



Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill

February 13, 1926 - November 26, 2019

Funeral services for Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill, 93, will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, November 30th, 2019 at the North Hartsville Baptist Church. The family will receive friends from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm on Friday, November 29th, 2019 at the Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home. Mrs. Barnhill died peacefully on Tuesday, November 26, 2019. Born in Chesterfield County, SC, she was a daughter of the late William Henry Griggs and Jessie Viola Griggs.

Letha Mary Griggs “The Pecan Lady” Barnhill

I was born in Chesterfield County on Saturday, February 13, 1926. My parents had twelve children so I always said: “I was one of a dirty dozen”. I was the oldest daughter but the fourth in birth order. I attended school at Catpond school in Patrick, SC. The area derived its name because at one time there was a pond that contained a supply of catfish. At an early age, I learned the value of hard work. I was given age-appropriate chores and responsibilities. I had to perform numerous farm-related duties. Over a period of time, I learned to milk cows, plow with mules, plant gardens, work, and harvest vegetables. I was required to pick cotton, sucker tobacco, and crop tobacco. I learned to perform household chores, one of which was ironing without an electric iron. Since I was the first girl I had to assist with caring for my younger siblings as they came along. Caring for my younger siblings would come in handy later in life. After I married, I helped supplement my husband’s income by caring for other people’s children as well as my own.

Getting back to my farm-related duties, I hated suckering tobacco. I often said, "I'd rather crop than sucker tobacco any day". Farm labor was difficult, but we always had food to eat, even during the depression. If our electric bill exceeded \$1.00 my father would admonish us for wasting electricity. It was hard to exceed \$1.00 when we only had a bulb hanging from the ceiling by an electrical cord.

I would like to inform you a little about my parents. William Henry Griggs and Jessie Viola Griggs. They were loving and hard-working people. My father demanded respect for himself and my mother. When one of us children was disrespectful we felt the wrath of Will or "Ola" Griggs in an authoritative manner. This was not abuse, but a demonstration of love. As I recall, not one in our sibling group spent a minute in jail or was arrested for anything other than a traffic ticket. I feel this was a result of what was demanded and expected of us. When I was twelve years old, my baby brother Ray died in my arms four days shy of his second birthday. He had pneumonia and I can honestly say this was a very heartbreaking event.

I almost was non – existent (as well as my eleven siblings). Our father was scheduled to be placed on the front lines in France during World War I. He would have perished in battle along with his fellow patriots had he not contracted pneumonia and been hospitalized prior to being sent to the front lines. My father did recover to fight, however, he was exposed to some mustard gas and suffered the residual effects of that chemical. He was left with severe asthma which caused severe breathing problems. He had to sleep outside in a room constructed for him on our front porch. Because of his military service, "Pa" spent three years at a VA hospital most of which were in Oteen, NC. My mother spent most of her time with him at the hospital to make sure he received proper care. She only left his side for brief visits home until his death.

My mother could pick 100 pounds of cotton a day and as hard as I tried I could never match her cotton-picking skills. When the children would go to the fields to work, my mother would prepare food for us children and the hired

hands alike. She showed us all the same considerations and no one went without. My mother sewed our clothes and patched them. We wore them until they were worn out. She handed down our clothes until you could read a newspaper through them or they could no longer be mended. My parents met my needs and a few of my wants, (very few) but I learned the meaning of sufficiency accompanied by gratitude and thankfulness.

When my father became ill, I went to work to send money home for food and expenses. I worked at Sonoco during World War II. I also worked at the Boyd – Powe Drug Store lunch counter and made the pimento cheese from scratch. Many years later, I had friends ask me to make them a “batch of that good old Boyd – Powe pimento cheese”. After school, some children would visit the lunch counter and ask for a cherry Pepsi. I would have to put cherries in each Pepsi because they would say, “It’s not a cherry Pepsi if it doesn’t have a cherry in it”.

I married Cole L. Barnhill on December 4, 1955. He asked me out several times and I always declined until he “wore me down”. On the day of our first date, he was playing in a softball game. He lost track of time and his friends reminded him of his date. He left the game, went home and washed off with soap and water from the garden hose because he didn’t have time to take a proper shower.

Cole L. and I operated the Dogwood Inn for a short time and then I became a full-time housewife. I raised my children and had a hand in raising many other children. Some of the children I cared for were relatives and some were total strangers when they came to me. All the children I cared for are special to me and I love them as I love my own.

