

## INTERNATIONAL

## NO LENIENCY

France sentences  
Lebanese terrorist  
to life — PAGE A17



## SPORTS

## MUGGSY

The story of Tyrone Bogues:  
He has never been a bit short  
on determination — PAGE D1



## STATE/LOCAL

## NEW LINES

Would annexation  
dilute the black vote  
in the city? — PAGE B1

# WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

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## Fast-Living Surry Man Left Legend and Legacy

By Greg Hitt  
JOURNAL REPORTER

MOUNT AIRY — Danny Gardner left the pickup idling in the road and pushed into the snow toward the family graveyard at the Crooked Oak Baptist Church in Northern Surry County.

"The ol' man lived a life most folks just dream about," he said of his daddy, Rufus L. Gardner, who was buried amid controversy four years ago. "He worked hard all his life, probably gave away more than he kept, but he didn't deserve what he got in death. It just wasn't right."

Gardner's breath piled in clouds before his face as he recalled his daddy, whose story, as Gardner tells it, spins quickly into a tale about an outlaw from the deep hollows who had a nose for money and liquor and spent a lifetime chasing both.

Rufus Gardner got his start running moonshine for his own daddy and later traded black-

### 'The Ol' Man Lived A Life Most Folks Just Dream About,' Gardner's Son Says

market goods, shot a man, collected gold and silver coins and played high-stakes poker like a shark.

He held an interest in J. Sidna Allen that bordered on obsession. He wrote a book about Allen, a triggerman in a 1912 shoot-out in Hillsville, Va., that left five dead, including the sheriff and a judge.

Gardner collected Allen memorabilia,

opened an Allen museum, and before his death, was close to making a movie about Allen.

Danny Gardner, who had helped arrange financing for the movie, goes to the graveyard occasionally to pay his respects. Going there also fills him with the resolve to finish the trouble started at his daddy's death.

Without telling his family, Gardner rewrote his will just before he died and disinherited Luci Phillips, Danny's half-sister. He bequeathed his entire estate to a former girlfriend and a business partner.

Danny Gardner, an illegitimate son, was never in the will. But like Luci Phillips, he was angered by what they believed to be underhanded dealings. Together they contested the will.

Four years later, the only thing settled is the dirt on Gardner's grave.

"I've fought for this a long time," Danny Gardner said, stamping his feet to stay warm. "I may not have been part of the family all of

my life, but I'm part of it now. Rufus accepted me and I him. This is something I believe in."

Gardner, now 40, found out about his father when he was 21 and just back from Vietnam. "My mom figured it was time I knew the truth." He said he was told that Rufus Gardner had fathered him in 1946 while his mother's husband was overseas.

His mother and Rufus Gardner's sister, Hazel, were the only people who knew. Even Rufus didn't know. He wasn't told until Danny was. "We got together, took one look at each other and said, 'Yup, we're related,'" Danny Gardner said. "We were so much alike it was eerie."

Both loved hazelnuts, drank Wild Turkey and smoked Mores.

The two became so convinced they were kin that Danny changed his birth certificate in 1982. Documents supporting the change were filed at the Surry County Courthouse by Rufus, Danny, and Danny's mother.

See GARDNER, Page A8



Rufus Gardner bought the State Line in 1945.

# GARDNER

Continued From Page A1

Luci Phillips is just as convinced. When she looks into her brother's face, she sees Rufus Gardner come to life. When her brother takes off his hairpiece, he does, in fact, resemble the young Rufus Gardner shown in yellowing snapshots.

Danny's a talker, just like his father was. Words gush out of his mouth like water over a fall.

"Rufus and I enjoyed doing things together," he said, explaining how he and his father became close. "We enjoyed going out and gambling together. We had lost thousands of dollars together, and we'd made thousands of dollars together in a poker game.

"It was widely known that he'd run gambling houses. It was widely known that he enjoyed gambling. It was widely known that he enjoyed to take a drink now and then. It was widely known that he did chase women.

"Just about everything Rufus Gardner did was widely known, but in the last few times I did meet with Rufus, we didn't go out drinking. We didn't go out gambling. We didn't go out trading. We didn't go out, period."

He last saw his father in April 1983, when he came to town to talk about plans for the movie. Rufus Gardner, 67, said he was getting tired. He said he needed a rest.

He got that rest two months later. On May 30, 1983, his body was laid at the base of the 6-foot-tall stone he'd put up for himself years before.

The controversy he left has yet to die. Danny Gardner wants to put it to rest before he lies down with his father.

## "PRETTY SHIFTY"

Rufus Gardner could earn a quarter while sleeping on a rock — and Buddy Golding saw him do it more than once.

"He would do almost anything for a buck," said Golding, who grew up with Gardner near the Crooked Oak church. "He was pretty shifty with his money."

Golding, 61, was 10 years younger than Gardner, but the two spent more than a few nights together hauling sugar and grain for their daddies, who made hundred-proof moonshine.

When he was old enough, Gardner moved into town and was a clerk at a feed store, selling liquor as well as grain.

"Everybody in town came down to that store," Golding said. "There'd always be a few boys making music, and after hours, it was about the only place a fella could get anything."

Gardner was drafted in 1939 but got turned down. In June that year, he headed to Portsmouth, Va., and went to work in the shipyards.

Golding left Mount Airy about two years later to work with a sister at a truck stop outside of Quantico, Va. He stayed there a few months before drifting on to a half-dozen dead-end jobs. He eventually landed in Portsmouth, where he was hired by Gardner.

Gardner had worked for a few years on the docks, buying and selling liquor and cigarettes and tripling his money on the sailors and soldiers waiting to ship out. By the time he hired Golding, he was running a gas station — and servicing more than Fords.

"He had made contacts with people who had money," Golding said. "They set him up in business 'cause they knew he wouldn't talk."

Gardner made bundles — thousands of dollars a day, Golding said — and reported little.

When his contacts offered counterfeit gas stamps so that he could buy gas during a shortage, Gardner accepted.

"It was illegal as hell," Golding said. "But everyone was doing it. We didn't think nothing of it."

Someone apparently did. While Golding

was back in Mount Airy visiting family, Gardner was arrested. He pleaded guilty to federal charges of tax evasion, selling liquor after hours and possession of illegal gasoline tickets.

He spent a year in jail — and while there he first read about Sidna Allen. Gardner identified with Allen, who spent 13 years in prison before being pardoned for his part in the shoot-out in Hillsville.

"He knew Sidna Allen was being persecuted for his way of life," Golding said, "and that's what Rufus believed was happening to him."

Gardner got out in early 1945 and came home to Surry County.

In June that year, Gardner bought the State Line, a truck stop on U.S. 52 at the Virginia-Carolina border. Golding said that he used money left over from the gas station operation.

Bill Cox, a loan officer with First Union National Bank in Mount Airy, said that Gardner told him that buying the State Line was a gamble.



DANNY GARDNER

buy that."

Neither does Golding, who hired on as cook in the grill.

"There were some fellas out that way who were awful rough," he said. "They would come in drunk and acting crazy and try to tear up the place. That's why the place had closed before, and they were trying to start trouble with Rufus."

Gardner didn't stand for it. He paid a group of boys to hang around and dish out lumps to anybody who asked for it. One afternoon in September 1945, things got out of hand, and Gardner shot a man.

Golding and Fred Lamb, another of Gardner's friends, tell the same story of what happened that day: Gardner was delivering cigarettes to a station just north of the State Line when a carload of roughnecks drove by and took a shot at him. He pulled his gun in self-defense.

