



Betty Raye "Sweet Bones" Oxendine

October 19, 1933 - January 22, 2025

Affectionately known as "Sweet Bones" to her family, Betty Raye Oxendine passed away peacefully on January 22, 2025, in Lumberton, NC, at the age of 91.

Born on October 19, 1933, in Wake County, NC, Betty was the beloved daughter of Bealey Raymond Baker and Betty Penny Baker. She graduated from Apex High School in 1953, carrying with her a lifelong love of learning and an unwavering devotion to her family.

Betty was a woman of extraordinary grace and warmth. She loved unconditionally, forgave freely, and had an understanding heart that was second to none. Her family was her pride and joy, and she often boasted about how beautiful they were—inside and out.

Betty is survived by her son, Michael Mangum of Latta, SC, and her daughter, Tami Chastain of Lumberton, NC. She also leaves behind a remarkable legacy of love through her 10 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

She is preceded in death by husband, James Oxendine, her sons, Barry Mangum and Rodney "Hootie" Smith, who she now joins in eternal rest.

A funeral service to honor and celebrate Betty's life will be held on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 1:00 PM at Wake Memorial Park Chapel, located at 7002 Green Hope School Road, Cary, NC. Interment will follow at Apex Cemetery.

In memory of Betty, and to honor her legacy of love and helping people, please make memorial contributions to New Testament Baptist Church, 2603 Goldmine Road, Monroe, NC 28110.

Betty's memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

Cemetery Details

Apex Cemetery

100 Upchurch St
Apex, NC 27502

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 27. 1:00 PM (ET)

Wake Memorial Park Mausoleum
7002 Green Hope School Road
Cary, NC 27519

Tribute Wall



“ *Rose Garden Heart was purchased for the family of Betty Raye "Sweet Bones" Oxendine.*



January 26, 2025 at 08:49 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Betty Raye "Sweet Bones" Oxendine.

January 26, 2025 at 08:49 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the Family, I meet Betty Raye in one of the hardest times in my life. I was 24 with a baby needing someone to watch her, through a family friend, Cal Lawrence, I met the sweetest, kindest, most patient woman I've ever known. Betty Raye watched my daughter for three years but we remained friends much longer than that. Rip Betty Raye, thank you for helping me learn to be the mother my daughter needed. Love always Johnette Harris*

johnette Harris - January 24, 2025 at 09:48 PM

NB

“ Written 1974:

*Conversations with our past
A bicentennial series
Apex home 84 years*

Betty Baker was born in Apex, and still lives in the home her husband Raymond built three years after they were married. That was 65 years ago -but Betty Baker at 84 is still active and alert and keeps her house in tip-top shape. It is a home that is full of memories for Baker and well it should be.

In that white frame house on Ellington Street, Baker gave birth to her eight children. And although they have since left home, and her husband passed away several years ago, the home is still very much a family place - indeed, as Mrs. Baker says. “Some of the children come home every Sunday, Sometimes even two or three of them. I'm never lonely.”

The big upright piano and the large fireplace in the living room help conjure up images of a large family, going about the business of their daily lives. And, as Baker points out, the home was much more important in the days when she was raising a family.

“I think people enjoyed staying at home more. partly because we didn't really know anything else. The children played a lot in the home,” she explained.

Baker's children, and their places of residence are: W, C. Baker, Oxford: Eloise Carr, Moncure: Lucille McKinney, Raleigh; Wade Baker. Apex:

*Bryant Baker. Tabor City Mary Edith Keith, Raleigh;
Betty Rae Oxendine, Monroe and Fred Baker, Durham.*

“We were always having company for dinner.” she added, noting that children always visited with their parents.

"We didn't have babysitters then. But it wasn't much of a problem. The children played and enjoyed themselves and mothers and fathers visited," Actually/Baker pointed out, her children grew up not much differently than she herself.

Baker attended the public school in Apex, continuing through the seventh grade.

She and her brothers and sisters walked to school each day, carrying their lunches, which they would eat gathered around the big stove with friends.

Each student had a day when she was responsible for chores at the school - boys would cut wood to keep the fire going: girls would sweep the floor.

Baker said she though received a good education at the two-room school. And she added that the discipline problem that often plagues modern schools was nonexistent then.

"The schools were good. and we had order in the school," she said. "I don't think the teachers had much problem with discipline in those days."

What has happened to cause that change?