I have done a lot of things and been several places. I’ve visited Canada, The Bahamas and been as far west as Missouri. I’ve even taken in a few Braves games and a Saints/Falcons game. I’m not the most traveled person but I’ve had fun, heartaches, sickness, health and some joyous times. One thing I am proud of is that I’m a charter member of North Hartsville Baptist Church. Also,

my husband and my son purchased some land in Chesterfield county which has some pecan trees on it and they later purchased some used pecan shelling equipment. I learned how to operate the shelling equipment when my husband became ill and later passed away. I have shelled pecans for hundreds of people, not only in South Carolina, but North Carolina and even Georgia. That is why I am referred to as "The Pecan Lady" by my customers. Years ago, The Florence Morning News even featured me in an article which was accompanied by a picture of me holding some pecans after the shelling process. There is a copy of the picture on the wall at the shelling site. I rode ramrod over the shelling crew while my health allowed me.

I was predeceased by my parents and my husband. I was also predeceased by my siblings, Ray Eugene Griggs, James Alexander Griggs, Horace Nichols Griggs, Carrie Margaret Aiken, Howard Bernice Griggs, William David Griggs, and Raymond Randolph Griggs.

I am survived by my daughters, Lynn Barnhill and Hope Barnhill Howle and my son, William Lucas (Martha) Griggs, my sisters, Helen Viola Griggs Byrd and Beulah Frances Griggs Chapman and my brothers, Olin Hewitt Griggs and Harvey Laverne Griggs. I also am survived by my granddaughters, Amanda Griggs (Brad) Jones and Jessica Howle (Ryan) West, two great-grandchildren, Kendall Jones, Addison Jones, two step-granddaughters, Eileen (David) Anderson and Beth (Cliff) Jones and four step-grandchildren. In addition, I leave a host of nieces, nephews, in-laws, and cousins. Others who survive me are T. J., Justin and Tyler Beasley.

In lieu of flowers please make memorials to the Lottie Moon Mission Offering of North Hartsville Baptist Church.

The family thanks the staff of Prisma Health Richland for the compassionate care of "The Pecan Lady" during her brief stay.

Cemetery Details

Westview Memorial Park Cemetery

2223 Kelleytown Road
Hartsville, SC 29550
info@bpafuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **29**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home
306 West Home Avenue
Hartsville, SC 29550

Service

NOV **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

North Hartsville Baptist Church
1117 Patrick Hwy
Hartsville, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown - Pennington - Atkins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill*



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - November 29, 2019 at 12:21 PM



“ *Lynn and family. I was so shocked to hear about your sweet mother. Please know that we will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers. I know there is a hole in your heart that cant ever be filled only God's great love can. May God comfort you by His great love during this time and always. Much love to you.*

Dan and Kathy Newsome family - December 06, 2019 at 09:56 PM



“ *Crystal Minnehan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill*



Crystal Minnehan - December 02, 2019 at 08:41 PM

HA

“ Lynn,
I am so sorry for your loss. We will be praying for you and your family. She was a special woman.

Holly Saleeby Atkins - November 30, 2019 at 08:57 AM

DT

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Know that thoughts and prayers are being lifted for all of you.*



Don & Ann Tiller - November 30, 2019 at 06:56 AM

TT

“ *Tom And Beulah Turnage lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill*



Tom and Beulah Turnage - November 29, 2019 at 02:27 PM



“ 36 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home - November 29, 2019 at 12:07 PM



“ *Kathy Tyner Mcfarland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill*



Kathy Tyner Mcfarland - November 29, 2019 at 12:03 PM



“ *Sedell Lee Rowe lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill*



Sedell Lee Rowe - November 29, 2019 at 07:40 AM

PB

“ *Phyllis Driggers Braddock lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill*



Phyllis Driggers Braddock - November 29, 2019 at 03:46 AM

JA

“ *JIMMY L ANDREWS lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill*



JIMMY L ANDREWS - November 29, 2019 at 12:16 AM

TS

“ *Mrs. Letha was a blessing from Our Lord in my life. She was very faithful in her service to him and helped to teach many children about Jesus. I know, because I was one of those children. Thank you Mrs. Letha for giving to the Lord. We love you*