On Dec. 3, 1945, he was indicted for first-degree murder by a grand jury in Hillsville.

One month later, a jury convicted him of second-degree murder. Gardner's attorneys appealed the verdict. On May 20, the judge reversed the conviction and dismissed the indictment on the advice of the commonwealth attorney and special prosecutor.

Lamb said Gardner bought his freedom. Later that day, in a separate court action, Gardner agreed to pay \$5,750 to the widow of the man he shot. The money, a large sum in those days, was to be used to care for the couple's children.

"Old Rufus knew what he was doing," Lamb said. "He paid her a bunch of money, but he had the situation covered."

Despite his run-ins with the law, it wasn't long before Gardner was doing business as usual at the State Line, mostly moving black-market cigarettes, Golding said.

Gardner once explained to his son why he traded under the counter.

"He felt like it was his way of helping the common man," Danny Gardner said. "He believed in government, and believed in our system, but he didn't believe in taxes. He thought they were an irritation."

Through the years, Gardner and the State Line became regular subjects of talk in bar-rooms and coffee shops. Men came to the

State Line from as far away as Hickory and Roanoke, Va., to drink, play poker and trade coins, guns and antiques.

Drinking, playing and trading defined Gardner, regardless of what business he was in. When Interstate 77 came through and took traffic and business west, he gave up selling gasoline at the State Line.

He later raised hogs, worked as a bail bondsman and started a vending company.

"He was a pretty colorful character," Cox said. "He was probably accused of a lot of things he didn't do, and probably not accused of several things he did do."

## PAINFUL MEMORIES

Luci Phillips is a thin woman with a narrow nose and raven hair. She looks less like her daddy than Danny does, but when she speaks about him, her eyes harden and glitter like the diamond chip pinky-ring he gave her before his death.

Mrs. Phillips, 35, lives in Mount Airy with her 2-year-old son and her husband, Jim. She and her husband started remodeling their home before Gardner died, but it is only half-finished.

"Things never seem to get done around here," she said, settling into a wooden chair at the table in the back of the kitchen. "It's been that way since this thing started."

She opened a 12-ounce can of Black Label Light and looked into the midday sun shining through the plate-glass back door. She sat straight-backed, collecting her thoughts.

"This pains me more than you know to talk about this," she said. "All of these are old memories — memories probably better left buried. Only in the last year or so have I begun to put it behind me and think of other things, to get back to a normal lifestyle."

She said that Gardner's death tore her apart. She and her father had always had a volatile relationship. But they never differed hard or long enough for him to disinherit her, she said, which is what made her so bitter about the will and not being told that Gardner was dying.

"Around Christmas of that year his throat started giving him problems, and he started getting hoarse," she said. "He went to the doctor, who told him he had a partially paralyzed vocal chord, and that's all we were told."

Gardner had inoperable lung cancer that had spread to his bones. A specialist at Forsyth Memorial Hospital in Winston-Salem confirmed it. Gardner declined radiation therapy, preferring to let the disease run its course.

The first people he told were Callie Martin, whom Gardner had dated 20 years earlier and had started seeing again, and Shade Franklin, who in 1981 began helping Gardner run what is now called the State Line Trading Post.

"He made me promise that I would not tell anybody," Franklin said. "And if he wanted anybody to know, he would tell them himself."

Mrs. Phillips learned of Gardner's death when a man from Moody's Funeral Home in Mount Airy came by her house. Danny Gardner learned of it when a man from Moody's put through a call to the credit card company he was working for in Bethesda, Md. "It blew me away," he said.

He rushed down from Maryland and dropped in at the State Line to talk to Franklin about funeral plans and the estate. Franklin told Danny he needed to speak with Dwight Compton, the lawyer in Hillsville who had drawn up Gardner's last will.

"I got up there and that was the first I'd heard about Rufus changing the will," Danny Gardner said. "I couldn't believe it."

Compton also told him that Gardner had deeded his property — 32 acres and the State Line building valued at \$88,540 — to Franklin and Mrs. Martin. "That's when I said, 'Whoa, something's wrong,'" Gardner said.

Mrs. Phillips talked with a lawyer friend, who suggested that she bite her lip until after the burial. On the Tuesday afterward, she retained Mary Sue Terry, a lawyer in Stuart,

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Va., who has since become the attorney general of Virginia, and Joe McGrady, a lawyer from Hillsville.

They challenged the will in court on June 7, 1983, and a judge ordered that the estate be inventoried and impounded until the challenge was resolved.

The sheriff of Carroll County, Mary Sue Terry, two deputies, Shade Franklin, Dwight Compton and Mrs. Phillips inventoried the estate, which Franklin and Mrs. Martin had estimated was worth \$16,500 when the two probated the will the day after he died.

No value has been placed on the inventory, but several books of mint silver were found, plus a steamer trunk filled with wheat pennies.

In the following weeks and months, Mrs. Phillips became obsessed with her father's death and with contesting the will.

She accumulated 10,000 sheets of paper. The documents, stored in the attic above her kitchen, represent hundreds of hours of depositions, trials briefs and notes.

It is a complete file, except for the 1,000-page transcript of the trial in June 1984.

She couldn't pay for it. Her money for legal fees ran out after the trial. She mortgaged her home and car to pay the bills, but still owes \$35,000.

"I haven't done this to get rich," she said, standing up from the table and heading to the refrigerator, where she gets herself another beer. "I've done it to set the record straight."

**NOT MUCH TO SAY**

Shade Franklin rolled the toothpick from one side of his mouth to the other and leaned back in the metal folding chair behind the counter at the State Line.

"Rufus was a good man," he said. "But I ain't sure if I should be talking about this. I'm already into this neck-deep, and I don't want any more trouble."

Franklin started to say more, then stopped, thinking better of it. He and Mrs. Martin have been the subject of a good deal of gossip, as well as the lawsuit, and talking about Gardner doesn't come easy.

Franklin, 64, has operated the State Line by himself since Gardner died. It hasn't changed much.

A stand out front offers vegetables. Inside, rows of rough-wood tables hold the kind of T-shirts, postcards and beach towels found in most Southern trinket shops.

In the back of the store, at the end of a counter filled with badges and antique guns, is a locked room that Franklin will open for anyone with 50 cents and the inclination to see the museum.

"We call it the Sidna Allen Museum," Franklin said. "But it's more a collection of Gardner's stuff — what he liked — than anything else."

Inside are two tables made by Allen while he was in prison, a wall full of photos of the Allen clan, a series of paintings depicting the Tom Dooley legend and a collection of pipes.

Franklin said at the trial that he bought into the State Line in 1980, paying \$3,000 for the stock, and agreed to run the place for Gardner. Gardner, his health failing and his drinking increasing, became more and more dependent on Franklin, and in the end, on Mrs. Martin.

Luci Phillips and Danny Gardner acknowledge as much. They were grateful that someone was there to help out. But they say their father became too dependent.

Testimony at the trial said that Franklin screened Gardner's telephone calls, had the locks changed twice on Gardner's apartment

and often turned away family and friends who came to visit.

Franklin testified that he was only doing what Gardner wanted. "I never turned her (Mrs. Phillips) away or anybody else away, without he told me that he didn't want to see them."

The one person who was never turned away was Mrs. Martin.

She and Gardner had dated from 1966 to 1971, when they broke up and she married another man. They started dating again in early 1982, less than a year after her husband died. By December 1982, they were seeing each other two or three times a week.

Gardner, Mrs. Martin said. He gave her a pearl ring and matching earrings for Christmas, she said, in January, one month after he learned of the cancer, he asked again.

