

# Obituaries

## Mrs. Booker, 71, Native Of Dobson, Dies At Asheville

Funeral services for Mrs. Nina Park Booker, 71, a Dobson native who was recognized for her teaching career in Greensboro, were held Wednesday of last week at the Hanes-Lineberry North Elm Street Chapel. Burial was at Guilford Memorial Park.

Formerly of 412 S. Chapman Street, Greensboro, she died Sunday night, Oct. 5, in Asheville after a lengthy illness.

She taught at Lindley Elementary School for 28 years and was the first recipient of the Ben L. Smith award for outstanding teacher in 1957. She was supervising teacher for Greensboro College and UNC-G. She was past president of the Greensboro Association of Childhood Education, the editor of the P. C. Association of Childhood Education Journal, and a delegate to the National Association of Classroom Teachers.

She belonged to the Alpha Beta Chapter of the Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority, the international teachers' sorority. She held offices in the American Association of University Women and was a member of Centenary United Methodist Church, where she was past president of the Wesleyan Service Guild. She was also a member and held many offices in the Mayflower Garden Club.

Surviving are daughter, Dr. Laurena B. Japenga of Covina, Calif.; son, W. Norman Booker of Asheville; sister, Mrs. Ethel Park Broome of Dobson; brother, Roy H. Park of Ithaca, N. Y.; six grandchildren.

(MOUNT AIRY TIMES - Fri., March 30, 1934)

## Edward A. Booker Claimed By Death

Funeral services for Edward A. Booker, 35, who died in the Oteen Veterans Hospital on Tuesday afternoon after an extended period of ill health, were held from the home near Bannertown at 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon, with Rev. M. F. Booe, Rev. D. V. Price and Rev. R. G. Tuttle officiating. Interment was made in Oakdale cemetery.

Edward Addison Booker was born here in Mount Airy on May 6, 1899, the son of Joe F. and Anna Clement Booker. He had spent practically all of his life in this community, with the exception of the time he spent in the military service during the World War. It was during his army service that he suffered the injuries that resulted in his broken health and death.

He is survived by his wife, formerly Miss Arbell Jackson, and four small children, all of this city. Other survivors are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe F. Booker, of Mount Airy; two brothers, James Booker, of Salisbury, and Phillip Booker, of Mount Airy; and one sister, Miss Mary Katherine Booker, also of this city.

4616 Roswell Road, N.E.  
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Booker

17 January 1973

Miss Ruth Minick, Secretary  
Surry County Historical Society  
341 Franklin Street  
Mount Airy, N.C. 27030

Dear Miss Minick,

I was delighted to see your name and address in the January 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the NEWS, as I have been wanting to contact someone relative to membership in the Society.

I am a native of Mount Airy, but I have been gone for many years (1933), and my only relatives remaining in town and out in the county are second and third cousins, etc.

If the Society's entrance requirements allow it, I would like to make application to join as a non-resident member. I am very interested in my home town and county, and I will be pleased to make a modest contribution toward the restoration project, whether or not my application is accepted.

I am currently undertaking to compile a BOOKER Family History, which will be about the descendants of my great-grandfather, BERRYMAN BOOKER, who settled in Surry in 1819, and who is the ancestor of most, but not all, of the Surry BOOKERS.

Please advise if any other information is necessary in order that the Society can adjudge my application.

Sincerely,

Forester Booker III

FORESTER BOOKER

Atlanta  
31 January 1973

Dear Miss Ruth,

Thank you for your kind reply of Jan. 22nd. I'm sure that my signature of "Forester III" threw you a little off the track. You probably remember my father, who ran a coal yard near the dry bridge off Main Street. Virginia and Ruth Booker are my sisters - the others are Mary (Hull), Frances, Margaret, Rachel (dec. 1969), and Elizabeth (Bobbie). I am the only boy and the youngest - age 50.

