC A. MCGILL**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Isaac A. McGill, 91, 310 St. Luke's Church Road, died Friday, August 18, 2000 at his home.

A native of Kings Mountain, he was the son of the late Isaac A. and Mary Fulton McGill. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Edna Grant McGill; three brothers, Jim, George and Will McGill; and six sisters, Kathleen Plonk, Pratt Spake, Mildred Ruple, Laura Wolfe, Gussie McGill, and Edna McGill.

He was a farmer and a member of First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his brothers, Raymond McGill of Jacksonville, FL, and Leland McGill of Raleigh.

The funeral was conducted by Dr. John Sloan at 11 a.m. Monday at First Baptist Church. Burial was in Bethel Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, NC 28150 or First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 786, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**LORENE HOPPER**  
SHELBY - Lorene Dyer Hopper, 73, 2348 S. Post Road, died August 18, 2000 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A native of Habersham County, Georgia, she was the daughter of the late Lawrence Dyer, Sr. and Leo Wade Dyer. She was also preceded in death by son Gary Roland Hopper and brother Lawrence Dyer Jr. She was a retired assembly worker at FASCO Ind. and was a charter member of Morning Star Baptist Church. She and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 11.

She is survived by her husband William Connie Hopper; sons Randy Scott Hopper and wife Freida of Grover, and Dale Eugene Hopper and wife Julie

of the home; daughters Kaye H. Nations Lemmons and husband Richard of Shelby, and Judy Arlane H. Gantt and husband Roger of Jacksonville, North Carolina; brothers Leroy Dyer and wife Mary, Lester Dyer and wife Jo, Arthur Dyer and wife Beatrice all of Shelby, Fred Dyer and wife Jo of Kings Mountain, Richard Dyer and wife Katherine, Dean and wife Linda, Frank and wife Nancy, Johnny Dyer all of Forest City, Jim Dyer and wife Carrie of Gastonia; sister Ruth D. Beatty and husband Hugh of Forest City; stepmother Annie Mae Roberson of Forest City; also 11 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted Sunday at 3 p.m. at Morning Star Baptist Church by the Rev. Ron Leslie. Burial was in New Hope Baptist Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Rd. Shelby, 28150.

Cecil M. Burton Funeral Home served the family.

**JAMES PETERSON**  
SHELBY - James P. Peterson, 81, 2004 Pleasant Hill Church Road, died August 22, 2000 at Hospice of Cleveland County.

A native of Cherokee County, S.C., he was the son of the late James Robert Peterson and Susan Matilda Wilson Peterson. He was also preceded in death by his brothers Jesse Peterson, David Peterson, Olin Peterson, Coleman Peterson, Rochelle Peterson, and Rev. Clyde Peterson, and sister Pearl Bolton. He was retired from Minette Mills, Kings Mountain Police Department and City Hall. He was a member of the Baptist Faith and a WWII U.S. Army veteran.

He is survived by his wife Pearl White Peterson of the home; son and his wife Jimmy Peterson and Jenny of Shelby; grandson Tyler James Peterson of Shelby; brother Theo Peterson of San Diego, California; Sister Ruth Owens of Gaffney, S.C.

The graveside funeral will be conducted Thursday at 11 a.m. at Rose Hill Memorial Park by the Rev. Allen Davis. Burial will be in Rose Hill Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Wendover, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby 28150 or donor's choice. Cleveland Funeral Service handled the arrangements.

**VIRGIE HUTCHINS**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Virgie Dyke Hutchins, 86, 512 N. Daytona Avenue, died August 18, 2000.

A native of Gaston County, she was the daughter of the late Elbert Joseph and Mattie Dunn Dyke. She was a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Kings Mountain. She was retired from the textile industry.

She is survived by her husband Fred Hutchins of Flagler Beach, Florida; brother Will Dyke and wife Elizabeth of Kings Mountain, sister Bertha Dyke Sotelo of Flagler Beach; also a number of nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be conducted Friday at 1 p.m. at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

Harris Funeral Home served the family.

**SABINA O. WURMBRAND**  
TIJUANA, MEXICO - Sabina O. Wurmbrand, co-founder of The Voice Of The Martyrs, a Christian Mission with offices in over 30 countries, went home to be with the Lord Friday, August 11, 2000, at 10:15 p.m. She had been seriously ill for the past several months and was hospitalized in Tijuana, Mexico.

She was born Sabina Oster on July 10, 1913 in Czernowitz, a city in the Bucovine region of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This area was an important educational and cultural hub for the Jewish faith.

Sabina graduated from high school in Czernowitz, and then attended classes for two years at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, where she studied languages, and became fluent in many. After her studies there, she was employed in Bucharest, Rumania.

While in Bucharest, she married Richard Wurmbrand. Both were later converted and baptized in the Christian faith.

During the WWII occupation of Rumania, Sabina's parents, two sisters, and one brother were killed in Nazi concentration camps. Sabina was active in the Rumanian underground from 1940-45. She smuggled numerous Jewish children out of ghettos, preached daily in bomb shelters, and was arrested several times for underground Christian activities during a state of war.

At the end of World War II, Sabina traveled regularly to Budapest, smuggling in goods and food. She would speak to the Russian occupation forces about the Christian faith. In 1946, she organized a soup kitchen which served 1,000 people a day during a severe drought.

During the summers of 1946 and 1947, she organized Christian camps for Rumania's religious leaders, and held daily devotions. She also conducted street meetings. After her husband's arrest in 1948 she encouraged many young ministers to continue underground Christian activity.

She was arrested in 1951 and taken to a prisoners' labor camp to build a river canal. The Communist government promised to free her if she would divorce her husband and renounce her faith. She refused. She and her family escaped in 1966 and traveled throughout Europe and America, speaking for the newly founded organization, Christian Mission to the Communist World, which became The Voice of the Martyrs in 1992.

Sabina actively spoke to church groups and conferences for 32 years and accompanied her husband to testify at Congressional hearings on religious persecution. She wrote and published a book, The Pastor's Wife, detailing her Christian testimony and life, which continues to be published in six languages.

Sabina's life was characterized by an understanding of Christian love and forgiveness. She is survived by her husband, Richard; son, Michael; and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held Wednesday, at the Sky Rose Chapel of the Rose Hill Cemetery in Whittier, CA

Pd. Adv.

**BLANTON**

**KEETER**




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### Channel Lineup Changes

On Monday, August 28, 2000, **E! Entertainment Television** will be added to channel 49 and **C-SPAN2** will be added to channel 62.

**ESPN News, Toon Disney, BBC America** and **Lifetime Movie Network** will also be added to the Digital Variety Tier.

These changes will not affect current pricing or cable service tiers. Digital converter required for Digital Variety Tier.

