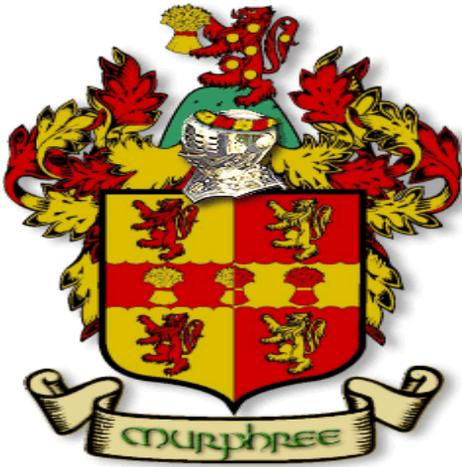


# Murphree Genealogical Association Newsletter

## January 2020



- Visit the MGA web site today at <http://www.murphree.us/index.html>
- Visit the [Murphree Group](#) on Facebook
- Past President Bobby Murphree wishes to thank everyone who attended the 2019 MGA Convention. He also wishes to extend a special thanks to Leo Murphree for letting MGA use his place to hold the convention.
- MGA is currently looking for 3 members to serve in the positions of president, vice-president, and as chief genealogist and historian for the organization. MGA will not be having future conventions until the positions of president and vice-president are filled.
- Please submit family photographs, research articles, celebrations, and obituaries to MGA Newsletter Editor Wiley Murphree at [murph1865@gmail.com](mailto:murph1865@gmail.com).
- MGA wants to thank Bruce Jordan for years of service as the chief genealogist and historian for the MGA. Due to health issues, he has retired from his position. His additions to the database and his publications will continue to help many people in the years to come. Bruce's wife Linda has been the editor of the MGA Newsletter for many years and is resigning too. She notes that, "It has been a pleasure for us to be part of the MGA, to get to know such wonderful people, to learn about and contribute to information known about our Murphree ancestors, and to share that information with others. May God bless you all."



**Bruce Jordan**



**Linda Jordan**



The Murphree Genealogical Association's 2019 Convention was held July 26-27 at the Swan Lake Pavilion and Museum near Greenwood, Mississippi.

## 2019 Murphree Genealogical Convention at Swan Lake Pavilion in Greenwood, MS

July 26-27, 2019

On July 26, registration started at 9 a.m. as Judy Dover, Treasurer, greeted the attendees. Genealogy research and fellowship took place there both days. Leo Murphree was our gracious host. He provided access to his Swan Lake Museum and to his volumes of MGA newsletters both days.





**Some members brought their laptops and family records to share. There were 25 people registered, but more attended the banquet.**

**The Board met at 4 p.m. Friday. Dinner was on your own. Many members dined at the Crystal Grill that Leo had strongly recommended and we all enjoyed.**



**President Bobby Murphree welcomed everyone at Irish Night at 7 p.m. Friday. Wardell Herring, Master Magician, entertained the group using volunteers from the audience.**

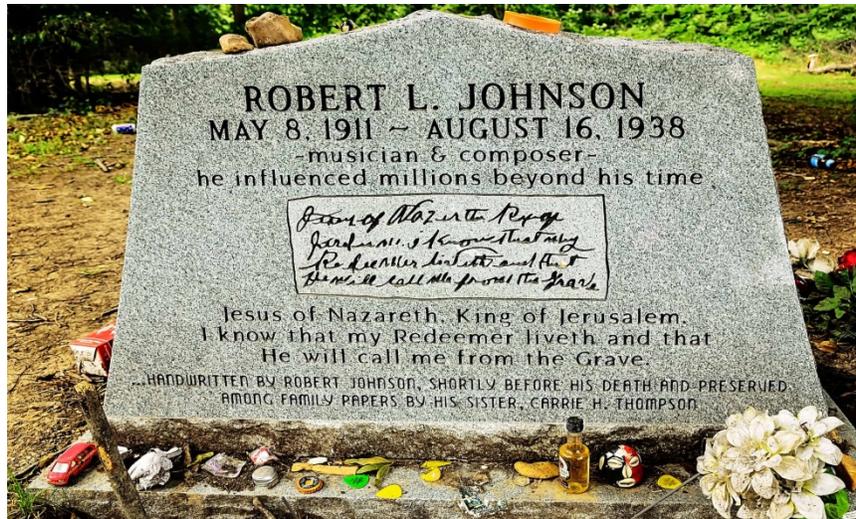


Wardell Herring performs magic on Nancy Murphree

**On Friday and Saturday attendees went on their own to visit the sights in Greenwood—the Delta Mississippi Museum, the avenue of trees, the 1960's homes that were filmed in the movie *The Help*, the Viking Cooking Store, and the Blues Trail.**

