



Willie French

December 9, 1910 - March 25, 2005

Willie Rex French Willie Rex French, 94, went to be with his Lord on March 25, 2005. He was born at Navarro Mills on Dec. 10, 1910, and lived there with his wife of 68 years, Christine Thummel French, where they were members of Navarro Mills Baptist Church. He attended his first worship service in a baby buggy shortly after the wood frame church was built in 1910. He was preceded in death by parents, Willie and Minnie Lee French; son, Neilan French; and grandson, Willie Neilan French. He is survived by his wife, Christine French of Navarro Mills; daughter-in-law, Ellene French of Corsicana; son, Charles and his wife Sandra of Mesquite; daughter, Carolyn and her husband Joe Sawyer of Mesquite; 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren; a niece, Naomi Lidderdale; and nephew, Aldon Crecelius. As a young adult he was a member of a string band where he played the violin. He continued to play at community functions for many years. He owned and operated a grocery store at Navarro Mills. When he closed that store, he went to work in Corsicana for Wooley and Payne Grocery and then retired from Slates Grocery. In lieu of flowers, memorial may be made to Navarro Mills Cemetery Association at First Bank and Trust, P.O. Box 159, Dawson, TX 76639. Visitation will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. today at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home. Services will be 2 p.m. Monday at Griffin-Roughton Chapel with Rev. Bob Reid of Oklahoma and Rev. Larry Ramsour of Oklahoma officiating. Interment will follow at Navarro Mills Cemetery. Pallbearers will be grandsons Jason Sawyer, Damon French, Derek French, Chad French and Eli

French. Honorary pallbearers will be Dean Melton, Bobby Wade, Jackie Thomas, Bill Ford and Jimmy Stewart. A memorial guest book is available at www.griffin-rougton.com. Click on obituaries and go to the name Willie Rex French to sign book and to submit memorial message. Arrangements by Griffin-Rougton Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Willie French*

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *Rex always played fair. When he and his dad were running the store, neither of them would tolerate any profanity or obscenity. I remember a sign there: Gentlemen will not, and others MUST not use profanity on these premises.*

So long, Rex. Our loss is Heaven's gain.

Dan Darden - March 25, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rex was about ten years older than I was, and I always looked up to him as a 'man of the world.' As a teenager, and later as a young adult, I could confide in him. He was indeed my friend, and there was no age gap. Not only was he my friend, he was the friend of all of the teenage boys in the community. Although it has been many years since I last saw him, I thought about him often. To the family I would say, "I know you will miss him, but be thankful you had someone like him for so many years."*

George Maurice Darden - March 25, 2005 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ I have known Rex for several years and we had coffee every day at WalMart that we were well enough to get there. I was in the hospital with him recently at Corsican before he was sent to Dallas. I was very upset over his passing and will miss him very much. We had many a good talks and discussed all the problems of the world and our families. I know he loved his family and wife very much. I will miss him and we are very sorry for your loss. I am not sure I will be able to make it to the funeral home as I can't get too far from my oxygen since I was in the hospital with him. Very sorry Harold & Dean Stouffe

Harold Stouffe - March 25, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ To the Family of Rex,

Christine, Charles, Carolyn and Ellene, my prayers are with you at this time. Continue to look to God for peace and comfort.

I can still remember as a very young girl where Mr. Will would come out of the church on Sunday and say to me, "smile so I can see your dimples". Your family has been an inspiration to me during my entire lifetime.

God be with you all.

Macel (Crawford) Whitfield - March 25, 2005 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Christine,

We were sorry to hear about Rex but we know he is in a better place. You will miss him so much. I will always remember you at church, in the grocery store and when I worked in Dermatology at the Clinic you were always together. He was a wonderful man and we will miss seeing you both together.

Take care of yourself and if you need us please call.

Don and Brenda

Don and Brenda Barron - March 25, 2005 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *I remember Granddaddy always calling me Sally. We were so glad that we were able to see him at Thanksgiving. We love you Gandmamma.*

Sarah Hollis - March 25, 2005 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *Eileen and Alice, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Christy and I both know God will give you strenght through this difficult time.*

Christine Howard - March 25, 2005 at 12:00 AM