



# Woodruff, Mary Louise Gettys

1925-2019

By [Messenger Staff](#) | Published on May 29, 2019

Mary Louise Gettys Woodruff, 93, passed from this life Thursday, May 23, 2019, in Fort Worth after a brief illness.

A memorial service and celebration of life is planned Saturday, June 29, at 10:30 a.m. at the Decatur Conference Center.

Mary Louise was born on Aug. 27, 1925, to C.T. and Albert (Walker) Gettys in Fort Worth. She was united in marriage to W.B. Woodruff Jr. (who shared her date of birth) on Nov. 1, 1947, in Decatur.

She graduated from Decatur High School in 1942, Decatur Baptist College in 1944, Baylor University with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1946 and received her Master of Arts in History from the University of North Texas in 1952. Mary Louise taught history at Decatur Baptist College from 1953 to 1958 and was one of the last known surviving teachers or staff members of that institution.

She owned and operated a local fabric and sewing shop called Fabric Fashions in Decatur from 1957 to 1963. Her varied interests included gardening, astronomy, astrology, ancient civilizations and handwriting analysis. She spent decades studying genealogy and traveling coast to coast, researching her family history in countless state archives, cemeteries and libraries, becoming acquainted with distant relatives particularly in North Carolina, and eventually authoring numerous books on her families' roots. These volumes provide an invaluable source of information for her relatives and later generations. Her desire to learn and to teach never ceased.

She received the Decatur Distinguished Service Award from Dallas Baptist University in 2011 and just last month received their first-ever 75th Anniversary Alumnus recognition. She was a former member of the Decatur Woman's Club and belonged to a local Bridge Club for 50 years.

She was a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend and was always ready for a visit or a competitive game of dominoes or cards.

Mary Louise was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 70 years, W.B. Woodruff Jr.; her brother, Charles T. ("Tom") Gettys and her great-grandson, Drew Glosson.

Those left behind to cherish her memory are her three sons, Martin Woodruff and wife, Jana, Mason Woodruff and wife, Karen, and Tim Woodruff and wife, Joylynn, all of Decatur; her two daughters, Nannette Williams and husband, Kevin, of Denton, and Nola Cocanougher and husband, Daniel, of Lake Bridgeport; 13 grandchildren and step-grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren and one on the way; her sister, Margaret Ann Cude and husband, Mel, of Decatur; numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Governor's Ridge Assisted Living Center in Decatur for the friendship and care they have shown the family over the past 18 months.

Memorials may be made to:

Wise County Historical Society, 1602 S. Trinity St., Decatur, TX 76234

United Way of Wise County, P.O. Box 213, Decatur, TX 76234

Decatur Public Library, 1700 S. Hwy. 51, Decatur, TX 76234

Wise County Veterans Memorial Museum, 1308 10th Street, Bridgeport, TX 76426

First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 302, Decatur, TX 76234

Dallas Baptist University Scholarship Fund, 3000 Mountain Creek Pkwy., Dallas, TX 75211

Cleveland Memorial Library, 104 Howie St., Shelby, NC 28150

Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church, 1634 Duncan's Creek Rd, Ellenboro, NC 28040

Charity of your choice