

*In Loving Memory
of the late*

Mrs. Verna Harbin Burkhead

January 15, 1912

December 30, 2004



Wednesday, January 5, 2005

11:00 a.m.

Haven United Methodist Church

Vaiden, Mississippi

Rev. James L. Ross, Officiating Pastor



I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found that place at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heads and share with me
God wanted me now, He set me free.

Obituary



Mrs. Verna H. Burkhead was born on January 15, 1912, in Montgomery County, Mississippi, to the late Mr. George Britt Harbin and Mrs. Emma Watts Harbin. She departed this life on Thursday, December 30, 2004 at 11:40 p.m. at the Montfort Jones Hospital in Kosciusko, Mississippi.

Being reared in an old-fashioned Christian home contributed to her strong set of values which she preached daily. At an early age, she became a member of the Ambrose Chapel C.M.E. Church. When she moved to Vaiden, she later united with the Haven United Methodist Church. She leaves her legacy of loving God, working hard, and embracing and uplifting humanity to her children, grandchildren, other family members, and friends.

Her education was obtained in the Montgomery County School System. She completed high school in Winona, Mississippi, and took college courses at the Jackson State College Extension School in Greenwood, Mississippi. She taught at the Hazel Green School in Montgomery County, Mississippi, for a short while. She valued education and always impressed upon family members to make the most of their educational opportunities.

She was joined in Holy Matrimony to Mr. Willie Burkhead, a widower with one daughter. To this union were born three children. Her husband and daughter Marjorie Jean Lockhart Craig preceded her in death. Her three brothers M. L., Trenton, and Nelson also preceded her in death. A grandson Duane Craig preceded her in death, also.

She was a devoted wife, a caring mother, a doting grandmother, a generous aunt, a loyal friend and a good neighbor.

Her hobbies were many. She gained the love of reading newspapers from her mother who taught herself to read. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, quilting, raising vegetables, growing flowers, and keeping house. She was also a caregiver for several family members.

Also she enjoyed sharing her sense of humor in daily telephone conversations with friends and family. She loved telling stories of her childhood. Family, friends, and neighbors remember her for her clever and funny sayings and never complaining about her physical condition.

Due to her longevity, she became the matriarch of two families. The following are left to cherish her memory: one son, Mr. Willie H. (JoAnn) Burkhead; two daughters, Drs. Geraldine B. (Abdul) Mohamed and Mrs. Barbra B. Tate; one brother-in-law, Mr. Henry T. Drake of Tougaloo, Mississippi; one sister-in-law, Mrs. Ida Mae Pratt Harbin of Antelope, California; twelve grandchildren; eighteen great grandchildren; and ten great, great grandchildren. Numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends are also left to cherish her memory.

*When I must leave you for a little while -
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears,
and hug your sorrow to you through the years,
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same.
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*

Helen Steiner Rice



Order of Service

- Processional
- Hymn "What A Friend"
- Scriptures
 - Old Testament
 - New Testament
- Prayer
- Resolution Mrs. JoAnn Sanders Burkhead
Vaiden Friendship M.B. Church
Vaiden, Mississippi
- Tributes Mrs. Mattie McIntosh, Church Member
Mrs. Everlena Davis, Friend
Miss Denise D. Drake, Niece
- Acknowledgments Mrs. Barbara D. Gayden
- Obituary Read Silently with Soft Music
- Hymn "Near The Cross"
- Eulogy Rev. James L. Ross, Pastor
- Recessional



Honorary Pallbearers

Larry B. Lockhart
Jarvis L. Foster
Hobart Craig, Jr.
Abdul Nasser Mohamed

Daryl C. Foster
Frederic "Rusty" Foster
Arthur Craig, Sr.
Kobie Jenkins

Raymond G. Burkhead, Sr.
Wesley A. "Sonny" Haslett
James Williams

Carles Burkhead
Roland Witherspoon
Godfrey S. Drake

Mr. William R. Cox of Durant, Mississippi
Mr. Harvey Gray Cox of San Antonio, Texas
Mr. James A. Cox of Vaiden, Mississippi
Dr. John Harbin, Jr. of Fairfield, California
Rev. Willie J. Young of Philadelphia, Mississippi
Pastor of Philadelphia Parish U.M. Churches

Mr. Roy L. Ammons
Mr. Cade Davis
Mr. Coleman Phillips
Mr. Willie Thomas, Jr.

Mr. Lemon Cunningham
Mr. Charley McBride
Mr. Marcus L. Purnell
Mr. James R. Vance

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom,
and the Power,
and the Glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen

Casketbearers

Friends of the Family

Flowerbearers

Friends of the Family

Acknowledgments

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair;
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
If so we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words
That any friend could say;
Perhaps you were not there at all,
But just thought of us that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much whatever the part.

The Family of Mrs. Verna H. Burkhead

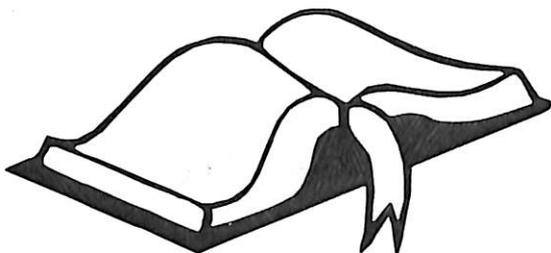


Interment and Final Resting Place

Vaiden Community Cemetery
Vaiden, Mississippi

Repast

Haven United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall



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