



## William Garrett Hodges

December 20, 1945 - September 2, 2014

William Garrett Hodges, 68, of New Kent, VA passed away unexpectedly September 2, 2014. As the son of William Walton Hodges and Harriet Nicholls Garrett Hodges, he grew up on Ridgefield farm in Gordonsville, Va. and developed a passion for history and genealogy. A true Renaissance man, William was a historian, art lover, musician, author, and farmer who thoroughly enjoyed sharing his knowledge and expertise with others.

In William's youth, he served in the U. S. Army and was honorably discharged after a two year tour of duty in Germany. After studying as an apprentice at the Bozarth Galleries in Williamsburg, VA, and graduating from the Attingham Park Program in Shrewsbury, England, he began his career in the antique business. In 1976, he was presented to Queen Elizabeth II as the major lender/consultant to the Charlottesville Bicentennial Center, and continued to be a lender through 1978. He was a supplier of fine arts to the White House, the Vice President's Residence, and The Old Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C., among other important collections. Because of his expertise, William had served as an advisor/ appraiser to the FBI for successful recovery of rare items. While living in D.C., he volunteered to lecture on a variety of topics for the Tuesday Club of Northern Virginia, including rare candle sticks, collecting rare prints, preserving rare plate books, William Hamilton's Pompeii, as well as providing regular "Antiques Roadshow" club appraisals for charity. He furnished artifacts for the Octagon House Museum's exhibit of "Dolley and the Great Little Madison" and museum and

gallery shows for the Cultural Arts Center in Glen Allen, Va., where he served as a board member.

Most recently, he lent parts of his collections to interested museums and other venues of public display, as well as set pieces for film productions such as “The Help”, and the “John Adams” television series. Through the years, he remained an active estate disbursement expert by auction, estate sales, and brokering or buy-outs. He lovingly saved many historical homes from destruction, painstakingly moving then reassembling them. Community endeavors include membership in the Mann Page Masonic Lodge #156, holding office of Vice President of the New Kent Historical Society, and his most recent project to expand a museum for the continued preservation of the history of New Kent County.

William is described as “one of a kind” and a true southern gentleman by those who knew him. His sense of humor, tall tales, lively harmonica and piano playing, and yearly Christmas parties will surely be missed by his friends.

William was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his children, Sarah (Michael) Waligura, William Longman, Julia (Jesse) Manley, Sarah Martin, Juxon (Jeff) Lankford, William Dawson Hodges; five grandchildren; two sisters. He also leaves a loving, longtime companion, Judy Bain, who shared his life, passions, and without whom he would not have been the least bit organized.

A graveside service will be held 11 a.m. Thursday, September 11th in Cedar Grove Cemetery, Williamsburg, VA. A celebration of life service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, September 11th at Vincent Funeral Home, 9923 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, VA. The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, September 10th, at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the New Kent Historical Society Museum, P.O. Box 24, New Kent, VA 23124.

# Cemetery Details

## Cedar Grove Cemetery

809 South Henry Street  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel  
9923 Pocahontas Trail  
Providence Forge, VA 23140  
(804) 966-7075

## Service

SEP 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel  
9923 Pocahontas Trail  
Providence Forge, VA 23140  
(804) 966-7075

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ Bill was my friend for over 50 yrs., as were classmates at Orange County High. He use to drive to my house in Mine Run from his in Gordonsville to play music together. His contagious smile and humorous personality endured a lifetime. On one particular visit to our home in Gulfport, he took an old family painting(supposedly a Corot) back to Va. to have it restored and also a charcoal of a relative. He later repaired it by himself piece by piece and gave it to me at our 45th reunion. What a generous gift! Over the years when he'd call to check on us, he'd always start the conversation asking if I'd found the snapshot of the Corot. I took a picture of it with him, but it got damaged and misplaced during Katrina. When the winter's get too severe here, I'll always remember his suggestion to protect my lemon trees with the "smut" pots. Our sincere heartfelt sympathy to Judy and to Bill's entire family due to this tragedy. May he rest in eternal peace! We shall all enjoy each day with a positive attitude and treasure the fond memories of our dear friend, William. Love, MaryLee(Patton)Bruni and Ron

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mary lee bruni - September 09, 2014 at 04:29 PM

JW

“ William was a life enhancing treasured friend, business associate and some times partner. His quick smile, wry sense of humor, knowledge he was willing to share and love of of his unique, highly individualized life always was interesting to me and to a great many he interacted with. He surrounded himself with people and the antiques he so loved. I will miss this most remarkable man.

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John Wurdeman - September 09, 2014 at 09:01 AM

CP

“ Sarah, I am so very sorry. Please know I am, and will continue, to pray for you and your family, now and in the coming months. Cathy Phillips

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**Cathy Phillips** - September 09, 2014 at 07:31 AM

JW

“ My deepest sympathy to you Judy and William's children and their families. As a colleague in the field of antique and collectible paper, I intersected with William and Judy from time to time through the years. Always an enjoyable encounter, finally seeing a small portion of William's awesome collection in his "warehouse" a year or so ago stands out as a highlight among many wonderful meetings. May good memories and time help to cushion the blow, the pain of this most unexpected loss.  
John Whiting

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**John Whiting** - September 08, 2014 at 08:10 PM

AR

“ To Bill's family and friends--The world of antiques and antiquities has lost one of its finest. I was so saddened to hear of Bill's death. I have known him for many years through antiques and recently have helped him with some of his antique clocks that needed repair. We last worked together on a fine tall case clock for one of his customers and at that time I had the privilege and honor to see Bill's home and collection. I was astonished! I had visited South Garden many times in the past when other friends lived there but never had I seen it so happily filled with wonderful treasures as when Bill filled it. He will be terribly missed by all who knew him and valued his knowledge, expertise, friendship, and kindness.