It was nice of you, and a coincidence of sorts - to tell us about our old home (it was the corner of Orchard and Willow, by the way). For many years, I had thought about just going up to the front door some day, identifying myself, and asking to see the inside. I had never been in it since my father's funeral in October, 1933. Well, this happened in the spring of 1970, except that we got the next door neighbor, Mrs. Paul Hull, Jr., to seek permission of the Byron Cooke's, instead of going directly to the door ourselves. Paul, Jr., is a nephew of Elbert Lee Hull, Mary's husband. - Mrs. Cooke was very gracious, and it meant a lot to us. (My wife and my sister, Bobbie, were with me). I was born there. If you think the outside is being kept up, you should see the inside. She has excellent taste, and the house was so pretty. - I am passing a copy of your letter to the girls. By the way, Virginia and Bobbie live in Greensboro, Mary in Durham, Frances in Rome, Ga. (about 70 miles northwest of here), Ruth in Norfolk, and Margaret in Baltimore. Rachel was living in Kingsport, Tenn. when she died. All married except Bobbie.

When I was little, I was known as Forester, Jr. I've started using the "III" on any occasion concerning family history as grandfather, father, and myself all have identical names, with no middle initial or anything. I've got to have a method to keep everyone straight in my write-up.

Mama says that our house (and the Hull's) ~~was~~<sup>was</sup> originally built with identical, but reversed, floor plans, using materials from the old Hadley place. Dad and Mom moved in around Dec., 1919, and we last it in 1933. It was remodeled in the late '20's or early '30's. Our next door neighbors were the Cockerhams. Before them, according to mama, was a Sam Hennis. - Mama was Hattie Ann Edwards. (She is 89 now.)

Well, enough of our past. Your Society plans are very interesting. I appreciate your offer of genealogical help re Bookers. Prior to visiting Dobson this past

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November, I had thought all Surry Co. Bookers were descendants of my great-grandfather, Berryman Booker, but I found some strangers around Elkin. If anyone in the Society can put me in touch with this line of Bookers, I'd appreciate it - or tell me anything about their forefathers.

The idea of a Historical Map interests me, too. If you intend to show where some of the old families lived, I can contribute something there. And as for ideas for the future, when financing permits, I'd suggest the purchase, cataloging, and filing of census microfilms (relatively cheap) and the purchase of viewing machines (they can be pretty expensive). Then as additional funds permit, censuses of counties other than Surry could be added to the files. I believe a lot of people would enjoy looking up their old Surry, Carroll, Patrick, etc. relatives.

I am interested in reading Surry County history. The Mount Airy Public Library has Jesse Gentry Hollingsworth's History of Surry County or Annals of Northwestern North Carolina. I've read over this book at the Greensboro Public Library, but I've never found a copy of Atkinson's Facts About Surry County. And, I've read a photocopy of Mount Airy and Surry County history from the Winston newspapers, as furnished me by the Chamber of Commerce. If the Society knows of some good reading references, I like to have a short list.

It surprised me that I'm accepted, presumably, by the Society without having to complete a form, pay dues, etc. I hope to pay you a personal visit some time this summer.

My printing is terrible now. It was good when I was younger, and is just fair when I go slowly, but thanks anyway! I am a graduate of Georgia Tech (civil engineering, BS, 1943) and have been employed by the Georgia Department of Transportation since 1946.

With best wishes to you and the Society,

Forester Booker

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June 15, 1974

Dear Ruth,

Your nice letter and informative enclosures were very much appreciated. And your polite refusal to accept remuneration duly noted also!

I would like you to consider doing a little research for me at Dobson-for a fee, however. Seriously. The few times I've been there haven't been of sufficient duration to learn how to search land records, and I want the land grant records searched for BOOKER (doubtful if there were any). Also I desire to learn who sold land to my grandfather, FORESTER BOOKER, and to my great-grandfather, BERRYMAN BOOKER, and obtain photo copies of any interesting documents. And, finally, I want a copy of the will of Mary Ann BOOKER Jessup, which my notes show as Book 6, Page 547.

