

A first  
in Toast

■ **INSIDE: Darn straight! Street now open,** page 2 | Online @ [www.surrymessenger.com](http://www.surrymessenger.com)

THUR.  
July 17, 2009



# THE MESSENGER

Sports,  
Page 7

Volume 2, No. 7 | **Bringing Surry County To You.** | Mount Airy, N.C. | 10 Pages, One Section

## Tracking down lost burial plots

By Phil Goble Jr.  
[phil@surrymessenger.com](mailto:phil@surrymessenger.com)

Joe Hicks steps carefully between the marble monuments.

Some stand tall. Some are short. Many are faded after years of abuse from the elements.

He holds up a hand-held GPS marker and hits a button.

The Round Peak Primitive Baptist Church cemetery will now never be lost.

"The goal is to keep a lot of these little family cemeteries from getting lost," Hicks said recently. "A GPS reading, hopefully from now on, won't change."

Many small cemeteries have disappeared in Surry County. Markers have fallen down, nature has grown up.

There is just one problem — "The bodies haven't been moved," he said.

For Hicks and several other genealogy enthusiasts from Surry County, getting information organized is a big goal.

"Our main object is to find, record, locate and write new driving directions" to each cemetery, he said.

So far, the group has catalogued 358 cemeteries — a number Hicks believes represents about a third of what's here. Each cemetery has its coordinates recorded by a GPS system and then a form is filled out that includes name of the cemetery and specific directions. Pictures are also taken of the site.

All that information is uploaded to [cemeterycensus.com/nc/surr/index.htm](http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/surr/index.htm) and is available free of charge.

"One of the main things is, as land is developed and everything, so many of these cemeteries — little bitty ones and big ones ... it's important to know where they are," said Esther Johnson, president of the Surry County Genealogical Association. "Also, if they (buyers) are aware of the cemetery being there and we're aware of the cemetery being there, the



Phil Goble Jr./The Messenger

Joe Hicks checks a GPS reading in the middle of the Round Peak Primitive Baptist Church cemetery.

See Graves, Page 6

Shus 17 July 08

## Graves

Continued from front page cemetery won't be damaged or destroyed. So much of our history is lost through cemeteries that were destroyed."

It's not just the information on the markers that are important, she said. Many times, the markers themselves are historical in the way they were constructed, the materials used or the way they were set up.

"It's another way to learn something different about our ancestors," she said.

The project went quickly at first as the group — Johnson, Andy Hennis, Bob Carter, Teresa Smith, John Edwards, Wilma Hiatt, Matthew Norman, Dean Brown, Charles Crabtree, Donna Edwards and Rodney Johnson — targeted areas that are well known.

"It's slowed down quite a bit," Hicks said. "I've been getting out and finding a lot in the woods. I find so many of these little family cemeteries. I take leads from anybody that wants to give me one."

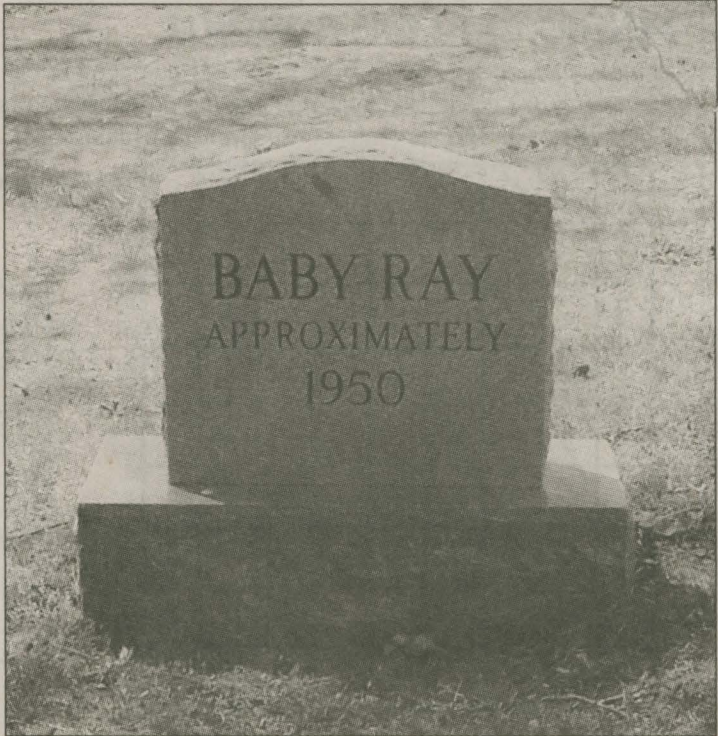
Just like the one from Dorothy Ray Smith. She contacted the group about finding the grave of a long-lost sister — Baby Ray — who died in 1950.

