

# J H Skeen Cemetery

Complete headstone, footstone, plaque and obituary data as of 12/27/2008 (59 graves)  
Located in Powell Valley adjacent to (west of) Legion Memorial Cemetery (top of cemetery hill)  
Approximately 5 miles east of Big Stone Gap on route 610 (Powell Valley Rd)  
Researched and transcribed by Larry Skeen (skeen74lll@aol.com)

## General notes:

1. J H Skeen set aside approx. 0.6 acres for a family cemetery and was the first buried there in 1926.
2. There are 30 plots allotted for each of his 10 children = 300 plots.
3. Two of these 10 children (Allie and Ernest) did not marry nor have children.
4. Allie Skeen provided in her will that her friend Lucille Hillman be buried in her lot. All of the others buried in Allie's lot are relatives of Lucille Hillman.
5. There are two other graves that are friends and not a relative of the children of J H Skeen or their spouses. ( These are indicated in the notes provided at the end of each obituary herein)
6. The entries are listed alphabetically.
7. Each entry herein is titled identical to the name on the headstone. Each entry includes name of deceased; lot name; headstone, footstone and plaque data; and the obituary transcribed from the actual newspaper publication. The actual obituary may have used a different name reference, e.g., initials or nickname. Obituaries are transcribed verbatim, including some obvious typesetting errors and other data errors.
8. The lot name is the name of the child of J H Skeen in which buried. Each lot consists of 3 rows of 10 plots in each row. Facing the cemetery entrance (facing west) the lots from front to back are assigned to the 10 children of J H Skeen for purposes of this document as follows: left side – Ernest, Clay, Clarence, Letcher, Eliza; right side – Floyd, Judge, Bessie, Rucker, Allie.
9. Obituaries are provided for all those buried at the date noted above except for Charlotte Fay Rose. Based on discussions with her sister Anna and uncle Jim Riggs, it is believed this child was stillborn in Kingsport, TN in 1932 and no obituary was printed in the Kingsport or Wise County newspapers.
10. Parenthetical notes are provided at the end of some obituaries to provide additional information.
11. There are also data on some headstones for currently living surviving spouses and a couple of footstones with data for living children, nine altogether. This data is not included herein.
12. All ten children of JH and Ardelia Skeen are buried in this cemetery. JH Skeen and his wife Ardelia had 28 grandchildren. Of these 28, 15 have died, all of which are buried in this cemetery with the following 7 exceptions: James Albert Skeen- son of Clarence Skeen and Stella Kelly Skeen is buried in Anchorage, Alaska; Willard Cumming "Tom" Skeen – son of Letcher and Laura Elkins Skeen is buried along with his wife Vennie, son Thomas and grandson Thomas Jr. in Glenco Cemetery in Big Stone Gap; Charles Skeen- son of Letcher and Nannie Boatright Skeen is buried in Harvey, ILL; Letcher H. Skeen, Jr – son of Letcher and Nannie Boatright Skeen is buried in Harvey, ILL; Henry Curtis Skeen- son of Judge Skeen and Jennie Wilson Skeen is buried in Elwood, IN; Grace Riggs Rose- daughter of Eliza Riggs is buried in Kingsport, TN; Virginia Riggs Roberts-daughter of Eliza Riggs is buried in Pound, VA.

13. Following is an alphabetical list of all the current burials in the J H Skeen Cemetery:

1	Caldwell, Donald G	31	Rose, Charlotte Fay
2	Carty, Elaine	32	Simonet, Leslie Q
3	Carver, Bon L	33	Skeen, Alice W
4	Countiss, Arnold C	34	Skeen, Allie Marie
5	Countiss, Blanche R	35	Skeen, Ardelia
6	Gibson Jr, William	36	Skeen, Birdie D
7	Gilley, Anna M	37	Skeen, Cecil Stewart
8	Gilley, John D	38	Skeen, Clarence T
9	Hammonds, Sallie R	39	Skeen, Clay
10	Hillman, James Belt	40	Skeen, Ernest F
11	Hillman, Lucille "Bot"	41	Skeen, Floyd G
12	Mahan, Allene H	42	Skeen, Gary Eugene
13	Mahan, Glen Edward	43	Skeen, Georgia
14	Marrs, George S	44	Skeen, Grace
15	Marrs, Keith A	45	Skeen, J H
16	Marrs, Thelma	46	Skeen, James E
17	Mason, Lucille R	47	Skeen, James Rucker
18	Mason, Owen	48	Skeen, Judge Patton
19	Mason, Stevie	49	Skeen, Lake
20	Quesenberry Jr, Milford S "Ques"	50	Skeen, Laura J
21	Quesenberry, Agnes B	51	Skeen, Leona A
22	Quesenberry, Bessie	52	Skeen, Letcher H
23	Quesenberry, Milford S	53	Vowell, Rodney Eugene
24	Riggs, Anne Ison	54	Vowell, Wallace E
25	Riggs, Bruce M	55	Vowell, William Elmer
26	Riggs, Eliza Ann	56	Willis, Bonnie E
27	Riggs, Janice Dean	57	Willis, Bryan B
28	Riggs, Lafayette M	58	Willis, Ella Blanche
29	Riggs, Lucinda W	59	Willis, Robert Lee
30	Riggs, Melvin L		

1. Donald G. Caldwell

Lot: Allie

Headstone and/or footstone data:

4/6/1938                      9/2/2001

military plaque- "Sgt US Air Force, Vietnam"

Obituary: Post – 9/5/2001

Donald G. Caldwell, 63, Clinton, Tenn., formerly of Big Stone gap, died Sunday (Sept.2, 2001) at St. Mary's Medical Center in Knoxville, Tenn.

He was born in Wise County, the son of the late Garland and Ella (Fields) Caldwell. He had resided in the Knoxville area for the past 18 years. He was a U.S. Air Force Veteran of the Vietnam era. He was retired from Westmoreland Coal Co. in Big Stone Gap with 24 years service. He was a member of the Beaver Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Powell, Tenn.

Surviving are his wife, Judy Mahan Caldwell; two sons, Brian Caldwell and his wife, Melissa, Clinton, Gene Caldwell and his wife, East Stone Gap; one daughter, Susan Mullins and husband, Eddie, Harrodsburg, Ky.; five grandchildren, Jason, Elyse, Jessie, Brittany and Andy; two brothers, twin brother Bob Caldwell, Appalachia, and Wendell Caldwell, Big Stone Gap; one sister, Shirley Davidson, Appalachia; several nieces and nephews.

Family received friends 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at Holding Funeral Home in Big Stone Gap. Funeral services will be conducted at 2 pm Wednesday in the Holding Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Fred West officiating. Burial will follow in Skeen cemetery, Big Stone Gap.  
(Husband of Judy Mahan Caldwell, daughter of Allene Hillman Mahan, daughter of Lucille Hillman)

2. Elaine Carty

Lot-Judge

Headstone and/or footstone data:

4/28/1942

4/5/1994

Obituary: Post-4/13/1994

Elaine Marrs Carty, of the Cracker's Neck community of Big Stone Gap, died Tuesday morning, April 5, in the Stuart Circle Hospital in Richmond.

Surviving are one daughter, Susan Carty Wampler, Big Stone Gap; one granddaughter, Miranda Paige Wampler; her mother, Thelma Skeen Marrs, Big Stone Gap; two sisters, Mrs. J. Robert (Poofie) Stump, Norton, and Mrs. Ed (Karen) Roop, Big Stone Gap.

Services were conducted at 11 a.m. Friday in the Holding Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Warren Wattenbarger officiating.

Pallbearers were Mike Giles, Randall Hicks, George Polly, Jack Gembach, Johnny Wells, Gordon Ingram.

Honorary pallbearers were Jerry Jessee, George Roat, Ray Thomas, M.S. Quesenberry, Jr., Woodrow Franklin, Jim Galloway.

Burial was in the Skeen Family Cemetery, Powell Valley.

(Note – complete given name is Allie Elaine)

(Daughter of Mary Thelma Skeen Marrs, daughter of Floyd Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

3. Bon. L. Carver

Lot-Bessie

Headstone and/or footstone data:

8/25/1913

9/2/1993

Obituary: Post- 9/8/93

Bon L. Carver, 80, 1000 Netherland Lane, Kingsport, Tenn., died Thursday Sept. 2 at Holston Valley Hospital and Medical Center after an extended illness.

Born near Carthage, Tenn., he later resided in Louisville, Ky. He came to Kingsport in 1935 as Underwood Typewriter Company Sales Representative with Kingsport Office Supply Company. He was owner of Carver Office Equipment Company and consultant at Todd Office Interiors, retiring in 1978. He was a member of First Broad Street United Methodist Church. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and was a member of American Legion Post No. 3, V. F. W. Post No. 4932, MOAC No. 17 and Eagles No. 3141.

He was a past member of the National Office Management Association. He served on the Board of Directors of the former Kingsport Community Chest. He was a past president and charter member for 30 years of the Kingsport Baseball Boosters, sponsor of local Minor League professional baseball, now the Kingsport Mets. He was a recipient of the President's award for outstanding service to the Appalachian League. He was a Charter member and past president of the former Kingsport Chapter of the National Exchange Club and Director of the Exchange Club Youth Police Cadets. He was an Honorary Kentucky Colonel.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hardie and Eula Carver; one brother, Charlie Carver; and two sisters, Velma Carver and Ethel Emerson.

Surviving are his wife, Georgia Quesenberry Carver; two daughters, Susan Williams, Knoxville, Tenn. and Becky Carver-McLain, Durham, N. C.; one granddaughter; five sisters, Ruby Stovall, Lela McHattan, Maxine Lewis, Rachel Witten, all of Louisville, Ky., and Betty Denk, Sebring, Fla.; several nieces and nephews.

Services were conducted at 8 p. m. Saturday in the Hamlett-Dobson Funeral home chapel with Dr. Toombs H. Kay Jr. officiating.

Graveside services were conducted at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Skeen Cemetery, Big Stone Gap, with Dr. William Randall Frye officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the music fund at First Broad Street United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1346, Kingsport, Tenn. 37662 or Duke Cancer Patient Support program, P.O. Box 3139, Duke Medical Center, Durham, N.C. 27710.

(Note- According to his wife Georgia Carver, he did not have a middle name, just the initial L)

(Husband of Georgia Quesenberry Carver, daughter of Bessie Skeen Quesenberry, daughter of JH Skeen)

4. Arnold C. Countiss

Lot-Eliza

Headstone and/or footstone data:

8/4/1905

5/12/1972

Obituary: Coalfield Progress- 5/18/1972

Arnold Countiss, 66, of Wise died Friday, May 12, in a local hospital.

