



## Mary Louise Medley, the Daughter of Anson County

By Walter R. Turner In 1974 The State magazine published an article that called Mary L. Medley "a journalist, a writer, a poet, and something of a legend in Anson County." At that time she was writing for the Anson Record, and was ready to write a history of the county. Bennett Edwards, editor of the Anson Record, kept her on course while she worked as a full-time reporter while writing the book. Linn Garibaldi and others raised the necessary funds for publication. Medley began opening the old dress boxes where she had stashed notes and articles during the past 20 years.

Writing the book was an emotional task. Calvin Gaddy, who helped with photographs, recalls that she was "always in another world." She had productive days and other days when she slammed down the telephone and rushed out of the newsroom. *History of Anson County, North Carolina, 1750-1976*, with more than 400 pages, was finally published two years later. It included 31 chapters, many appendices, and a comprehensive index. The book had a press run of 3,000 copies with two reprints. Ken Goins quickly purchased the book. He had grown up in Rockingham, but was teaching history at Bowman High School. "The book was indispensable then and now," he said.

In 1907 Mary Medley was born on a cotton farm in the Brown Creek/Mt. Vernon area near Polkton to Mary Ide and James Franklin Medley. Joe Frank, her only sibling, joined the family three years later. After attending Polkton School for the first few grades, she entered residential Weaver Junior College just north of Asheville (which later became a part of Brevard College). In the high school program, she was president of both the school's newspaper and Enterpean Literary Society, and she also began writing poetry. She completed a year of college there and a second year at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. The next step was two years at the University of North Carolina, where she majored in English, minored in history, and also took several journalism courses.

Her first grade was in education. She taught school in Virginia as well as the sixth grade at Lilesville School during 1933 to 1937, then switched to journalism. Over the years she was a reporter for Goldsboro News-Argus, High Point Enterprise, and Sanford Daily Herald.

After World War II, Medley returned to Anson County. She had a brick home built on East Wade Street in Wadesboro. After living in lots of apartments, she loved her little house. In 1949 the county celebrated its bicentennial with a popular pageant, "Torchlight on the Pee Dee," which she wrote. All the actors were local citizens. The men grew beards and the ladies wore period dresses. For several years she was a reporter for either the Messenger and Intelligencer or the Anson Record. In 1952 she published *Dogwood Winter*, a book of her poetry.

Medley was active in the North Carolina Society of County and Local Historians, serving one year as president. In 1969 she provided the research about the Boggan-Hammond House that resulted in a legislative grant of \$20,000 for the project. In 1977 she published another book of poetry, *Seasons and Days*. Jeffery T. Gross, a faculty member at the University of Mississippi, wrote that the book "shows a tough awareness of human frailties without the bitterness which such vision often carries with it." She lived her last years at the Methodist Home in Charlotte.

Mary Louise Medley died in 1992. At her funeral at First United Methodist Church in Wadesboro, the Rev. Cameron Conover called her "the daughter of Anson County."

Walter R. Turner is editor of the Anson County Historical Society's newsletter.

### Anson Wolfpack Invites Players and Cheerleaders 5-14 Years Old

Football and cheer signups are currently going on for spring football and cheer with Anson Wolfpack for children between the ages of 5 and 14 years old. The purpose of spring football is to develop and enhance the skills of our young athletes here in Anson County to better prepare them for fall football when the season is more competitive.

Anson Wolfpack football and cheer was founded in January of 2017 to serve the youth throughout Anson County. They provide boys and girls of Anson County a competitive football league to compete in throughout North Carolina. They strive for the players and cheerleaders to gain a love for the sport of football and cheerleading through success, fundamentals and rapport developed between players and coaches. Anson Wolfpack is supported by the wonderful volunteers who exhibit an extraordinary amount of devotion and hard work, ensuring that the organization has a positive influence in the lives of our children and the community. To sign your child up you can contact Johnta Harrison at 704-465-5155.

### Television Personality Carson Daly in Anson County for His Mother's Burial

Carson Daly, host and executive producer of the NBC reality music competition program *The Voice* and correspondent on the *Today Show*, was in Anson County this past weekend for the burial of his mother, Patricia Jones Caruso, in Lilesville.

Daly wrote, "Tough day today in Lilesville, NC where mom will finally rest next to her mom and grandma. There is no place on Earth she'd rather be. She was beyond proud of her North Carolina roots. With tears, prayers, family and God's warm sunshine, she's home. Mrs. Caruso was born in 1944 in Montgomery County, NC."



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