"He told me he loved me, and something that was hard for Rufus was Mrs. Martin said. "He was explaining that I should have known all these years that he loved me, and he said, 'Why do you think I wanted you back?'"

Again she declined his proposal, but this spring, neither she nor Franklin declined Gardner's generosity.

From March 12 to his death on May 26, Gardner gave or sold most of his estate to Franklin and Mrs. Martin.

On March 12, they drove to Hillsville, and Gardner deeded the State Line and 32 acres to Franklin and Mrs. Martin. "He said that we owed him \$10, and he laughed about it," Franklin said. On April 12, they drove again to Hillsville and changed the will, disinheriting Mrs. Phillips and leaving the estate to Franklin and Mrs. Martin.

**AN EMPTY SAFE**

There's more. Mrs. Phillips and Danny Gardner say that their father kept two safes at the State Line — one packed with silver coins, the other with gold coins.

The safe that held the gold was empty when the inventory was taken. Franklin said that Gardner gave it away. He didn't know to whom.

Danny Gardner said that he last saw his father in April. His sister saw him on May 14. They both say that Gardner looked weak and sick from drinking. But they were not told that he was dying, or that he had changed the will, or that he was selling, giving and deeding away his property.

Franklin and Mrs. Martin testified that Gardner had become dissatisfied with the children. He felt that the children didn't care for him, they said.

Mrs. Martin, who regularly visits Gardner's grave, said that no one appreciates the care that she and Franklin gave the dying man. No one except Gardner. "He felt that what he had was his to dispose of," she said. "We didn't force him to do anything."

The trial lasted five days.

Judge Duane Mink of the Carroll County Circuit Court ruled against Franklin and Mrs. Martin, saying their closeness to Gardner amounted to undue influence and their actions implied suspicion and guilt.

They appealed, and the case has been before the Virginia Supreme Court for 2 1/2 years.

Danny Gardner, staring at tombstones marking four generations of family history, said that the fight has left scars but also has pulled his family together.

"If anything, we're closer because of this mess," he said. "That's something to live up to."

He turned from the graveyard and started back to the road, lighting a More as he stomped through the snow.

"You know," he said, "if this comes through for us, all we really got is a piece of property and a piece of history."

"There ain't nothing more to it, except fighting for what you know is right, and I know Luci and I are right. Rufus would have wanted us to fight like this."



LUCI PHILLIPS

## Obituary of William M. Gardner.

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In loving remembrance of our dear brother, Wm. Gardner, who departed this life April 10th, 1895, in the 34th year of his age, a son of John H. Gardner and Melia Gardner, was born in Carroll county, Va. He was married to Sarah Golding, January 1st, 1883, and moved to Surry county, N. C., and become one of the most successful farmers in his county. It seemed that the Lord blessed him with everything he undertook. He joined the Primitive Baptist church at Zion Hill the 26th of June, 1883, and was baptized the first Sunday in August, 1883, by Elder Isaac Jones. He was ordained to the office of deacon the second Saturday in February, 1893, that office he filled well until the day of his death. While he lived his seat was always filled at Zion Hill church, but he is gone the way of all the earth and I have no idea that his seat will ever be filled in Zion Hill church again. He was always ready and willing to assist the poor and needy and more especially the Baptist. He never failed to bear his part in building Baptist churches when called on, or to assist in buying anything that our preaching brethren needed. His doors were always open for the Primitive Baptist. He was always pleased when they visited us and seemed that he could not do enough for them. I labored with him twelve years. He was one of the best men I ever was acquainted with. We never had a short word in the twelve years we staid together. I often think of him when I am on my farm at work, but he is gone never to return again. When he died I lost my best earthly friend in this world. He was taken sick the last day of March and died the 10th of April. I had the doctor with him, but he failed to do him any good or locate his disease. The time had come for him to go the way of all the earth. His walk while on this earth could not be surpassed by any one. He was loved and respected by all who knew him. His word was as good as his bond. He leaves a wife and two children and many friends to mourn the loss of one of the best members of Zion church and one of the best citizens of Surry county. Too much could not be said of his moral character. What a great blessing and comfort it must be to his parents to hear so much said of this son, so much better than to hear one speak ill of him, but no one could justly do that. What God doeth must be realized, for He knoweth all things and doeth all things well. We know it is impossible to see him on this earth again. May God prepare us to meet him in glory, singing the song of redeeming grace and that we all may be prepared to die as happy as we believe he died. It is hard to bear and brings grief and sorrow from the depths of our hearts, but let us hope and pray that he is in a world far superior to this and has since the day of his death joined, that great celestial choir. He was buried at Zion church and here we must let the sleeping body rest until the resurrection morn when it will be raised up and fashioned as it seems fit by the dear Savior, whom he loved and honored while here in this world of sorrow and sin. May God comfort all who mourn for him if it be His will. "Mark the perfect man and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace." Psalms, 37th chapter, 37th verse.

WILLIAM GOLDING

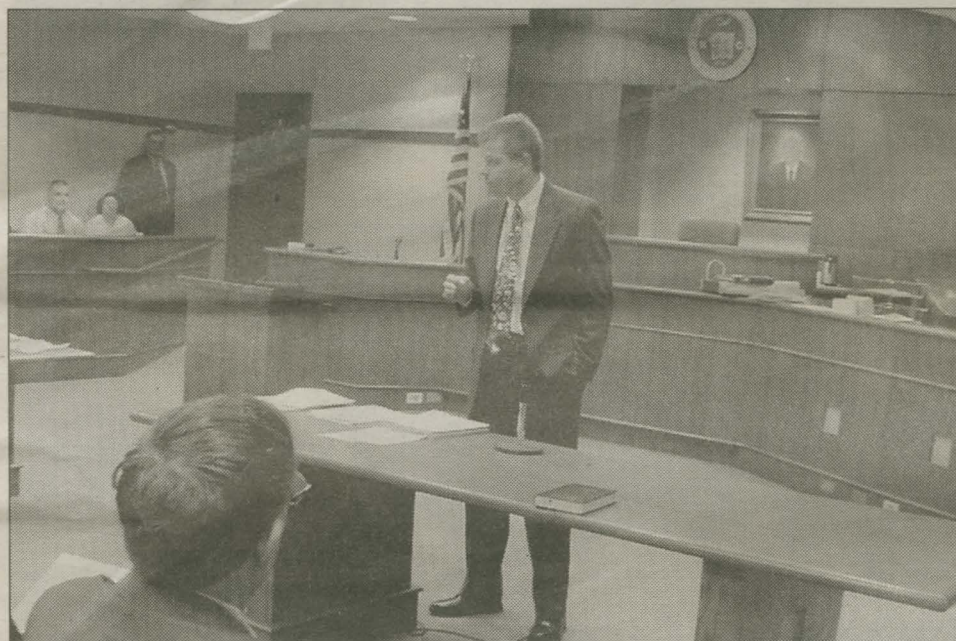
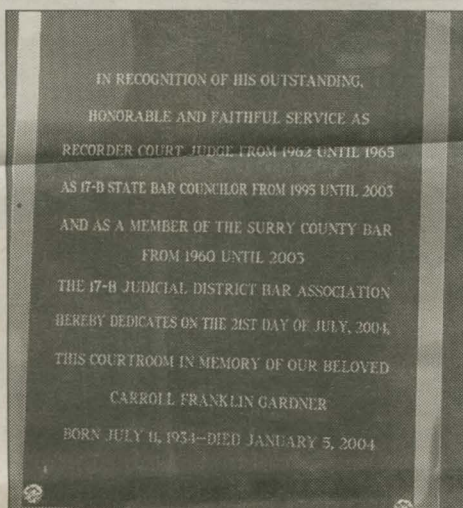
(Fisher's River Primitive Baptist Association - 1896)

## MILE STONES

# Courtroom dedicated in memory of Carroll Franklin Gardner



Barbara Gardner, widow of Carroll Franklin Gardner, and sons David and Matthew Gardner, listen to remarks following the dedication of the Gardner Courtroom in the Surry County Courthouse at Dobson by the 17-B Judicial District Bar Association. An engraved plaque (at right) hangs in the room to honor Judge Carroll Franklin Gardner for his outstanding, honorable and faithful service as recorder court judge from 1962 until 1965, as 17-B State Bar councilor from 1995 until 2003 and as a member of the Surry County Bar from 1960 until 2003. Gardner passed away Jan. 5, 2004, after a lengthy illness.