He was a member of the Wise Trinity United Methodist Church, past master of Hodge Lodge No 8 AF&AM and past president of Lonesome Pine Shrine Club. Surviving are his wife Mary Blanche Countiss; one brother, Garland Countiss, Owensburg, Ky.; three sisters, Mrs. Wilma Graham, Norton, Mrs. Lorna Ralber and Mrs. Morene Allen, both of Winter Haven, Fla.; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday, May 14, in the Wise Trinity United Methodist Church with the Rev. Larry Eisenberg officiating. Burial was in the Skeen family cemetery, Powell Valley. (Husband of Blanche Riggs Countiss, daughter of Eliza Skeen Riggs, daughter of JH Skeen)

5. Blanche R. Countiss

Lot-Eliza

Headstone and/or footstone data:

10/8/1911

2/5/1998

Obituary: Post-2/11/1998

Mary Blanche Riggs Countiss, 86, of Wise, died Thursday (Feb. 5, 1998) at Wise Appalachian Regional Hospital.

Mrs. Countiss retired after 30 years as a teacher of Wise County School System, was a member of Wise Trinity Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Gladeville Chapter No. 171 Order of Eastern Star, Fortnightly Club and VFW Auxiliary. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arnold C. Countiss; sister Grace Rose; brother, Melvin Riggs and her parents L.M. and Liza Skeen Riggs. Survivors include brothers James. L. Riggs of Wise, and Dr. Bruce Riggs of Big Stone Gap; sisters Virginia Roberts of Pound, and Lucille Mason of big Stone Gap; several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Wise Trinity United Methodist Church with pastor Kim Goddard officiating. Burial was in Skeen family cemetery, Big Stone Gap.

Sturgill Funeral Home of Wise was in charge of arrangements.

(Daughter of Eliza Skeen Riggs, daughter of JH Skeen)

6. William Gibson Jr.

Lot-Clarence

Headstone and/or footstone data:

8/15/1936

2/25/2007

Back of headstone- "Our Children-Debbie, Bob, Cindy, Lisa; Our Grandchildren-Jessica, Ashley, Cody, Megan, Amy, Joshua"

Obituary: Post- 2/28/2007

William Gibson, Jr, "Junior", 70, of Sellersburg, Ind., died Sunday (Feb. 25, 2007) at Floyd Memorial Hospital.

He was a retired truck driver for Pegasus. He was a member of the Elk's lodge #362 in Jeffersonville, Ind., the Buckner Masonic Lodge in Sellersburg and was also a member of the first Baptist Church in Sellersburg.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara Skeen Gibson; one son, Robert D. Gibson "Bob" (Cindy); three daughters, Debbie Stegner-Gibson (Jerry), Cindy Hart, Lisa Ehrhart (Rodney); three brothers, T.G. Gibson (Jody), Cecil Gibson "Zack" (Leona), Mallie Gibson (Tami); two sisters, Connie Stanley and Lucille Carren (Paul); six grandchildren, Jessica, Ashley, Cody, Megan, Amy, and Joshua; two great-grandchildren, Camryn and Graci.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Garr Funeral Home with burial at the Skeen Family Cemetery in Big Stone Gap at noon on Saturday, March 3. Visitation will be held Wednesday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorial contributions can be made to the Indiana Elks Association Cancer Program.

(note - Jr. had no middle name)

(Husband of Barbara Skeen Gibson, daughter of Clarence Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

7. Anna M. Gilley

Lot-Judge

Headstone and/or footstone data:

1902

1994

Obituary: Post-9/21/1994

Anna Marie Gilley, 92, of Big Stone Gap, died Wednesday (Sept. 14, 1994) in Heritage Hall Health Care Center, Big Stone Gap.

She was a member of the East Stone Gap Methodist Church. She was a retired school and music teacher for the Wise County school system, and had lived most of her life in the East Stone Gap and Baum Hollow area. She was the widow of John D. Gilley.

Survivors include sons Leslie G. Gilley and Ellis Gilley, both of Kingsport; daughters Eileen Campbell of Kingsport, Anita Powers of Charlotte, N.C., Mary Ann Natonick of Gainesville, Texas, and Rita Knight of Appalachia; sisters Doshia Johnson of Norfolk, and Georgia Calfee of Bluefield, W. Va.; 23 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

Services were held Friday at Roy A. Green Funeral Home Chapel, Appalachia, with the Rev. David Knight officiating. Graveside services were held Sunday at Skeen's family cemetery.

(Note- Anna Gilley was a family friend and not related to Judge Skeen)

8. John D. Gilley

Lot-Judge

Headstone and/or footstone data:

1898

1973

Obituary: Coalfield Progress- 12/13/1973

John D. Gilley, 74, of Big Stone Gap, died last Thursday at his home after a long illness.

He was a lifelong resident of the area and was a brakeman for Southern Railways prior to retirement.

He was a member of the East Stone Gap United Methodist Church and a member of the United Transportation Union.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ann Anderson Gilley; three sons, Harry Gilley of Connersville, Ind., Ellis (Gray) Gilley and Leslie Gilley of Kingsport; four daughters, Mrs. Eileen Campbell of Kingsport, Mrs. Rita Faye Knight of Appalachia, Mrs. Anita Powers of Charlotte, N.C., and Mrs. Mary Ann Natonick of New Brunswick, N.J.; one brother, W.H. Gilley of Norton, and two sisters, Mrs. Maude Neeley of Big Stone Gap, Mrs. Dealie Wells of Springfield, Ohio; 23 grandchildren and 13 great great grandchildren.

(Note- John Gilley was a family friend and not related to Judge Skeen)

9. Sallie R. Hammonds

Lot-Allie

Headstone and/or footstone data:

1/17/1902

4/22/1977

Obituary: Post-4/28/1977

Mrs. Sallie Hammonds, 75, died at Lonesome Pine Hospital early Friday.

A former resident of Scott County, Va., she had lived in Big Stone Gap for the past 20 years.

Survivors include six daughters, Mrs. Ralph Carter, East Peoria, Ill., Mrs. Roscoe Mullins and Miss Mary Ann Jones, both of Big Stone Gap, Mrs. George Monroe, Houston, Tex., Mrs. Al Ratcliff, Detroit, Mich., and Mrs. Bert Murphy, Indianapolis, Ind.; three sons, Wallace Hammonds, Big Stone Gap, Delmer Jones, Sidney, Ohio, and Billy Ray Jones, Marion; two sisters, Mrs. Lucille Hillman, Appalachia, and Mrs. Nannie Greer, Honaker; 32 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 3:30 p.m. Sunday in Holding Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. U. L. Graham officiating. Burial was in the Skeen Cemetery.

(Sister of Lucille Hillman)

10. James Belt Hillman

Lot-Allie

Headstone and/or footstone data:

1/5/1896

12/24/1964

military plaque- "Virginia, Sea US Navy, World War I"

Obituary: Post-1/7/1965

James Hillman dies in hospital

James Belt Hillman, 68, retired manager of the State Alcoholic Beverage Control store of Appalachia, died at 5:45 p.m. Thursday in Mountain Home Veterans Hospital.

A resident of Appalachia for 40 years, he was a member of the Appalachia Presbyterian Church. He was a veteran of World War I and a member of the Henry N. Tate Post, American Legion. Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Lucille Hillman, one son, Jimmy Hillman of Wyekoff, N. J.; daughter, Mrs. Allene

Mahan, Big Stone Gap; brothers, John D., Nickelsville, Va., and Willam E. Hillman, Mountain Home, Tenn.; sisters, Mrs. Zula Taylor and Mrs. Lucy McConnell, both of Nickelsville; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

The funeral was at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Appalachia Presbyterian Church. Rev. R. Gleaves Farmer and Rev. James M. Smith conducted the service. Burial was in the Skeens Cemetery near Big Stone Gap. (Husband of Lucille Hillman)

11. Lucille "Bot" Hillman

Lot-Allie

Headstone and/or footstone data:

10/2/1898                      7/27/1989

Obituary: Post-8/2/1989

Lucille P. Hillman, of Powell, Tenn., died Wednesday, July 26, 1989 in the Knoxville Convalescent Center.

She was a former resident of Appalachia for 62 years and had lived in Knoxville for the past seven years. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Appalachia and was the widow of James B. Hillman.

Survivors include one daughter, Allene Maham, Powell, Tenn., one son, Jimmy L. Hillman, Hilton Head Island, S.C.; four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday in Holding Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Fred West Jr. officiating.

Burial was in the Skeen Cemetery in Big Stone Gap.

(Notes- her daughter's married name, Mahan, is misspelled in the obituary. The date of death on the headstone and in the obituary does not agree.)

12. Allene H. Mahan

Lot-Allie

Headstone and/or footstone data:

6/2/1921                      5/21/1998

Obituary: Post-5/27/1998

Allene H. Mahan, 76, of Big Stone Gap, died Thursday (May 21, 1998) at Wellmont Lonesome Pine Hospital in Big Stone Gap.

Mrs. Mahan was of the Presbyterian faith. She was a dispatcher for the town of Big Stone Gap in the early 1970s and a lifelong resident of the area. She was preceded in death by her husband, Glen E. Mahan.

Survivors include daughter Judy Mahan Caldwell of Clinton, Tenn.; son Gary Mahan of Big Stone Gap; brother Jimmy Hillman of Hilton Head, S.C.; five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Gilliam Funeral Home chapel, Big Stone Gap with Rev. Fred West, Jr. associate pastor for Beaver Creek Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Hugh Bowers of Powell Valley Presbyterian Church, officiating. Burial was in Skeens family cemetery, Big Stone Gap. (Daughter of Lucille Hillman)

13. Glen Edward Mahan

Lot-Allie

Headstone and/or footstone data:

3/27/1913            7/15/1971

military plaque- "Virginia S2 USNR, World War II"

Obituary: Post-7/22/1971

Glen E. Mahan, 58, of Big Stone Gap, died Thursday, July 15, at his home following a long illness. He was a retired employee of Westmoreland Coal Company.

Mahan was a member of the UMWA local 1055, a veteran of World War II and a member of the VFW Post 5715, Big Stone Gap.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ailene Hillman Mahan, Big Stone Gap; one daughter, Mrs. Judy Caldwell, Big Stone Gap; one son, Gary Mahan, Big Stone Gap; his mother, Mrs. Marshall Mahan, Derby; three sisters, Mrs. Vivian Willis, Miami, Fla.; Mrs. Jeff Nichols, Derby; and Mrs. Elmo Cox, Arno, Va.; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday in the Holding Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Hugh Bowers and the Rev. B. B. Breihenhirt officiating. Burial followed in Skeen Cemetery.

