

OBITUARIES

Tony Lee Stewart
Loving husband, father,
and grandfather

KINGS MOUNTAIN — Tony Lee Stewart, 65, 229 Farris Road, died Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at home.

He was a native of Cleveland County, son of the late Lawrence Hardin (Bud) Stewart and Rebecca Jo Hicks Stewart. A warehouseman for Hoechst-Celanese/Kosa, he was director of Grover Youth League baseball for many years. He was a member of Dixon Presbyterian Church.

Surviving are his wife, Renee Blackburn Stewart of

the home; one son, Kelly Stewart and wife, Angela of Kings Mountain; two daughters, Cassie Turner and husband, Russell of Blacksburg, SC and Jodi Greene and husband, Kenneth of Kings Mountain; one brother, Mike Stewart and wife Kammie of Gastonia; one sister, Debbie Bradley and husband Maynard Bradley of Shelby; five grandchildren, Brianna Stewart, Tori and Brody Turner, Mallory Harris, Alanna Greene and foster grandchild, Armani Marion; brothers and sisters-in-law, Richard and Gerame Rippey of Blacksburg, SC, Ronnie and Linda Blackburn and Brevard Callahan and the late Barbara Callahan, all of Shelby; nephews Seth Bradley and wife, Jessica, of Shelby; and two nieces, Taylor and Morgan Poole of

Gastonia.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday, April 18 at 1 p.m. at Dixon Presbyterian Church. Pastor Randy Patterson and Rev. Olin Whitener will officiate. Burial will be in the Stewart Family Cemetery.

The family will receive friends Thursday, April 17 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Clay-Barnette Funeral Home Chapel in Kings Mountain.

Memorials may be made to the Kidney Foundation or to Black Mountain Home for Children, in care of Dixon Presbyterian Church, 602 Dixon School Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Clay-Barnette Funeral Home, Kings Mountain, is in charge of arrangements.

Clay Barnette Funeral Home

Tommy Edmondson

SHELBY — Thomas "Tommy" Franklin Edmondson, 75, died Monday, April 7, 2014, at Hospice at Wendover.

Funeral services were held 2 p.m. Thursday. Burial will follow in Cleveland Memorial Park.

Patricia Ellis

SHELBY — Patricia

Whisnant Ellis, 74, College Ave., died Wed., April 9, 2014, at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services were 11 a.m. Saturday.

Burial is at Sharon United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Lisa C. Hubbard

SHELBY — Lisa Causby Hubbard, 52, 2008 Barkers Blvd., died Monday, April 7, 2014.

The memorial service was held Thursday, April 10, 2014.

Interment was in Fellowship Baptist Church Cemetery on Christopher Road in Shelby.

Virginia Johnson

SHELBY — Virginia Sills Johnson, 84, died Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at Cleveland

Pines Nursing Center.

Funeral services were Friday at 1:30 p.m. Burial will follow at 3:30 p.m. at Gaston Memorial Park.

Joe Mack Kincaid

Joe Mack Kincaid, 85, of Kings Mountain, passed away peacefully April 3, 2014.

A memorial service was held 5 p.m. on Saturday. Military honors provided by Gaston County Honor Guard.

Lily Tessener

SHELBY — Lily Irene Glenn Tessener, 85, died Wed., April 9, 2014, at Hospice at Wendover.

An outdoor celebration of Lily's life was held Saturday at 11 a.m. at Cleveland Memorial Park.

Celebrating NC Beer Month... is Belmont Abbey Ale on the menu?

By Alan Hodge

alan.bannernews@gmail.com

April is North Carolina's official Beer Month and Brother Tobiah Abbot at Belmont Abbey says he'll raise a mug to that. In fact, that quaff might be one he brewed himself at the monastery.

Br. Tobiah says the monastic tradition of brewing beer "in house" provided a practical solution to many issues, one of which was the need for nutrition during the Lenten season.

"Beer was a way for monks to get vitamins and minerals when their food intake was lowered by fasting," he said.

As for his own interest in brewing, Br. Tobiah says it was sparked not long after he got out of the Coast Guard in 1987.

"I was talking to my uncle about making beer and there was a shop that sold beer making supplies where he lived in Greenville," he said. "We got a kit and made a batch."

At the Abbey, Br. Tobiah is continuing that practice with beer making ingredients he gets from Alternative Beverage in Belmont.

"I make a five gallon batch a couple of times a year," he said. "I cook it on the stove in our kitchen."

From time to time, Abbot Placid Solari pitches in. He's been brewing beer for about 20 years.

The Abbey beer connection has recently taken an interesting turn with well-known, Asheville-based Highland Brewery whipping up a Belgian-type ale and selling it with a Belmont Abbey logo on the bottles. Known as "Belmont Abbey Ale" the plan is to produce it in four seasonal batches then sell it in locations such as String Bean and Sammy's Neighborhood Pub in Belmont. There could even be t-shirts, mugs, and coasters with the Abbey Ale logo offered for sale.

"The idea for Abbey Ale came after a monk from Louisiana visited us," Br. Tobiah said. "He told us that his monastery went to a local brewery and contracted with them to make beer and it was sold with their name in local stores."

A batch of Highland-made ale was brought to the Abbey alumni reunion and was met with enthusiastic response.