Judge Charles Neaves Jr. remarked that he never takes sides, but, "Today I stand at the defense table in honor of Carroll and his accomplishments."



Attorney James Freeman, Shirley Key and Jimmy Harbour were among those present for the dedication. Harbour and Gardner were classmates from the first grade through high school graduation at Copeland.



Clerk of Court Cindy Comer is shown during the swearing-in ceremony for Carroll F. Gardner as judge of recorder court in December 1962. At the age of 28, Gardner was the youngest judge ever in North Carolina at that time.



Kim Gardner, daughter-in-law of the Gardners, chats with Pose Webb and Dr. Michael Clark following the ceremony.

# Courtroom named in memory of Carroll Gardner

By **BLAIR HARRISON**

**Staff Writer**

**DOBSON** — A long-time leader in county politics and a familiar face in Surry County's courts, former City Attorney Carroll F. Gardner, was honored Wednesday afternoon at the Surry County Courthouse in District Court #2.

Gardner passed away in January of 2004 from lung cancer that had spread.

And now, in his memory, District Court #2 will now be known as the "Gardner Courtroom."

"Surry County and Mount Airy are better places for his living and working among us," said Dennis W. "Bud" Cameron, Surry's register of deeds. "The deeds he has done, the lives he has touched, the profession he has served, and the friends he has known remain. His influence endures and the fruits of his kindness shall be felt in the lives of many for years to come. A good man

has been called to that better place. He was a friend, mentor and brother in Christ for over 30 years. I will treasure my memories of him."

The Gardner family was moved.



**Carroll Gardner**

"We think it is a wonderful honor for Carroll," said his wife, Barbara Gardner. "Carroll loved this profession and the courthouse."

"I think it is well warranted," said his brother, John C.W. Gardner Sr.

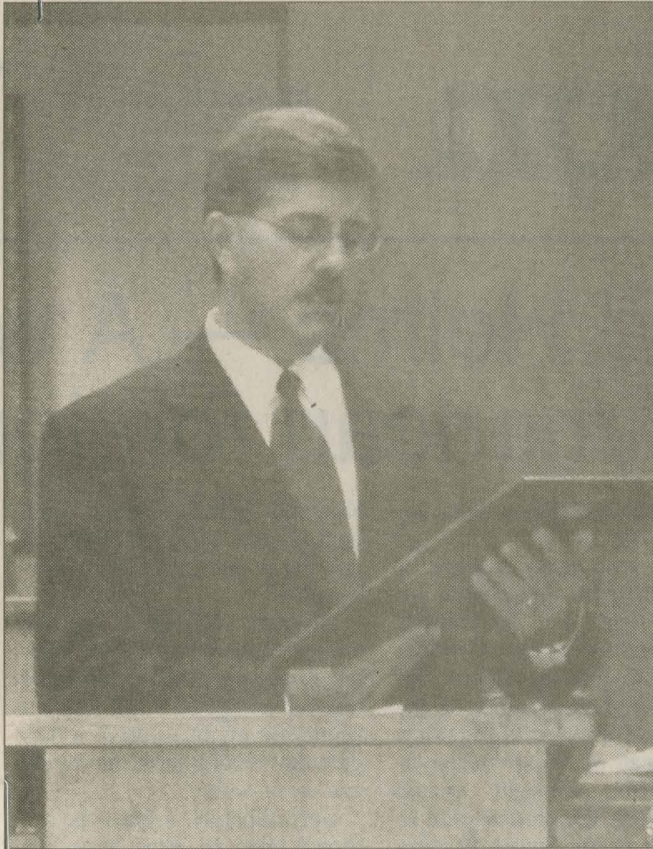
"We feel very honored," said his son, Matthew Gardner.

"He would have loved to have seen this," said his daughter-in-law and Matthew's wife, Kim Gardner. "He was here though, I truly believe that."

"I am very glad they did this for him," said David Gardner.

Carroll Gardner was born on a farm in the Copeland community of Surry County on July 11, 1934, to Floyd McCoy

See **GARDNER**, page **3A**



Blair Harrison/The Mount Airy News  
President of the Judicial District 17-B and practicing attorney V.L. DeHart Jr. spoke to the crowd and held the plaque that is going to be placed in Courtroom #2 at Surry County Courthouse in Dobson in dedication to city attorney Carroll Franklin Gardner, who passed away in January.

## Gardner

Continued from page 1A

(Mac) Gardner and Lela Stone Gardner.

Older brother John Gardner Sr. said that Carroll learned how to work hard growing up on a tobacco farm in Copeland. Gardner was one of the six children in the Gardner clan.

The Gardner family were members at Union Primitive Baptist Church, and Carroll served as clerk of the Fisher River Primitive Baptist Association for 35 years.

Gardner graduated from Copeland High School, Lynchburg College and then-Wake Forest College. He also graduated from Law School at Wake Forest earning his Juris Doctorate degree.

"Carroll believed that a person had responsibilities to God and their fellow men to make a better society," Cameron said. "Carroll demonstrated this by example. He was a soldier for our country. He served as a judge of recorder's court, ran for Congress and was a leader in the Democratic party of the county and state.

"In his profession as an attorney he was able to help so many people. He was a leader in his church and denomination and in his community service. He was

also a devoted husband, father and friend. He was a person of integrity and Christian character whose faith guided him in life and served him so well in his lengthy illness. Many have benefited from Carroll's helpfulness and generosity.

Friend to all, most would say Carroll had a kind heart when it came to his family and friends, but hard work ethics.

"Carroll was a special friend to me. I spent a lot of time on fishing trips with him. It was amazing to me that two people from different law firms can still be friends. That is what Carroll did. He was tenacious in the courtroom but kind and loving as a friend," said Steve Royster, attorney.

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"A mighty oak has fallen in the forest of the Surry County Bar Association," he said. "Carroll Gardner was one of the finest, most ethical, most capable attorneys that has ever practiced law in our county and in our state. He served his clients faithfully; he served his church and his community unselfishly; and he was my true friend."

John Gardner said Carroll was the smart one of the bunch.

"He was valedictorian at Copeland High School," John Gardner said. "Carroll ran against Harry Lou Ellen, and won, for chairman of the Fifth Congressional District of the Democratic Party. He was a member of the State Executive Committee of the Democratic Party, and was a candidate for Congress in 1994.

"He was loved and revered by everyone he knew in the court-houses and judges. He was probably one of the top criminal lawyers. He is just a great man, partner and brother."

Cameron said Carroll was instrumental in the creation of the Yadkin Valley Economic Development District, Inc., as well as serving as a representative.