### **Pictures of Greenwood**





**The General Membership Meeting was held at 9 a.m. Saturday. The MGA Banquet was held at the Pavilion at 7 p.m. Saturday Night and the meal was catered by DeWayne Meats. Leo planned the delicious meal. Bobby Murphree welcomed everyone. Jim Young did the invocation. Good music was provided by Mid-Life Crisis band. The Greenwood Mayor, Carolyn McAdams, spoke, and then Judy Dover did an informative presentation on DNA testing. The audience sang *Danny Boy* together.**



Past MGA President Judy Dover



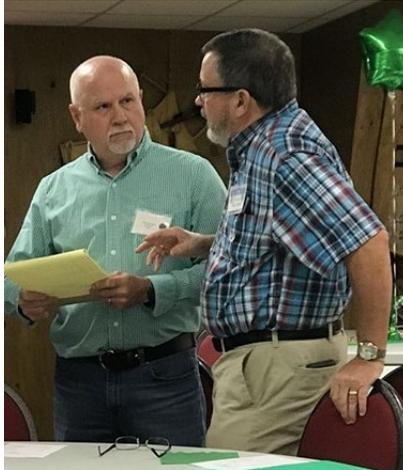
Banquet Attendees



Descendants of Daniel and Sarah Murphree



Past MGA President Rae and his wife Carol Murphree



Convention President Bobby Murphree and Past Convention President Randall Murphree

**The meeting adjourned. Most attendees at the convention lodged at the Holiday Inn Express or the Hampton Inn in Greenwood.**

**\*Minutes Assembled by Randall E. Murphree, Acting Secretary of MGA\***

### **MGA Board Meeting and General Meeting Minutes**

**The MGA Board of Directors met on July 26, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at Leo's Barn in Greenwood, Mississippi. Board Members present were: Janice Allison, Randall E. Murphree, James Young, Clarence Milstead, Bobby Murphree, and Chairman, Paul Milstead. Mike Murphree and Secretary Wiley Murphree were absent.**

**Bobby Murphree, President, MGA called the meeting to order where the following occurred: In the absence of Secretary not being present, Bobby Murphree asked Randall Murphree to take the minutes.**

**Judy Dover, Treasurer, submitted a treasurer's report and reported that we had a balance of \$5,712.47 with the exception that we had not received a billing from Linda Jordan which would be around \$1,100 dollars for work she had done and cost of publishing the last two newsletters.**

**Also, there was discussion that Judy Dover get an updated list from Linda Jordan at an appropriate time in order to get the most current list of emails and addresses.**

**It was reported that Linda Jordan, editor of our newsletter, and Bruce Jordan, historian, had resigned due to the declining health of Bruce. Also, Janice Allison said she could not serve another term due to health reasons in her family. Randall Murphree reported that Wiley Murphree had offered his resignation. So at this time, we need the following offices to be filled: President, Vice President, Secretary, Historian and one board member.**

**There was much discussion and suggestions by James Young and others that possibly we start emailing the newsletter to our members or post it on line at the Murphree web site. It was discussed that we could possibly leave open the fact to pay someone to do an online newsletter and either email it out to members or allow the members to download it on line, and they could print it.**

**President Bobby Murphree encouraged our board members to seek individuals to fill these positions if possible and if we couldn't that we may have to suspend our next convention and try to restructure our organization. Also, Bobby asked our board members to thank Leo Murphree for furnishing his barn for having our meeting at no cost for the two days of the convention.**

