

Lee Van Ruckman, Jr.

The Rev. Lee Van Ruckman, Jr. age 85, of Lexington, Virginia, died at his home on August 6, 2003.

He was born in 1918 in Fincastle, Virginia, the son of the Rev. Lee Van Ruckman, Sr., who was from Marvin Chapel, in Pocahontas County, and Clarice Atkinson Ruckman; he was the nephew of W. O. Ruckman.

Rev. Ruckman was ordained in 1943 after graduating from the Duke University Theological Seminary. He met his wife, Gwendolyn Louise Grow, of Lexington, Virginia, while studying at Duke. Rev. Ruckman and his wife, a schoolteacher, served at churches throughout Virginia in Albemarle County, Fairfax County, Emporia, Chatham, Hampton, Callao, Vienna, Crozet, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, and Portsmouth. His earlier education was as an English literature major at Emory and Henry College, and he wrote and published poetry throughout his ministry. Following his retirement, the Rev. Ruckman continued his ministry by organizing a Police Chaplains' program, serving at the request of the Bishop at the Collierstown Methodist Charge, filling in for local ministers. He also worked at the Harrison Funeral Home in Lexington.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Gwen; children, Karen Ruckman Pearce, of Washington, D.C. and Van Ruckman, of Williamsburg, Virginia; three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at the Harrison Funeral Chapel with Rev. William Thomas, Rev. Douglas Newman and Rev. Charles Carroll officiating. Burial followed in the Stonewall Jackson Cemetery.

Elizabeth Callison Sebert

Elizabeth Callison Sebert, age 93, a long-time resident of Greenbrier Manor, Lewisburg, died at the Manor April 18, 2003.

She was a member of the Lewisburg United Methodist Church.

Born at Hillsboro October 8, 1909, she was the daughter of the late Dr. Marvin E. Smith and Daisy Ruckman Smith, and was a bookkeeper for Peoples Store & Supply in Marlinton for many years.

She was preceded in death by two husbands, Elba Callison and William Keith Sebert; a son, Richard E. Callison; and two brothers, S. Glenn Smith and Joe Smith.

Surviving her are a son, Samuel B. Callison, of Arlington, Virginia, and a step-son, William K. Sebert, of Tucson, Arizona; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Wednesday morning at Van Reem's Funeral Home by Pastor Robert Mann. Burial was in Mountain View Cemetery.