We could handle this on an hourly basis (portal-to-portal), plus mileage for your car, <sup>postage</sup> and reimbursement for photocopying costs. Most ads in my genealogical magazine specify \$3 an hour, although some searchers in the D.C. area are now asking \$4. And the latest government report (based upon 1973 data) showed auto cost for standard-sized car to <sup>be</sup> about 16 cents per mile, which no doubt should be increased to at least 20¢ due to the events of the past few months.

If you decide to take this on, I'll give you details as to where the old farms were located. Berryman settled in Surry in 1819, and his old farm was on Pipers Gap Road. Grandpa's first marriage was prior to 1850, and his old farm was almost on the Virginia Line, on Stewarts Creek, east of Crooked Oak. A correspondent having a microfilm of the index to land deeds wrote that no Booker references appeared until the late 1800's. I find this practically impossible to believe. Both had their own land well before then, and they had to purchase it, I'm sure, as their time was too late for grants.

Another correspondent has advised that land grant records mention a Nicholas Booker and a Matthew Booker in Books 875 and K175, respectively. I don't know if they (books) are available in Dobson, as they may be in Raleigh in Thad Eure's office (Sec. of State). I rather think the names will turn out to be BARKER or something similar, rather than Booker.

I continue to see your name in the NEWS - about your graduation from high school in the 50 Years Ago column, and in connection with the society and the bicentennial. That doctor certainly presented an ambitious budget for the celebration, and I wish you luck.

Many times I wish I lived there again. ~~Enabling~~ Enabling legislation <sup>was</sup> passed this year permitting retirement with full benefits after 35 years service, regardless of age. I'll be eligible for that around April 1, 1979, at age 56 $\frac{1}{4}$  years. That's a long time to wait to take that ride around the County with you - this would be most interesting to me.

If the NEWS really wants to get the old papers microfilmed, why don't they contact Archives? - By the way, I filed an official complaint with the Postal Service about losing my letter and check to the NEWS in January this year. In just a few days, the paper returned my old check - no word of explanation. In the meantime, I'd sent them another around April 1st for me and my two gift subscriptions.

I'd appreciate some more research of old newspapers, but this time, I want to pay for it - really, once "gratis" is enough; it must be my way this time or my conscience will hurt. By the way, the year 1900 was correct for Mary Ann, as her will was probated on Oct. 31, 1900 - you did look for her under her name of Mrs. Ambrose Jessup, as well as Mrs. Mary Ann Booker Jessup ??

Just as you copied Aunt Martha Busick's death story for me, I'd appreciate a search for these, and I think this will conclude this type research:

1. Granville H. Booker, died Tues., May 3, 1894  
(this was in Patrick Co., Va. and may not have been in Mt. Airy paper)
2. Henry Clay Booker, Saturday, May 7, 1904
- 2A. Mrs. Granville H. Booker (Cassandra Joyce Minter Booker), Sat., Apr. 15, 1900  
(this also occurred in Patrick Co.)

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3. Joseph Hollingsworth Booker, Sunday, Sept. 8, 1907
4. America Clara Booker Folger (Mrs. Romulus S. Folger), Tues., April 1, 1913
5. Martha Ellen Booker - died in 1896 at age 28.  
(Skip if you choose, due to lack of date).
6. Forester Booker, Sunday, Oct. 22, 1933.  
(Died in Atlanta, so there may be a time lag in story appearing)
7. Lula Frances Booker Haynes (Mrs. W. D. Haynes), Wed., Mar. 28, 1962
8. James Franklin Edwards, Sunday, July 4, 1948
9. Martha Ann Hill Edwards (wife of above), \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 1942.  
(This date is not in our records. I assume it can be obtained from Moody's 1942 book or Dobson. I need it for my records).

This is absolutely too much for anyone to consider doing, except for pay. And I'm too anxious to get it to worry about the cost.