Tim Skipper - November 28, 2019 at 04:50 PM

WW

“ *Lynn, Harry & I send our heart-felt sympathy to you and your family. You were blessed to have each other for so many years. Remember the good times when all your family was together; they will be together again in Heaven.*

Wayne Stratton Wallace - November 28, 2019 at 10:55 AM

LC

“ *LaJoyce C. Chapman lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill*



LaJoyce C. Chapman - November 28, 2019 at 09:46 AM

MZ

“ *Letha Barnhill was a Great Lady. Love and Prayers for her loving family.*

Madge Zemp - November 27, 2019 at 09:32 PM

RG

“ *Lynn, I am s sorry t hear about your mama. Love to you and the family.*



Robin Griggs - November 27, 2019 at 07:49 PM

AS

“ *Al & Melinda Sansbury lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill*



Al & Melinda Sansbury - November 27, 2019 at 07:12 PM

AM

“ Angie & Lewis Moore lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill



Angie & Lewis Moore - November 27, 2019 at 06:49 PM

AN

Lynn I am heart broken to hear about your precious mother we will keep you in our thoughts and prayers much love

Angie - November 27, 2019 at 06:51 PM

MD

“ Martha King & Jack Douglass lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill



Martha King & Jack Douglass - November 27, 2019 at 06:05 PM

KE

“ Kaye Ewing lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill



kaye ewing - November 27, 2019 at 06:04 PM

IF

“ Lynn I am so sorry for your loss. I will be praying for you and your family.



Ivy Flowers - November 27, 2019 at 05:50 PM

KS

“ Kathy & Freddie Stanley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill



Kathy & Freddie Stanley - November 27, 2019 at 03:58 PM

TE

“ The Elmore's lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill



The Elmore's - November 27, 2019 at 03:45 PM

LD

“ Lannie Davis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill



lannie davis - November 27, 2019 at 03:38 PM

BC

“ I am so sorry for your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family



Beth Campbell - November 27, 2019 at 02:58 PM

JG

“ Jimmy And Judy Gainey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill



Jimmy and Judy Gainey - November 27, 2019 at 02:55 PM

GG

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. We will be praying for you and your family.

gloria graham - November 27, 2019 at 02:45 PM

BS

“ Blake & Jennie Lib Sellers lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill



Blake & Jennie Lib Sellers - November 27, 2019 at 02:35 PM

LP

“ *Linda Byrd Parker lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill*



Linda Byrd Parker - November 27, 2019 at 02:18 PM

PC

“ *I am sorry for your loss. Losing a parent is one of the saddest and heartbreaking thing that can happen in a person's life. I know God will give you strength to get through this.*

Patricia Brown Collins - November 27, 2019 at 02:10 PM



“ *Lynn, I am sorry to hear of your mom's passing. I know this will be difficult for your family but take comfort in God's plans. You were an excellent caregiver for your mom and I am sure she appreciated your help just as much as you appreciated her good cooking!*

Angela Howle - November 27, 2019 at 11:45 AM

JB

“ *Luke, Lynn and Hope so sorry to hear about your mom. Such a sweet lady. May God continue to keep you wrapped in his loving arms. Love you all*

Janelle Britt - November 27, 2019 at 11:23 AM

JP

“ I'm so sorry Lynn. My heart is saddened.
Sending light to you and your family.



Julie Powers - November 27, 2019 at 09:35 AM

JM

“ Love hugs and prayers to Lynn and Hope...all of you
Aunt Letha was a great person
In Christian love. Jo Ann and Billy Matthews

Jo and Billy Matthews - November 27, 2019 at 08:56 AM

PF

“ Patty Hayes (McLeod Farms) lit a candle in
memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill



Patty Hayes (McLeod Farms) - November 27, 2019 at 08:42 AM

CI

“ She was always with out fail my supporter. Never missed a birthday
and always fussed at me for not being in church. Rest on high and
just know you never will be forgotten. Love you .

Cindy Sellers Isgett - November 27, 2019 at 08:41 AM

RC

“ *Richard And Jane Cheshire lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Letha Griggs Barnhill*



Richard and Jane Cheshire - November 27, 2019 at 08:15 AM

GB

“ *We wish to extend our deep sympathy to the family. God Bless You!! The Brock Family.*



Gerald Brock - November 27, 2019 at 07:31 AM