

Mr. John Wendell Sowell

June 24, 1916 - November 30, 2015

Funeral services for Mr. John Wendell Sowell, 99, who died peacefully on Monday, November 30, 2015, will be held at 2 o'clock on Friday, December 4, 2015 in McBee Methodist Church. The Rev. Gary Compton will officiate and Rev. Dr. William Rogers will assist with burial to follow in Providence Community Cemetery, McBee, SC. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service, and other times at Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to McBee Methodist Church, PO Box 207, McBee, SC 29101.

Mr. Sowell, widower of his wife of 53 years, Mrs. Christine Lewis Sowell, was a son of the late Ervin Jefferson and Rosa Jane Catoe Sowell. John Wendell Sowell was born June 24, 1916 in the Sowell Town Community just north of McBee, SC. He was raised on a working farm and was the 4th of seven children. His formal education began in a one-room school house and continued in the McBee public school. He grew up working on the farm with his parents, siblings, and cousins.

After working in the WPA programs during the late depression, Wendell joined the army in 1941. It was at Ft. Bragg that he met and married his wife, Christine. Wendell and Christine had four children: Ervin, Bobbie Jean, Bonnie, and Wendell (Jr).

Mr. Sowell helped his father on the farm in the early fifties. Later, in the mid-fifties he began a career in textiles with the Kendall Company of Bethune and retired in the late 70's.

Wendell spent the rest of his life gardening, tinkering with cars, tractors, TV's anything else he could get his hands on. He enjoyed fishing, auto racing, and baseball at different stages of his life, but he really liked most the projects he would dream up and pursue. He stayed busy. Wendell also enjoyed his children and grandchildren and had a real gift of endearing himself to them.

After his wife, Christine, passed away in 1996, Mr. Sowell continued to live alone in his home for seventeen more years, driving his pick-up truck every day. A serious heart attack forced him to move to Morningside in Hartsville in March of 2014. There he became known affectionately as "Mr. John". He resided there and stayed active up until his recent illness. Mr. Sowell passed away on November 30, 2015 at McLeod Hospice in Florence, SC.

John Wendell Sowell lived 99 years and saw many vast changes in the world around him. It was amazing the way he adapted to those changes successfully. His faith in God was always strong and he stayed involved in the church both at Providence and at McBee Methodist.

John Wendell Sowell had a remarkable life to which all of his family and friends will agree. He will surely be missed by all.

Surviving are his sons, Ervin Lewis (Lisa) Sowell of Ashland, SC; Wendell Neil (Elizabeth) Sowell of Clover, SC; daughters, Bobbie Jean (Rev. Dr. William) Rogers of Greenwood, SC, Bonnie S. (Bruce Hoffman) Graham of McBee, SC; brother, Ernest Cecil Sowell of Little River, SC; many nieces and nephews including, Herman (Evelyn) McQuage of Columbia, SC; 9 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

Cemetery Details

Providence Community Cemetery

State Road S-13-403
McBee, SC 29101

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 4. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

McBee United Methodist Church
Highway 1
McBee, SC

Service

DEC 4. 2:00 PM (ET)

McBee United Methodist Church
Highway 1
McBee, SC

Tribute Wall

PV

“ Prayers for the family. Polli Seegars Vaughn



polli seegars vaughn - December 07, 2015 at 10:45 AM

MH

“ Maxine Howle lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Wendell Sowell



Maxine Howle - December 05, 2015 at 02:52 AM

KR

“ Granddaddy's 94th birthday party



Karen Graham Russell - December 04, 2015 at 07:40 PM

KR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karen Graham Russell - December 04, 2015 at 07:35 PM

LR

“ Sweet family, we are certainly thinking of everyone. We know that you have the support of friends and family and we are praying for you and sending our love to each one. Love and prayers, Cy and Lou

Lou and Cy Rogers - December 04, 2015 at 01:39 PM

BM

“ Bill Medley lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Wendell Sowell



Bill Medley - December 04, 2015 at 11:39 AM

JA

“ Dear Bobbie Jean and Family,
We are truly saddened to hear of your father's passing. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to all of you. Jim and Maryanne Atkison

James and Maryanne Atkison - December 04, 2015 at 11:15 AM



“ *What I remember best about Granddaddy was his clever quips, tractors, and gardens. He had such an easy and calm manner. If he ever got annoyed with us grandkids, he hid it well. He was a wonderful grandfather.*

Erick Rogers - December 04, 2015 at 05:57 AM



“ *Granddaddy drove from McBee to Sumter, SC when Hamilton was born. He also made a trip to White Oak, SC for Ham's first bday. He gave Hamilton a silver dollar on the special occasion.*



Lillian Marie Patrick - December 03, 2015 at 09:19 PM



“ *Uncle Wendell was one of the best. I always admired his vegetable gardens. He had a long and good life and I know all his family have many good memories of him.*

