

**Frances Harding Casstevens**, 73, the leading authority on Yadkin County history and genealogy, and author of seven non-fiction books on the Civil War, died peacefully Wednesday, September 16, 2009, at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem. Her passing leaves a large void and a challenge to continue the work she began. She was born Laura Frances Harding on September 9, 1936, in Winston-Salem, to Franklin Daniel Boone and Laura Milliner Bowman Harding of Yadkinville. She was their only child. Frances was raised in Yadkinville, where she absorbed a love of history and graduated from high school. She studied at Surry Community College and Forsyth Technical Institute and earned her B. A. and an M. A. in History magna cum laude from UNC-Greensboro. In 1954, she married Gerald Royce "Jerry" Casstevens of Boonville, an accomplished banjo player and Bluegrass musician. To their marriage were born six talented children: Danny, Caren, Mike, Tony, Kay, and Tim. In 2001, she retired as a research assistant from Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem. Her published works included, "The Descendants of Solomon Lineberry"; "Thomas Casstevens: A Genealogical History, with William C. Casstevens"; "The Heritage of Yadkin County, North Carolina, Vol. I"; "Yadkin County, North Carolina: The First One Hundred Years"; "Death in North Carolina's Piedmont: Tales of Murder, Suicide, and Cause Unknown"; "Ghosts and their Haunts: The Legends and Lore of the Yadkin River Valley"; "Ghosts of the North Carolina Piedmont: Haunted Houses and Unexplained Events"; "The Civil War and Yadkin County, North Carolina"; "Clingman's Brigade in the Confederacy, 1862-1865"; "Edward A. Wild and the African Brigade in the Civil War"; "George Washington Alexander and Castle Thunder: A Prison and its Commandant"; "Out of the Mouth of Hell: Civil War Prisons and Escapes"; "Tales from the North and South: Twenty-four Remarkable People and Events of the Civil War"; "The 28th Regiment, North Carolina Troops"; two plays, "Retreat to Victory" and "Daniel Boone on the Yadkin"; and poems, articles, and book reviews. She also served as editor of The Journal of The Yadkin County Historical Society and was a contributor to "Historical Architecture of Yadkin County, North Carolina" and "The People of Color of Yadkin County, North Carolina". Frances was a leader in the following organizations: Yadkin County Historical Society; Preservation Yadkin County; Yadkin County Sesquicentennial Commission; Yadkin County Planning Board; Yadkin County Bicentennial Commission on the United States Constitution; Yadkinville 4-H Club; and the 28th N. C. Regiment Re-Activated. She was an active member of Daughters of the American Revolution, Daughters of the Confederacy, Order of the Confederate Rose, 28th N.C. Regiment, Re-Activated, Yadkinville United Methodist Church and the Jonesville Bicentennial Committee. Her hobbies included corresponding with many family historians throughout the United States, reading, music, and photography. Frances was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and a son, Timothy Thomas Casstevens. Survivors include her children, Gerald Daniel Casstevens (Eva), Mocksville, Caren Joanne Casstevens, Michael Lee Casstevens (Julie), and Tony Layne Casstevens, Yadkinville; and Sandra Kay Casstevens Campbell (Doug); and a special friend, Selinda Cassandra Moxley (Richie) and her family, Boonville; grandchildren, Simon Casstevens, Jacob Casstevens; step-grandchild, Steven Baldwin; Amber Casstevens, Wesley Casstevens, Kayla Campbell and Corey Campbell, and many relatives, colleagues, and friends. Visitation will be Sunday, September 20, 2 p.m. 4 p.m. at Gentry Family Funeral Service, 5108 US 601 Highway, Yadkinville, NC 27055, followed by the Funeral at 4 p.m. in the chapel, with burial in the Yadkinville Cemetery. The Rev. Patty Choplin will lead the



Funeral, with speakers, Andrew L. Mackie and Gregory Cheek, and an honor guard provided by the 28th N. C. Regiment, Re-Activated. Memorials should be made for the Harding Office Restoration to The Davis Museum, c/o Joe Wooten, 8128 NC Highway 67, East Bend, NC 27018. The family wishes to thank the doctors, nurses, and staff of Hoots Hospital in Yadkinville and Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem for their excellent care and Yadkinville United Methodist Church for its support. Online condolences may be made to [www.gentryfuneralservice.com](http://www.gentryfuneralservice.com).