



“Stories of My Life”

By Shelby Roy Hopkins

I Must Travel On The Road That Lies Ahead

Thirty years ago, my family and I celebrated my daddy's 67th birthday. It would prove to be his very last birthday celebration. At the time, we all were aware of daddy's continual failing health due to a host of cardiovascular issues. We all, especially daddy, tried to marginalize the impending charge of a failing heart as we celebrated the eventful day. We had as much fun as we could considering the circumstances.

When someone is slowly dying, those on the periphery have time to process what they are witnessing, although I do not think it is possible to grasp the finality of what lies ahead. Our minds are filled with complicated and sometimes extreme emotions that can range from hopefulness to outright denial.

My daddy survived another nine months after his last birthday party. His death came as expected. He, time and again, had to be admitted to the hospital until he at last paid one final visit to the people who had tried so valiantly to "give him just a few more days."

After daddy died, an overbearing sense of dread permeated all who had known and loved him. The countless days and endless nights of waiting, wishing, hoping, and praying had suddenly come to an end. There were no resources or options left. There's nothing left to try. There's nothing left to pray for. All that is left is a solemn trip to the funeral home and a slow ride to the cemetery.

As the people at the cemetery began to file away, the wintry cold air of a mid-December day chilled our bodies to the bone. The hard blowing wind was perfectly clear and magnificently cold. We shuddered as we got into our vehicles and departed back to our lives. There was work to do and bills to pay. Schoolwork beckoned and social activities awaited.

I had prepared myself for this eventuality for a long time. I was 37 years old and in the prime of my life. I had a wonderful wife and two spectacular children. I had been surrounded by people who had showered me with love every second I had been given to live. Just as all good servants of God surely have to do, I pressed on.

As the years have unfolded, I realize always, and particularly today, that my daddy has been walking with me every step of the way. I clearly still see his smile and his playfulness. I see his energy and compassion. I see the tenderness of his heart. I see the way he always lit up a room when he entered. I see the unconditional love he had for my mother, we children, and all of his family. I know of

his bravery and how nothing could stop him from defending any of us from harm.

I try to envision him when he might have been dirty, but I don't believe he ever got that way. He was always clean shaven, and he never had a single hair out of place. He spent countless hours standing in front of a mirror grooming himself, petrified he might find an unruly hair or eyebrow not lying properly.

While working construction, daddy would come home after a 10-hour day, remove his shoes and instruct one of us children to clean them up for him. We washed his work shoes and then let them dry. After they dried, we would polish them until they looked like new. He would give us a quarter for our efforts. The next day, and every day thereafter, the process was repeated. He never went to work with shoes that were already dirty. I've seen both my mother and daddy take off their shoes countless times, carry them to the kitchen sink, and then wash the soles of the shoes. They both liked the bottoms of their shoes to be as clean as the top and sides of the shoes.

Daddy always wanted us children to be doing something, and that something was not watching television. He insisted we play outside as much as possible. We gladly obliged him, except for my older sister Wilma. She absolutely abhorred the outdoors or playing with us siblings. Daddy's spirit of adventure infected each of us children and I am grateful for the places and things I have seen. I always took my daddy with me, wherever I traveled.

When I still sometimes find myself driving too fast, I know the reason. Jessie Hopkins still sits (figuratively) next to me, imploring me to "let it roll." "Letting it roll" is the only way I know how to travel. Slowpokes and bad drivers are the bane of my existence. Although I have tried to repent of my disdain for careless, slow, and neglectful drivers, I truthfully can proclaim I don't believe it's ever going to happen. I simply have too much of my daddy's DNA to allow it.

The steps I have taken throughout my life have been primarily filled with joy and happiness. My life has been very fulfilling. Whether working at the post office, painting a house, housing tobacco, assembling at the church, or announcing a basketball game, I always have my daddy with me. I will never do anything that reflects badly on him or my mother. They paid much too great of a price for me to allow that to happen.

Happy birthday, daddy! I loved you then and I love you now. It's hard for me to imagine you at 97-years-old. I don't think you would have liked that very much. I think it's best if we just leave you healthy, invigorated, and full of energy. The hair must be combed, and the shoes must be shined. The face must be clean shaven and smile must radiate. Your playfulness and love for your grandchildren must continue unabated. You and I still have a lot of places to see and things to do. I'm anxious for you to go with me.

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY NOTICES

Beth Ellen Anderson, 49, of Windsor, formerly of Lancaster, passed away on Monday, February 23, 2026. Ramsey-Young Funeral Home, Lancaster, Kentucky.

Jewell Day Abney



Jewell Day Abney, 90, passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of love, faith, and devotion to her family and community.

At 90 years old, Jewell was the oldest member of Leavell Green Christian Church. She was a devoted and loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother whose greatest joy came from spending time with her family.