"I think parents are more lenient with children, and don't have firm discipline in the home," Baker answered.

Baker said she and her classmates- and she estimates that over 200 students were enrolled in the school while she attended - studied English, math, Latin, spelling, history and geography. She explained that they did not progress to a new class each year, as students do today, but rather progressed to more difficult textbooks.

Baker can still remember several of her teachers Miss Minnie Franklin, Ms. Howard Champion, Mr. C. B. Brooks and Mr, Burton Howard. She said many of the teachers boarded in the homes of

local residents when she was growing up.

*What did Baker and her contemporaries do for entertainment ?
Quilting bees? with dances afterward were infrequent but special
occasions for Apex townspeople.*

*And the church • in Baker's case - the Apex Baptist Church -was an
important social as well as religious center. Baker belonged to the
"Sunbeam Society' which sponsored Sunday School parties and
church programs, as a young woman, and she still attends that
same church, even though it has been moved from its original site.
"I've been a member of that church for 72 years." Baker said. "I still
go regularly. I love my pastor and the members of my church."*

*When Baker was a young woman, she was courted as were all her
contemporaries at her home, where sweethearts would visit with the
family, then mount their horses and ride home. It was in that way
that she and her husband courted and married in 1909
Their wedding took place in her family's home
with "attendants just like you have now."*

*What did they do for their honeymoon? "We went to his home (in
Holly Springs) and spent the night, and the next day we came back
and set up housekeeping. And the next day he went to work. And
we worked all our years," Baker
answered.*

*There was lots of work for Raymond Baker, too- for in 1910 a fire
swept through Apex destroying the wooden downtown buildings. As
a carpenter and brick mason, he and his brother/partner had to
chance to construct many of the buildings and homes that still stand
on Salem Street.*

*Baker said progress "began to come to Apex" after the 1910 fire
and it brought with it such innovations as the automobile. The
Bakers bought their first car in 1916 - a Ford, complete with curtains
that had to be hooked to enclose the cabin.*

"The children loved it." Baker smiled. We'd take those children and wrap them up and go to my father's hanse (near Fuquay-Varina) bout every Sunday.

Driving conditions are much improved since those early days. Baker explained, "Around where my father lived, roads were sandy, and the car would slip around." she said.

"As a matter of fact," she added. "I've seen a lot of improvement in everything."

Baker said she believes Apex has come a long way since she was born 84 years ago. It has grown from a town of 500 people to one of 2500.

"It gives people employment, nice places to live, nice churches and schools," she said. "I always like to see advancement."

That advancement has brought with it problems, Baker noted - problems like leniency in child rearing and increasing crime but, she believes the problems are not As serious as some think.

"There's more crime, but there's a lot more people and we can understand that," she explained. "I think we still have a lot of good people that are interested in the welfare of other people."

Baker is optimistic about the future of Apex.

"I think the future is real bright. All the buildings look real pretty, and we feel real proud of them. I'm looking forward to a great improvement in our town.

Baker's confidence in the future of Apex is perhaps understandable. She has invested her life in that of the town, has nursed it back to health after the "great fire", and has seen it on its way to Modernity. It is citizens like Baker who have brought the progress she celebrates to town of Apex.





Nicole Butler - January 24, 2025 at 08:02 PM

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“ *Easter of 1988. Mother Betty and Daughter Tami.*



Nicole Butler - January 24, 2025 at 06:58 PM

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“ *The home Betty was raised in along with her 8 siblings in Apex, N.C.*

The home is still family owned and in prestige condition.



Nicole Butler - January 24, 2025 at 05:36 PM

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“ *My mother always loving and caring
-Love Tami & Micheal*



Nicole Butler - January 24, 2025 at 02:37 PM

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“ *There are Angels
God puts on this Earth
Who care for us and guide us.
You can feel their love and gentleness as they walk through life
beside us.
They do great things for us every day they whisper in our ears, they
even hold us in their hearts when we are filled with all our fears.
They are always there to give a hug and try to make us smile.
They treat us with respect and love, they treat us like their child.
God blessed me with an Angel, I'm proud to call my own.
She's been with me throughout my life, been with me as I've grown.
She's guided me the best she can, she's taught me like no other,
and I'm thankful I'm the lucky one who get's to call her...
Mother*

We love and miss you already "Sweet Bones"



Nicole Butler - January 24, 2025 at 02:13 PM