



Nelly Watson Finch

October 8, 1934 - August 23, 2019

Nelly Watson Finch, 84, died Friday, August 23, 2019 at her home outside Rustburg.

She was born October 8, 1934 in Lynchburg. She was predeceased by her parents, Thomas Watson Finch and Nellie Grace Hurd Finch. She was a lifetime member of Diamond Hill Presbyterian Church, a Charter member of the Campbell County Historical Society, and a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, the Society for Outstanding Educators. She also enjoyed participating with the senior musical group "The Good Timers", and will always be remembered for her impersonations of Minnie Pearl. Nelly was a retired English teacher, and taught in Campbell County Schools, Roanoke and Nevada.

Nelly enjoyed life to the fullest. She was always on the go, even as her health tried to make her slow down. She loved all living things, especially her father's flower gardens and her precious chickens, dogs and cats, and she was well known in the area for her guinea hens. Nelly never stopped "teaching", even after she retired from the school system, through sharing her life experiences and vast knowledge. She had a great interest in young people, their education and aspirations. She also never met a stranger, because through her wonderful gift of conversation she would find out who you were, where you went to school and who your "people" were, and then you weren't strangers

any longer.

She is survived by numerous cousins in the extended Finch family and many close friends. Special thanks goes to her main caregivers for the past few years, Frankie Dalton, Michelle Ellett, and Lynn Carmichael.

Visitation for family and friends will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Monday at Finch and Finch Funeral and Cremation Service, Gladys.

Interment will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 27 at the Finch Family Cemetery, 614 New Chapel Road, Rustburg, followed by refreshments in the fellowship hall of Diamond Hill Presbyterian Church, 1090 Mollies Creek Road, Gladys. The funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. by the Rev. Christy Mitchell.

To honor Nelly's memory, those wishing to make memorials are asked to consider Friends of Campbell County Animal Control, Inc., 1400 Edley Place, Lynchburg, VA 24502, Diamond Hill Presbyterian Church, 1090 Mollies Creek Road, Gladys, VA 24554 or University of Lynchburg Hornet Club, 1501 Lakeside Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24501.

Cemetery Details

Finch Family Cemetery

614 New Chapel Road
Rustburg, VA 24588

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 26. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Finch and Finch, Gladys
124 Flynn St.
Gladys, VA 24554

Graveside Service

AUG 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

Finch Family Cemetery
614 New Chapel Road
Rustburg, VA 24588

Funeral Service

AUG 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Diamond Hill Presbyterian Church
1090 Mollies Creek Rd.
Gladys, VA 24554

Tribute Wall



“ *Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Nelly Watson Finch*



Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service - August 25, 2019 at 10:21 AM

AH

Nelly Watson was my maternal grandmother's youngest brother's only child. I have known her all my life and admired her consistently. As a young girl, I was in awe that she had the courage to start a life out west, in Nevada of all places! I told her this great influence of courage and independence on my life when I visited her the last time. A woman of courage and independence was not common when I was a child. I will truly miss her.

Audrey Talley Haugan - August 27, 2019 at 08:34 PM

ST

Nellie Watson was my paternal grandmother's brother's only child. I always admired her also for her courage to move away back in the day. Now, when my daughter Olivia moved to CA it made me think of Nellie when she ventured out on her own. My other daughter, Brandy my oldest is a school teacher and has been teacher of the year in 3 counties. I think of Nellie and her daddy who started out as teachers. She seemed to care about everyone- what a GOD given gift.

Sue Talbott - October 15, 2019 at 12:38 PM

AH

“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Audrey Talley Haugan - August 27, 2019 at 08:30 PM

AM

“ *Miss Finch was an amazing teacher, one of those characters that one never forgets. She was absolutely one of my greatest. I will never forget her playing Andy Griffith's Comedy Album for us in class. She laughed and laughed and so did a classroom full of Rustburg Middle School Students. She was a great and true treasure.*

Amanda Mills - August 27, 2019 at 10:21 AM

TD

“ *I had Ms Finch at Rustburg middle school in the early 80s. She was a fun teacher to have. She taught us about English but also we had fun. A memory I have was she would tell us if you fall asleep in her class she would come by and kiss you 😏. Or if you were constantly talking she would tell you she was gonna put a dirty sock in your mouth. It made everyone laugh but it also got everyone back on track with learning and you would stop talking. Terrie Pugh Doss*

Terrie Pugh Doss - August 27, 2019 at 07:24 AM

SP

“ Ms Finch was my English teacher at Rustburg Middle i remember how she was always talking about saving money so she took us outside to see her car she painted with white paint and a paint brush.. I thought wow that's neat she will be greatly missed and yes she was a caring and loving woman reat in Heaven Ms Finch.