"I was connected with Carroll by both of us being members of the Mount Airy Lions Club, both serving the city together, and by being friends and neighbors," Mayor Jack Loftis said. "Carroll was always a hard, dedicated worker in any work he did. I call him a fine Christian fellow.

"He gave politics a good name and he will not be easy to replace."

EULOGY OF CARROLL F. GARDNER  
DELIVERED BY STEPHEN G. ROYSTER, ATTORNEY

CARROLL FRANKLIN GARDNER----BORN JULY 11, 1934

ALONG WITH HIS TWIN BROTHER, CARL----WHO PREDECEASED HIM

GRADUATE OF COPELAND UNIVERSITY---1952---VALEDICTORIAN OF HIS CLASS

ATTENDED LYNCHBURG COLLEGE ---2 YRS

GRADUATED FROM WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY----AND WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL----1960

SERVED HIS COUNTRY IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY-----

HE WAS MOST DEDICATED IN LIFE TO THIS CHURCH AND HIS COMMUNITY

HE JOINED THIS CHURCH IN 1953----AT THAT TIME---HE WAS THE YOUNGEST PERSON TO EVER BECOME A MEMBER

SERVED AS CHURCH CLERK---37 YEARS

CLERK OF FISHER'S RIVER ASSOCIATION FOR 35 YEARS

INSTRUMENTAL IN IMPROVEMENTS TO HIS CHURCH----EVIDENCE THE EAST WALL---COVERED WITH PHOTOS OF ITS MEMBERS---THE SIGN OUT FRONT---THE HYMNALS AND THE HYMNAL RACKS---HIS WORK FOR THIS CHURCH OCCUPIED MUCH OF HIS LIFE---

A CHRISTIAN -AND----A SCHOLAR OF THE BIBLE---HE COULD QUOTE SCRIPTURE FROM ANY OF ITS PARTS-----HE WAS ALWAYS PROUD TO SAY-- I BELIEVE IN GOD---I BELIEVE IN JESUS AS MY SAVIOR---HIS FAITH WAS UPLIFTING -----FOR ANYONE WHO TALKED WITH HIM IN THE CLOSING DAYS OF HIS LIFE---HIS FAITH SUSTAINED THOSE AROUND HIM---AND BECAUSE OF HIS FAITH---- HE COULD SAY TO US ----I HAVE NO FEAR OF DEATH

A COMMUNITY LEADER----

PRESIDENT OF MT AIRY AND DOBSON LIONS CLUB---DIRECTOR AS WELL

DIRECTOR---SURRY COUNTY TB ASSOCIATION

DIRECTOR---HOPE VALLEY---

CITY ATTORNEY----- FOR MT AIRY AND DOBSON



ATTORNEY FOR NORTHERN HOSPITAL OF SURRY COUNTY

HE HELPED ESTABLISH YVEDDI---HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING  
SURRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ESTABLISHED----

HIS COMMUNITY ---AND THIS CHURCH---WERE IMPORTANT TO HIM----  
BOTH HAVE LOST A LEADER---BOTH HAVE LOST A RELENTLESS---  
UNSELFISH----NEVER-TIRING WORKER

CARROLL WAS A FAMILY MAN----

HE WAS MARRIED IN 1956---A DEVOTED HUSBAND TO BARBARA ----I FEEL  
LIKE LORETTA LYNN---SHE ONCE TOLD ME-----CARROLL RESCUED ME  
FROM THE COAL MINES OF KENTUCKY----

AND HAPPY HE WAS BEING MARRIED TO YOU----BARBARA----IF ANYONE  
EVER HONORED THE MARRIAGE VOWS ABOUT----- IN SICKNESS AND IN  
HEALTH----IT WAS YOU----YOU STAYED BY THIS MAN'S SIDE DAY AND  
NIGHT----YOU SUFFERED AS MUCH AS HE DID----YOU ARE A WONDERFUL  
PERSON----IT IS EASY TO SEE WHY CARROLL LOVED YOU SO-----

HE WAS A KIND, GENTLE, LOVING FATHER---TO SONS, MATTHEW AND  
DAVID---"MY PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IN LIFE---- HE SAID---- WAS  
BEING THE FATHER OF DAVID AND MATTHEW"----

ROCK-SOLID BROTHER---TO JOHN AND JUNE----- ONE THEY COULD  
ALWAYS COUNT ON----JOHN MAY HAVE BEEN THE FOUNDING PARTNER----  
AND HE MAY HAVE BEEN THE MANAGING PARTNER----BUT HE LEANED ON  
THE WISE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE OF HIS BROTHER---CARROLL

HE ENTERED THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN 1960----WITH HIS BROTHER JOHN

TWO YEARS LATER HE WAS ELECTED AS THE YOUNGEST JUDGE EVER---  
TO SERVE IN NORTH CAROLINA----

AFTER SERVING AS A JUDGE----- HE SETTLED IN TO FINISH HIS LAW  
CAREER---- IN PRIVATE PRACTICE WITH HIS BROTHER

CARROLL WAS A FIGHTER----TO SAY THE LEAST----HE TOOK ON THE MOST  
DIFFICULT OF CASES---HE FOUGHT FOR THE LITTLE MAN---THE  
UNDERDOG----THE NOT SO PRIVILEGED----THE UNLUCKY----THE  
DOWNTRODDEN----HE WAS TENACIOUS IN THE COURTROOM---BUT  
ALWAYS A GENTLEMAN----HIS REPUTATION SPREAD FAR AND WIDE---I  
REMEMBER WHEN I HAD JUST ENTERED PRACTICE IN 1974--- AND I  
QUOTED A CLIENT A FEE---"YOUNG MAN, THE CLIENT SAID--- FOR THAT

3

KIND OF MONEY I CAN GO UPSTAIRS AND HIRE CARROLL GARDNER." I LEARNED EARLY ON -----THAT HE WAS REVERED IN THE LEGAL FIELD.

HE SERVED AS OUR DISTRICT BAR COUNCILLOR FOR 8 YEARS----NO ONE EQUALED WHAT HE DID----A RESOLUTION WAS PASSED THIS YEAR IN HONOR OF HIS SERVICE BY THE SURRY AND STOKES COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATIONS

HE WAS HELD IN SUCH HIGH REGARDS BY HIS COLLEAGUES---THAT THEY MOVED TO NAME A COURT ROOM IN THE NEW COURTHOUSE -----IN HIS HONOR---WHAT A TRIBUTE---WHAT A MEMORY----WHAT A RECOGNITION

AND YES----HE WAS A FOREVER LOYAL MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY----BECAUSE OF A RULE CHANGE----HE SERVED LONGER THAN ANYBODY WILL EVER SERVE AS SURRY COUNTY CHAIRMAN----AND AS 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT CHAIRMAN-----

NO ONE COULD TALK HIS LANGUAGE----AND MOST DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE WORDS HE USED-----CARROLL STUDIED THE DICTIONARY WHILE IN COLLEGE---ON A DAILY BASIS---LEARNING ONE NEW WORD EVERYDAY---AND HE USED THOSE WORDS ON A DAILY BASIS---NO MATTER WHAT THE OCCASION-----

ONCE----BACK IN THE EARLY 80'S---WHILE RETURNING FROM A TRIP TO CLINTWOOD, VA. ---WHERE CARROLL AND I HAD GONE TO INTERVIEW WITNESSES IN A CRIMINAL CASE---WE WERE RIDING THROUGH THE HIGH MOUNTAINS IN HIS WHITE OLDSMOBILE-----I COULD HEAR A LOUD RATTLE IN THE ENGINE---AFRAID WE MAY NOT MAKE IT HOME, I ASKED HIM----CARROLL, WHAT IS THAT NOISE IN THE ENGINE? ----HIS REPLY -----FROM OUT THERE IN THE HILLS OF VA.----OH, THAT'S AN ABBERATION OF NO CONSEQUENCE. NOT KNOWING WHAT HE MEANT, I HELD ON AND HOPED---- WE MADE IT HOME.

