



William Nathaniel Banks

March 6, 1924 - November 15, 2019

William Nathaniel Banks, Jr., age 95, of Newnan, Georgia, died November 15th after a brief illness, at his home, Bankshaven. Known and respected by antiquarians and preservationists throughout the country, William was proudest of the 1820s Federal-style home which he had rescued from the area of Milledgeville and meticulously restored and reconstructed on his family's property in Newnan. He also maintained an important 19th century residence in Temple, New Hampshire. William was born in Newnan on March 6, 1924, the son of the late William N. Banks, Sr. and Evelyn Wright Banks. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Yale University. He was a prolific author of articles for *The Magazine Antiques* as well as a playwright. His plays "The Curate's Play" and "The Glad Girls" were professionally produced. William was admired by friends and scholars for his deep knowledge of American architecture and the decorative arts as well as for his genial temperament and hospitality. He was a long-term member and had served as Vice-Chair of the Board of the MacDowell Colony, a contemporary arts organization in New Hampshire, and was a life member of the Board of Directors of the High Museum of Art. William's ashes will be interred in the Grantville, City Cemetery in Grantville, Georgia in a private family service. Online condolences may be expressed at www.mckoon.com. McKoon Funeral Home 770-253-4580.

Cemetery Details

Grantville City Cemetery

Griffin St.
Grantville, GA 30220

Previous Events

Service

NOV 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

Graveside Grantville City Cemetery
124 Griffin Street
Grantville, GA 30220

Tribute Wall



“ *The Banks family was so dear to my late mom and dad, Rev. Carl and Edna McGrady in Grantville, Ga. When I would visit from Oregon Miss Evelyn Banks would invite us to dine with them. I learned a LOT about Southern manners and charm during those visits. William Junior was always the perfect host and entertainer. I never knew him well, but I never heard anything but glowing praise for him.*

Joe McGrady - January 18, 2020 at 03:42 PM

CL

“ *I landscaped bills property in Temple New Hampshire Since the late 1990's. He was very kind to me often giving me tours of his home with history lessons and great stories. I'll never forget the time he wanted to prune his climbing hydrangea that had grown up and over the roof of his two-story home. So as I am nervously watching a man in his 80s on the top of a 30 foot ladder reaching out to prune the vines away from the roof, he started to wave his arms and yell as if he was loosing his balance. I just about had a heart attack and then he looked down with a smile on his face laughing and said "just kidding". At the time I didn't think it was so funny but now every time I think back about that day it makes me laugh out loud. Rest in peace Bill.*



*Chad Lohmiller
Our Town Landscaping
Hancock, NH*

Chad Lohmiller - December 24, 2019 at 04:29 PM

DR

“ Dear Ed....so sorry to read that William has passed. He was a very special man of integrity, a real Southern Gentleman, and someone we will always remember. Our deepest sympathy to you and the family. God bless and may he rest peacefully, Vic and Bev Riccardi

Dr, and Mrs. Victor L. Riccardi - November 24, 2019 at 10:42 AM

LO

“ One of only three times I was in the presence of "William-Junior" happened in the mid 1940s as he walked up the aisle of the Grantville Methodist Church. I was an early elementary school child, completely awed as a tall young man, dashingy elegant in his camel overcoat, passed by. It was the season of camellias, and he had helped dear, diminutive "Mr. William" place at the chancel his usual silver tray of perfect blossoms for attendees' take-home-joy. "Miss Evelyn" held her own elegant stature as they took their seats together. My parents, younger sister, and I were the "parsonage family."

I value deeply the imprint of this tender time and this unique family of Bankshaven. May they rest in peace together.

LaTrelle Blackburn Oliver

LaTrelle Blackburn Oliver - November 23, 2019 at 01:31 PM

ML

I am only now finding this notice . In 1980, Mr. Banks' property was one of those used in the filming of "Summer" in Temple, starring Michael Ontkean and a 16-year-old Diane Lane. I was connected to that film and always had lovely memories of the field above the Banks home, which was one of the locations. In the mid-90s I returned to Temple to revisit that spot and was welcomed with open arms by Nathaniel Banks. He was warm, charming and utterly gracious as we chatted in his yard and reminisced about the filming.

A long life well-lived and a lovely man. Rest In Peace.

Marty Leighton - July 29, 2021 at 06:32 PM

JK

“ *Thankful to have known Mr William
For over 60 years I enjoyed many times
Playing tennis with him over the years
He was a good friend and he had a life
Well lived
Thankful for his friendship over the years*

Jim Keith - November 22, 2019 at 03:28 PM

RC

“ *I have many good memories of playing tennis with Mr. William at Bankshaven along with Mr. Lindsey Barron, Mr. Kermit Perry, Jimmy Keith, et. al. He was a kind and gracious soul. R.I.P., Mr. William.*

Ray Cavender - November 22, 2019 at 11:18 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of William Nathaniel Banks.*



November 22, 2019 at 09:37 AM

KA

“ *What a wonderful and giving spirit he was to all! The flowers he sent to my mother every Christmas brought her such joy. He loved sharing his beautiful flower gardens at Bankshaven and even allowed me to have a pool party at his beautiful home many years ago. It never mattered where I saw him - he always gave me a joyful greeting with his amazing smile. Rest in peace Mr. Banks!*
Kelly Abercrombie

Kelly L Abercrombie - November 22, 2019 at 09:31 AM

CY

“ *Oh, what a loss to all of us who had the benefit of Bill's friendship and generosity. I loved Bill and my only solace is that I know he enjoyed a wonderful life dividing his time between Georgia, New York and New Hampshire where he joyfully engaged in his passion for the arts. His devotion to The MacDowell Colony, where I first came to know him, was boundless and his leadership on the board of directors over decades made an enormous difference. Literally thousands of fellowships were awarded to artists of all disciplines during the years of his involvement with MacDowell. He believed in fairness and paid close attention to the admissions policies. Bill also volunteered his time to many nonprofits while continuing to write about the topics he loved. Anyone who spent time with him knows he loved the good things in life, dancing, laughing, nature and beauty. A skier, traveller, and gardener! He was able to instill an appreciation of life in all of us and we are better for it. When times were hard, Bill was a concerned friend and advisor. I learned so much from him and join the many who will miss him. Thank you, Bill.*
--- Love, Cheryl Young, New York

Cheryl Young - November 20, 2019 at 05:40 PM

DC

“ *A great friend and wealth of knowledge for my entire life. You will be missed.*

-Daniel Cournoyer, Temple NH

Daniel Cournoyer - November 20, 2019 at 01:47 PM

CC

“ *Mr. Banks...you were a true Southern Gentleman...I will always treasure your sweetness in letting me visit Bankshaven and tour your gardens...my heart is a bit emptier today...*

Chris Cantrell

Chris Cantrell - November 20, 2019 at 10:55 AM