

## **Reynolds, Stella Irene Lewis**

WHITESBURG - Stella Irene Lewis Reynolds, 91, Letcher County teacher and co-founder of Reynolds Furniture Company died Sun., Mar. 19, 2006. Born on Sandlick Creek July 7, 1914, she was the widow of Joe Coleman Reynolds and the daughter of Willie Franklin and Ada Dixon Lewis. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds opened Reynolds Furniture in 1946 in Neon, KY and the Whitesburg store in 1957. Their store closed in 2005. Mrs. Reynolds attended elementary and high school at the Junior Order Orphanage in Tiffin, OH. She was placed there, along with her brothers and sisters, after the death of her father during a typhoid epidemic in 1923. She graduated from the Junior Order High School and attended Berea, Lees and Georgetown Colleges. She was a kindergarten teacher under the W.P.A. program and taught at the Hemphill, Sergent and Marlowe Grade Schools in Letcher County. She also taught in Rockcastle County. Mrs. Reynolds was a member of First Baptist Church, Whitesburg, where she served as a Sunday School teacher and a member of the Women's Missionary Union. She was a member of the Pine Mountain Chapter of the Daughter's of the American Revolution, Sandlick Bible Club and the Sandlick Homemakers. She was an active member of the Republican Party. In 1988, Mrs. Reynolds was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. She participated in a research program at Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati, OH. Irene Reynolds is survived by 2 sons, James Lewis Reynolds (Wanda) of Winter Park, FL, Joe Coleman Reynolds, Jr. of Ermine, KY, 1 daughter, Mahala Reynolds Frazier (Sonny) of Whitesburg, KY, 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are a brother, Quentin H. Lewis of Bristol, VA and 2 sister, Evaleen Lewis Towery of Crockett, TX and Willa Lewis Mullins of Guilford, IN. She was preceded in death by her husband Joe and a brother Edwin R. Lewis of Jackson, MI. Visitation 2 - 9 pm, Tues., Mar. 21 at Letcher Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at First Baptist Church, Whitesburg, Wed., 1 pm with burial following in the Hall Cemetery at Ermine, KY. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to First Baptist Church or the Alzheimer's Association.

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Transcribed by Connie Spurlock