"It went fast," said Br. Tobiah.

Taking the Abbey Ale idea even further, Br. Tobiah says that there's been talk of starting a microbrewery at the monastery itself.

"That's still in the infancy stage," he said.

On a grander scale, according to Br. Tobiah, a group of Trappist monks in Spencer, Mass., decided to start an ale operation at their monastery.

"They went to Belgium to see how it was done and spent about \$1 million to set their brewery up."

Of course, if the monks at Belmont Abbey Abbey should move forward and go commercial with their beer, they'll need someone to be the brewmaster and Br. Tobiah is raising his hand.

"I would love to," he said.

Beer brewing in North Carolina has a long and interesting history with many ups and downs. In 1774 the Single Brothers Brewery and Distillery opens in Salem and operates until 1813. In 1874 the General Assembly allows townships

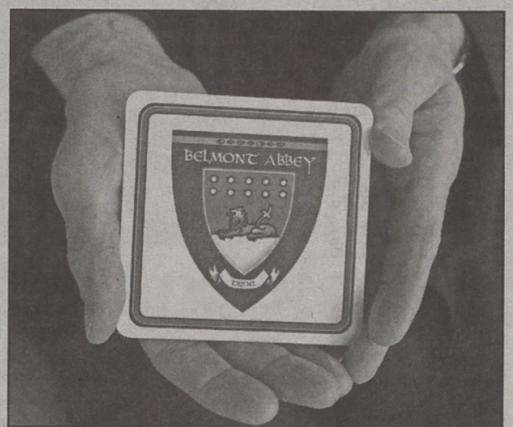


Photo by Alan Hodge

This logo appeared on Belgian-type ale that Belmont Abbey has had produced in limited quantities by Highland Brewery in Asheville. The production runs were quickly sold out.

to vote on prohibiting saloon licenses. In 1908 North Carolina becomes the first Southern state to enact statewide prohibition. In 1920 Prohibition goes national when the 18th Amendment takes effect. In 1933 North Carolina is one of two states that refuse to ratify the 21st Amendment, which repeals the 18th. It's signed into law anyway with a quip from President Roosevelt, "I think this would be a good time for a beer." In 1935 For the first time in 26 years, legal alcohol is sold in North Carolina. In 1936 Georgia-based Atlantic Brewing Co. opens a plant in Charlotte. It enjoys two decades of beer production.

There's more. In 1969 Joseph Schlitz Brewing Co. builds the largest brewery of its day in Winston-Salem. The brewery covers 34 acres and has a daily capacity of 17,000 barrels. It closes in 1999. In 1978 Miller Brewing opens a brewery in Eden. It produces the first Miller Genuine Draft. In 1985 the brewpub era begins with a new state law allowing breweries to sell directly to consumers. Uli Bennewitz, who lobbied for the law, opens Weeping Radish Brewery in Grandy the next year.

In 1994 Olde Hickory Brewery opens. It's now the state's second-oldest continuously operating microbrewery. Also in 1994, Asheville gets its first brewery: Highland. In 1996 the state's craft beer scene gains momentum with the opening of six new breweries. In 2005 North Carolina "pops the cap." A new law raises the maximum alcohol content in beer from 6 percent to 14.9 percent. In 2009 Asheville begins a winning streak in the Beer City USA poll, either winning outright or tying for the top spot from 2009 to 2012.

Building on those traditions, the craft brewing industry in North Carolina is growing by leaps and bounds.

A 2012 survey by the Brewers Association showed North Carolina with the most breweries of any state east of Texas and south of Pennsylvania. According to the "State of the Craft Beer Industry: 2013" report, North Carolina's craft beer industry grew 23 percent in 2011. That's the fastest growth rate in the country (Texas also has 23 percent). In 2005, there were about 30 breweries in North Carolina. Ten years later the number is near 100. Leading the way is Asheville/Buncombe County with 18, Raleigh/Wake County with 14, and Charlotte/Mecklenburg with nine.

Breweries are thriving in North Carolina's small towns and communities as well as its cities. Waynesville (with a population

of 9,800) has three craft breweries and Sylva with a population of 2,700 has two.

North Carolina is home to the nation's first wind-powered brewery at Outer Banks Brewing Station in Kill Devil Hills and the nation's first LEEDS-Gold brewery at Mother Earth Brewing in Kinston.

While most segments of the U.S. beer market continue to see losses, craft beer's popularity continues a dramatic rise — 12 percent to 13 percent annually for the past two years.

Who knows, maybe the next craft beer to hit the market will bear the Belmont Abbey logo.

For more information on craft brewing in North Carolina, visit www.ncbeer-month.com.

• 2012: Three major craft breweries — Oskar Blues, Sierra Nevada and New Belgium — announce plans to expand within 35 miles of one another. Oskar Blues Brevard opens in December. Sierra Nevada will

• 2013: NC Beer Month is inaugurated in April to celebrate the beer craftsmanship and culture that thrive in dynamic cities, spirited towns and hamlets off the beaten path.

In addition to Br. Tobiah, there are countless other folks across North Carolina that are discovering the rewards of brewing their own beer. In addition, more and more microbreweries are popping up. A 2012 survey by the Brewers Association showed North Carolina with the most breweries of any state east of Texas and south of Pennsylvania.

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