(Note- the first name of his wife is misspelled. It should be Allene)

(Husband of Allene Hillman Mahan, daughter of Lucille Hillman)

14. George S. Marrs

Lot-Floyd

Headstone and/or footstone data:

1949                    1950

Obituary: Post-2/9/1950

Services Held for Big Stone Gap Infant

Funeral services for George Skeen Marrs, six-weeks old son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Marrs, were held at the Big Spring Baptist church in Powell Valley Wednesday afternoon. The infant died Monday at King's Mountain Hospital.

The Rev. James Smith, Rev. Billy Galloway and Rev. Ted R. Witt, officiated. Burial was in the Skeen cemetery.

Surviving are his parents, two sisters, Elaine and Alice Ruth Marrs; paternal grandparents, Mr. his maternal grandfather, Floyd and Mrs. George R. Marrs; and Skeen, all of Powell Valley.

(Note- the last paragraph has an obvious typesetting error. It should read "...; paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Skeen; maternal grandfather, Mr. George R. Marrs, all of Powell Valley.")

(Son of Mary Thelma Skeen Marrs, daughter of Floyd Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

15. Keith A. Marrs

Lot-Floyd

Headstone and/or footstone data:

3/4/1918            6/15/1990

Obituary: Post-6/20/1990

Keith A. Marrs, 72, died Friday, June 15 at Lonesome Pine Hospital.

He was a graduate of East Stone Gap High School and a retired construction engineer with

Westmoreland Coal Company. He was a member of the Stonega Veterans Association and the National



Scaleman Association of Weights and Measures. He was a member and past board member of the Lonesome Pine Country Club.

Surviving are his wife, Thelma Skeen Marrs, of the home, three daughters, Elaine M. Carty and Karen Keith Roop, both of Big Stone Gap, and Alice Ruth Stump, Norton; five grandchildren, one great-grandchild; two sisters, Ruth Legge, Little Rock, Ark. and Jeanne Gantz, San Diego, Calif.; two brothers, Max Marrs, Okeechobee, Fla. And Walter Marrs, Big Stone Gap; several nieces and nephews. Services were conducted at 2 p.m. Monday at Holding Funeral Home with the Rev. Benjamin F. Wheless Jr. and Rev. Warren Wattenbarger officiating.

Burial was in the Skeens family cemetery.

(Note- middle name is Adams.)

(Husband of Mary Thelma Skeen Marrs, daughter of Floyd Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

16. Thelma Marrs

Lot-Floyd

Headstone and/or footstone data:

3/20/1916            11/14/2004

Obituary: Post-11/17/2004

Thelma Skeen Marrs, 88, of Big Stone Gap, passed away Sunday (Nov. 14, 2004) at St. Mary's Hospital in Norton.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Keith Marrs, a daughter, Elaine Carty, and infant son, George Marrs.

Survivors include two daughters, Alice (Poofie) Stump and husband Bob, Karen Roop and husband Ed; five grandchildren, Susan Okenson, Mary Beth Stump, Melissa Stump, Sara Roop and Robert Keith Roop; and one great grandchild, Miranda Wampler.

Friends may call from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16, at Holding Funeral Home, Big Stone Gap. Services will be conducted at 8 p.m. in the funeral home chapel with the Rev. Ronnie Mutter officiating.

Graveside services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday from Skeen Cemetery at Big Stone Gap.

Pallbearers will be Robert Keith Roop, Lloyd Robinette, Michael Robinette, Johnny Wells, George Polly, Ray Thomas and Spencer Quesenberry.

Family and friends are requested to meet at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home for procession to the cemetery.

Holding Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

(Note-Thelma's given name is Mary Thelma.)

(Daughter of Floyd Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

17. Lucille R. Mason

Lot-Eliza

Headstone and/or footstone data:

4/16/1919            3/2/2008

Obituary: Bristol Herald Courier-3/4/2008

BIG STONE GAP, Va. – Lucille Riggs Mason, 88, passed away Sunday, March 2, 2008, at Lonesome Pine Hospital in Big Stone Gap.

She was a lifelong resident of Big Stone Gap. She was a member of the Big Stone Gap O.E.S. Chapter No. 157. She was lifelong member of the Legion Memorial United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 46 years, W. Owen Mason; a son, Steven Mason; three sisters, Grace Rose, Blanche Countis and Virginia Roberts; and one brother, Lafayette "Chippy" Riggs.

Surviving are three sons, W.O. "Sonny" Mason Jr. of Winder, Ga., Michael Mason and wife Teresa of Big Stone Gap and Benny E. Mason and wife Theresa of Kingsport, Tenn.; five grandchildren, Adam

Mason, Seth Mason, Brooke Horne, Rachel Mason and Mike Mason; two great-grandchildren, Tyler Mason and Anna Mason; two brothers, James Riggs of Wise, Va., and Dr. Bruce Riggs of Big Stone Gap; and several nieces and nephews.

Family will receive friends 5-7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Holding Funeral Home in Big Stone Gap. Funeral services will be conducted 1 p.m. Wednesday in the funeral home chapel, with Dr. Kenneth Sprinkle officiating. Burial will follow in Skeens' Cemetery (American Legion Cemetery), in Big Stone Gap. Pallbearers will be Adam Mason, Arnie Riggs, Jimmy Riggs, Harry Roberts, John Horne, Seth Mason and Harold Reasor.

E-mail condolences may be sent at [holding@compunet.net](mailto:holding@compunet.net).

(note- her sister's last name is Countiss, not Countis.)

(Daughter of Eliza Skeen Riggs, daughter of JH Skeen)

18. Owen Mason

Lot-Eliza

Headstone and/or footstone data:

11/21/1910            2/13/1984

Obituary: Post-2/16/1984

W. Owen Mason died Monday in Lonesome Pine Hospital.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Homer, Ga.

Surviving are his wife, Lucille R. Mason; four sons, W. O. (Sonny) Mason Jr., Winder, Ga., Benny E. Mason, Wise, Va., Michael Mason and Steven Mason, both of Big Stone Gap; two sisters, Lily Dyer, Winder, Ga., and Aline Cochran, Homer, Ga.; four grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday in Holding Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. David Knight and the Rev. Hugh Bowers officiating. Burial followed in the Skeen Cemetery at American Legion Cemetery.

(Complete given name is William Owen.)

(Husband of Lucille Riggs Mason, daughter of Eliza Skeen Riggs, daughter of JH Skeen)

19. Stevie Mason

Lot-Eliza

Headstone and/or footstone data:

10/29/1944            6/30/1999

Obituary: Post-7/7/1999

Stevie Mason, 54, of Big Stone Gap, died Tuesday (June 29, 1999) at Wellmont-Holston Valley Hospital in Kingsport, Tenn.

Mr. Mason was a lifelong resident of Big Stone Gap and a gift from God to many. He was preceded in death by his father, W. Owen Mason, Sr.

Survivors include his mother, Lucille Riggs Mason of Big Stone Gap, brothers, W. O. (Sonny) Mason Jr. of Winder, Ga., Benny E. Mason of Norton and Michael Mason of Big Stone Gap; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held Friday at Holding Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. David Knight officiating.

Burial followed in the Skeen Family Cemetery, Big Stone Gap. Cousins served as pallbearers.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Legion Memorial United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, c/o Priscilla Grace, 2607 Egan Road, Big Stone Gap, Va. 24219.

(Note- Complete given name is Arnold Steven. Also note discrepancy in date of death with headstone.)

(Son of Lucille Riggs Mason, daughter of Eliza Skeen Riggs, daughter of JH Skeen)

20. Agnes B. Quesenberry  
Lot-Bessie  
Headstone and/or footstone data:

1922                      10/4/2007

“compassionate caregiver, devoted wife, loving mother”

Obituary: Bristol Herald Courier – 10/6/2007

BIG STONE GAP, Va. - Agnes B. Quesenberry, 85, died Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007, at Lonesome Pine Hospital after an extended illness.

Born Aug. 12, 1922, she was the daughter of the late Alexander and Anna Balcerski. She graduated from Hartford Hospital Nursing College in Connecticut and moved to Big Stone Gap in 1945 upon her marriage to her beloved husband, the late M.S. "Ques" Quesenberry Jr. After raising her family, she returned to nursing at Lonesome Pine Hospital and continued to serve the hospital as a volunteer patient advocate for many years after her retirement.

Agnes was a faithful member of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Big Stone Gap, where she was active in the Kelly Sunday school class and the Wesleyan Circle. She volunteered at the community food bank and the "Trail of the Lonesome Pine" outdoor drama. Agnes loved cooking, gardening, reading, traveling and especially her family and friends.

Besides her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by her brother, Nick, and her sister, Jean.

She is survived by four children, Leslie Quesenberry Simonet and her husband Don, Spencer Quesenberry and his wife Trina, Marcia Quesenberry and Kathy Quesenberry Messinger and husband Robert. She leaves her wonderful grandchildren, Whitney, Sara, Ryan, Paige, Kara, Abran, Blair, Alexander, Zachary and Chelsea, as well as her great-grandchildren, Brandon, Reagan, Jayden and Spencer. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Georgia Quesenberry Carver, several nieces, nephews and many close friends.

The family is grateful for the loving care of Dr. Mark Taylor, Dr. Chris Basham and special caregiver, Cathy Elders.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday at Holding Funeral Home in Big Stone Gap. Funeral services will be conducted at 4 p.m. Saturday in the funeral home chapel, with Dr. M.C. Tolbert officiating. Burial will follow at Skeens Cemetery in Big Stone Gap.

Pallbearers will be Abran Quesenberry, Alexander Kibler, Mike Allen, Jack Chandler, Garney Clark and Cotton Stone.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Trinity United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 217, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219; the M.S. and Agnes B. Quesenberry Scholarship Fund, MECC Foundation, 3441 Mountain Empire Road, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219; or the General Scholarship Fund at the UV-Wise Foundation, 1 College Ave., Wise, VA 24293.

(Wife of MS Quesenberry, Jr, son of Bessie Skeen Quesenberry, daughter of JH Skeen)

21. Bessie S. Quesenberry  
Lot-Bessie  
Headstone and/or footstone data:

7/2/1890                      12/10/1976

Obituary: Post-12/16/1976

Mrs. Bessie Quesenberry, 86, died Friday evening in Holston Valley Community Hospital in Kingsport.

She was a member of a prominent pioneer family in Big Stone Gap, and the widow of M.S. Quesenberry Sr. She was a member of the Legion Memorial United Methodist Church.

Survivors include one daughter, Bon (Georgie) Carver, Kingsport, Tenn., one son, M.S. Quesenberry Jr., Big Stone Gap; one brother, Rucker Skeen, Big Stone Gap; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the Legion Memorial Methodist Church with the Rev. David Knight officiating.

Burial was in the Skeen Cemetery.

