

### Mr. Joseph Wayne Estridge

Mr. Joseph Wayne Estridge, 75, of Ansonville, passed away on Sunday morning, April 25, 2021, at his home.

The family received friends from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday April 28, 2021, at Edwards Funeral Home in Norwood.

Mr. Estridge was born January 24, 1946, in Richmond County, NC to the late Roland Ezelle and Amanda Mae Bennett Estridge. He was a retiree of Burlington Industries and a member of Porter Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, James Estridge.

Mr. Estridge is survived by his wife Brenda Miller Estridge of the home; sons, Gary and Andrew Estridge of Cordova; five brothers; four sisters; two grandchildren, three stepchildren and six step-grandchildren.

### Mother's Day is this Sunday, May 9

The real history of Mother's Day in the United States might surprise you. Three women - who championed efforts toward better health, welfare, peace, and love - contributed to the day we all celebrate on the second Sunday in May each year.

The Mother's Day holiday in the United States was not born out a desire to simply treat mothers to a day off or buy gifts. It essentially began as a women's movement to better the lives of other Americans. The creation of a national Mother's Day is primarily attributed to three women: Ann Reeves Jarvis, Julia Ward Howe, and Ann's daughter, Anna M. Jarvis.

**Ann Reeves Jarvis** was a young Appalachian homemaker who taught Sunday school lessons. She also was a lifelong activist who, in the mid-1800s, had organized "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" in West Virginia to combat unsanitary living conditions and teach young mothers how to safely care for their children. During the Civil War, Mother Jarvis had also organized women's brigades, encouraging women to help without regard for which side their men had chosen. After the war, she proposed a Mothers' Friendship Day to promote peace between former Union and Confederate families. "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial Mother's Day commemorating her for the matchless service she renders to humanity in every field of life," Ann Jarvis once said. "She is entitled to it."

**Julia Ward Howe** was a famous poet and reformer. During the Civil War, she volunteered for the U.S. Sanitary Commission, helping them to provide hygienic environments for hospitals and ensure sanitary conditions during the care of sick and wounded soldiers. In 1861, she authored the famous Civil War anthem "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," which was first published in February 1862.

Around 1870, Julia Ward Howe called for a "Mother's Day for Peace" dedicated to the celebration of peace and the eradication of war. As expressed in what is called her "Mother's Day Proclamation" from 1870, Howe felt that mothers should gather to prevent the cruelty of war and the waste of life since mothers of mankind alone bear and know the cost.

Howe's version of Mother's Day was held in Boston and other locations for about 30 years, but died a quick death in the years preceding World War I.

**Anna M. Jarvis** After her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died in 1905, Miss Anna Jarvis from Philadelphia wished to memorialize her life and started campaigning for a national day to honor all mothers. She bombarded public figures and various civic organizations with telegrams, letters, and in-person discussions. She addressed groups large and small. At her own expense, she wrote, printed, and distributed booklets extolling her idea.

In May of 1907, Anna memorialized her mother's lifelong activism with a memorial service held at the Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, where Anna's mother had taught. The following year, on May 10, a Mother's Day service was held at that same church to acknowledge all mothers. Thus was born the idea that the second Sunday in May be set aside to honor every mother, whether living or deceased.

Her efforts came to the attention of the mayor of Philadelphia, who proclaimed a local Mother's Day. From the local level she went on to Washington, D.C. The politicians there knew a good thing when they saw it and were quick to lend verbal support.

West Virginia was the first state to officially adopt the holiday, others followed suit. Proclamation of the day by the various states led Representative J. Thomas Heflin of Alabama and Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas to present a joint resolution to Congress that Mother's Day be observed nationwide. The resolution was passed by both houses.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill designating the second Sunday in May as a legal holiday to be called "Mother's Day"—dedicated "to the best mother in the world, your mother." For the first few years, the day was observed as a legal holiday, but in absolute simplicity and reverence—church services were held in honor of all mothers, living and dead.

According to many sources, Anna simply wanted to honor her mother and the work she had done and claimed that her mother was the originator of the real Mother's Day. She was dismayed to see Mother's Day become more commercialized with the sending of cards and gifts and used as a way to promote other causes. Sadly, Anna spent the final years of her life trying to abolish the very holiday that she had helped to establish.

### Union County Documentary Will Premiere in the Fall

A documentary based on the Union County story *Inherit the Land: Jim Crow Meets Miss Maggie's Will* completed filming in March and expects to premiere in the Dowd Center Theatre in Monroe in the fall. This is the centennial year of the trial where a white jury upheld the will of Maggie Ross, a white woman who had left her 800-acre homeplace in Marvin to a Black family. The bequest established racial harmony in the community that endures to this day. The book was written by Gene Stowe, who has told the story at the museum.

Filming involved many people from Union County and Anson County, including four direct descendants of Mittie Bell Ross Houston and her father Bob Ross, who inherited the land. Locations were the Historic Union County Courthouse; the Dr. J.J. Rone house where Mittie lived with Maggie and her sister Sallie; the Waxhaw Woman's Club building, the former Belk's where Maggie and Mittie shopped; and the inherited land along Crane Road in Marvin.

Director Cylk Cozart and producer Jim Johnson have created an initial trailer and a second trailer based on the re-enacted scenes. They both are available on YouTube by searching for: "Inherit The Land Trailer" and "Inherit The Land Trailer 2020."

The project is raising funds to complete production and conduct large-scale marketing. Every donation of any amount donation will be acknowledged in the film. Businesses that donate \$5,000 or more will have their logos on the front of the film. Investment-level participation receives one percent of profits for each \$10,000. Tax-deductible donations can be arranged.

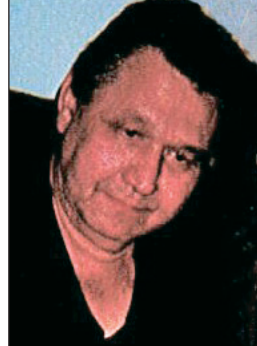
For more information visit [www.Facebook.com/InheritTheLandDocumentary](http://www.Facebook.com/InheritTheLandDocumentary), write to Gene Stowe at [stowegene@gmail.com](mailto:stowegene@gmail.com), or call 980.425.8633.

### Did You Attend Movies at the Ansonia Theatre?

Do you have memories or old photos of the Ansonia Theater? First date, what you saw, where you sat, how much you paid for a ticket? The Anson County Arts Council wants to hear from you!

Please send memories, stories, photos, etc to Beth Traywick at [etraywick1@msn.com](mailto:etraywick1@msn.com). Please include as much information as possible, such as dates, names, and details! Your story may be published, so don't be shy!

Beth said, "Thank you to those who have been sharing your stories and experiences. Please keep them coming."



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