**The board meeting was adjourned around 5:20 p.m.**

**The MGA general meeting was called to order by President Bobby Murphree at 9:00 a.m. on July the 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 at Leo's Barn in Greenwood, Mississippi. President Murphree invited everyone to visit the large collection of antiques that Leo Murphree had collected over the years. Bobby reported that Linda Jordan and Bruce Jordan had resigned due to the failing health of Bruce. Linda was our newsletter editor and Bruce was our Genealogist and Historian. Since the board was unable to find a President or Vice-President, the board voted to suspend our future conventions until further notice. Financially, we are in good shape. It was discussed that we need to fill the positions of Newsletter Editor and Historian. It was left open how much we would pay the Newsletter Editor for their time to do an on-line posting or email the newsletter in order to save time and cost.**

**Judy Dover, Treasurer, reported that we had \$5, 712.47 and that we owed the Jordan's an approximate balance of \$1,100 for editing and working on the last two newsletters. That would leave us with an approximate balance of \$4,000.00.**

**After much discussion, James Young made a motion to suspend the convention until such time we could reorganize. The motion was seconded by Janice Allison and the vote was unanimous.**

**Rae Murphree stated we were to have 6 board members. It was suggested that we would check with Mike Murphree, Board Member from Dothan, Alabama to see since he had a copy of the by-laws. Clarence Milstead agreed to be the Board.**

**President Murphree asked all members to try to seek to fill the vacant offices. It was suggested that President Murphree draft a letter to send to our members in order to ask for a volunteer to host our convention and to fill some of our vacant offices. Also, it was suggested that Judy Dover send a letter to the Jordan's in order to get an updated email list of members in order to update the database.**

**Offices filled are Randall E. Murphree, (2021), Secretary, Paul Milstead, Chairperson, (2021) Clarence Milstead, (2021), Mike Murphree, (2021), James Young, (2021), and Bobby Murphree, 2021, Board Members.**

**After much discussion about seeking new officers, member Terri Bertrang made a motion to accept any qualified member to hold these offices that are vacant. The motion was seconded by member Amanda Redman. The motion was unanimous.**

**Randall E. Murphree, board member, agreed to be secretary of the organization if we could find a President.**

**Judy Dover, Treasurer, asked if we were going to leave the dues the same if we do not have a mailed out newsletter. After much discussion it was decided that we would leave the membership rate as is until further notice. We would send a letter to members stating that we were converting to an on-line newsletter and/or email.**

**Board Member James Young explained how he had written some books and explained how he got them published for free through Amazon Books. They sell your books on line and you get a royalty from the books sold and you get a small fee for the publishing. You can get a paperback or hardback type book.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.**

**Bobby Murphree called a short board meeting after the banquet on July 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 at Leo's Barn in Greenwood, Mississippi immediately following the dinner and banquet. Randall Murphree, brought to the Board's attention that Wiley Murphree, his son, would be willing to be our editor for the on-line newsletter with the following conditions: He would want all correspondence to be in Microsoft Word, he would get all the old newsletters where he could get the History and not reprint material that had already been used, he would get the updated email addresses from the Jordan's and the membership chairperson, and that all correspondence sent to him such as obituaries, marriages and accolades be electronically sent to him at his email address. He agreed to be the editor for \$200 per issue two times a year which is the current frequency of the newsletters. After a short discussion it was voted unanimously that we accept his offer.**

**\*Minutes assembled by Randall E. Murphree, Acting Secretary of MGA\***



Pastoral farmland in Wexford County, Ireland

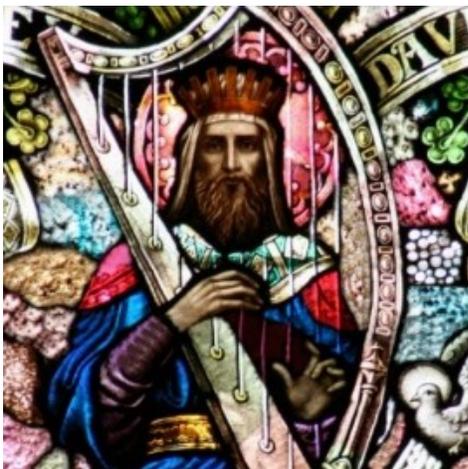


Saint Patrick

## DNA TESTING AND MURPHREE ORIGINS

By Wiley Murphree

When I purchased the 23andMe: DNA Genetic Testing and Analysis kit, it revealed I am descended from Irish King Niall of the Nine Hostages who lived in the late 4<sup>th</sup> or early 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D. He was the father of many children during his lifetime. As a result of this, 3 million men worldwide are descended from him. The genetic code for this marker is on the Y chromosome on Hablogroup R-M269. Much of the history behind Niall is cloaked in myth and legend. He was the Irish “High King” at Tara, the ancient center of Ireland. He is known as the Nine Hostages because he had a propensity for taking hostages from other kingdoms to get them to bend to his will. According to legend, he led the raid on Wales and captured a slave which he brought back to Ireland. That slave would later escape and go on to become Saint Patrick.



