



Martha McDowell

December 27, 1917 - September 29, 2011

Martha Duncan McDowell passed away Thursday, September 29, 2011, after a lengthy illness. She was the oldest daughter and the second of five children born to Dan and Florence Duncan at Rockwood, Franklin County, Alabama. She graduated from Russellville High School in 1936 and later that summer, on August 28, married William Kemper McDowell. They enjoyed 73 wonderful years together until his death on Christmas Day 2009, separated only by his service in the Pacific Theater in World War II.

Martha was named Miss Franklin County during her senior year in high school and was always an active member of her church and community. After their marriage she and Kemper followed his work throughout the TVA system in Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky and North Carolina. Each new home was embraced with enthusiastic participation in church, school and community activities.

She served as Sunday School teacher, WMU officer, GA Leader, and committee member in numerous churches from Rockwood Baptist, Russellville First Baptist, Bridgeport, Al., Gallatin, Tn., Highland Baptist (Florence, Al., Arab, Al., Kingston, Tn., Decherd, Tn., Athens, Al. and Red Bank First Baptist (Chattanooga), where she also served on the pastor selection committee. She had a heart for the mission field. An active member of The Order of Eastern Star, she served in many offices including Worthy

Matron at Russellville. She was a past president of the Book Lovers Club.

She loved to entertain and her home was always open to friends and family. A true “southern lady” she was gracious and sweet and kind to all. A devout Christian, she loved her God, family, friends, country, and Auburn University. She and Kemper were season ticket holders for Auburn football for many years.

Martha was predeceased by her husband, her parents, and a sister, Carrie Grissom. She is survived by her sons, Bill McDowell and wife Edith of Counce, Tn., and Danny McDowell and wife Paula of Russellville, Al., brothers, Dr. Daniel Duncan, Portsmouth, Va., and Tom Duncan, Hope, Ar., and sister, Kathryn Cooper, Opelika, Al. She has ten grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren who loved “Mimi’s” cookies and candy and the every afternoon “tea party”.

She had a special group who loved and cared for her through her illness; Faye, Beth, Jane, Ruby, Jessie, Nell, Wanda, Kelly, Tyra, Misty, Valerie, Buddy, and others. The family will be forever grateful to them for what they did.

She and Kemper’s favorite Bible verse was framed above their bed – “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”—Proverbs 3:6.

Services will be at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, October 2, 2011, at Pinkard Funeral Home, Russellville, with visitation from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Officiating will be Brother Barry Holcomb; grandchildren will serve as pallbearers.

Pinkard Funeral Home Russellville will be directing.

To sign guestbook visit our website, www.pinkardfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ Pinkard Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Martha McDowell



Pinkard Funeral Home - September 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Martha and Kemper were two of my favorite people. My daddy Aubrey Bolding and Kemper were first cousins who loved each other and their McDowell family. They were born 3 months apart. Kemper and I spent many hours talking McDowell genealogy. Sorry I did not know about Martha's death sooner. Martha's smile was so warm I felt loved by just seeing her. Even when I saw her last in her bed she smiled that beautiful smile. She grinned and told me what a wonderful husband Kemper was. My grandmother Ora, sister to Kemper's father Will loved to tell Kemper and Martha. They would tell of their honeymoon to Allsboro, home to my mom. What a special woman and man! I was blessed to have them in my life and especially part of my family. Beth###imported-begin##Beth Bolding Roberson###imported-end##

October 06, 2011 at 05:54 PM



“ *McDowell Family;*
Martha was my Sunday School teacher at Red Bank Baptist Church, Chattanooga. She was such a Godly woman. I continued to learn from her in many ways, by staying in touch with her after she moved. I have lots of her recipes in my treasured collection. She prayed for me and my family for years after she left here. It was a blessing to have known her and her loving, caring, and Godly husband, Kemper. I know she is with my sister, who passed away on August 27, in heaven and they are rejoicing and praising the Lord. Bless you, the family, during this sad time.
Ann & Louis Bell###imported-begin###Ann Bell###imported-end###

October 02, 2011 at 09:18 PM



“ *Martha was a great friend and supporter of her church here in Red Bank. Her gracious personlity was represented in so many successful functions during my decades as her pastor. She and Kemper were great Christians and were especially helpful and gracious to the Steelman family. We were in their home many times over the years and it was always special! Know of our sadness at her passing. The saying "earth's loss is heaven's gain" has never been more true.*
Fred and Becky Steelman###imported-begin###fred steelman###imported-end###

October 02, 2011 at 03:58 PM



“ *Danny, I'm very sorry for your loss.*

Jean###imported-begin###Jean Cassel###imported-end###

October 01, 2011 at 11:51 AM



“ Miss Martha was one of the most loving, caring, and kindest people I ever knew. Her name is mentioned in this home with the same love as names of family. Over the years, there was lots of love and just as much laughter. There truly is rejoicing in heaven.##imported-begin##Peggy Key##imported-end##

October 01, 2011 at 03:39 AM



“ May God bless you all in your time of grief. We will be praying for you.
Bill and Rhoda Jackson##imported-begin##Rhoda Jackson##imported-end##

September 30, 2011 at 11:17 PM



“ Danny and family, we know the sadness and loss that you feel. But it is such a blessing to have had Christian parents to not only teach us but also to show us how to live and then how to grow old in God's will and care. Know that both of us will be praying for all of you in the days and weeks ahead when the acceptance and adjustments must come. In Christian Friendship, Terry and Judy##imported-begin##Terry and Judy Pounders##imported-end##

September 30, 2011 at 09:38 PM