Hicks started investigating — the child was born on May 7, 1950, and was buried on the farm of a Mr. Guyer where her mother and father were tenant farmers. Guyer gave permission to bury the baby on his property. He helped by buying a casket and vault. The baby's parents — Jessie "Lost John" Ray and Lucille Woodring Ray — were well known. "Lost John," who was blind, was one of the best fiddle players in this area.

Ebenezer Methodist Church, which borders the land where the child was buried, decided to move the body to its cemetery and bought the stone marker for her grave.

Hicks found the grave.

Now, he has something to



Submitted photo

Joe Hicks found the grave of Baby Ray after a request from an out-of-town relative.

he said.

The ultimate goal is to not just mark the cemetery, but inventory it, listing who is buried there along with any information available from the tombstones.

"That data — birth and death dates — are important to genealogists," said Bud Cameron, the retired longtime county register of deeds. "It helps those trying to track genealogies. Getting that information together and then, what really needs to be done, is move it to the tax maps."

By doing that, Cameron said, potential developers or homeowners would know if a body might be buried on land being purchased — and families would not lose treasured history.

The group does have some cemeteries listed as "Unknown" on the website because the markers have fallen or the stones smoothed over through time. They are still marked and catalogued.

Aerial photography made in 2005 is online to give those looking for some landmarks to follow.

found those types are 'protected' by growth. I've seen some with chain link fences out in an open field. On the markers, you might have a name, but don't know when they were born or died."

Hopefully, the information will be gleaned off the markers before it disappears.

The first step is to mark and save the cemeteries.

"The sad fact is that family cemeteries are disappearing — being destroyed by people through vandalism and development," Cameron said. "Hopefully, this (project) will put a stop to that."



Let everyone know about my birth in...

so be alert for unusual opportunities to pop up when and where you least expect them. Inspiration in the middle of a routine job. Your intuition is trying to help you turn an uninspired task into one of... M<sup>THE</sup>

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## MARY CHARLOTTE WRIGHT HICKS BOLT

My great-grandmother, Mary Charlotte Wright Hicks Bolt (1854-1925), was a resident of Mt. Airy, N.C. for 45 years (1880-1925). She was born in Grayson Co., Va. March 24, 1854 to Malinda Ann Phillips (1826-190?) and Churchwell O. Wright (1824-1874). She was the fourth child and first daughter in a family of twelve: William Richard, Churchwell O., Samuel F., Mary C., Carloine F., Emily "Emma", Elbert M., Virginia "Jennie" E., David, Martha "Alice", Robert "Bob", and Lenora. Mary Charlotte's mother, Malinda Ann Phillips, was the daughter of James J. Phillips and Elizabeth Mallory (both of Grayson Co., Va.) who were married in Grayson Co. (mb 1824). James J. Phillips was the son of James and Peggy Phillips.

Mary Charlotte married first James Franklin Hicks (183?-1891) in Grayson Co., Va. on February 1, 1874. They had three children while living in Grayson Co.: Marville Thomas (1875-1945), Lola Mae (1878-1939), and Hattie Anne (1880-1938). In 1880 they moved to Mt. Airy and had a fourth child: George (1882-1928), who died in Buffalo, N.Y. of TB. He never married. Marville Hicks moved to High Point, N.C. taking his sisters Lola and Hattie with him in the mid 1890s.

