



## **Margaret Moore Meador**

**August 20, 1924 – November 2, 2012**

(From Beckley Register Herald via Findagrave.com)

Margaret Moore Meador, a longtime resident of Mercer County, West Virginia, died at the age of 88 on November 2nd 2012 at a personal care facility in Asheville, North Carolina. She had been in declining health for many years.

Margaret was a life-long educator for over fifty years. She was first a public school teacher in rural West Virginia. This passion for educating others culminated in her achieving the rank of tenured West Virginia University professor with national recognition. Mrs. Meador was born Margaret Alice Moore in Gauley Bridge, Fayette County, WV on August 20, 1924 to parents Virgil Everett Moore and Lora Greer Moore. Her father was an employee of the C&O railroad and her mother a housewife. She attended public school in Fayette County and graduated in 1941, at the age of 16, from Hinton High School in Summers County, WV. She was able to attend college at the West Virginia Institute of Technology in Montgomery, WV by commuting daily 1 ½ hours each way by train from Hinton to Montgomery. She graduated from West Virginia Tech in 1945 as class valedictorian.

Following graduation from college, Margaret taught briefly prior to her marriage on April 5, 1947 to Robert Price "Bob" Meador of Hinton, WV. Following their marriage, the young couple resided for a time in Montgomery while Bob completed his degree at West Virginia Tech. After his graduation, they moved briefly to Columbus Ohio and then relocated to Mercer County, WV where Bob found employment with the postal service. The couple settled in the Glenwood community, where they raised their three children. Mrs. Meador returned to teaching in 1953 and taught science and home economics in Tazewell County, Virginia and Mercer County, WV prior to her employment in 1963 with the West Virginia University Extension Service as the Home Economics Agent for Mercer County. As an extension agent, Margaret utilized a wide variety of teaching approaches. These included newsletters, public demonstrations and frequent appearances on local television and radio stations. For 25 years she wrote a weekly column for the Bluefield Daily Telegraph entitled "The Mountaineer Homemaker" in which she provided home making hints and recipes. By utilizing public broadcasting and newspapers Margaret was able to provide educational information to the citizens of Southern West Virginia and southwestern Virginia for 25 years. In 1975, she achieved national recognition when she collaborated with three other Extension Home Economists to write the television series "Food Preservation". Margaret was selected to appear in each of the 10 ½ hour segments in which she demonstrated safe and effective techniques for the canning, freezing and drying of fruits, vegetables and meats. This series of programs was shown nationally for several years on Public Television. As an extension agent, Mrs. Meador created and maintained a large number of educational homemaker clubs in the various communities of Mercer County and was successful in recruiting many hundreds of women who participated in these groups. For over twenty five years she was busy visiting these clubs coordinating educational programs. In 1969 Margaret furthered her own education and received a Master's degree in Extension Education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia. During her years as an extension agent, she served as vice-president of the National Extension Home Economics Association and was their representative to the board of directors of the National Journal of Extension. She received many state and national awards in recognition of her excellence as an extension educator. Although Margaret retired from the West Virginia University Extension Service in 1989 with the rank of tenured professor she continued as an educator in retirement. She had long held

an interest in sewing and quilting and she expanded this interest by becoming a nationally certified quilt judge and quilt appraiser. She frequently taught classes in quilting in southern West Virginia and in 1990 she was instrumental in organizing and coordinating the West Virginia Heritage Quilt Search, which documented information about more than 4,000 quilts made in the state before 1940. This large project was conducted over a 10 year period and created an opportunity for quilt owners to bring quilts to designated sites in West Virginia to have their quilts professionally photographed and then to record information about the quilt patterns and makers. The data gleaned from this important project was donated to the West Virginia State Archives. This project required corporate and public sponsorship and the recruitment of 100's of volunteers and Mrs. Meador was in the center of this coordinated effort. The culmination of the West Virginia Heritage Quilt Search was the publication of the book "West Virginia Quilts and Quilt Makers" authored by Fawn Valentine. This book documented in color 159 of the most interesting quilts and included photographs of the quilt makers and a history of the quilts. Mrs. Meador was instrumental in obtaining funding for the publication of this work through the West Virginia Humanities Council and she wrote the preface for the book detailing the history of the West Virginia Heritage Quilt Search Project. Mrs. Meador's retirement was very busy. She wrote articles that appeared in Goldenseal, West Virginia's magazine of culture and history. She volunteered as a tutor with the Mercer County Literacy Council where she taught adults how to read. She also found time to travel and to relax with her family and friends. She loved reading, crossword puzzles, gardening, playing the game Scrabble, and feeding her flock of wild birds in her backyard. In her "spare time" she was continuously sewing and quilting. For over 50 years Margaret was an active member of the Carr Memorial United Methodist Church in the Glenwood community, where she taught an adult Sunday school class and served on the church's Council on Ministries and Administrative Board. She daily lived the principles of her faith.

Mrs. Meador was preceded in death by her husband Bob who died in 2003. She is survived by her two brothers Lt. Col Virgil Moore of Winchester, VA and Dr. Ernest Moore of Richlands, VA. She is also survived by her three children: James Meador and his wife Patricia Bingham Meador of Plant City, FL, Dr. Michael Meador of Asheville, NC and Lora Meador Cecere Hypes of Bluefield, WV and

Baltimore, MD. In addition, she is survived by her five grandchildren: Anna Meador Barbieri of Elon, NC; Air force Master Sergeant William Meador of Aberdeen, NC; John Meador and James Meador both of Asheville NC and Megan Cecere Lynn of Baltimore, MD. She is also survived by 4 great-grandchildren.

She was affectionately known as "Peggy" to her family and many friends. She will be greatly missed by those who knew her and who were touched by her exceptionally productive life that was well lived.

Funeral Services will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, November 10th, from the Burns Wornal Chapel of the Memorial Funeral Home in Princeton, WV with Pastor Ken Price officiating with burial in the Roselawn Memorial Gardens on Courthouse Road, Princeton. The family will receive visitors at the Funeral Home Friday evening, November 9th, from 6 to 8 PM. Grandchildren and other family will serve as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in her memory to the Carr Memorial United Methodist Church, Glenwood or to the Audubon Society. The Memorial Funeral Directory and Cremation Center on the Athens Road is serving the Meador family.