Holding Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

(Note- given name is Mattie Elizabeth.)

(Daughter of JH Skeen)

22. Milford S. "Ques" Quesenberry, Jr

Lot-Bessie

Headstone and/or footstone data:

1918

2001

"courageous soldier, beloved husband, loving father"

military plaque- "Milford S. Quesenberry, Capt US Army, World War II, Mar 12, 1918 Mar 24, 2001, purple heart"

Obituary: Post-3/28/2001

Milford Spencer (Ques) Quesenberry Jr., 83, of Big Stone Gap died Saturday (March 24, 2001) after an extended illness.

A lifelong resident of Wise County, he served with distinction as a captain in the U.S. Army during World War II, earning the Bronze Star, the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, the European Theater Operations Ribbon with four battle stars, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Croix de Guerre from the French government for bravery and the American Defense Ribbon, among others.

After the war, he founded what later became Quesenberry's, Inc., general contractors.

Mr. Quesenberry worked on behalf of many community causes and was instrumental in the establishment of the C. Bascom Slemple Library and Wellmont Lonesome Pine Hospital, where he served as a member of the board of directors for many years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Milford Spencer Quesenberry Sr. and Elizabeth Skeens Quesenberry.

Survivors include his loyal and devoted wife, Agnes B. Quesenberry; children, daughters and sons-in-law, Leslie Q. and Don Simonet of Overland Park, Kansas, Marcia Quesenberry of Big Stone Gap and Katherine Q. and Robert Messinger of Ridgefield, Conn., son and daughter-in-law Spencer D. and Trina Quesenberry of Big Stone Gap; sister, Georgia Q. Carver of Kingsport, Tenn.; 10 grandchildren; two great grandchildren and two nieces.

Calling hours were from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at Holding Funeral Home, Big Stone Gap.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Trinity United Methodist Church at Big Stone Gap with the Revs. Ronnie Mutter and Hugh Bowers officiating. Burial will follow in Skeens Cemetery at Big Stone Gap.

Pallbearers will be Abran Quesenberry, Alexander Kibler, Ryan Simonet, Winky Witt, Jack Chandler, Lloyd Robinette, Bob Stump and Garney Clark.

Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church, East First St., Big Stone Gap, Va. 24219, or the M.S. & Agnes Quesenberry Scholarship Fund, MECC Foundation, Inc., Drawer 700, Big Stone Gap, Va. 24219.

(Son of Bessie Skeen Quesenberry, daughter of JH Skeen)

23. Milford S. Quesenberry

Lot-Bessie

Headstone and/or footstone data:

8/6/1889

11/7/1958

military plaque- "Milford S. Quesenberry, Virginia, Cpl HQ Co. 317 Infantry, World War I, Aug 6 1889 Nov 7 1958"

Obituary: Post-11/13/1958

Quesenberry Rites Held

Funeral services for Milford S. Quesenberry Sr., 69, who died on Friday at a Norton Hospital, were held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Legion Memorial Chapel in Powell Valley.

Rev. James M. Smith and Rev. R. E. Kea officiated. Burial followed in the Skeen Cemetery.

He was a veteran of World War I, a retired safety engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and had worked in a supervisory capacity for the Virginia Forest Service. He received state recognition for his conservation activities.

He was the son of the late Alexander and Jane Quesenberry, pioneer residents of Lee County. He was a member of the Henry N. Tate American Legion Post and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Survivors include: his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Skeen Quesenberry; one son, M.S. Quesenberry Jr. of Big Stone Gap; one daughter, Mrs. Georgia Carver, of Kingsport; two sisters, Mrs. Estel Egan and Mrs. Nancy Dorton, both of Big Stone Gap; four brothers, Hyatt of Jonesville, Va., Robert of Keokee, Va., Floyd of Norfolk, Va., and Sam of Springfield, Mo. He is also survived by six grandchildren. (Husband of Bessie Skeen Quesenberry, daughter of JH Skeen)

24. Anne Ison Riggs

Lot-Eliza

Headstone and/or footstone data:

4/1/1935

2/10/2007

"Reflections of God, Mommy, bells are ringing in heaven and on earth with your love"

Obituary: Bristol Herald Courier-2/13/2007

BIG STONE GAP, Va. – Anne Johnston Ison Riggs began celebrating her eternal life on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2007.

Anne was born in Dorchester, Va., daughter of the late Willie "Bill" and Lydia Ison. She was also preceded in death by her sister and brother-in-law, William "Buddy" and Violette Hensley, and eldest son, Bruce M. Riggs.

Surviving are her husband, Bruce S. Riggs; a son, Arnold "Arnie" and wife Darlene Riggs, Big Stone Gap; daughters, Mary Lynn Moses, Big Stone Gap and Elizabeth "Liz" Riggs-McNabb and son-in-law, Jim, Roanoke, Va.; one brother, Ronald Ison and wife Ginger of Johnson City, Tenn.; grandchildren, Christy Riggs, Beth Riggs, Andrew Begley, Aaron Moses, Heather Moses, Lauren Moses, Clark McNabb, Maureen McNabb and Harrison McNabb; great-granddaughter, Lexi Herndon; many nieces, nephews and cousins; and a special friend, Kathy Riggs, also survive her.

Anne lived an exemplary life sharing God's grace with all she met. She defined the word "lady" and was always active. She lived to enrich and enlighten her community. She captured the spirit of love, compassion and giving of her time, not only with her family but also within the following organizations and her church, Legion Memorial United Methodist, MECC Educational Foundation Board of Directors, Appalachian School of Law-Steering Committee, Lonesome Pine Outdoor Drama cast member, founding and continuous member of Southwest Virginia Management Association Virginia State Bar review committee, member and participant in the Republican party, a member of Legion Memorial United Methodist Church, served on the board of directors and United Methodist Women

Association. She volunteered with MEOC Adult Day Program, was co-founder of Riggs Oil/Black Diamond markets and long-remembered partner with Riggs Animal Hospital. She was appointed by the governor to serve on the Council of the Status of Women.

The family will receive friends on Monday, Feb. 12, 2007, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Gilliam Funeral Home, Big Stone Gap. The funeral service will follow in the chapel at 8 p.m., with Dr. Kenneth Sprinkle officiating.

Graveside services will be Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2007, at 11 a.m. in American Legion Cemetery. Family and friends are asked to assemble at Gilliam Funeral Home at 10:30 a.m. to go in procession to the cemetery.

Pallbearers will be family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Legion Memorial United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 628, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219.

Gilliam Funeral Home, Big Stone Gap, is serving the Riggs family.

E-mail condolences may be sent to the family at [gfhbsg@verizon.net](mailto:gfhbsg@verizon.net).

(Note- Ann is buried in a crypt above the grave of her son Brucie.)

(Wife of Bruce S Riggs, son of Eliza Skeen Riggs, daughter of JH Skeen)

25. Bruce M. Riggs

Lot-Eliza

Headstone and/or footstone data:

4/10/1953

4/20/2005

Obituary: Post-4/27/2005

Bruce (Brucie, The Hat Man) McMullen Riggs, 52, of Big Stone Gap, left to live the eternal life on Wednesday (April 20, 2005) after suffering a stroke.

He grew up in Big Stone Gap and graduated from Powell Valley High School in 1972. He went on to receive his Bachelor's Degree from The University of Georgia. Bruce spent his life in Big Stone Gap, the Tri-Cities and Sevierville, Tenn. and with the NASCAR circuit.

Bruce was the ultimate entrepreneur. Over his lifetime he owned and operated several convenience stores and NASCAR souvenir stores. In recent years, Bruce concentrated on wholesaling and selling NASCAR memorabilia on the circuit. He had the most lovable and caring personality known to man. He had made friends all over the country. No one stayed a stranger for long. God gave us all our individuality and gifts, but Bruce was given the greatest gift of all according to Corinthians 1:13, "And now abideth faith, hope and love, these three: but the greatest of these is love.

Bruce attended Legion Memorial United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his parents, Dr. Bruce S. Riggs and Anne Riggs; brother Arnold and wife Darlene of Big Stone Gap; sisters Mary Lynn Moses, of Big Stone Gap, Elizabeth McNabb and husband, Jim of Roanoke; nieces Christy and Beth Riggs of Lexington, Ky., Heather and Lauren Moses of Big Stone Gap, and Maureen McNabb, of Roanoke; and nephews, Aaron Moses and Andrew Begley, of Big Stone Gap and Harrison and Clark McNabb of Roanoke; aunt, Lucille Mason, Big Stone Gap, uncles, James Riggs and wife, Frances, Wise, Ronald Ison and wife, Ginger of Johnson City, Tenn. and Buddy Hensley of Norris, Tenn.; also many cousins and VERY special friends.

Services were conducted Saturday, April 23 at the Gilliam Funeral Home with Pastor Ken Sprinkle officiating. Graveside services followed at Skeen Family Cemetery. Family and friends served as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in memory of Bruce be made to Victory Junction Gang Camp, 4500 Adam's Way, Randleman, N.C., 27317 or to Legion Memorial Methodist Church, P.O. Box 628, Big Stone Gap, Va., 24219.

E-mail condolences may be sent to [gfhbsg@verizon.net](mailto:gfhbsg@verizon.net).

(Son of Bruce S Riggs, son of Eliza Skeen Riggs, daughter of JH Skeen)

26. Eliza Ann Riggs

Lot-Eliza

Headstone and/or footstone data:

7/29/1893

9/25/1958

Obituary: Post-10/2/1958

Mrs. Liza Riggs, 66, of Big Stone Gap, widow of Fayte Riggs, died in a Kingsport, Tenn. hospital at 1:40 p.m. Thursday, September 25, after a three-week illness.

She is survived by three sons, James Riggs, Wise, Va., Dr. Bruce S. Riggs and Melvin Riggs, both of Big Stone Gap; four daughters, Mrs. Homer Rose, Kingsport, Mrs. Arnold Countiss of Wise, Mrs. Harry Roberts, Pound, Va., and Mrs. Owen Mason, Big Stone Gap; four brothers, Judge, Clay, Rucker and Clarence Skeens, all of Big Stone Gap; one sister, Mrs. M. S. Quesenberry, Big Stone Gap; 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the American Legion Church near Big Stone Gap with the Rev. R. E. Kea, assisted by the Reverends James M. Smith and Gale Scott conducting the services. Burial followed in the Legion Cemetery.

(Daughter of JH Skeen)

27. Janice Dean Riggs

Lot-Eliza

Headstone and/or footstone data:

6/15/1946

4/11/1947

“Baby, Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James Riggs”

Obituary: Post-4/17/1947

Infant Buried in Powell Valley

Janice Dean Riggs, nine month old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Riggs, Wise, Va. was found dead in bed at the home of her parents at 10 a.m. She had been in ill health for several months.