CARROLL WAS A BRILLIANT MAN--- BUT HE WAS ALSO A SIMPLE MAN--- HE FOUND SOME OF HIS MOST PLEASURABLE MOMENTS---- TALKING TO BARBARA'S DAD--- ABOUT THE BIBLE----"WHEN I WAS SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY" HE SAID----I WOULD GO SIT DOWN WITH HIM--- WE WOULD HAVE A CHEW---- AND WE WOULD TALK----NOBODY COULD COME NEAR THE WORDS THAT HE COULD SAY."

CARROLL WAS A MAN----- WHO -----THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE----SERVED IN INFLUENTIAL POSITIONS---HE RUBBED SHOULDERS WITH ROYALTY----HE KNEW PEOPLE IN HIGH PLACES-----HE HIMSELF WAS A POWERFUL MAN---- BUT WHEN I ASKED HIM WHAT HE WANTED TO BE REMEMBERED FOR MOST----HERE IS WHAT HE TOLD ME : "I WANT TO BE REMEMBERED AS A

4

MAN WHO HAD AN ABIDING FAITH IN HUMANKIND----A MAN WHO BELIEVED THAT EVERY PERSON POSSESSES INFINITE WORTH-----“

HE DIED APPRECIATIVE OF HIS LIFE'S BLESSINGS----

“I NEVER REALLY WANTED IN LIFE---I ALWAYS HAD EVERYTHING I NEEDED----USUALLY A LITTLE MORE.”----AND HE SHARED HIS BLESSINGS WITH THOSE LESS FORTUNATE----IF YOU WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS MAN ASK HIS WIFE OR ASK NANCY GORDON---HIS TRUSTED LEGAL ASSISTANT -----HOW MANY TIMES HE GAVE MONEY OUT OF HIS POCKET---- TO HELP THE POOR---THOSE WHO WERE LESS FORTUNATE--- THOSE WHO HE THOUGHT---WERE NEEDY-----CARROLL FRANKLIN---- HAD A HEART--- THAT BEAT FOR HIS FELLOW MAN----

CARROLL WAS ONE TO BE NOTICED IN THE COURT ROOM---- HE WAS KINDA “THE DAILY GUEST OF HONOR.” ----- HE WAS FOREVER SHAKING HANDS---- WITH LAWYERS AND OFFICERS----MANY TIMES WITH A CHEW IN HIS MOUTH---AND A CUP IN HIS HAND----- ONCE IN DISTRICT COURT----- - JUDGE JERRY CASH MARTIN----- HAD A CLASS OF STUDENTS TO ATTEND COURT---- JUDGE MARTIN WENT THROUGH THE CALL OF THE CALENDAR-- ----- THEN LECTURED THE STUDENTS ABOUT THE LAW---INTRODUCED THE CLERK---- THE D A----- AND OTHER COURT OFFICIALS---- HE THEN TOOK A RECESS----

UPON RECONVENING COURT---- JUDGE MARTIN ASKED THE STUDENTS--- DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS---- A YOUNG MALE STUDENT RAISED HIS HAND----YEP, I HAVE A QUESTION----I WANNA KNOW WHAT THAT DUDE WITH THE PAPER CUP IN HIS HAND DOES?

OF COURSE---THE DUDE---WAS OUR CARROLL FRANKLIN----A MAN NEVER LOST FOR WORDS---TO REPRESENT HIS CLIENTS----AND A MAN WHO BELIEVED-----THAT A WORD OR TWO OF HUMOR----NEVER HURT---STORIES HAVE IT---THAT ONE SUMMER DAY---THE LATE JUDGE FOY CLARK---WAS HOLDING COURT----3 PEOPLE CHARGED WITH DRUNK DRIVING PLED

GUILTY---THEY ADMITTED TO HAVING 2 BEERS TO DRINK---AND ONLY 2 BEERS----A FOURTH DEFENDANT---ADMITTED TO HIS GUILT----I HAD ONLY 2 BEERS ---HE TOLD JUDGE CLARK----JUDGE CLARK BECAME ANNOYED--- HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEXT DEFENDANT WHO PLED GUILTY TO DRUNK DRIVING---AND WHO SAID HE HAD HAD ONLY TWO BEERS-----WAS GOING TO JAIL----

THE NEXT CLIENT CALLED FOR TRIAL WAS REPRESENTED BY CARROLL--- HE WAS CHARGED WITH DRUNK DRIVING----HE PLED GUILTY----JUDGE CLARK----OBVIOUSLY--- READY TO SEND HIM TO JAIL---ASKED CARROLL--- WELL MR. GARDNER----HOW MANY BEERS DID YOUR CLIENT HAVE TO

5

DRINK-----CARROLL NEVER PAUSED---YOUR HONOR---I AM NOT REALLY SURE---BUT IT WAS ONE---OR THREE.

HE WAS ALWAYS ONE TO HELP HIS FELLOW LAWYERS----FOR YEARS I HIKED UP TO HIS AND JOHN'S OFFICE TO SEEK THEIR ADVICE----EACH TIME---WITHOUT FAIL---CLIENTS WOULD BE EVERYWHERE----NEVER TOO BUSY TO HELP ME---THEY ALWAYS STOPPED WHAT THEY WERE DOING AND ANSWERED MY QUESTION

CARROLL LOVED TO FISH----AND HE ESPECIALLY LOVED TO GO TO A PLACE CALLED PORTSMOUTH ISLAND---ON THE OUTER BANKS--- IN 1988---CARROLL INVITED ME AND MIKE----MY BROTHER---- TO GO WITH HIM TO THIS ISLAND-----IT WAS AN ISLAND WITH ONLY CABINS---NO ELECTRICITY---NO OTHER BUILDINGS---JUST THE OCEAN AND NATURE---- A QUIET PLACE WHERE YOU RECOGNIZED GOD'S NATURAL CREATION---- IT WAS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE FOR CARROLL----AND IT BECAME A VERY SPECIAL PLACE FOR MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY ---AND FOR HIS FRIENDS---

EACH FALL ---CARROLL---HIS SONS, MATTHEW AND DAVID, AND THOSE OF US WHO WERE PRIVILEGED TO BE INVITED----- TRAVELED IN OUR TRUCKS-- -- FROM MOUNT AIRY TO THE LITTLE TOWN OF ATLANTIC----AT THE END OF HIGHWAY 130-----WE STAYED OVERNIGHT IN A LOCAL MOTEL ---THE NEXT MORNING WE CAUGHT THE FERRY---- THAT WOULD TAKE OUR TRUCKS OVER TO PORTSMOUTH ISLAND-----WHERE WE WOULD STAY TOGETHER IN A CABIN FOR THE NEXT 5 ----OR 6 DAYS----WE WOULD RISE EARLY EACH MORNING---- TO GO FISHING IN THE SURF----AND JUST TO SHARE AND ENJOY EACH OTHERS COMPANY---

SOME YEARS AGO---WE BEGAN A TRADITION----AT THE END OF THE DAY--- WHEN THE FISHING WAS DONE----AND WHEN THE SUN WAS SETTING IN THE WEST----WE WOULD ALL GATHER AROUND OUR TRUCKS---AND OFFER A TOAST TO OUR FRIENDSHIP ----IT BECAME A SPECIAL TIME AT THE END OF THE DAY----AFTERWARDS WE WOULD HEAD BACK TO OUR CABIN----TO FIX OUR MEAL---- AND TO RETIRE FOR THE NIGHT.