King Niall



Stone of Destiny at the Hill of Tara, once used as a coronation stone for the High Kings of Ireland.

**In 795 A.D. the Vikings raided a monastery on Ireland's eastern coast. These seafaring warriors took valuables from this holy place and laid it to waste. At this time, the Vikings weren't Christian and had qualms about seeking a profit from an easy target. Historical accounts state that thousands of men, women, and children were enslaved and brought back to Scandinavia during these raids. Besides seeking wealth, their reasons for leaving Scandinavian shores centered on survival. Scandinavia had a very short growing season and too many people lived on what little land could be farmed. As more Vikings moved to Ireland for more farmable and less settled land, they built the city of Dublin in 841 A.D. Dublin is located in Wexford County, and today it is the capital of Ireland. Over time the Vikings converted to Christianity.**



**Oseberg Viking ship at the Viking Museum in Oslo, Norway**

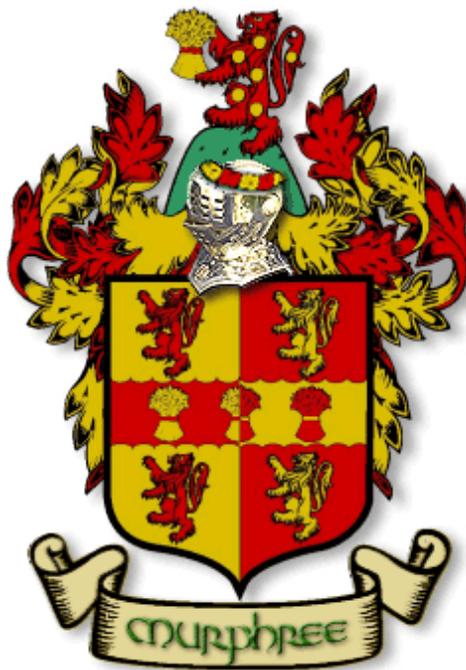
**The original Gaelic form of the surname Murphy is O Murchadha or Mac Murchadha, which are both derived from the word "murchadh," meaning "sea warrior." Murphy is the most common surname in Ireland, the fourteenth most in Northern Ireland, and the fifty-eighth most in the U.S. DNA testing showed I had many genetic matches with people who lived in Ireland but also in Northern Europe in areas where Vikings were known to have settled. When the Murphy's of Ireland immigrated to the British Colonies in the late 17th century or 18<sup>th</sup> century, the spelling of the surname changed to reflect the profound changes they had experienced. The variations of the surname's spelling include Merfree, Morfrey, Murfrey, Murfrye, Murferry, Murfree, and Murphree.**

*Below is an excerpt of an article submitted by President Anne.B. Murphree Inman in the March, 1964 MGA Newsletter as part of her St. Patrick's Day Message*

**They (the Irish) were brought low by every form of treachery, brutality, and inhumanity ever conceived. Their families were murdered and their lands confiscated. They were forbidden to use their own language, and were ordered to dress as English-men. Every right of citizenship was taken from them. What was the crime of the Irish people? They were in possession of land which the English coveted. One writer says "they thought God made a mistake in giving Ireland to the Irish."**

As we recall the story that has come down to us that our ancestry in Ireland had all his lands confiscated and was forced to live out his life in a mud hut, we realize that the struggle of the Irish people for liberty forms the most glorious page in their history. I now have it from Mr. C.S. Murphree of Centerville, Tennessee that our ancestors proclaimed upon landing upon American soil (if you'll pardon my French) "To Hell with King Charles, we are now free and free shall be part of our name."

