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May 10, 2006

Geraldine 'Gerry' Miles Gardner

Geraldine "Gerry" Miles Gardner, 84, of Patterson passed away Tuesday morning, May 2, 2006, at her residence following a short illness.

Born February 6, 1922 in Thomas County near Pavo, the youngest daughter of George W. and Ada Mae Branch Miles, she moved with her family at an early age to Blackshear where her father was engaged in the turpentine business.

She attended Blackshear Elementary School and graduated from Blackshear High School in 1938. After graduation, she attended college at Valdosta State for five quarters before transferring to Georgia Southern Teacher's College in Statesboro to qualify for a teaching position. At that time six quarters were sufficient to teach school in Pierce County. She taught one year at Satilla Grammar School and one year at Alabaha Grammar School before going to Washington, D.C. to work for the F. B. I. during World War II. She returned home in the summer of 1946 and entered the University of Georgia graduating in the spring of 1948 with a degree in Home Economics. Along with her degree, she received a transfusion of red and black corpuscles that she never lost. She saw to it that each of her family members received a similar transfusion. She accepted a teaching position at Patterson High School in the fall of 1948.

During her first year in Patterson she met and married Joseph W. Gardner. They were married at 4 p.m. June 30, 1949 at the Blackshear First Baptist Church by the Rev. Lester Dixon and made their home in Patterson for 57 years. She continued to teach home economics in high school in Patterson and Blackshear, first grade in Patterson, Fourth District in Appling County, Southwood School in Waycross, and Screven Elementary School in Screven. She retired in June 1985 because of ill health. She and her husband have been members of the Patterson Baptist Church since May of 1959 serving in church and Sunday school work.

In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by a sister, Lucille Miles Bowen; both of her brothers, Earl Miles and Johnny Miles; a grandson, Scott Alan Gardner, and her son-n-law, John Cordell.

Survivors include her husband, Joseph W. Gardner, Patterson; three children, Linda Leah Gardner Cordell, St. Simons Island, Gerald Warren Gardner and wife, Missy, and Joseph Eric Gardner and wife, Annette, all of Patterson; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild, all of which she was very proud; two sisters, Waunell Miles Strickland, Mershon and Bertie Belle Miles, Blackshear and several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 6, from the Patterson Baptist Church. Interment followed in the Patterson Cemetery. Members of the Joy Sunday School Class and the Ladies of Patterson Baptist Church served as honorary pallbearers.

Memorials may be made to the Patterson Baptist Church, 5770 E. Main Street, Patterson, GA 31557; Southeast Cancer Unit, PO Box 2764, Waycross, GA 31502 or to the Hospice Satilla, 1921 Alice Street, Suite A-1, Waycross, GA 31501. Sympathy may be expressed by signing the online register at www.pearson-treadwell.com. Pearson-Treadwell Funeral Home of Blackshear was in charge of arrangements.