



Frances Ann Donelson

May 12, 1951 - November 22, 2022

Frances Ann Donelson, 71, of Fort Gibson, Oklahoma passed away on Tuesday, November 22, 2022. She was born on May 12, 1951 in Muskogee, Oklahoma to Watie and Nellie (Wildcat) Donelson. She graduated from Braggs High School as the valedictorian. Frances obtained her bachelor's degree from Northeastern State University and later her master's degree in library science at the University of Oklahoma.

She worked at Chilocco Indian School from June of 1978 - May of 1980 then at Taft School from 1980 -1981 as a librarian. Frances then moved on to Bacone College, where she was a librarian for 38 years, retiring in 2018. She loved sewing especially Native American or Cherokee Clothing. She also loved fabric arts and crafts, reading, watching classic TV series and game shows. Frances was a faithful member of House of Prayer Free Will Baptist Church in Gore, Oklahoma.

She loved her family very much and enjoyed spending as much time as possible with them. Frances will be missed by everyone who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Watie and Nellie Donelson; nephew, James Joel Anthony; and niece, Jennifer Chubick.

Frances is survived by her sisters, Billie Anthony and husband James, Peggy Donelson, Linda Donelson, Betty Donelson, Mary Richerson and Connie Donelson; brother, Randy Donelson and wife Janet; niece, Tressa Lou Riley; nephews Adam Richerson, Patrick Richerson, Drew Donelson and Randy

Donelson, Jr.; and many other family members and friends.

A celebration of Frances' life will be 2PM, Monday, November 28, 2022 at Cornerstone Funeral Home Chapel with Missionary, Jim Riley officiating.

Interment will be at a later date.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **26**. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Visitation

NOV **27**. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Family Visitation

NOV **27**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Service

NOV **28**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home Chapel
1830 N. York St.
Muskogee, OK 74403

Tribute Wall



“ *My condolences to her family, friends and former colleagues. Frances and I got to know each other in the 1990s when I lived in the area for 2 years researching Bacone’s history. We became closer after many years on FB. What a talented seamstress and creator. What dedication to Native education and Bacone! Frances, I will miss you.*

Lisa Neuman - May 11 at 03:13 PM



“ *We are just finding out about Frances passing. She was regarded fondly as our auntie. We have beautiful shirts, skirts, dresses, hunting jackets and turbans made by Frances that we will forever value. We missed her when she became unable to continue with her craft. Our sincere condolences family.*

Joyce & Woody Hansen - January 07, 2024 at 08:27 PM



“ *Frances Ann Donelson*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM

TE

“ I am so saddened to hear about Frances's death. Unfortunately no one shared that information with me. She was a friend for nearly 15 years and was a walking history book of Bacone College. Anyone who had a question about Bacone history, Frances was the one to ask. She and I worked together on building the Native American Research Library at Bacone, and I donated books that she didn't have. She was also incredibly helpful with important information while I was researching my biographies about Acee Blue Eagle and Ataloa McLendon, two important figures in the development of the Ataloa Lodge Museum and American Indian art at Bacone. We would often have lunch when I was in Muskogee, or when she came to Oklahoma City. She and I had discussed Samuel Murrow and Patrick Hurley last Fall, and she knew their whole life history right off the top of her head. Her knowledge about the people and the history of Bacone was invaluable.

Rest in peace Frances and know that your presence is greatly missed and that you were an incredible person. I will miss you and our long conversations about history.

Your friend
Tamara Elder

Tamara Elder - September 27, 2023 at 05:49 PM

TE

“ Tamara Elder lit a candle in memory of Frances Donelson



Tamara Elder - September 27, 2023 at 05:46 PM

DE

“ I am very saddened to hear this and sorry i learned of it so late. I am a descendant of Almon Bacone and when I visited the Bacone campus, I met Frances. She showed me much of my family history that was there. We stayed in touch after that. It had been a long time since I heard from her and I wondered how she was. She was a good friend.

Dorothy (Bacone) Evenhouse - December 23, 2022 at 12:12 AM

DY

“ To my Donelson family I want to express my sincere condolences to all of you. After receiving the call from Connie I found myself reminiscing about grandma and grandma Lily ,me and Butch to Braggs. Uncle Dop always teasing me with that lil grin of his aunt Nellie telling him to stop that! Us all playing together and all that great food. Memories of family and love. Family I am praying for Gods love to give you peace and strength at the loss of our Francis. Know that as I am unable to attend the service I will be thinking and praying for you all and know I love you all.
Dianne London-Young

Dianne Young - November 26, 2022 at 11:32 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Frances Ann Donelson.



November 26, 2022 at 07:30 AM



“ 51 files added to the album Life Tributes



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - November 25, 2022 at 03:17 PM

FB

“ To the Donelson family ~~

On behalf of the Braggs History Project, please allow me to express our deepest sympathies.

Frances was a highly educated and professional librarian, historian and researcher -- but she signed on us anyway!

Since 2011, she had served as a board member, and then vice-president, of the Braggs History Project

She brought her deep love and knowledge of Braggs Cherokee history and families to all the pieces she wrote and contributed to in our Braggs books. Her latest one, on the Wildcat family, is in our newest book.

Frances made our books, projects -- and us -- better for her having been a member. She will be greatly missed.

With our sincerest condolences ~~

*Fran Barker
for the Braggs History Project*

Fran Barker - November 25, 2022 at 02:21 PM