Marville married Lula May Albertson (1877-1954) of Aaron, Va. in 1898 and they had seven children: Howard Mason, Lillian Payne, Ruby Mae, Mary Pauline "Polly", Marjorie Hazel, Marville Thomas Jr., and James Franklin.

Lola Mae married John William Moon of High Point, N.C. in 1897 and they had five children, three of whom lived to adulthood: Marjorie (1899-1910), Samuel Lafayette (1901-1965), Mary B. (died in Mt. Airy - 3 months old - is buried in the Bolt family plot at Oakdale Cemetery, Mt. Airy), John William Jr. (1908-1970) who married Beatrice Sebastian of Wilkes Co., N.C., and Ruth Louise (1912- ) who married John Alexander Holbrook Jr. of Wilkes Co., N.C. in 1935. Ruth Louise and John are retired and live in Traphill, N.C. (Wilkes Co.).

Hattie Anne married Charles Edgar Kellam Sr. (1874-1955) of Guilford Co., N.C. in 1899. They had twelve children: Dandridge, Henry Hicks, Lena Bessie Mae "Kay", Charles Edgar Jr., James Alfred, Helen, Hugh Roland, Joseph Marville, Frances Parker, Julia Mason, Carey Moodye, and Samuel Redding. All but one of the twelve were born in N.C., the last seven being born in Montgomery Co., N.C. (Biscoe) where Charles E. Kellam Sr. operated a machine shop and foundry.

James Franklin Hicks was one of thirteen children born to Elijah M. Hicks and Elendor Johnston of Iredell Co., N.C. Elijah's parents were Henry S. and Elinor Hicks. James F. Hicks had a family by a first marriage (mb 1855 in Warren Co., Tenn.) to Martha Jane Miller. Together they had \_\_\_\_\_ children: Elijah M. and Sarah.

In the early 1870s after Martha died, James Franklin moved to Grayson Co., Va. He was a cabinet maker, a maker of coffins and fine furniture, which was a trade he had learned from his father and which he handed down to his son, Marville T. Hicks. He served in the War Between the States with the Tennessee troops.

After James Franklin Hicks died in 1891, Mary Charlotte remarried a neighbor, William Alexander Bolt "Bill" (1856, Carroll Co., Va. - 1904, Mt. Airy). They had four children: Ned Washington (1892-1930), Jessie (who died in infancy), Myrtle Granell (1896-1918), and Donna Helena (1897-1935).

Ned Washington never married. He was in the first World War. He was killed in an accident while working on scaffolding. He is buried in the Bolt family plot, Oakdale Cemetery, Mt. Airy.

Myrtle Granell married Lee Roy Poore (1895-1921) of Mt. Airy in 1917 and they had one daughter, Myrtle Bolt Poore (1918- ). Myrtle Poore married George Yandell Watson of Southport, N.C. in February 1945. They have one son, George Yandell Watson Jr. Mother and son reside now in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Donna Helena married Sanford Perry Keziah Sr. (1893-1937) of Union Co., N.C. in 192?. They had one son, Sanford Perry Keziah Jr. (1930- ) who is a lawyer and practices in High Point, N.C.

William A. Bolt had five children by a previous marriage: Victor C., Josephine Ada, James Paul, Maude Marie, and Willie G. The mother of these children was, I believe, Roxie (Martha) Green. William A. Bolt was from Carroll Co., Va., being one of the youngest of thirteen children born to William Alexander Bolt Sr. and Catherine Sutphin (both of Carroll Co., Va.). His grandparents were John "Mean Johnny" Bolt and Rebecca Dillard (both of Carroll Co., Va.).

I am a granddaughter of Hattie Anne Hicks and Charles Edgar Kellam, and a great-granddaughter of Mary Charlotte Wright Hicks Bolt and James Franklin Hicks.

