



Jane Gardner Oakes

August 18, 1935 - August 16, 2021

Abingdon, VA. Jane Gardner Oakes, 85, died Monday, August 16, 2021, at her home in the Brumley Gap community of Washington County. She was the daughter of the late Melvin and Charlotte Oakes.

Jane was raised in Gladys, VA and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry at Mary Washington College. She had a highly successful career and retired as a supervisor for Abbott Labs in North Carolina. Jane had an intense passion for genealogy and developed and administered a massive project to preserve historical records for the Historical Society of Washington County. She was also passionate about the preservation of the mountains of southwestern Virginia, especially those near her home, and the animals and springs therein.

Jane leaves behind several cousins, including Charles Ross McDowell, III, and many friends, although she was preceded in death by her best friend, Shirley Ann Lee.

Jane was exceedingly grateful for her devoted caregivers who enabled her to remain at her home.

At her request, there will be no formal funeral service; but a graveside service will be conducted at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, August 21, 2021, at Kedron Baptist

Church Cemetery in Gladys.

Suggestions for those wishing to make a memorial include preservation of their family history for future generations and providing assistance with the protection of animals, both wild and domestic, and of mountains and the streams and springs therein.

Finch and Finch Funeral and Cremation Service in Gladys is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Kedron Baptist Church Cemetery

7862 Brookneal HWY
Gladys, VA 24554

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 21. 11:30 AM (ET)

Kedron Baptist Church Cemetery
7862 Brookneal HWY
Gladys, VA 24554

Tribute Wall

BC

“ There is so much i could say about Jane Oakes ,the person ,and the manager but keeping it short i will say that as a young 28 year old man she hired me as a supervisor at Abbott Laboratories and over the next four years taught me more than anyone i have ever worked for or with . As time and other jobs passed and i became a business owner myself i have never shyed away from saying that Jane was one of the biggest inspirations in my life.She was a master motivator, an innovator in the workplace,"tough as nails" to work for and yet she had that soft spot in her heart when it was needed .She could sit as she did with my young kids and play and talk with them ,then get in the kitchen a cook like a grand chef and then go outside and work on a car engine all with the same dedication and ease.

As time passed and our paths went in seperate directions we lost track but the lessons she taught me have always been with me.In the last months we shared some memories and i spoke every few days with her care givers in the last couple months Her passing eases her physical pain and grants her peace but somehow she was never one to rest ! I will miss you Jane Oakes and i thank you for all you did for me .

Dino Cerullo
isIndcupl@aol.com

BORDENO R CERULLO - August 31, 2021 at 04:20 PM

KB

“ Jane and I not only were cousins and career chemists but had wonderful times sharing Oakes family information. The letters, emails, and family reunions with her are choice memories. Her collaboration was essential in writing “Lions of the Dan: The Untold Story of Armistead’s Brigade,” which not only is the first work specifically about that unit, but also features record of our ancestor James Lafayette Oakes and his brothers. Sadly, our communications dwindled after her stroke, but she maintained steadfast interest in history until the end. Jane was truly our family’s greatest historian! Such devotion! Such legacy! jkbrandau.com”

Ken Brandau - August 29, 2021 at 09:10 PM

JB

“ Jane and I attended Gladys Elementary School together. I always admired her beautiful long, golden brown braids she wore in grade and high school. Her dad was a friend of my dad and they hunted and fished together often. Jane and I had a mutual friend who owned horses, and we would occasionally ride her horses. When Jane left Gladys for college, we lost touch until our later years when we reconnected to help each other in our family genealogy searches. I always enjoyed Jane’s friendship. My condolences to her relatives and friends.”

Joan Logan Brooks - August 22, 2021 at 11:53 AM

LE

“ Heavy heart...Cousin Jane and I found each other through our mutual love of our family history and spent a lot of time comparing notes. Regret not making that drive to Abington I kept talking about. She will be missed.
Larry Elliott”

Larry Elliott - August 21, 2021 at 05:29 PM

DO

“ It is with a heavy heart that I write this message, knowing that my friend has passed from this life. I do know that she is at peace and free from the pain she had for the last few years, although she always met you with a smile, and a cheerful, hay Love, I am thankful that she is finally at rest! She and my husband shared a great love for the outdoors and our beautiful Brumley Gap where we live, they spent a lot of time talking on on the beauty of the mountains and how it was Heaven on earth along the creek in the Big Horse Cove , where she would often go when she was in good health. I know that one day I will hear that voice saying Hay Love, come on in. We love and will dearly miss you, Elvis and Dorothy

dorothy - August 21, 2021 at 09:55 AM

ST

“ I helped care for Jane a little and I loved every minute of it. I would tell her every time I left that I loved her ! She would give me a little sorta grin, I would share my newspaper with her and she would thank me . Today was suppose to be my day to sit with her, but she isn't here. I ask her last Saturday if she had ever asked the Lord to save her and she said sure, so I take comfort today in believing she is in a Far Better Land!! 🙏



Sharon Thomas - August 21, 2021 at 06:55 AM

ED

I won't forget Jane although only in her company a few times. A cousin of mine Dorothy Buck Boucher and Faye Gecik and I were guests for dessert and rides on the three wheeler at her home. When we had a Buck-Lee-Taylor family reunion in Johnson Cy, everyone stood up and introduced themselves and how they were connected, Jane stood up and said" I'm Jane Oakes and I'm not kin" ! We all had a great laugh. She and Shirley will both be missed down here !! Esther Kestner Day

Esther Day - August 22, 2021 at 09:58 PM