



Spessard Stone

September 2, 1944 - September 15, 2011

Spessard Munselle Stone, 67, of Wauchula, died Sept. 15, 2011 at Florida Hospital in Sebring. Born at Clewiston on Sept. 2, 1944, he was a genealogist and historian and the author of "John and William, Sons of Robert Hendry" and "Hardee County: Its Heritage and People". He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Wauchula where he taught the Open Door Class.

"The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I kept the faith." -2 Timothy 4:6b-7 (KJV)

Spessard was preceded in death by his parents, Tracy H. Stone and Anne Hendry Stone, and nephew, Daniel Stone.

He is survived by his sister, Renee S. Schiele (Frank L. Jr.) of Valrico; two brothers, Hugh T. Stone (Rachel) of Tampa and Sherrick Stone (Delila) of Live Oak; three nieces, Teresa Roper of Apopka, Toni Peterson of Lithia, and Julie Stone of Zolfo Springs; and two nephews, Frank L. Schiele III of Valrico and Steven Stone of Magnolia, Texas.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday, Sept. 18th at 2:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Wauchula with Rev. Danielle Upton officiating.

Interment is in Bowling Green Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

“ Hello, Mr. Stone. Although it has been many years since you left everyone, I just tonight saw this when your name came to mind by accident. I thought I'd drop you a line.

My name is Phil Brewer. You don't know me, but you knew my wife, Melissa. Not too long after we built our first and only home on the western fringes of the Myakka City zip code, my wife decided to take up genealogy. She compiled all of her own research to create histories of her family and mine. She was interested in the history of Myakka City, too, it's connection to the long-since-forgotten turpentine industry, the railroad running through, and the history of its long-time residents (Hendrys, Gills, Cokers, et al). She took great care in her documentation. It was her favorite hobby, and through this undertaking she met you.

She told me many times about you when she was engaged in genealogy. We even took a drive together many years ago to show me where you lived, either in Arcadia or Wauchula, I can't remember which. She spoke very highly of you and your own work....all the time. I'm glad I'm able to get that on the record.

In everyones' life a little rain must fall. No one stays forever dry. My rain came on September 30 of last year, when Missy passed away under Hospice care at home. I made her two promises a long, long time ago - one she requested and one I made. She insisted on going ahead of me to spare her the grief, which to this day is soul-crushing, and I promised her she would be here, at home, when that time came. Both promises were kept.

I don't know if you were a believer in a life afterward; there are no means by which to empirically prove or disprove either belief. Faith is all anyone has to go on. To be honest with you, I've never been one to believe such. I've always tended to believe what I can see.

I guess I'm writing all this for selfish reasons....to pay tribute to you both. So in the event I'm wrong, I hope you two are having

wonderful and long conversations about genealogy.

And if you would....please tell Missy I said, "Hello Baby."

You can sign me,

An Eternally, Irrevocably Broken Heart

Phil Brewer - June 19, 2023 at 11:52 PM