IT WAS THE POET, MAYA ANGELOU, WHO GAVE US THESE WORDS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP: "NOBODY CAN EVER TAKE A FRIEND'S PLACE---NOBODY. "

IN THE DAYS AND MONTHS TO COME, I HOPE TO TRAVEL BACK TO THE ISLAND OF PORTSMOUTH ---WITH THOSE -----WHO SHARED THIS LIFE WITH CARROLL-----

AND WHEN THE DAY OF FISHING IS COMPLETED----AND THE SUN IS SETTING SLOWLY IN THE WEST---- I AM SURE THAT WE SHALL GATHER AROUND OUR TRUCKS -----AND WE WILL TOAST OUR FRIENDSHIP

8

AGAIN---AND WE SHALL REMEMBER OUR FRIEND---CARROLL FRANKLIN---  
AND WE SHALL KNOW THAT NOBODY CAN EVER TAKE HIS PLACE---  
NOBODY.

CARROLL FRANKLIN GARDNER HAS DIED-----WE MUST ACCEPT THAT---- IF  
WE BELIEVE WHAT WE SAY WE BELIEVE---- HE IS IN A BETTER PLACE----HE  
IS NOT STRUGGLING FOR BREATH—HIS BODY IS NOT RACKED WITH PAIN--  
--HE IS NOT RAVAGED BY CANCER-----

LIFE WILL BE DIFFERENT HERE---- WITHOUT HIM----HE WILL BE MISSED----  
BUT LET ME LEAVE YOU WITH THE WORDS---- OF THE FAMOUS POET,  
ROBERT FROST----

HERE IS WHAT HE WROTE: "IN THREE WORDS I CAN SUM UP EVERYTHING  
I KNOW ABOUT LIFE: IT GOES ON." --- AND SO IT WILL-----IT WILL GO ON  
FOR YOU, BARBARA—FOR YOU DAVID, FOR YOU MATTHEW AND KIM----IT  
WILL GO ON FOR YOU JOHN----AND FOR YOU JUNE-----AND IT WILL GO ON  
FOR ALL OF US WHO WERE HIS FRIENDS---

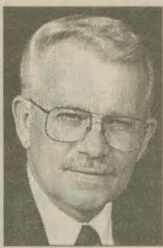
-THIS MAN LEFT US PRECIOUS MEMORIES----HIS LIFE WAS FILLED WITH  
FUN--- HUMOR--- SERVICE----- FAITH-----KINDNESS--- DEDICATION----  
GUIDANCE-----LOVE----FRIENDSHIP-

IN THE DAYS TO COME LET US NOT DWELL ON HOW WE MISS HIM----BUT  
FOCUS ON THESE THINGS THAT HE GAVE US-----AND THINK ABOUT HOW  
WE REMEMBER HIM.

## GARDNER

MOUNT AIRY — *A home in heaven, what a joyful thought.* Attorney Carroll Franklin Gardner, 69, of 1582 Greenhill Road, Mount Airy, husband of Barbara Chapman

Gardner, continued his journey into eternity on Monday, Jan. 5, 2004, at Northern Hospital of Surry County. Along with his twin brother, Carroll



MR. GARDNER

was born on a farm in the Copeland community of Surry County on July 11, 1934, to the late Floyd "Mac" McCoy and Lela Stone Gardner. He was not by birth but by choice the son of the late Wallace and Martha Chapman, his father-in-law and mother-in-law. A man of eloquence and articulation, Carroll graduated from Copeland High School, Lynchburg College and Wake Forest College. He also attended law school there, earning his AB and JD degrees. He practiced law throughout Surry County for 43 years in the law firm of Gardner, Gardner and Campbell. Carroll served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956. He was a member of Union Primitive Baptist Church and served as clerk of the Fisher River Primitive Baptist Association for 35 years. He went as he lived, desiring for God's will to be done. He was an avid fisherman and a lover of nature and God's creations. Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Barbara Chapman Gardner, of the home; two sons and a daughter-in-law, David Carroll Gardner and Matthew and Kim Gardner, all of Mount Airy; a sister, June Fulk of the Copeland community; and a brother and sister-in-law, John Gardner Sr. and Pansy Gardner of Mount Airy. In addition to his parents, Attorney Gardner was preceded in death by three brothers, Paul Gardner, Floyd Gardner and twin brother, Carl Roosevelt Gardner. The funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, at Union Primitive Baptist Church. The service will be conducted by Elder Willie Branch, Elder Jimmy Joyce, Attorney Steve Royster and Mr. John Mittman, with burial in the Union Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 7 to 9 p.m. today, Jan. 7, at Moody Funeral Home of Mount Airy, where his body will remain until carried to the church to lie in state 30 minutes before the funeral service. Flowers will be accepted or memorials may be made to the Union Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Graham Mosley, 1090 Bray Ford Road, Dobson, NC 27017.

# Former city attorney, Democratic leader Gardner dies of cancer

1-7-2004  
By **BLAIR HARRISON**  
Staff Writer

**MOUNT AIRY** — A long-time leader in county politics and a familiar face in Surry County's courts, former City Attorney Carroll F. Gardner died Monday after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Older brother John C.W. Gardner Sr. said, "When the doctors detected cancer, he was so eaten up that the cancer had spread into his back and lungs."

Gardner stepped down from his post with the city shortly after the diagnosis and was honored last fall by city commissioners for his years of service.

Gardner was born on a farm in the Copeland community on July 11, 1934, to Floyd McCoy (Mac) Gardner and Lela Stone Gardner.

John Gardner Sr. said that Carroll learned how to work hard growing up on the tobacco farm in Copeland.

"Our daddy's asset to his farm were his five sons and one daughter," joked Gardner.

A twin brother to Carl Gardner, he was one of the six children in the Gardner clan.

"My dad named the twins Carl Roosevelt and Carroll Franklin Gardner after his two favorite Democrats — Roosevelt and Franklin," added John Gardner.

The Gardner family were

Primitive Baptists and were members at Union Primitive Baptist Church, and Carroll served as clerk of the Fisher River Primitive Baptist Association for 35 years.

Gardner graduated from Copeland High School, Lynchburg College and Wake Forest College, which is now a university, with a B.A. degree. He also graduated from Law School at Wake Forest, earning his Juris Doctorate degree.

"Carroll believed that a person had responsibilities to God and their fellow men to make a better society," said Dennis W. "Bud" Cameron, Surry's register of deeds. "Carroll demonstrated this by example. He was a soldier for our country. He served as a judge of recorder's court, ran for Congress and was a leader in the Democratic party of the county and state.

"In his profession, as an attorney he was able to help so many people. He was a leader in his church and denomination and in his community service. He was also a devoted husband, father and friend. He was a person of integrity and Christian character whose faith guided him in life and served him so well in his lengthy illness. Many have benefited from Carroll's helpfulness and generosity.

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Airy are better places for his living and working among us. The deeds he has done, the lives he has touched, the profession he has served and the friends he has known remain. His influence endures and the fruits of his kindness shall be felt in the lives of many for years to come. A good man has been called to that better place. He was a friend, mentor and brother in Christ for over 30 years. I will treasure my memories of him."