As I may have mentioned at some time or the other, my paternal ~~grand~~ grandmother was Nancy Jane Axom Booker. I wrote a Robert Axsom in Dobson several weeks ago, but it appears that he isn't going to answer. Do you know any Surry Axsoms or Axoms? It's an unusual name, first appearing in Surry censuses in the one of 1810. And do you know any Surry Callahans? Berryman Booker married a Callahan (Claramond) in Rockingham Co. in 1817, and the censuses show some migration of Callahans to Surry about the time Berryman trekked west to Surry in 1819, and afterwards.

We may come to North Carolina in July - the week of the 4th or the next week - to visit Mother, Virginia, and Elizabeth, (G'boro) but plans are somewhat vague right now. If at all possible, I would run up to Mount Airy one day, and hopefully have a chance to see you and some others.

Trust all is well with you and that summer will be a pleasant one.

Sincerely,  
Forester

Forester Booker  
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August 6, 1974

Dear Ruth,

Please accept my apologies for waiting so long to respond to your nice letter of July 1 - and for not being able to stop when I passed through Mount Airy about six on the evening of July 18.

Naturally, I was disappointed you couldn't accept my commission to reasearch for me for pay, but I understand your position. I knew of some of your activities from reading the NEWS, as to doing some free of charge, that puts me in a "squirmy" position! - I wouldn't have listed so much had I known you would not let me pay you. And you mustn't let my support of the Society result in your working for me - or let anyone's - the first thing you know, you'll be worked to death doing "favors"!

The booklet came through in good shape, and it is interesting. Thanks for my copy - and I want to congratulate the typist and the printshop on a job well done. Hope my little book will turn out that well - what shop did it? Quality M. has a shop?

As to our trip to NC, it turned out to be from Saturday, July 13 to Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup>. On Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup>, Elizabeth ("Bobbie") and I went to Surry by way of cousins' residences in Winston and Boonville, cemeteries in the Little Richmond vicinity (near Burch), Dobson courthouse, and finally Mount Airy for a few minutes. We got back to Greensboro at 10 that night.

I found a few Axsom graves, but need to find more, if possible. Mount Hermon Church and Little Richmond Baptist. Many unmarked graves at the latter. Perhaps there is a big family cemetery somewhere, but probably not. There were so many Axsoms in the 1800's, but probably not many in marked graves. They lived mostly in Marsh township, some in Bryon.

At Dobson, we had lunch around 12:30 opposite Surry Central and then stopped in the R. of D.'s office until ten of five! Looking up all Axsom births, deaths, and marriages which have been recorded. Late in the afternoon, I discovered the section of books titled "Record of Deeds." I do intend to go back there!

I obtained Xerox copies of Book U, pp 475-476 (Sterling Callihan) (from Abner Benton); Book T, pp. 317-318 (Forester Calahan from Charles L. Chrisman); Book X, p. 97 (Berryman Booker from C. L. Chrisman); Book 4, pp. 493-494 (B. Booker from York & Chrissman); Book U, pp. 466, 467 (Nancy Axiam's Dower allotment in 1833); Book T, pp. 70-71 (Joseph Axum from Stephen Mankins); and Book U, pp. 117-118 (Joseph Axum from William Steelman and Barney Griffin (?)). This Joseph Axum died 1833, and he was my great-great grandfather, in my paternal line; he's the one who first appeared in Surry census (1810).

In studying these Axum papers, I find these names of streams - Dutchman's Creek (Duchman); Cedar Creek, "... a branch of Fisher River;" and Beaver Creek. On my Surry maps, I can find only the last one. Can you tell me the location of the first two?

In the fairly short time I had to view the Grantor-Grantee Index, I could only find one mention of Forester Booker's (grandpa) obtaining land, and that was for additional land adjoining some he already had. But I want a copy of that and of Forester Booker (daddy) buying land from N. J. Booker (grandma Axom) and of the selling of that farm when they moved to Mount Airy in 1919. By the way, you "researched" the house on Orchard St. for me - I read (but didn't copy - & wish I had it) where dad bought it from Mrs. Flora Mae Yokely for \$3400.