Stephanie Paige - August 27, 2019 at 04:37 AM

JO

“ A great loss. I've known Nelly for 68 years.

Jane Oakes

Jane Oakes - August 26, 2019 at 11:39 PM



“ Ms. Finch was one of my all time favorite teachers and will never be forgotten. She was a true lady and never forgot to say thank you. Or praise when praise was due. Her most recent call to me to thank me for helping with the back pack program at Rustburg Elementary was a surprise, but so welcomed. To know she was still out there being an advocate for Rustburg and the children in the school system. I hope we have many more Nelly Finches. I also will never forget those Kesshonds as long as I llve! She loved those dogs. May she rest in peace. Robert Dawson

Robert Dawson - August 26, 2019 at 06:17 PM

BB

“ It was with great sadness that I learned today of the death of Nelly Finch. We were not close friends, but as others have noted, once you knew her she was your GOOD friend!

I got to know Nelly about 10 years ago, soon after my wife and I returned to Lynchburg. I wrote many letters-to-the-editor of the N&A, and Nelly began calling me to thank me for those letters, always saying how good they were (at times, gushing!), and always ending the calls by saying "you keep 'em coming now"! From her, that meant so much to me!

I only met Nelly twice, at the annual Lynchburg College Westover Holiday Luncheon in early December. She was as sweet and sincere in person as she was on the phone!

Nelly Finch was a kind and gentle -- yet strong -- lady who will be remembered with love by so many! My sincere condolences to her extended family and numerous friends.

I will "keep 'em coming" for you good person. RIP!!

Bill Blackwell

Bill Blackwell - August 26, 2019 at 03:10 PM

NT

“ Nelly was a very special friend over the years. She cut her teaching teeth on our class at RHS. We prepared her for any teaching challenge in the future. She and I shared a love for the Historic Courthouse Museum. She made significant contributions to its contents. Thus, I am making a donation to the Historical Society for use at the courthouse in her memory. Love you, Nelly!!

Nina Thomas

Nina Thomas - August 26, 2019 at 10:13 AM

MS

“ Miss Finch was my English teacher at Campbell County High School during my senior year. She made sure we are ready for any writing assignment we would have in college. She even loaded us on a bus and took us to the public library so we could get a library card to check out books for our research paper, which had to be typed.

Miss Finch only saw people, not skin color. When I returned from college and was her colleague at Rustburg Middle, she told me I could call her Nellie. This was such an honor, but I told her she would always be " Miss Finch." That is how much I will always respect her.

*Mildred Thornhill Savannah, Campbell County High, Class of 1969
Marshall, Texas*

Mildred Savannah - August 26, 2019 at 07:37 AM

NJ

“ My deepest condolences to the whole family for the passing of this wonderful woman! Throughout my career in Campbell County schools, and well beyond as work took me to other places, Nellie stayed a key person of welcome and warmth and connection. Every time I saw her, it was like we had just had coffee together the day before. I always learned from her, felt refreshed from her, and felt more connected to my community through her. What a delightful human being, dear colleague and friend, and gift to the world. I am sending many hugs from afar as you gather to both mourn and celebrate. Norah Jones

Norah Jones - August 26, 2019 at 07:36 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Nelly Watson Finch .



August 26, 2019 at 07:24 AM



“ It was through Janet that I got to rekindle with my 8th grade teacher. She remembered me an I remembered her. She was the best teacher ever. From her I learned so much that has carried me through life with high standards. God bless you Ms Finch I will always love you.. "Your Pet," Debbie R. Roches

Debbie Roches - August 25, 2019 at 06:05 PM



“ 42 files added to the album Life Tributes



Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral & Cremation Service - August 25, 2019 at 10:20 AM

MW

“ *Michelle Williams lit a candle in memory of Nelly Watson Finch*



Michelle Williams - August 24, 2019 at 06:41 AM