Source: Personal knowledge

- Sharon J. Kellam  
211 Old Bristol Rd.  
Boone, NC 28607  
(704) 264-7668

# The Mount Airy News

E-mail us at: [mtairynews@advi.net](mailto:mtairynews@advi.net)

## Local woman surprised to see brother while watching TV show about Iwo Jima

By WENDY BYERLY WOOD

Staff Writer

MOUNT AIRY -- In 1944, Fred Hicks left his home in Surry County and joined the Marines. He could not have known it was the last time he would be in Surry County.

“He was only 16 years old when he joined,” said Sadie Hicks Bullin, Hicks’ sister. “I was the baby of 11. We were all born at home, so we didn’t have birth certificates (and) he just told them he was 18.”

“He wrote home from Iwo Jima in one letter that if he had to do it over again he wouldn’t have lied,” she continued. “I was about 12 years old when he left and remember him walking up the road and stopping and looking back every few feet. It was like he had that feeling, I guess, that he would never come back.”

She said three of her brothers were in the military at one time.

“There was Fred Hicks, who was killed on Iwo Jima; Sammy Hicks, who was wounded in Guam and brought back to Virginia in a cast from the waist down; and Daniel Watson, who was drafted, but had a bad eye and didn’t make it overseas,” she said.

Last fall, while watching television program called “Heroes of Iwo Jima,” Bullin spotted her brother Fred among the soldiers.

“After I saw the show I ordered the tape, but I couldn’t get it stopped

enough to get a good picture of him," she explained. "Recently, I took it to Video Works and Mr. Hawks was able to get a picture from it for me. He didn't even charge me. I think he was just so excited for me."

During the war, Life magazine did a two-page spread on Iwo Jima and Bullin said her mother spotted Fred in one of the pictures.

"She always said that was him," said Bullin.

She said the guy in the film, although it is not the same exact picture, looks like Fred.

"It's not the same picture," she said, "but it is similar."

The last time Bullin and her family heard from Fred was just after he died.

"He wrote my mother the last of February 1945 and he was killed on March 7, 1945. We didn't hear about his death for two or three weeks after it happened, because at that time news was slower -- it was the 20-something of March. They used to call the postman where you lived and he would bring the news to the parents," Bullin said.

She has Hicks' Purple Heart and a picture of him in his uniform. She and her 87-year-old sister of Burlington are the only two siblings left out of 11.

Hicks is buried in the city cemetery in Dobson.

Hicks

Gary L. Hicks  
P. O. Box 27244  
San Antonio, Texas 78227-0244  
(512)674-1207

October 6, 1992

To whom it may concern,

I would like to ask for a query in your organization for the enclosed family group sheet. My main concern is Elbert M. Hicks b. Jul 1829 North Carolina and his wife m. 19 Jul 1865 to Martha Waldrop b. Jul 1835 in Georgia. The census for 1800 and 1900 show him as being born in North Carolina. According to his marriage records he was in Missouri BEFORE July 1865. Any information on this person or his wife before July 1865 would be appreciated.

Family group sheet

=====

Husband: Elbert M. Hicks #106

-----

Born: Jul 1829 in: North Carolina  
Died: ABT 1905 in: Bowie County, Texas  
Ref: Occupation: Farmer  
Father:  
Mother:

Elbert M. Hicks was found in the 1880 census for Miller county Arkansas. He was found again in the 1900 census of Bowie county, Texas. He died between 1900 and 1910. I found my Great-grandmother was widowed in the 1910 census of Bowie county Texas. Elbert and Martha were found in the book of marriages for Lafayette county Arkansas and it stated Elbert was from Missouri and 38 years old at the time of marriage to Martha Waldrop.

=====

Wife: Martha Waldrop #108  
Married: 19 Jul 1865 in: Lafayette County, Arkansas  
Other: 19-Jul-1865 in: by W. B. Bailey, MG, 2-173  
Marr. Ceremony? Y/N: Y Divorced/Annulled/Separated: N End Year:

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Born: Jul 1835 in: Georgia  
Died: AFT 1910 in: Bowie County, Texas  
Ref: Occupation: Farmers wife  
Father:  
Mother:

I found Martha in the 1910 census with William as head and widowed. Martha was widowed also. Two brothers and two sons one of which was my dad James H. Hicks 8 years old. We found Martha and Elbert marriage date and location. They were married in Lafayette County Arkansas by W. B. Bailey, MG, 2-173. The listing showed Elbert to be 38 years old and from Missouri.

