



## Mary Erskine

February 2, 1921 - November 20, 2019

Mary was born to Mary (Gerrels) and Ado Wessels on February 2, 1921 in Cherokee, Oklahoma, and was the fifth of eight children. She peacefully departed this life on November 20, 2019, at the age of 98 years, 9 months and 18 days.

She attended the Locust Grove District 45 Primary School and graduated from Cherokee High School with the class of 1938. Upon her graduation, she attended Northwestern State College to study business administration. It was during her years at Northwestern that she met her husband, Jack Leon Erskine.

Jack and Mary were married on August 6, 1940 and made their home in Alva for more than 60 years before relocating to Lake Jackson, Texas to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Mary was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Alva for 75 years and was a person of deep Christian faith. She was active member and an Elder of her church, having held all offices in Presbyterian Woman, directed children's Sunday School and choirs as well as being a member of the Chancel Choir for 60 years. Mary also served as the church secretary for more than 20 years.

When Mary was not raising her family or helping her church, she could often be found doing various art projects, or more likely, at a research table working on genealogy. Mary was an avid genealogist and was at the forefront of the area's Genealogical Society events and projects as a charter member of the Alva Centennial Commission from 1973-1993 and the Cherokee Strip

Volunteer League. During this time Mary helped research, author and publish numerous genealogy books. She also organized and was the Journal Editor for the Woods County Genealogist for 17 years. Mary, along with her friend, Mildred Hager, published Woods county Territory Days 1803-1907 for which she was honored with the 1972 Distinguished Service Award by the Oklahoma Heritage Association.

As successful as Mary's professional life was, family was paramount in her life and she looked upon them as her greatest treasures and accomplishments. She was preceded in death by her parents, her seven siblings, her husband, Jack Leon Erskine and her granddaughter Leslie Erskine Huye, PhD. Mary is survived by her two devoted sons, James Spencer Erskine and John K. Erskine and wife, Pat (Morehart) Erskine of Lake Jackson, TX, granddaughter Marsha Lyn Erskine of The Woodlands, TX, Steven Joseph Huye, and great-grandchildren Joshua Scott Huye and Lauren Michelle Huye all of Missouri City, TX.

In lieu of flowers, Mary requested  
that memorials be made to  
The Alva First Presbyterian Church or the Alva Public Library.  
Through Wharton Funeral Chapel  
1302 Oklahoma Blvd.  
Alva, OK 73717  
580-327-1234

# Cemetery Details

## Cherokee Municipal Cemetery

Cherokee Municipal Cemetery, OK 73728

# Previous Events

## Family Visitation

NOV **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wharton Funeral Chapel, LLC.  
1302 W. Oklahoma Boulevard  
Alva, OK 73717

## Graveside

NOV **26**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Cherokee Municipal Cemetery  
Cherokee, OK 73728

## Memorial Service

NOV **26**. 11:30 AM (CT)

Alva First Presbyterian Church  
628 Church Street  
Alva, OK 73717

# Tribute Wall

JB

“*Mary was a joy to visit. I loved her stories about growing up on a farm & how generous her mom was during the depression w/ so many out of work. Mary always welcomed visits even if we interrupted her sewing, she would stop & chat. May her family have God's peace & comfort.*

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**Jan Baldwin** - November 25, 2019 at 04:40 PM

DC

“*I remember Mrs. Erskine from my growing up years in the Alva Presbyterian Church as she was in the choir with my mom, dad and grandmother. I also remember visiting with her when she was working on the bulletin and sometimes I got to watch her print them off. She was such a wonderful lady and was a joy to be around and know. I am sure that she touched a lot of lives and left a lot of memories, I know she did with me and my dad.*



*Donise Sterba*

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**Donise Cinnamon** - November 25, 2019 at 01:12 PM

AT

“*It was such a joy to have known sweet Mary for the years that she was in Lake Jackson. How she loved to have her family near. The community of Covenant Evangelical Presbyterian shares in your grief, but celebrates Mary's life and faith. Sorrow may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.*  
*Alan Trafford.*

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**Alan Trafford** - November 25, 2019 at 08:29 AM



“ *John & Jack I'm so sorry for your loss. I knew your mother from church as we were both in the church choir. I also remember seeing the framed Erskine family geneology tree at her home in Alva. May God hold you close and comfort you during this difficult time.*  
*Kathy Walters.*



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**Kathryn Racette** - November 24, 2019 at 08:36 AM

JG

“ *What a wonderful woman heaven has gained.. full of love and life was Mary. I bet she is searching for long lost relatives up there and she will be welcome with open arms. God bless her family.....and church family.*

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**Jane Gaskill** - November 22, 2019 at 05:52 PM