Amelia Spatz - December 03, 2015 at 06:35 PM



“ *Mr. Sowell was blessed to have been loved by many people in his life. He will be missed by all. Our thoughts are with Bobbie Jean and Bill, with all the kids and grand kids, with the rest of the family, and with everyone who knew him and held him dear. We love you, and we are so very, very sorry.*

Debbie & Johnny Rogers

Debbie Rogers - December 03, 2015 at 02:50 PM

LB

“ Bobby Jean and family, thank you for including us at the Providence community reunion. Bonnie had the opportunity to sit with your dad and talk to him the last time I preached there. We pray that that you will be comforted in the knowledge that he and you are loved! God Bless Larry & Bonnie Brown

Larry Brown - December 03, 2015 at 01:31 PM

ED

“ I remember John and his kindness. When Sarah Dawsey and I were on the way to Bobbie Jean and Billy's wedding, we had trouble with our car. BJ's father came to help us. Of course, it was more important that the father of the bride be at the church on time. But first, John made sure that we got there too. Thank God for John and his caring. I'm thinking of you all. Tootsie DuRant.

Elizabeth DuRant - December 03, 2015 at 10:43 AM



Jessica Sowell

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

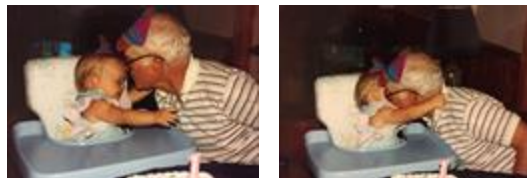


Jessica Sowell - December 03, 2015 at 12:38 AM



Jessica Sowell

“ My first birthday.



Jessica Sowell - December 03, 2015 at 12:28 AM



Jessica
Sowell

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jessica Sowell - December 03, 2015 at 12:24 AM



“ My brother and I will certainly miss our great grandfather's birthday celebrations. That's something we've always enjoyed each year when we visit South Carolina. He was always so kind to us despite our long-distance relationship.

- Raney and Will Rogers

Raney Rogers - December 02, 2015 at 05:34 PM

FF

“ Dear Children of Mr. John and Family, we are sorry to learn of your loss. May your many shared family memories bring you comfort during this time. May your prayers bring you "...the peace of God that surpasses all understanding to guard your hearts..." Philippians 4:6,7 Our sincere condolence to all of you.

Faust Family - December 02, 2015 at 03:02 PM

JF

“ Wendell and Family,
Your father was a very lovable, caring person and he was very special to us. We loved him and the times that we were able to spend with him. Thoughts and prayers for all and as the days and weeks pass, may you continue to feel comforted by the love and support of family and friends. We are sorry for your loss.

Jeanks & Vickie Smith & Family..Clover - December 02, 2015 at 01:28 PM

MB

“ Bonnie and all the family we are so sorry to hear of your loss. We always looked forward and enjoyed seeing him at the reunions. Sorry we will not be able to attend the services, and please know that our thoughts and prayers will be with you. Mary Grace, Eddy and children

Mary Brice - December 02, 2015 at 12:31 PM

VH

“ Virginia Huggis lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Wendell Sowell



Virginia Huggis - December 01, 2015 at 09:36 PM

IS

“ Love you Granddaddy ❤️



Iris Lane Sowell - December 01, 2015 at 08:28 PM

ES

This is a great pic. That's Whitey Jr's dog with Granddaddy. We are really going to miss him.

Elizabeth Sowell - December 02, 2015 at 12:59 PM

RS

“Ronnie Segars lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Wendell Sowell



Ronnie Segars - December 01, 2015 at 07:39 PM

RW

“Rosie Watkins lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Wendell Sowell



Rosie Watkins - December 01, 2015 at 02:25 PM

MD

“Marie DeAngelo lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Wendell Sowell



Marie DeAngelo - December 01, 2015 at 11:44 AM

MD

“ I sure did love your daddy I really enjoyed taking care of him at Morning side he brought a lot of joy and laughter to Morning side and he will surely be missed by myself and all the staff and residents of Morningside.I am truly sorry for your loss, May God bless you all and be with all of you.

Marie DeAngelo - December 01, 2015 at 11:43 AM

SR

“ Much love and prayers to the whole family. Bobby Jean, you took such good care of your father and went to see him whenever you could. I know you will all miss him but let good memories fill the empty place in your heart. We love you!

Sheila D Rogers - December 01, 2015 at 11:28 AM

DJ

“ David Jordan lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Wendell Sowell



David Jordan - December 01, 2015 at 09:35 AM

CC

“ Wendall, Libby and all the family I am so sorry for your loss. I was really looking forward to coming back to SC for Mr. Sowell's 100th birthday party. When I last visited him I promised I'd be there for his celebration. May he rest in peace. Love and blessings to all of you.....,Cheryl Curtis

Cheryl Curtis - December 01, 2015 at 06:52 AM

JR

“ So very sorry for your lost. Thoughts and prayers for the entire family



Jan Stephens Ruple - December 01, 2015 at 05:41 AM