She is survived by her parents, one brother, Jimmy Riggs; and one sister, Linda Jean Riggs; all of Wise; her maternal grandfather, Sherman Harris, Millers Yard, Va.; and her paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Riggs, Powells Valley.

Funeral services were held at the American Legion Church in Powell’s Valley, in charge of the Rev. Perry T. Rule with burial in Skeens Cemetery in Powell’s Valley.

(Daughter of James L Riggs, son of Eliza Skeen Riggs, daughter of JH Skeen)

28. Lafayette M. Riggs

Lot-Eliza

Headstone and/or footstone data:

4/4/1875

6/4/1948

Obituary: Post-6/10/1948

Lafayette Riggs Dies Friday

Lafayette M. Riggs, 73, of Big Stone Gap, died Friday morning at his home. He was a lifelong resident of Wise County.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Liza Riggs, and the following children: Mrs. Grace Rose, Kingsport, Tenn., Mrs. Blanche Countess, Wise, Va., Mrs. Virginia Roberts, Pound, Va., Mrs. Lucille Mason, Melvin and Bruce Riggs, Big Stone Gap, and James Riggs, Wise.

Funeral services were held at the Powell Valley Methodist church Sunday, in charge of Rev. J. S. Peebles, assisted by Rev. Newton Dickens. Interment followed in the family cemetery. (Note-middle name is McMullen. Countess is misspelled. It should be Countiss.) (Husband of Eliza Skeen Riggs, daughter of JH Skeen)

29. Lucinda W. Riggs

Lot-Allie

Headstone and/or footstone data:

4/19/1861            2/5/1947

“Mother”

Obituary: Post-2/13/1947

Mrs. E. B. Riggs Dies After Long Illness

Mrs. E. B. Riggs, 86, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. B. Hillman, at Appalachia on Wednesday, February 5 at 4 p.m. after an illness of eight months. She was a life long member of the Methodist church in Rye Cove.

She is survived by four daughters; Mrs. Ida Flanary, Gate City, Va., Mrs. Nannie Greer, Bristol, Va.; Mrs. J. B. Hillman, Appalachia; and Mrs. Leonard Hammons, Stonega, Va. One son, Farice Powers, Johnson City, Tenn.

Funeral services were held at the American Legion Memorial church and buried in the American Legion cemetery on Friday at 1 p.m.

Pallbearers: John Fletcher, W. O. Mitchell, B. E. Black, Jim Combs, Howard Myers and J. N. Donaldson. Flower bearers were selected from among the members of Circle No. 9, Susana Wesley Bible Class and a few close friends.

(Note- her daughter’s last name is misspelled. It should be Hammonds, not Hammons.)

(Mother of Lucille Hillman)

30. Melvin L. Riggs

Lot-Eliza

Headstone and/or footstone data:

1/29/1923            10/11/1992

military plaque- “US Army, World War II”

Obituary: Post-10/14/1992

Melvin L. (Chippy) Riggs, 69, Big Stone Gap, died Sunday, Oct. 11, at the Spartanburg Regional Memorial Hospital, Spartanburg, N.C.

He was born in Powell Valley, and was a veteran of World War II, and later served in the Merchant Marines.

He was the son of the late L. M. and Eliza Skeen Riggs, and was preceded in death by one sister, Grace Rose.

Surviving are three sisters, Blanche Countiss and Lucille Mason, both of Big Stone Gap, and Virginia Roberts, Pound; two brothers, James Riggs, Wise, and Dr. Bruce Riggs, Big Stone Gap; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the Holding Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. David Knight officiating.

Nephews served as pallbearers. Burial was in Skeen Cemetery, Powell Valley.

(Note- middle name is Lafayette)

(Son of Eliza Skeen Riggs, daughter of JH Skeen)



31. Charlotte Fay Rose

Lot-Riggs

Headstone and/or footstone data:

1932

1932

“Our Darling”

Obituary: An obituary for this child could not be found in the Post or Kingsport papers. Her sister Anna and uncle, Jim Riggs stated in 2008 that this baby was stillborn. This baby is the daughter of Grace and Homer Rose who lived in Kingsport at the time of her death. Grace Rose (complete given name is Charlotte Grace) is the daughter of Eliza and L M Riggs.

(Daughter of Grace Riggs Rose, daughter of Eliza Skeen Riggs, daughter of JH Skeen)

32. Leslie Q. Simonet

Lot-Bessie

Headstone and/or footstone data:

9/25/1946

12/8/2007

“we are as much a part of these mountains as the drone of insects, the leaves rustling in gentle breezes as the call of the bobwhite”

Obituary: Post-12/12/2007

Mrs. Leslie Diane Quesenberry Simonet, 61, of Butterfly Court, Chapel Hill, N.C., died Saturday (Dec. 8, 2007) at her residence following a courageous battle with cancer.

Leslie was born in Wise Co., on September 25, 1946, a daughter of M.S. “Ques” and Agnes Balcerski Quesenberry. Leslie graduated from Emory and Henry College and received her Masters degree in psychology from East Tennessee State University.

She was an extraordinary person who cared deeply for others. She loved her family, her husband and soul mate of 40 years, Don; her children, and her grandchildren. Leslie enjoyed reading; she loved poetry, and her nature was reflected in her artistic abilities, especially in the pastel medium.

Leslie is survived by her husband, Don; her daughters, Whitney Simonet of Shawnee, Kan. and Sara Noblet and her husband Dustin, of Excelsior Springs, Mo.; her son, Ryan Simonet of Kansas City, Mo.; her grandchildren, Jadyne and Spencer Noblet; a brother and sister-in-law, Spencer and Trina Quesenberry of Big Stone Gap; and two sisters, Marsha Quesenberry of Big Stone Gap and Kathy Quesenberry of Ridgefield, Conn.

Her parents preceded her in death.

The celebration of Leslie’s life was held at 2 p.m., Monday, Dec. 10, at St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church in Pittsboro. The Rev. Carl Edwards presided.

Following the service, friends were invited to Leslie and Don’s residence for a reception.

The family asks that memorial contributions be directed to either: Susan G. Komen for the Cure, 5005 LBJ Fwy., Ste. 250, Dallas, TX 75244; or to the UNC Lineberger Cancer Center, for Dr. Jeff Peppercorn’s Research Department, 101 Manning Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Online condolences may be sent to [www.griffinfuneral.com](http://www.griffinfuneral.com), Select Obituaries.

Arrangements are under the care of Griffin Funeral Service and Cremation of Pittsboro.

(Note- Leslie was cremated in North Carolina, ashes mixed with gravel and cement in the form of a small cross on the ground in front of her headstone at the Skeen cemetery)

(Daughter of MS Quesenberry, Jr, son of Bessie Skeen Quesenberry, daughter of JH Skeen)

33. Alice W. Skeen

Lot-Floyd

Headstone and/or footstone data:

1887

1942

Obituary: Post-6/4/1942

Mrs. Floyd Skeen Dies Tuesday

Mrs. Floyd Skeen, beloved lady of the Cracker's Neck Community near East Stone Gap, passed away Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock. She had been ill for more than a year.

She is survived by her husband, F. G. Skeen; one son, Cecil Skeen; one daughter, Mrs. Keith Marrs; one granddaughter, Allie Elaine Marrs; two sisters, Mrs. J. H. Tate and Mrs. Sam Wilson, and four brothers, B. B. Willis, Creed, Robert L. and John Henry Willis, all of East Stone Gap.

Funeral services were held at the East Stone Gap Methodist church Wednesday afternoon at three o'clock. The Rev. Billie Galloway, the Rev. Sylvian Wilson and the Rev. O.V. Elkins officiated.

Interment was made in the Skeen cemetery adjoining the American Legion cemetery near Big Stone Gap.

(Note- Maiden name is Dora Alice Willis.)

(Wife of Floyd Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

34. Allie Marie Skeen

Lot-Ernest

Headstone and/or footstone data:

9/7/1897

3/28/1952

"Gone But Not Forgotten"

Obituary: Post-4/3/1952

Miss Allie Skeen Dies Suddenly

Miss Allie Marie Skeen, 53, died suddenly at her home in Powell Valley at 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 28. She had been in declining health for 15 years but was still active up until the time of her death.

Miss Skeen had been a teacher in the Wise County public schools for 29 years.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. M. S. Quesenberry and Mrs. Liza Riggs, both of Big Stone Gap and five brothers, Floyd, Judge, Clarence, Clay and Rucker Skeen, all of Big Stone Gap.

Funeral services were held at the American Legion chapel at 2 p.m. Monday in charge of Rev. J. M. Smith, Rev. E.G. Frye, and Rev. Billy Galloway. Burial followed in the family cemetery near the chapel.

(Daughter of JH Skeen)

35. Ardella Skeen

Lot-Ernest

Headstone and/or footstone data:

8/1/1863

2/22/1944

Obituary: Post-2/24/1944

Mrs. Skeen Dies in Powell Valley

Mr. Ardella Elkins Skeen, 81 died at her home near Big Stone Gap at 9 a.m. Monday morning after an illness of one week.

She is survived by three daughters and six sons, Mrs. Liza Riggs, Mrs. M. S. Quesenberry, and Miss Alice Skeen, Floyd, Judge, Letch, Clarence and Clay Skeen, all of Norton, route 1, and Rucker Skeen, Fort Jackson, S. C., 23 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

Also surviving are three sisters, Mrs. Mollie Lambert, Big Stone Gap, Mrs. Vion Stamper, Chisoo, Okla., and Mrs. Maggie Anderson Stewart, Norfolk, Va., and one brother, Benton Elkins, Walnut Creek, Va.

(Note- misspellings: Ardella should be Ardelia, Liza should be Eliza, Alice should be Allie.)

(Wife of JH Skeen)

36. Birdie D. Skeen

Lot-Judge

Headstone and/or footstone data:

4/12/1895                      7/17/1993

Obituary: Post-7/21/1993

Birdie Dorton Skeen, 98, of East Stone Gap, died Saturday morning July 17, at her residence.

A lifelong resident of Wise County and daughter of the late Joseph A. and Louisa Gilley Dorton, she was preceded in death by her husband, Judge P. Skeen on January 8, 1973.

Surviving are two daughters, Carrie Orr, Pennington Gap, and Mildred Thomas Slagle, East Stone Gap; four grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Services were conducted at 2 p.m. Monday in the Holding Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. E. H. Insko officiating.

Great-grandsons served as pallbearers.

Graveside services were conducted in the Skeen Cemetery, Powell Valley.

(Note- middle name is Ruth.)