=====

1 Henry Hicks #114  
M Born: 1868 in: Arkansas  
Died: in:

Henry Hicks was found in the 1880 census of Miller county Ark. We know he was married and had 3 children but we are unable to locate him in the census of 1900-1910-1920. If located this will clear up a lot of questions on this great uncle. It is recorded in pictures that he had a wife by the name of Jewel.

---

2 George W. Hicks #312  
M Born: 1869 in: Texas  
Died: in:

G. W. Hicks is found in the 1910 census and Wife. She is shown to have had a child that is still living.

---

3 William Monroe Hicks #105  
M Born: Sep 1871 in: Arkansas  
Died: 15 Jul 1922 in: Bowie County, Texas

William Monroe was found in the 1880 census of Miller county Arkansas and in the 1900-1910-1920 census of Bowie county, Texas. His parents were living with him in the 1900 census of Bowie county, Texas. In the 1910 census it shows him as being widowed along with his mother. This confirms the death of Ollie Eugene Hegler in 1908. Elbert's exact death date is not known but it did occur between 1900 and 1910. In the 1910 census William is listed with along with two sons and Two brothers and his mother. William Monroe Hicks death is recorded in Reel #3 Death Rec.-Tex 1903-1940 Gaynor Vol 19, Jordon Vol \$27 pg 19532.

---

4 James Madison Hicks #116  
M Born: Jun 1874 in: Arkansas  
Died: in:

James was found in the 1880 census of Miller county Ark and in the 1900 census of Bowie county Texas. I think we found him in the 1910 census and he was shown to be widowed. This must be verified!!

---

5 John S. Hicks #313  
M Born: Aug 1876 in: Arkansas  
Died: in:

John S. Hicks is shown as J. S. HICKS in the Abstract of The Old HICKS Place. He and his wife Stella is shown as living in Caddo Parish La. along with G. W. Hicks and his wife Dorah in the 1920(s).

---

6 F. Marion Hicks #109  
M Born: Jul 1880 in: Arkansas  
Died: in:

F. Marion Hicks was found in the 1880 census of Miller county Ark and the 1900 census of Bowie county Texas. Marion attempted to purchase The Old Hicks Place in the abstract but signatures of all parties were never received. He was also found in the 1910 census with children.

---

Gary L. Hicks  
P.O. Box 27244  
San Antonio, Texas 78227-0244  
512-674-1207



Hicks

~~Balsam~~  
Cemetery

*P.O. Box 303*

*Dobson, NC 27017*

*336-401-8150 extension 115*

*This e-mail correspondence is subject to the North Carolina Public Records law (NCGS Chapter 132).*

**From:** Robert Carter [mailto:[carter467885@gmail.com](mailto:carter467885@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2016 9:56 AM

**To:** Teresa Smith; Wilma Hiatt; Jack Luffman; Andy Hennis; Esther Johnson

**Subject:** Balsam Pine Cemetery

Well, I did a search on my FamilyTreeMaker software and it shows I have Columbus Franklin Crissman (1867-1956) buried there. He was a son of Andrew Jackson Crissman & Nancy Frances Hicks and was married on 5 Apr 1891 to Leah Stephens in Patrick County, VA and she is buried there as well.

I'd bet if someone went out to some of the old country stores east of Mt. Airy on Pine St, or northeast areas towards Ararat, VA you'd find someone who would know about it.

Teresa, would this cemetery have a deed or listing of property ownership?