**"May Erin's sons of every cast  
Be Irishmen from first to last  
Nor name, nor creed divides them"**



### **Coat of Arms**

**Motto: Fortis Et Hospitalis (Brave and Hospitable)**

**Gold: Generosity and elevation of the mind.**

**Red: Warrior or martyr; Military strength and magnanimity.**

**Green: Hope, joy, and loyalty in love.**

**Lion: Dauntless courage**

**Wheat Garb and Sheaf: The harvest of ones hopes has been secured.**

**Gold Coins: Wealth attained.**

Extracted from *The Murphree Ancestry of Bill Linder*

**Daniel Murphree (about 1715 - August 1771)**  
**Sarah Dempsey Murphree (about 1721 - ?)**

The MGA was formed to help continue research on the ancestry and descendants of Daniel Murphree and his wife Sarah.

Daniel Murphree, Sr., was likely a descendant of the Murfrees of Isle of Wight and Nansemond Counties, Virginia. He was born about 1715 (determined by approximation.) The earliest document found pertaining to him is when his land in Bertie County, North Carolina, is mentioned in a grant to Luke Sailer in 1743. In 1765 he sold his remaining holdings in Bertie and moved to Orange County. In his will dated 10 Nov 1769, made in Orange County, Daniel named his wife as Sarah. An inventory of his estate was recorded in Nov Court 1771 in Chatham County, which was formed from Orange in 1770 and Daniel's land fell in the new county. His unrecorded will is found in the records of Chatham County, naming his wife Sarah, sons James, William, Daniel, John, Levi, Solomon, Moses, and David, and daughters Elizabeth Barnes, Sarah Blyth, Milley, Edey, and Mary. His sons James and William were named executors. He died by 1771 as evidenced by an inventory of his estate presented in court in Chatham County in November of that year.

Daniel and Sarah Murphree had thirteen children. Click on the hyperlinks below to view more information for each of them. To view the entire Murphree family database, go to <http://www.murphree.us/database.html>

1. [Elizabeth Murphree](#), b. c.1737 [of] Bertie Co., NC, md. Solomon Barnes (d. Feb 1807 Wilkes Co., NC, son of Brinsley & Elizabeth Barnes).
2. [Sarah Murphree](#), b. c .1739 [of] Bertie Co., NC, md. William Blyth.
3. [James Murphree](#), b. c . 1741 [of ] Bertie Co., NC, md. (1) before 1 Oct 1779, Millie; md. (2) Dec 1803 in SC, Mrs. Ruth (Davis) Hudgins, and d. 1831, Anderson or Pickens Co., SC.
4. [William Murphree](#), b. c . 1743 Bertie Co., NC, md. Hannah, and d. bef. 25 July 1834, [likely] Rhea Co., TN.
5. [Daniel Murphree](#), b. c. 1746 [of] Bertie Co., NC, md. Mary (Molly) Bullard, and d. i n Rev. War.
6. [John Murphree](#), b. c . 1749 Bertie Co., NC, md. Rebecca, and d. 6 Mar 1828, TN.
7. [Levi Murphree](#), b. c .1753 Bertie Co., NC, md. Mary, and d. 29 Jan 1798 (Brown Bible) [or] 24 Jan 1799, Pickens Co., SC, court records.

8. [Solomon Murphree](#), b. 1757 Bertie Co., NC, md. (1) Sarah Ward, md. (2) 28 Jan 1823 Mrs. Mary Elizabeth ("Polly") Praytor (her surname unknown), and d. 1854 Benton (now Calhoun) Co., AL.

9. [Moses Murphree](#), b. c. 1758 Bertie Co., NC, and d. 1846 (will proved 8 May 1846), Pickens Co., SC.

10. [Millev Murphree](#), b. c. 1760 Bertie Co., NC, md. Lewis Wimberly, and d. aft 29 Apr 1830 [likely] Jones Co., GA.

11. [Editha \("Edey"\) Murphree](#), b. c. 1762 Bertie [possibly Orange] Co., NC, md. Reuben Reed.

12. [David Murphree](#), b. c. 1763 Orange [possibly Bertie] Co., NC, md. Jemima Cornelius, and d. 18 Feb 1836 [possibly 1838], Yalobusha Co., MS.