Jewell found happiness in the simple, meaningful pleasures of life. She loved farming and took pride in watching her grandson continue to work the land. She also enjoyed fishing and taking her children and grandchildren on school breaks to Douglas Lake. In her later years, she especially treasured the companionship of her beloved little dog, Mini, who brought her comfort and daily joy.

Jewell was a hardworking and dedicated individual whose life was defined by perseverance, strength, and commitment to her work and community. As the proud owner and operator of Sparks Packing Plant for over 20 years, she built her livelihood through determination and long hours, earning the respect of many who knew her. Through challenges and successes alike, she remained steadfast, dependable, and devoted.

Jewell will be remembered for her warm heart, strong faith, and unwavering love for those closest to her. Her life was a testament to dedication, resilience, and kindness. She leaves behind cherished memories that will continue to live on in the hearts of her family and friends.

Surviving are two daughters, Betty Jean Holtzclaw of Cartersville and Kay Hall (Royce) of Lancaster; grandchildren, Matthew Von Gruenigen (SaraVard) and Kelly Von Gruenigen (Janice) both of Cartersville; great-grandson, KenTuck Von Gruenigen; a brother, Allen Day (Joyce) of Cartersville and a precious dog, Mini.

Jewell was preceded in death by her parents, a son, Roger Dale Sparks and brothers, Harold and Emery Day.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m. Friday, March 6, 2026 at Spurlin Funeral Home of Lancaster with Pastor Harvey Spry officiating. Burial will follow in Manse Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at the funeral home.

Pallbearers will be Wayne Day, Jonathan Day, Danny Day, Frank Atkinson, Ricky Davis, Tom Mosier and Wayne Cash.

Honorary pallbearers will be members of Leavell Green Christian Church.

Spurlin Funeral Home of Lancaster is entrusted with the arrangements. www.spurlinfuneralhomelancaster.com

GARRARD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
garrardlibrary.org 859-792-3424

Garrard County CASA Volunteers to Receive Serve Kentucky Awards at Fiscal Court Meeting

Lancaster, KY (March 2, 2026) – Four Garrard County CASA volunteers will be honored with Serve Kentucky awards signed by Gov. Andy Beshear at the March 9 meeting of the Garrard County Fiscal Court.

The four are among 42 CASA volunteers in the region who earned Serve Kentucky awards for volunteering more than 100 hours to help abused and neglected children last year.

The Garrard County recipients are Priscilla Miller, Linda Baker, Susan Maupin and Megan Huston. Together, these four CASA volunteers gave 1,497 hours in 2025.

Miller and Baker are two of seven volunteers across all seven counties served by CASA of Lexington who exceeded 300 hours individually. They will each receive a custom wood-burned medal in addition to their Serve Kentucky certificates.

"The dedication of our Garrard County CASA volunteers to ensuring brighter futures for vulnerable children is truly incredible," said Melynda Jamison, Executive Director of the CASA program.

CASA volunteers are regular people who are matched with abused and neglected children in the family court system. Each volunteer visits their matched child monthly, collects information about the child's life, and provides reports to the judge on the child's case. Volunteers can give children hope and speak up when the system isn't meeting their needs.

The Serve Kentucky Volunteer Recognition Program is run by AmeriCorps, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and the Kentucky Office of the Governor. It recognizes volunteers who do important work within the state of Kentucky.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

In accordance with KRS 176.051, Kentucky's noxious weed law, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will control noxious weeds on state-owned right of way at the request of the adjoining property owner. The noxious weeds named in this law are Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Cutleaf Teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*) Nodding thistle (*Carduus nutans*), Common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), Marehail (*Conyza canadensis*), Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) Japanese knotweed, (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) and Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*).

Persons who own property adjacent to state right of way and who are involved in eradication efforts on their property can submit a written application to the highway district office in their area. Contact information can be found at transportation.ky.gov/DistrictPages

Garrard County Democratic Monthly Meeting

The Garrard County Democratic monthly meeting will be held on Monday, March 23, 2026 at the Garrard County Library. The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Income Tax... Bookkeeping... Payroll

David Land Tax Service

237 Lexington Street, Lancaster, KY

859-792-2955

IRS e-file



NOTICE

From The Lancaster Cemetery Company

Spring clean-up is fast approaching in the Lancaster Cemetery in anticipation of the mowing season. The maintenance staff is asking the public to remove any remaining Christmas decorations (or any other decorations which are on the ground), by **March 15th**.

It is not possible for the staff to be responsible for any decorations which may have blown away from the stone, or which have not been removed.

Please remember that any type of statue which is not a part of the headstone **MUST** be removed and only flower beds that meet the cemetery specifications will be allowed on the graves. If you have any questions regarding the specifications or the spring clean-up, contact Alvin Brickey, Sexton, at 859-792-6342 or Bobby Powell 859-792-2707.

Thank you for your cooperation,
 Lancaster Cemetery Company