(Wife of Judge Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

37. Cecil Stewart Skeen

Lot-Floyd

Headstone and/or footstone data:

7/21/1907                      8/22/1993

Obituary: Post-8/25/1993

Cecil Stewart Skeen, age 86, of Rt. 1 Box 664, Big Stone Gap, died Sunday afternoon Aug. 22 at Lonesome Pine Hospital.

A lifelong resident of the Crackers Neck community and son of the late Floyd G. and Alice Willis Skeen, he was a graduate of East Stone Gap High School, attended Emory and Henry College, and graduated from Radford State Teachers College. He taught school and served as principal in the Wise County school system in his early years but the majority of his life was spent as a dairy farmer, raising beef cattle. He operated Skeen Store for over 55 years.

Surviving are his wife, Georgia Moore Skeen, Big Stone Gap; one daughter, Mrs. Lloyd (Cecilia) Robinette, Big Stone Gap; three grandchildren, Stewart Skeen Robinette, Michael Lloyd Robinette, and Elizabeth Anne Robinette, all of Big Stone Gap; one sister, Thelma Marrs, Big Stone Gap; one uncle, Rucker Skeen, Big Stone Gap; three nieces, Elaine Carty and Karen Roop, Big Stone Gap, and Alice Stump, Norton.

Services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the Holding Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Warren Wattenbarger officiating.

Burial will be in the Skeen family cemetery in Powell Valley.

Pallbearers will be Johnny Wells, Spencer Quesenberry, George Patrick, Bill Tate, Rod Tate, and William Wampler, Jr.

Honorary pallbearers will be Hubert Franklin, Woodrow Franklin, Don Gillespie, Jim Galloway, Wade Tate, William C. Wampler, and D.J. Egan.  
(Son of Floyd Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

38. Clarence T. Skeen

Lot-Clarence

Headstone and/or footstone data:

7/3/1903                      1/31/1976

Obituary: Post-2/5/1976

Clarence Tilson Skeen, 72, of Big Stone Gap, died Saturday at Norton Community Hospital following a short illness.

He was a farmer and lifelong resident of Big Stone Gap. He was a member of the American Legion United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Leona Skeen, two sons, Donald Wade Skeen, Pulaski, and Larry Skeen, Amarillo, Tex.; one daughter, Barbara Gibson, Sellersburg, Ind.; two brothers, Rucker Skeen and Clay Skeen, both of Big Stone Gap; one sister, Mrs. Bessie Quesenberry, Kingsport, Tenn.; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the American Legion United Methodist Church with the Rev. David Knight and the Rev. Hugh Bowers officiating. Burial was in the Skeen Family Cemetery.

Holding Funeral Home, Big Stone Gap was in charge of arrangements.

(Son of JH Skeen)

39. Clay Skeen

Lot-Clay

Headstone and/or footstone data:

5/11/1905                      6/21/1976

Obituary: Post-6/24/1976

Clay Skeen, 71, of Powell Valley, died Monday morning in Indian Path Hospital, Kingsport, Tenn. He was a member of the Legion Memorial Methodist Church. He served as principal for 41 years in the Wise County School system before his retirement. He was a member of the Big Stone Gap Masonic Lodge No. 208 AF & AM.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Grace Skeen; one daughter, Mrs. Sandra Midkiff, Columbia, S. C.; one son, James (Dicky) Skeen, Kingsport; one sister, Mrs. Bessie Quesenberry, Kingsport; one brother, Rucker Skeen, Big Stone Gap; four grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Legion Memorial Methodist Church with the Rev. David Knight and the Rev. Hugh Bowers officiating. Burial was in the Skeen Cemetery. Nephews served as pallbearers. Graveside services were conducted by the Big Stone Gap Masonic Lodge No. 208 AF & AM. Holding Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

(Note- given name is Henry Clay)

(Son of JH Skeen)

40. Ernest F. Skeen

Lot-Ernest

Headstone and/or footstone data:

10/7/1898

12/2/1932

“Sweetest Sleep”

Obituary: Post-12/7/1932

Ernest F. Skeen Died Friday Night

Popular Powell Valley Young Man Expires in Hospital in Pennington Gap- Services Sunday Afternoon

A great throng of friends attended the funeral of Ernest F. Skeen, popular young man of Powell's Valley who passed away at the Lee General Hospital Friday night at eleven o'clock two weeks after an operation for appendicitis. Owing to the seriousness of the operation physicians entertained little hope for recovery from the beginning.

Services were conducted at the Legion Memorial Church near Big Stone Gap Sunday afternoon at two o'clock by Rev. I. E. Cregger, of Jonesville, Rev. C. A. Hillman, of East Stone Gap, Rev. W. B. Golloway and Rev. J. M. Smith, of Big Stone Gap. A beautiful tribute to the life of this splendid young man was said by these ministers who had been associated with him for many years.

Ernest was a son of the late James H. Skeen who died in the year of 1925. Following his graduation at the East Stone Gap high school, he attended a number of normal schools and had been teaching at various places in the county for several years. At the time of his illness he was principal of the Tacoma school. He had served in the same capacity at Derby, Exeter, Arno and other places. He was 34 years of age and since the death of his father had managed the affairs of the family, being depended on altogether for leadership.

He was a professing Christian and lived a life that was outstanding among his friends. He was loved and respected by all with whom he came in contact. His advice was sought by many who accepted it as given and knew it was given after serious thought and consideration.

The deceased is survived by his mother and the following brothers and sisters: F. G., L. H., J. P., Clarence, Rucker and Clay Skeen; Mrs. Bessie Quesenberry, Mrs. L. M. Riggs and Miss Allie Skeen. Interment was made in the family burial plot near the American Legion Cemetery. The large attendance at the funeral and the many floral tributes attested the popularity of this young man in this section.

Active pall bearers: Tom Gardner, Omar Johnson, Melvin Duffy, Jess Willoughby, Goff Skeen and Marvin Burdette.

Honorary pall bearers: W. R. Wilson, Hop Fraley, C. B. Makin, John Elkins, Luther Robinette, W. R. Otey, Jr., Ray Gardner, Houston Wilson, Dewey Wells, Dave Wilson, Letch Willis, Will Egan, Grant Egan, Worley Poole, R. J. Treadway, Ewing Skeen, Worley Wampler, F. S. Wilson, R. E. Dorton and Lester Wells.

Flower bearers: Misses Maude Wilson, Bee Begley, Christie Poole, Ollie Anderson, Edith Elkins, Louise Hobbs, Rose Helen Duffy, Bill Wampler, Margaret Robinette, Bernice Neely, Ida Mae Turner, Della Willis, Georgia Quesenberry, Minnie Frazier and Theodosia Kennedy.

(Note- middle name Franklin, James H Skeen died in 1926, not 1925.)

(Son of JH Skeen)

41. Floyd G. Skeen

Lot-Floyd

Headstone and/or footstone data:

1882

1956

Obituary: Post-8/23/1956

Floyd G. Skeen Dies Suddenly

Floyd G. Skeen, 74, of Big Stone Gap, died suddenly at his home at 6 a.m. Sunday.

He was deputy treasurer of Wise County for eight years and purchasing agent in the Timber Department of the Stonega Coke and Coal Company, with 20 years service. He retired some time ago to his farm.

Survivors include a son, Cecil; a daughter, Mrs. Keith A. Marrs; four granddaughters; four brothers, J. T., Rucker, Clay and Clarence, all of Big Stone Gap; two sisters, Mrs. M.S. Quesenberry Sr and Mrs. L.M. Riggs, both of Big Stone Gap.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the East Stone Gap Methodist Church. Rev. R.A. Ireson and Rev. James M. Smith officiated. Interment was in Skeen Cemetery near the American Legion Cemetery.

(Note- middle name is stated as Gustvias in daughter Thelma's birth registry at Wise Genealogical Society office at Wise courthouse. Brother J.T. should be J.P.)

(Son of JH Skeen)

42. Gary Eugene Skeen

Lot-Letcher

Headstone and/or footstone data:

10/25/1961            8/8/1987

“We Love You”

Obituary: Post-8/12/1987

Gary Skeen, 25, died Saturday, August 8.

He was a lifelong resident of Appalachia.

Survivors include his wife, Martha Skeen; two sons, Gary Skeen, Jr., and Jeremy Mathew Skeen, both of the home; his mother, Nancy McNutt, St. Petersburg, Fla.; two sisters, Gracie Skeen, Kingsport, and Patty Crum, Appalachia; his paternal grandfather W.C. “Tom” Skeen, Appalachia; his maternal grandparents, Wily and Lillian Collins, Inverness, Fla.; and his great grandmother, Cora Belcher, Inverness.

Holding Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

(Son of Thomas Gilmer Skeen, son of WC “Tom” Skeen, son of Letcher Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

43. Georgia Skeen

Lot-Floyd

Headstone and/or footstone data:

5/4/1913            11/3/2002

Obituary: Post-11/6/2002

Georgia Moore Skeen, 89, of Big Stone Gap, died Sunday (Nov.3, 2002) at Wellmont-Lonesome Pine Hospital.

She was a life-long resident of the Crackers Neck community of Big Stone Gap. She was a graduate of East Stone Gap High School and received normal professional teaching certificate from Radford State Teachers College. She received her B.S. from Milligan College.

She taught 42 years in the Wise County School System with 29 of those years being at Big Stone Gap Elementary School.

Mrs. Skeen was of the Presbyterian faith. She was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Cecil Stewart Skeen; her parents, James J. and Dora Belle Witt Moore; three sisters, Hattie Moore Hilton, Birdie Moore Pyle and Lettie Moore Woodward; and one brother, Ted V. Moore.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law Cecilia Skeen Robinette and Lloyd Robinette; grandchildren, Stewart, Michael and Elizabeth Robinette all of Big Stone Gap; sister, Agnes Moore Anderson of Plant City, Fla., and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the Holding Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Ronnie Mutter officiating. Burial followed in the Skeen family cemetery. Pallbearers were William D. Shupe, Johnny Wells, Stewart Robinette, Michael Robinette, Ed Roop and Robert Stump. Memorials may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church P.O. Box 217, Big Stone Gap, Va. 24219. (Wife of Cecil Skeen, son of Floyd Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

44. Grace Skeen

Lot-Clay

Headstone and/or footstone data:

2/6/1914                      8/12/2008

Obituary: Kingsport Times – 8/16/08

Big Stone Gap, Va.—Grace Wampler Skeen, 94, died Tuesday (Aug. 12, 2008) at Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital in Columbus S.C.

A lifelong resident of Powell Valley, Grace was born Feb. 6, 1914 to the late Milton Stamford and Rosa Alice (Willis) Wampler. She graduated from East Stone Gap High School and Women's Division of V.P.I. (now Radford University). Enriching the lives of hundreds of students, she was a first grade teacher for nearly 40 years in the Wise County School System. She taught at Buffalo, Osaka, and Big Stone Gap Elementary Schools.