13. Mary Murphree, b. 1765 (age 85 in 1850) likely Orange Co., NC, not married.

## “WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MURPHREE”

By Sara Danielle Murphree

Being in the Murphree family has set a foundation for me to grow up with. This foundation is a lot like a tree. Everyone knows that a tree normally has deep roots. There are always a few trees that have roots that are not so deep. These trees have to try harder to search for their basic needs. For instance a tree searching for water tends to let their roots climb higher than needed. When their roots become closer to the surface, they become more vulnerable to the diseases and infection on the roots. But when a tree has deep roots, this tree is able to withstand any infection from the surface. A deep root allows a tree to stand tall and healthy. When a tree is able to stand tall, it can hold its ground when the weather turns against them. The basic needs of a tree are very similar to the three basic needs of a person. A tree's needs are water, food, and sunlight. A person's needs are tradition, background, and love. Being a Murphree has supported me with these basic needs. To me the watering of my roots are the family traditions. These traditions have always been something I could count on. For instance, after Thanksgiving at Grannie and Papa's house, we all load up and go to Odessa to go see a movie and do some Christmas shopping. Another tradition is when we come down to the lake we will always have a fajita fight. This gives us a chance to not only visit with immediate family but with other family members that are down here. Traditions like these will help guide me as I step into a new world. Although a tree could live with little water, this tree would not be able to blossom. The family reunion every year fertilizes my growth. You can take that however you want to. Like a tree, I need some food or background to support me. Each year everyone looks forward to summer vacation at the big Murphree family reunion. Young and old alike are waiting to see what everyone has done for the past year. I particularly enjoy visiting with everyone and finding another family member with some common interest. Being able to

**know who your entire family is can put a lot of family background in a person. Last but definitely not least, a tree needs the warmth of sunlight in order to grow. Being a Murphree provides me the warmth through lots of love. Unconditional love from this family will guide me with lots of faith in life. With the watering, feeding, and warmth from this family, I'm proud to be a Murphree.**

# *In Loving Memory*

**James Don Murphree**



**Rae Murphree is a lifetime MGA member. His brother, Mr. James Don Murphree, age 82, passed away Friday, December 27, 2019 at his residence. The family will receive friends on Sunday, December 29, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in The Chapel of Newsom Funeral Home in Charleston, MS and a second visitation will be held on Monday, December 30, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. until service time beginning 11:00 a.m. at Bethel United Methodist Church. His internment is in Bethel Cemetery, Teasdale community. Mr. Murphree was a faithful Christian man, member of Bethel United Methodist Church, Enid, Mississippi all of his life, Loved his family, grands, great grands, his tractor, plowing, cutting grass and was a retired foreman of fifty-two years for Sprinkler Fitter. Those whom he leaves behind to cherish his memory include his loving wife of fifty-nine years Virginia Hodges Murphree of Enid, MS; three daughters, Lynn (Justin) Miller of Florence, MS, Brenda Brasher of Oakland, MS, and Vickie Oates (Stacy Barbee) of Oakland, MS; his brother, Rae (Carol) Murphree of Smithville, MS; seven grandchildren, Brett (Chelsi) Brasher of Starkville, MS, Brigg and Blaye Brasher of Oakland, MS, Dalton Murphree of Memphis, TN, Adam (Anna) Oates of Pope, MS, Josh (Sarah) Faulkner and Amanda (Ryan) Wilkinson of Madison, MS; seven great-grandchildren, Becky Kate, Anderson and Ansley Brasher of Starkville, MS, Ollie Dean Oates of Pope, MS, Alexis Penn, Shannon Faulkner and Meghan Faulkner of Madison, MS. He has a host of nieces and nephews. Don is preceded in death by his parents Amon and Eva Murphree and his granddaughter Ariel Brasher.**