Arthur Wm. Ritter, Old Friends Antiques, Midlothian, Virginia, 804-794-2279.

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**Arthur Wm. Ritter** - September 08, 2014 at 03:36 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of William Garrett Hodges.*



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September 08, 2014 at 11:08 AM

ML

“ *My wife Barbara Wilson and I are greatly saddened and stunned by Bill's untimely death.*

*We had the great privilege of knowing Bill for many years through Barbara's brother Paul. Although we did not have the opportunity to see Bill as often as we would have liked, our visits were always something we looked forward to sharing.*

*From our perspective Bill's life was filled with adventure, wisdom, loyalty, laughter, gallantry and grace. His life was a clear engagement of the heart. What I loved most about Bill was that he was always courteous and polite (a true Southern gentleman) but he could quickly be roused to determined indignation and speech by injustice and cruelty.*

*We can only love a man who left more than he took, who believed passionately in the nobility of his fellow man and who dignified compassion.*

*For Bill's family we are certain that he will continue to live in laughter at the Holidays and family gatherings and a look in his grandchildren's eye or an expression on a face.*

*To Judy and Bill's family we extend our heartfelt sympathy, warm hugs, and affection during this very sad time.*

*Michael Luck and Barbara Wilson  
42 Maple Leaf Road  
Underhill, Vermont 05489*

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**michael luck** - September 08, 2014 at 08:57 AM

AN

“ *What an amazing, generous, adventuresome man Mr. Hodges must have been! I wish I had known him. I am privileged to know his daughter Sarah. Thoughts and prayers for you, Sarah, and the rest of the Waligura clan at this difficult time.*

*Ann Slone  
HCESC  
Cincinnati, OH*



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**Ann** - September 08, 2014 at 08:31 AM

“Bill was a close friend of mine for more than 40 years. I will miss him in countless ways—his fascinating knowledge of antiques, his loyalty as a friend, his fierce integrity. But my happiest memories of him are of his sheer sense of fun. All who knew him well shared his excitement, undimmed after a lifetime, as he chased after some rare antique he had a tip on. It wasn’t just his business, it was an adventure.

I’ll tell just one such tale. Once when Bonny and I stayed with him in Alexandria, when I came down for breakfast, he ordered me to get in his car. I’m cranky and mean if I haven’t had my morning coffee, but when Bill spoke in that magnificent, “This Is The Voice of Doom” tone that we all remember, resistance was futile. He drove me to a junkyard, where I was shown the derelict remains of a 1946 Jaguar sedan. It was horribly rotted, the radiator was missing, huge rats had lived in the interior and trunk. “There!” cried Bill. “Isn’t it gorgeous? Let’s buy it. We’ll make lots of money! You can restore it . . .” “WHOA! STOP!” I shouted. “If we make any deal, we have to agree that I never need to see this thing again.”

This was a problem. Living in a posh neighborhood, Bill already had two rusty, immobile old cars in his driveway; neighbors were already objecting. There was no room for a third. We both understood that no great profit could be made, no matter what. But that wasn’t the point. It could be an exciting joint venture, if only he could make some kind of creative deal.

He puzzled over the problem, then his face brightened. He went to talk with the yard owner, and returned triumphant. We were joint owners of the car! Two months’ free storage was included in the deal. My job was to resell it, his was to hold the junkyard man, who was already angry, to the terms we’d made. Since no identifying marks remained on the car, he didn’t know what it was, and was convinced that it was far more valuable than it really was.

I sold the car for a modest profit, Bill got it away from the junkyard

*when the buyer came for it, so we made a few bucks. For the effort we made, it wasn't a financial triumph. But what fun it always was! We traded paintings, jointly owned a 1940 LaSalle hearse. He bought a 1933 Alvis car from me, Bonny bought jewelry from him. He pleaded with me to share the purchase of an early merry-go-round and an ancient biplane. We helped him save fine silver from being melted down by buying some of it. We rushed to see if a rumor of a long-lost and valuable car collection was true (it wasn't). Whenever I saw Bill, I knew that some kind of adventure awaited me. His exuberance, his delight in the chase of exotic objects, was a joy. I'll miss him deeply.*

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**Paul Wilson** - September 07, 2014 at 09:43 AM

CH

“*William was one of my dearest friends and I can't believe that he is gone. He was very kind and generous. He was a business associate and a personal friend. I will miss him deeply. I always knew that William would be there if I needed him. Now I have that void to learn how to accept. Cheryl Fornash Hoffman.*

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**Cheryl Fornash Hoffman** - September 05, 2014 at 06:53 PM