Grace was the oldest living member of the Legion Memorial United Methodist Church and was present as a 12 year-old when the cornerstone was laid for the present church building. She taught Sunday School at Legion Memorial for many years and was a member of the United Methodist Women.

Grace remembered attending the first graveside service held in American Legion Cemetery, adjacent to the church and could still direct anyone to that first gravesite.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry Clay Skeen; a son, James Ernest (Dickie) Skeen; a sister Ella Willis, and three brothers, Ray, Charles, and Ernest Wampler.

Survivors include her daughter, Sandra Midkiff (Larry) of Columbia, S. C.; daughter-in-law, Thelma Skeen of Kingsport; granddaughters Lauren Metts (Jimmy), Irmo, S.C., Beth Vorp (Thom), Conway, S.C. and Julie Maggard, Kingsport; grandsons, Michael Skeen (Kathy), Elizabethton and Tracy Skeen (Katie), Green Sea, S.C.; one great-granddaughter, Madison Metts, Irmo, S.C.; eight great-grandsons, Tyler and Zachery Vorp, Conway, S.C., Noah and River Skeen, Green Sea, S.C., Andrew, Taylor and Joshua Skeen, Elizabethton and Jay Metts, Irmo, S.C.; and several nieces and nephews.

The family received friends from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Holding Funeral Home in Big Stone Gap, Va. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday at Legion Memorial United Methodist Church with Dr. Ken Sprinkle officiating.

Burial will follow in Skeen Cemetery adjacent to the American Legion Cemetery and the church.

Pallbearers will be grandson, Tracey Skeen and Jimmy Metts, nephews Michael Wampler and Larry Skeen, special family friends, J.H. Rivers and Sidney Lions.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Legion Memorial United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 628, Big Stone Gap, Va. 24219.

Email condolences may be sent to holding @compunet.net.

(Note- given name is Nellie Grace.)

(Wife of Clay Skeen, son of JH Skeen.)

45. James E. Skeen  
Lot-Clay  
Headstone and/or footstone data:

10/18/1944            2/20/2003

“Wed Aug 16, 1982”

Obituary: Post-2/26/2003

James “Dickie” Skeen, 58, of Kingsport, Tenn., formerly of Big Stone Gap, died Thursday (Feb. 20, 2003) at Wellmont-Holston Valley Medical Center, Kingsport.

He was born Oct. 18, 1944 to Grace Skeen and the late Clay Skeen in Big Stone Gap.

He was a 1962 graduate of Powell Valley High School. He attended Milligan College in Johnson City, Tenn.

He was presently employed by Quebcor Printing in Kingsport, Tenn., having served for 37 years.

Survivors include his wife, Thelma Skeen; children, Michael Skeen and wife, Kathy of Elizabethton, Beth Vorp and husband, Thom, of Big Stone Gap, Tracy Skeen and wife, Katie, of Green Sea, S.C., and Julie Jarrett and husband Rob, of Kingsport; grandsons, Andrew, Taylor, Josh and Noah Skeen, and Tyler and Zachery Vorp; granddaughter, Cassandra Jarrett; mother, Grace Skeen of Big Stone Gap; sister, Sandy Midkiff and husband, Larry, of Columbia S.C.; niece, Lauren Metts and husband, Jimmy, of Irmo, S.C.

(Note- middle name Ernest.)

(Son of Clay Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

46. J. H. Skeen  
Lot-Ernest  
Headstone and/or footstone data:

1855                    1926

“At Rest”

Obituary: Post-5/19/1926

Well Known Citizen of Powell’s Valley Passes Away After Several Months Illness

J. H. Skeen died at his home in Powell’s Valley Tuesday morning, May 11, after an illness of several months duration. He suffered from several complications, and while everything that medical skill and love could do for him was done, he did not respond to the treatments. During the past few weeks his strength failed very rapidly. He bore his sufferings with Christian patience and fortitude, and approached death with the strength and comfort of the Christian’s hope of an eternal life beyond the grave.

A few weeks ago he was taken to the Abingdon Hospital for a thorough examination and treatment, but the results of this examination revealed that very little could be done to restore him to health, and he and his family were advised of his real condition by the physicians and prepared for the end.

Mr. Skeen was born in Russell County, Va., near the present town of Castlewood on December 28, 1855.

He was a son of Lilborn H. and Susan Murphy Skeen. Prior to the Civil War he moved with his parents to Powell’s Valley above Big Stone Gap where with other family connections a large farming enterprise was carried on. He had spent his entire life in the Valley. He was married on June 5, 1881, to Miss Ardelia Elkins and to this union were born ten children, seven sons and three daughters, all of whom survive him. The names of the children are, Floyd G. Skeen, L. H. Skeen, J. P. Skeen, Mrs. Bessie Skeen Quesenberry, Mrs. Eliza Skeen Riggs, Miss Allie Skeen, Ernest F. Skeen, Clarence T. Skeen, H. Clay Skeen, and James Rucker Skeen. Mr. Skeen and his family are well known in this section, and his passing is deeply regretted.



The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. James M. Smith and Rev. Henry Wampler in the presence of a large gathering of sorrowing relatives and sympathetic friends on Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock.

The farm of Mr. Skeen adjoins the property of the American Legion Cemetery. Just before he was confined to his home, Mr. Skeen laid off an acre of land next to the cemetery which he desired to be reserved as a family burying ground. His remains were laid to rest here in the spot designated by him. The floral arrangements were numerous and beautiful.

47. James Rucker Skeen

Lot-Rucker

Headstone and/or footstone data:

10/14/1908            4/9/1999

military plaque- "Cpl US Army, World War II"

Obituary: Post-4/14/1999

James Rucker Skeen, 90, of Powell Valley, died Friday, (April 9, 1999) at Wellmont-Holston Valley Medical Center in Kingsport, Tenn.

Mr. Skeen was born Oct. 14, 1908, in Powell Valley, the son of the late James Henry and Ardelia Elkins Skeen. During World War II, he was a member of the U.S. Army 557<sup>th</sup> Battalion, CAC. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes, and the Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaigns. He also participated in the liberation of Paris.

As a teacher and principal in the Wise County Schools for 37 years, Mr. Skeen passed on to generations of students the history lessons he learned fighting for his country. He was a member of the 1926 East Stone Gap High School championship football team. He attended First Baptist Church in Big Stone Gap and was a member of the Men's Sunday School Class.

Mr. Skeen was preceded in death by three sisters and six brothers.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Georgia Bevins Skeen; two daughters, Patsy Louise Skeen of Athens, Ga., and Kimberly Rucker Skeen Glisson and son-in-law, Wallace Daniel Glisson, Jr. of Columbia, Md., and several nieces, nephews, and friends.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Holding Funeral Home chapel, Big Stone Gap, with the Revs. Rick Lancaster and Steve Powers officiating. Burial followed in the J.H. Skeen family cemetery, Big Stone Gap.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Baptist Church, 108 Wood Ave, Big Stone Gap, Va. 24219 or the Brian's Chapel Church, 4103 Kent Junction Road, Appalachia, Va. 24216.

(Son of JH Skeen)

48. Judge P. Skeen

Lot-Judge

Headstone and/or footstone data:

12/9/1886            1/8/1973

"In God's Care"

Obituary: Post-1/11/1973

Judge P. Skeen, 86, of East Stone Gap, died Monday, January 8, in a Norton hospital after a long illness.

He was a lifelong resident of East Stone Gap and was a retired employee of the Stonega Coke and Coal Company.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Birdie D. Skeen; two daughters, Mrs. Mildred S. Thomas of East Stone Gap and Mrs. Carrie Orr of Pennington Gap; one sister, Mrs. M. C. Quesenberry Sr., of Big Stone Gap; three brothers, Clarence Skeen, Clay Skeen, and Rucker Skeen of Big Stone Gap; four grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday. Burial followed in the Skeen family cemetery, Rt. 1, Big Stone Gap.

(Note- middle name is Patton. Reference to sister should be M.S Quesenberry, not M.C.)

(Son of JH Skeen)

49. Lake Skeen

Lot-Letcher

Headstone and/or footstone data:

1908                      1966

military plaque-“Lake Skeen, Virginia, MMS1 USNR, World War II, May 20, 1908 July 29, 1966”

Obituary: Post-8/4/1966

Lake Skeen Dies Suddenly

Lake Skeen, 58, died Friday night at his residence of an apparent heart attack.

He was sales manager for Pet Dairy Co. in Big Stone Gap.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mae Skeen, Big Stone Gap; two step-sons, James E. Moneyhun, Roanoke, Va., and S. B. Moneyhun, Bristol, Tenn.; one brother, W. C. Skeen of Appalachia, Va.; and one sister, Miss Reba Skeen of Big Stone Gap.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Hagy Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Jimmy Smith officiating. Burial was in the Skeen family cemetery in Powell Valley.

(Note- Lake had no middle name.)

(Son of Letcher Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

50. Laura J. Skeen

Lot-Letcher

Headstone and/or footstone data:

1889                      1933

“Asleep In Jesus”

Obituary: Post-11/16/1933

Dies Suddenly At Appalachia

Mrs. Laura Elkins Skeen, 43, died very suddenly at the home of her son, Tom Skeen, at Appalachia Monday evening at 7:00 o'clock. She had been in declining health for some time. Mrs. Skeen was a daughter of W. H. Elkins, of Big Stone Gap, and was reared in Powell Valley.

Funeral services were conducted at the Legion Memorial Church in Powell Valley Wednesday afternoon and interment took place in the American Legion Cemetery. Roy Green, Appalachia, directed the funeral.

The deceased is survived by two sons, Tom and Lake Skeen, and one small daughter, all of Appalachia.

(Wife of Letcher Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

51. Leona A. Skeen  
Lot-Clarence  
Headstone and/or footstone data:

9/5/1910                      2/8/1987

Obituary: Post-2/11/1987

Leona A. Maggard Skeen, 76, died Sunday, February 8, in Pulaski Community Hospital. She was a lifelong resident of the Big Stone Gap area, a retired employee of Royal Laundry Company, and a member of the Legion Memorial United Methodist Church.

Survivors include one daughter, Barbara Gibson, Sellersburg, Ind., two sons, Don Skeen, Pulaski and Larry Skeen, Amarillo, Texas; two sisters, Winona Graham, Big Stone Gap, and Ruth Simmons, Miami, Fla.; eight grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday (today) in the Legion Memorial United Methodist Church with the Rev. David Knight officiating.

Burial will be in the Skeen cemetery.

(Note- middle name is Alice.)