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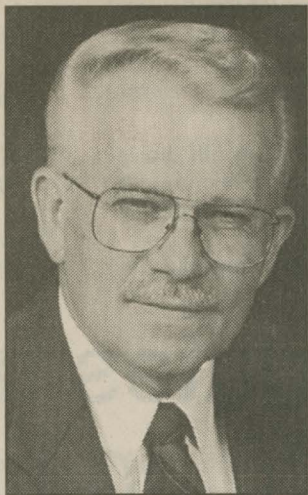
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"He gave politics a good name and he will not be easy to replace," said Loftis.

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to Smith's River, W. H. Atkinson, J. M. Royal J. M. Wyatt; and that we send a file of our minutes to Staunton River, Country Line. Abbot's Creek, Little River, Kehukee, Mill Branch and Center Associations.

11. Agreed that our next Association be held with the church at Hogan's Creek, three miles North of Siloam, Surry county, N. C., to commence on Friday before the 4th Sunday in April, 1897, and that our next annual session be held with the church at State Road, nine miles North of Elkin, Surry county, N. C., to commence on Friday before the 4th Sunday in Oct., 1897.

12. Agreed that the clerk have 1000 copies of these minutes printed and distribute them as usual.

13. Offered thanks to the brethren and friends of this community for their kindness during this association.

Prayer by Elder W. D. Martin,

Then adjourned.

M. G. HARBOUR, Moderator.

A. M. DENNY, Clerk.

#### PREACHING.

Saturday, 1st—E. M. Barnard. Text: Romans, 8th chapter and latter part of 31st verse. "If God be for us who can be against us."

2nd—Wm. Lundy. Text: Isaiah, 26th chapter, 1st and 2nd verses. "In that day shall this song be sung," etc.

3rd—J. M. Wyatt. Text: Malachi, 3rd chapter, 1st verse. "Behold I will send My messenger," etc.

Sunday, 1st—E. E. Lundy. Text: Amos, 8th chapter, 9th verse. "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God," etc.

2nd—M. B. Martin; Text: Song of Solomon, 2nd chapter, 2nd verse. "As the lilly among thorns, so is My love among the daughters."

3rd—W. R. Craft. Text: Psalms, 22nd chapter, 14th verse. "I am poured out like water," etc.

4th—W. D. Martin. Text: Song of Solomon, 6th chapter, 9th verse. "My dove, my undefiled is but one," etc.

*Martin*  
Gardner Family File  
College

## Obituary of W. M. Gardner.

In loving remembrance of our dear brother, Wm. Gardner, who departed this life April 10th, 1895, in the 34th year of his age, a son of John H. Gardner and Melia Gardner, was born in Carroll county, Va. He was married to Sarah Golding, January 1st, 1883, and moved to Surry county, N. C., and become one of the most successful farmers in his county. It seemed that the Lord blessed him with everything he undertook. He joined the Primitive Baptist church at Zion Hill the 26th of June, 1883, and was baptized the first Sunday in August, 1883, by Elder Isaac Jones. He was ordained to the office of deacon the second Saturday in February, 1893, that office he filled well until the day of his death. While he lived his seat was always filled at Zion Hill church, but he is gone the way of all the earth and I have no idea that his seat will ever be filled in Zion Hill church again. He was always ready and willing to assist the poor and needy and more especially the Baptist. He never failed to bear his part in building Baptist churches when called on, or to assist in buying anything that our preaching brethren needed. His doors were always open for the Primitive Baptist. He was always pleased when they visited us and seemed that he could not do enough for them. I labored with him twelve years. He was one of the best men I ever was acquainted with. We never had a short word in the twelve years we staid together. I often think of him when I am on my farm at work, but he is gone never to return again. When he died I lost my best earthly friend in this world. He was taken sick the last day of March and died the 10th of April. I had the doctor with him, but he failed to do him any good or locate his disease. The time had come for him to go the way of all the earth. His walk while on this earth could not be surpassed by any one. He was loved and respected by all who knew him. His word was as good as his bond. He leaves a wife and two children and many friends to mourn the loss of one of the best members of Zion church and one of the best citizens of Surry county. Too much could not be said of his moral character. What a great blessing and

# Death Claims Eugene H. Gardner

Eugene Holt Gardner died at his home on Eyerly street Friday aged about 43 years, having been in failing health some time but confined to his bed less than a week prior to his death.

His funeral was conducted from Grace Moravian Church Sunday afternoon, the Rev. J. L. Sprinkle officiating and was attended by a crowd which filled the church and church yard and it is estimated that more than 700 people attended the burial which took place at Pine Ridge Church. Two selections, "Abide With Me" and "No Night There" were sung by a mixed quartet, Mrs. J. S. Bray, Miss Evelyn Wray, S. D. Wray and Jess Simmons.

The deceased was happily converted under the guidance of the Rev. J. L. Sprinkle and was admitted to the Moravian Church by profession of faith a short while ago. He is survived by his mother Mrs. Bettie Gardner and two brothers Wade and Henry Gardner. He was employed at the quarries.

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# MRS. J. A. ATKINS DEAD

On last Sunday, Mrs. J. A. Atkins a well known lady of R. F. D. No. 5, died at the age of thirty six years her death following immediately after the birth of a child which also died. She was sick only a few hours and her death came as a distinct shock to her relatives and friends.

Before her marriage she was a Miss Gardner, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Gardner, of this city, and is survived by both parents and three brothers, Messers Wade, Gene and Henry Gardner. Sixteen years ago she was happily married to J. A. Atkins, who with six children are left to mourn her loss.

Her remains were buried at Salem church, Monday afternoon, and Rev. B. M. Jackson, her pastor, conducted the funeral services. She was a splendid woman, a devoted wife, a loving mother and a consecrated christian and no more can be said of any one. The Leader extends sympathy to those who are so sadly bereaved.

# Mrs. Mary Gardner Claimed By Death

Mrs. Mary Gardner, 82, one of Mount Airy's respected old ladies, died suddenly at the home of her son, Henry Gardner, on Arch street here early last Friday morning. The cause of her death was heart trouble.

Funeral services were held from the Grace Moravian church on North Main street at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon, with Rev. John L. Sprinkle, pastor of the deceased, conducting the last rites. Interment was made in the Pine Ridge cemetery.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Freeman Gardner was born in 1849 in Surry county, the daughter of the late Samuel P. and Sallie Norman Freeman. She was married in early youth to William E. Gardner, who died several years ago, and she had spent all of her life in Mount Airy and vicinity.

She is survived by two sons, Wade Gardner and Henry Gardner, both of Mount Airy, by one brother, J. E. Freeman, and one sister, Mrs. Suzie Briggs, both of Mount Airy, Route 3.

7. m. d. - 1915  
Gardner



Surry NC - about 1915  
1-Unknown Female  
2-Henry Lee Gardner Sr.  
3-Emma B. Walker  
4-Frank Walker  
5-Unknown Female  
6-Unknown Female  
7-Naomi Ruth Johnson (Gardner)  
8-Unknown Male  
9-Unknown Male

**CAN YOU IDENTIFY PERSONS IN THIS PHOTO:** This photo was dated around 1915 in Surry County, NC and sent to Chris Redmond from Pat Gardner. Left to Right: 1-Unknown Female, 2-Henry Lee Gardner Sr., 3- Emma B. Walker, 4-Frank Walker, 5-Unknown Female, 6-Unknown Female, 7-Naomi Ruth Johnson (Gardner), 8-Unknown Male, 9-Unknown Male. Notify Chris Redmond at 704-658-5277 or [redman-chris@yahoo.com](mailto:redman-chris@yahoo.com).

Pat Gardner  
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