### **Etheleen Beatrice Murphree Stricklin**



**Etheleen Beatrice Murphree Stricklin, born July 13, 1925 to Ellis and Thomas Mava “May” (Woods) Murphree, died June 17, 2019. Etheleen was retired from the Birmingham, Alabama School System after 30 years of service. Preceded in death by her husband Loyal Emil Stricklin, Sr; daughter Patricia Ann (Stricklin) Self Allen; grandson Walker Clement Self; son-in-law John William Dover; brother-in-law O.D. “Bo” Chafin. Survivors include: son Loyal E. (Sandra Lynn Saenger) Stricklin, Jr. of Bremen, daughter Judy Gail Stricklin Dover of Bremen, sister Edna A. (Murphree) Chafin of Hanceville, son-in-law Charles Anthony “Tony” Allen of Cullman. Surviving grandchildren are Kelly Wayne Stricklin (Ron Costigan) of Washington, D.C., Casey Jane Stricklin (Brian) McCluskey of Good Hope, Amanda Lee Self Gibson of Cullman, John Zachary “Zac” Dover of Brisbane, Australia, Major Andrea G. Dover of US Army Nato Brigade at Sembach, Germany and 2 great grandchildren. The family will have a private memorial service. The family requests no flowers. Send any donations to your favorite charity.**



**Ruth Ellen Murphree**



**Ruth Ellen Murphree, 92, of Abbeville, LA died on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at home surrounded by her family. She was born in Verbena, Alabama, the daughter of Andrew Sr. and Geneva Pyron. She was united in marriage on February 7, 1942 to Louie Murphree. For over 70 years she lived in Birmingham, Alabama and retired from AmSouth Bank. In her spare time she enjoyed making jewelry, cooking and creating photo albums. She was active in her churches where she lived, Hunter Street Baptist and First Baptist in Birmingham, First Baptist in New Orleans and First Baptist in Abbeville. She is survived by her daughter, Pam Wallace (Phillip) of Abbeville, LA, two grandchildren, Amy Misok (Brandon) and Andrew Wallace (Dan Patterson) and two great-grandchildren, Ruby Misok and Walter Misok. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents and her brothers Andrew Pyron Jr., Bill Pyron and Wayne Pyron. Funeral services will be held on September 7, 2019 at 11 am in Johns- Ridout Elmwood Chapel with Rev. Don Campbell officiating. Visitation will be at 10 – 11 a.m. before the funeral. Memorials may be made to the charity of your choice.**

**Join the MGA Today!**

**The annual dues for MGA membership is \$30. If you would like to pay for 2 years, you can pay \$45 instead of \$30. Membership is on a calendar year basis, January through December. By joining, you'll be supporting continued genealogy research, newsletters, and be able to connect with a network of people from across the U.S. who supports MGA.**

**To join, send your check, made payable to M.G.A., to the MGA Treasurer and Membership Chair:**

**Judy Dover  
1465 County Road 127  
Bremen, Alabama 35033**

**MURPHREE GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**Membership dues are \$30.00 per calendar year (January thru December) and include a subscription to the Murphree Newsletter. Checks should be made to M. G. A.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **M.G.A. Directors**

### **Chairman**

#### **Paul Milstead (2021)**

3271 Eastdale Lane

Bartlett, TN. 38134

901-848-3798

[paulmilstead73@gmail.com](mailto:paulmilstead73@gmail.com)

#### **Clarence Milstead (2021)**

201 Woodlawn Drive

Oxford, MS. 38655

662-513-5214

[cmilstead@msxxsouth.net](mailto:cmilstead@msxxsouth.net)

#### **Mike Murphree (2021)**

1501 Tonawanda

Dothan, AL. 36303-2772

[dmmurp@graceba.net](mailto:dmmurp@graceba.net)

#### **Jim Young (2021)**

1014 Aspen Court

Ft. Walton Beach, FL. 32547

[youngjmy@cox.net](mailto:youngjmy@cox.net)

#### **Bobby Murphree (2021)**

120 Simmons Street

Water Valley, MS. 38965

662-809-4710

[Star92@cableone.net](mailto:Star92@cableone.net)

#### **Randall Murphree (2021)**

322 Murphree Drive

Oneonta, AL. 35121

205-901-4503

[Randall.murphree@gmail.com](mailto:Randall.murphree@gmail.com)

#### **Treasurer and Membership Chairman**

##### **Judy Dover**

1465 County Road 127

Bremen, AL. 35033

256-636-2779

[Dove6338@Bellsouth.net](mailto:Dove6338@Bellsouth.net)

#### **Editor of MGA Newsletter**

##### **Wiley Murphree**

8 Grandview Drive

Oneonta, AL. 35121

205-540-5667

[Murph1865@gmail.com](mailto:Murph1865@gmail.com)