(Wife of Clarence Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

52. Letcher H. Skeen  
Lot-Letcher  
Headstone and/or footstone data:

11/11/1883                      1/2/1947

Obituary: Post-1/9/1947

Letcher Skeen Dies After a Ten-Weeks' Illness

Letcher H. Skeen, 63, of Powell's Valley, near Big Stone Gap, died Thursday, January 2 at 2:45 p. m. at the Appalachia General Hospital after a ten-weeks' illness. He was a maintenance man for the town of Appalachia, and had been a resident of Powell's Valley all his life. He is survived by five sons: W. C. Skeen, Lake Skeen and Johnny Skeen, Appalachia; L. H. Skeen, Jr., Big Stone Gap; Charles Skeen and Johnny Skeen, both of Chicago, Ill.; one daughter, Reba Skeen, Big Stone Gap; five brothers, Judge Skeen, East Stone Gap; Floyd Skeen, Clay Skeen, Rucker Skeen and Clarence Skeen all of Big Stone Gap; three sisters, Miss Alice Skeen, Mrs. L. M. Riggs, and Mrs. M. S. Quesenberry, all of Big Stone Gap; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, January 5, at the American Legion Church in Powell's Valley, in charge of Rev. Joe Peebles, pastor of East Stone Gap Methodist Church, assisted by the Rev. Manson B. Tate of the Appalachia Presbyterian Church. Burial in the Skeen plot in the American Legion Cemetery. Pallbearers were Merkel Gamill, Don Hobbs, Roy Gardner, T. L. Damon, Jack Hobbs, Ernest Wampler, Charles Hall and John B. Willis.

(Note- middle name is Hatcher. W.C. went by the name of Tom. Johnny Skeen is listed twice. It is believed that Johnny was living with his maternal grandparents(Boatright) in the Big Stone Gap area and L.H. Jr and Charles were living Harvey, Ill. with their mother. Reference to sister should be Allie, not Alice.)

(Son of JH Skeen)

53. Rodney Eugene Vowell

Lot-Judge

Headstone and/or footstone data:

10/12/1956

9/13/1975

“An Inspiration To All Who Knew Him”

Obituary: Powell Valley News-9/18/1975

PHS Graduate Dead After Head-On Crash

An 18-year-old Pennington High School graduate was killed and three Wise County men were hospitalized with serious injuries as the result of a head on collision two miles west of Big Stone Gap on U. S. 58 late Saturday night.

Rodney Eugene Vowell of Rt. 2, Pennington Gap apparently died at the scene of the accident after the car he was driving collided with a car driven by Paul Dean Griffin, 25, of Big Stone Gap.

Griffin was taken to Lonesome Pine Hospital in Big Stone Gap but was later transferred to Holston Valley Community Hospital in Kingsport, where he was listed in “poor” condition in the Intensive Care Unit the hospital late Saturday night.

Passengers in the Griffin vehicle, Johnny Williams, 18 and Larry Baker, 18, both of Big Stone Gap were listed in “fair” condition Sunday at Lonesome Pine Hospital.

The Griffin car was apparently traveling east toward Big Stone Gap and the Vowell car was traveling west when the two cars collided head-on, knocking the Vowell car some 75 feet backward from the point of impact according to trooper J. D. Gravley of the Virginia State Police.

It took officers and volunteers about an hour to free the four victims from the cars. Griffin, Williams and Baker all were apparently riding in the front seat of the Griffin car while Vowell was alone.

Charges in connection with the collision are pending, according to trooper Gravley.

Vowell was a 1975 graduate of Pennington High School where he was a football standout throughout his four-year career. He played fullback and middle linebacker, a key position on the defensive squad. He was named “mean man of the week” two times his senior year, an honor awarded to the top player each week.

Pennington Head Football Coach Don Williams said this of Rodney: “Pennington High School can stand for 50 more years and it will never have another person as loyal as Rodney was to its athletics. While he was in high school and even after he graduated, he was one of the best-liked and most popular students around.”

His extra-curricular activities included: Member of the Student Counsel, Pep Club, Drama Club, in which he had three leading roles, 1974-75 president of the Art Club.

He started three of the four years he lettered in football and was also a member of the track team.

Survivors include his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Vowell, Rt. 2, Pennington Gap, Va., a brother, Mark Vowell, of the home; his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Green Orr, Rt. 2, Pennington Gap; his maternal great-grandmother, Mrs. Birdie Skeens, of Big Stone Gap; and his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Velma Vowell, Lake City, Texas.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the First United Methodist Church, Pennington Gap, with the Rev. Tom Stanley officiating. Burial was in Skeens Cemetery, Big Stone Gap. Province Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

(Son of Amelia Orr Vowell, daughter of Carrie Skeen Orr, daughter of Judge Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

54. Wallace E. Vowell

Lot-Judge

Headstone and/or footstone data:

7/14/1925

8/20/1998

Obituary: Powell Valley News-8/26/1998

Wallace Vowell, age 73, of Pennington Gap, passed away Thursday, August 20, 1998 at the Lee County Community Hospital in Pennington Gap.

He was born in Lake City, Tennessee, was a resident of Harlan, Kentucky and had been a resident of Lee County since 1959. He was a retired coal miner and a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He was a member of the U.M.W.A. He was a Christian.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Velma Cox Vowell and one son, Rodney Vowell.

He is survived by his wife, Amelia Vowell of the home; one son and daughter-in-law, Mark Vowell and wife, Denise of Pennington Gap; one brother, George Vowell of Augusta, Georgia; two sisters, Wanda Sallee of Sante, California and Mary Ruth Daniel of Nashville, Tennessee; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted at 2:00 p.m. Sunday from the Province Funeral Home Chapel with Jerry Collins, Richard McFarland and Dr. Kenneth Sprinkle officiating. Burial followed at the Skeens Cemetery in Big Stone Gap.

Province Funeral Home of Pennington Gap was in charge of arrangements.

(Husband of Amelia Orr Vowell, daughter of Carrie Skeen Orr, daughter of Judge Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

55. William Elmer Vowell

Lot-Judge

Headstone and/or footstone data:

6/10/1904

7/23/1973

Obituary: Powell Valley News-7/26/1973

William E. Vowell, 67, died unexpectedly Monday.

He was a retired miner and a member of the International Order of Oddfellows Jesse Lodge 285.

Surviving are two daughters Mrs. Wanda Carrell, San Diego, Calif., and Mrs Mary Ruth Daniels, Nashville, Tenn.; two sons, Wallace Vowell, Pennington Gap, and George Vowell, U. S. Army, Germany; one sister, Mrs. Helen Lidgey, Illinois; one brother, Herbert Vowell, Lake City, Tenn; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p. m. Wednesday in the Province Funeral Home chapel with the Rev. Thomas Stanley and the Rev. Floyd Haun officiating. Burial was in the Skeen Cemetery in Big Stone Gap, Virginia.

Province Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

(Father of Wallace Vowell, husband of Amelia Orr Vowell, daughter of Carrie Skeen Orr, daughter of Judge Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

56. Bonnie E. Willis  
Lot-Floyd  
Headstone and/or footstone data:
- 2/18/1902                      11/25/1992
- “Precious Lord Take My Hand”
- Obituary: Post-12/2/1992  
 Bonnie Dorton Willis, 90, Big Stone Gap, died Wednesday, Nov. 25 at Heritage Hall Nursing Home. She was a lifelong resident of the Powell Valley Community, Big Stone Gap. She was of the Baptist faith. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bryan B. Willis; and her parents Robert and Aminda Dorton. Surviving are one daughter, Reba Neal, Big Stone Gap; one son, Ralph Willis, Big Stone Gap; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two brothers, Howard Dorton, Big stone Gap and Palmer Dorton, Big Stone Gap; and one sister, Eva Terry, Vernon Hill. Services were conducted at 2 p.m. Friday at Holding Funeral Home with the Rev. U. L. Graham officiating. Burial was in the Skeen Cemetery, Big Stone Gap.  
 (Wife of Bryan B. Willis, brother to Dora Alice Willis Skeen, wife to Floyd Skeen, son of JH Skeen)
57. Bryan B. Willis  
Lot-Floyd  
Headstone and/or footstone data:
- 10/22/1896                      6/30/1966
- “Precious Lord Take My Hand”  
 Military plaque- “Bryan B. Willis, Virginia, Pvt Co A 132 Engineers, World War I, Oct 22, 1897 June 30, 1966”
- Obituary: Coalfield Progress-7/7/1966  
 Bryan B. Willis, 69, of Big Stone Gap, died Thursday in a Veterans Administration Hospital in Oteen, N.C., following a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Bonnie Willis, Big Stone Gap; a daughter, Mrs. Reba Neal, Detroit, Mich.; a son, Ralph Willis, Big Stone Gap; a sister, Mrs. Sam Wilson, Big Stone Gap; and four grandchildren. Funeral services were held Sunday in Legion Memorial Church in Powell Valley with the Rev. Larry Best and the Rev. Sylvan Wilson in charge. Burial followed in Skeen Cemetery.  
 (Brother to Dora Alice Willis Skeen, wife to Floyd Skeen, son of JH Skeen)
58. Ella Blanche Willis  
Lot-Clay  
Headstone and/or footstone data:
- 8/27/1907                      12/11/1974
- Obituary: Post-12/19/1974  
 Mrs. Ella W. Willis, 67, of Big Stone Gap, died Wednesday of last week in a Norton hospital. She was a retired school teacher, and a member of the East Stone Gap United Methodist Church.

Surviving are one sister, Mrs. Clay Skeen, Big Stone Gap; one brother, Ernest Wampler, Big Stone Gap; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted Friday in the Holding Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. David Knight and the Rev. E.H. Insko in charge. Burial followed in the Skeen Cemetery.

(Sister to Grace Wampler Skeen, wife of Clay Skeen, son of JH Skeen; also sister-in-law to Dora Alice Willis Skeen, wife of Floyd Skeen, son of JH Skeen)

59. Robert Lee Willis

Lot-Clay

Headstone and/or footstone data:

11/29/1884            2/27/1963

Obituary: Post-3/7/1963

Robert Willis Dies at home

Robert (Bob) Lee Willis, 78, died at 11:05 p.m. Wednesday at his home after a long illness. He was a member of the East Stone Gap Methodist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Ella Willis; a daughter, Miss Frances Willis, Big Stone Gap; two sisters, Mrs. Lula Tate, East Stone Gap, and Mrs. A.E. Wilson, Big Stone Gap, and two brothers, Bryan and John Henry Willis, Big Stone Gap.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the East Stone Gap Methodist Church with the Rev. Daryl Williams and the Rev. J. M. Smith officiating. Burial followed in Skeens Cemetery.

(Husband to Ella Wampler Willis, sister to Grace Wampler Skeen, wife of Clay Skeen, son of JH Skeen.)