Bob

**From:** Teresa Smith <[smitht@co.surry.nc.us](mailto:smitht@co.surry.nc.us)>

**To:** 'Robert Carter' <[carter467885@gmail.com](mailto:carter467885@gmail.com)>; Wilma Hiatt <[wjhiatt@aol.com](mailto:wjhiatt@aol.com)>; Jack Luffman <[bandjluffman@surry.net](mailto:bandjluffman@surry.net)>; Andy Hennis <[ahennis42@gmail.com](mailto:ahennis42@gmail.com)>; Esther Johnson <[epdj1@triad.rr.com](mailto:epdj1@triad.rr.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Balsam Pine Cemetery

**Date:** Wed, Feb 24, 2016 9:35 am

---

Hello to all,

I talked with John Edwards last night about this Balsam Pine Cemetery . John knows this cemetery as the Hicks/Creasy Cemetery

He had me look up death certificates for: Note: all of these had a mother that was a Hicks.

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Josephine Crismon states Hicks Cemetery mother was listed ? Hicks

However, I can't find a death for Fannie or Francis Hicks to find out who her parents would have been so that I can search for a Hicks deed.

Thanks for all you guys do for our cemetery website and hunting and surveying, taking pictures etc. All of us together work as a good team to make this happen.

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Deputy Surry County Register of Deeds  
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**Cc:** Wilma Hiatt <wjhiatt@aol.com>; Jack Luffman <bandjluffman@surry.net>; Andy Hennis <ahennis42@gmail.com>; Esther Johnson <epdj1@triad.rr.com>

**Subject:** Re: Balsam Pine Cemetery

**Date:** Wed, Feb 24, 2016 10:49 pm

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Parents of Columbus Crissman were Andrew Jackson Crissman (b. abt 1826 in GA) & Nancy Frances Hicks (b. abt 1835 in Patrick County, VA). Andrew Crissman & Nancy Fannie Hicks married 30 Aug 1854 in Surry, Book A, page 1354 & 1355. She & Andrew died after 1880 but burials are unknown.

Columbus married Leah Stephens (Stevens) on 5 Apr 1891 in Patrick Co, VA and she is also buried at Balsam.

Bob

On Wed, Feb 24, 2016 at 9:33 AM, Teresa Smith <[smitht@co.surry.nc.us](mailto:smitht@co.surry.nc.us)> wrote:

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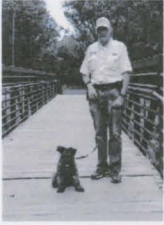
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*Teresa L. Smith*

*Deputy Surry County Register of Deeds*

Hicks

### Joseph Hicks



ELKIN — Joseph William Hicks, 75, of Elkin, passed on March 25, 2019. Joseph is survived by his wife, Maria of 52 years; sons, Michael Hicks and Richard Hicks; sister, Carolyn Reece; seven loving grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and his extended beautiful family in Puertollano, Madrid, and throughout Spain. Joseph was a loving father, husband, grandfather, and friend to everyone. Joseph was a proud Air Force veteran and a talented machinist, spending over 30 years at Westinghouse. He enjoyed the accomplishment of making or building things with his hands from a thought or drawing, but in the end his motivation was to make someone happy. Joseph was dedicated to his family, community, and volunteered with several organizations including: the local VFW where he served as commander for six years, the Wilkes/Surry Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution where he served as president, the Surry County Genealogical Association where he served as treasurer, and especially the Elkin Valley Trails Association where he served as the VP. Walking with his dogs, Thumper and Joiee, was his happy place. Joseph walked hundreds, if not thousands, of miles on the sidewalks of Elkin, trails or even the MST trail when it was just a single track footpath beside the Elkin Creek ... but he could see what it was going to be. Joseph never met a stranger on the trail. He could not wait to bump into the next passerby, resident or visitor ... so he could share all the wonderful things the trail and the town of Elkin has to offer. He loved it so. A special thank you to the people at Mountain Valley Hospice in Dobson for their loving care and support during his final days. The family will accept friends at Johnson Funeral Home on Saturday, March 30, 2019, from 2 to 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please make donations on behalf of Joe's memory to the Elkin Valley Trails Association. You may send your donation by check to: Elkin Valley Trails Association, Inc., P.O. Box 91, Elkin, NC 28621. Your generous donation is tax-deductible.

### Funeral Home

#### Johnson Funeral Home

615 W Main St Elkin, NC 28621  
(336) 835-3211

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