I also purchased the copy of Mary Ann Jessup's will and also called Moody's to obtain Grandma Edward's death date: Monday, March 16, 1942.

With respect to FRANKLIN history, I suppose you've seen the Marriage Bond record of a Jesse Franklin and Elizabeth

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Gentry, dated 18 October 1817, bondsman Joseph Gentry. Who was that? - Also in the 1860 census of Surry, Stuarts Creek District, P.O. Dobson, 13 July 1860, Line 24, Family and House No's 4-4, there is Wiley Franklin, age 59, wife Mary, 58, and five others, including Shadrach Franklin, age 14. All born in NC. On the next line (after that group), living alone<sup>5-5</sup>, is Shadrach Franklin, age 90, farmer, born in Virginia. This is the one listed in your Appendix A as being born on April 20, 1769.

On Page 19 of the booklet, note no. 17, the author should be listed as J. G. Hollingsworth (Jesse Gentry).

I read the name, Shade Franklin, quite often in the NEWS in the list of warranty deed transactions.

We plan to return to Greensboro for mother's 91st, which is on Friday, September 6. My wife, Georgie, plans to go ~~to~~ up ahead of me in order to visit with my oldest sister, Virginia, beforehand. And I hope to leave here, perhaps on Labor Day, and drive to Mount Airy and spend Tuesday, Wednesday, and part of Thursday with those Record of Deeds books - or less time if I can accomplish it. Hope to see you this time, for sure.

How did the Yadkin River gala turn out - but I've forgotten the date it was to occur.

This letter is full of "I" - please forgive me - I really get carried away on this genealogy.

Sincerely,  
Forester

Forester Booker  
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16 September 1974

Dear Ruth,

My trip to Mount Airy and Dobson started off as scheduled, but was cut short due to problems. So, once again I failed to make contact and regret that events forced me to make such a choice.

It was my right eye. It started getting irritated before I left here on Labor Day. I consulted with my eye doctor via telephone and followed his course of action. But by Monday night in Mount Airy (I arrived just before dark), it was so bad that I almost left the motel in the middle of the night. However, sleep finally came, and I researched at Dobson from 8:30 until 4:30 on Tuesday, Sept. 3rd, and then left for Greensboro to see if Virginia or Elizabeth could get me an emergency appointment with an eye man. This was done on Wednesday morning, and he diagnosed the problem as a staphylococcus infection, prescribing an antibiotic ointment. My own man was consulted upon return, and it's about well now.

When I left Dobson, I did not feel up to visiting anyone, and also there was a torrential downpour. I got out of the courthouse into my car just in the nick of time - it was so dark that it made me a little nervous.

I succeeded in find<sup>ing</sup> some interesting things in those books, Records of Deeds. I spent most of the morning in going through the index and copying names, book designations, and pages numbers of the various names of my lines. Although not having time to read all, the office staff assured me of

being able to purchase any by mail since I had the book & page references to furnish them.

It was exasperating not to find grandfather Forester Booker's original purchase of land. An attempt was made on the July trip, and I thought I could do it this time with a more thorough search. It just isn't recorded, although his later purchase of additional land is listed.

All the records in the Clerk's office of interest to me "had been sent to Raleigh," per Mrs. Comer and Mr. Holder, although I did find a little to copy there.

After going back to Greensboro, I just stayed on there. Mother was 91 on Friday, Sept. 6th, and we had open house that day and on Saturday, which was the day when most of the visitors came, as it rained steadily almost all of Friday.

Haven't seen your name in the paper, but have read of ~~Mr.~~ Mr. Spanski's appointment. And how about James Johnson selling the NEWS! Wonder why-wealth? Now what will happen to the old copies at James? I hope the new owner is interested in microfilming them.

I hope you're well and have had a nice summer. It certainly has gone by so fast for me that I feel I've accomplished practically nothing.

With best wishes,

Forester