

Dr. William Calvin Dickinson III Obt.

b. 30 March 1938, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA – d. 30 August 2021, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 12th of September 1960, Fort Worth, TX to **Charlene Dixon (White) Dickinson**, b. 30 March 1938, Fort Worth, Tarrant Co., TX – d. 30 April 2021, Nashville, Davidson Co., TN, d/o **Charles Bruce White** (1911-1968) & **Bertha Long** (1902-1994), William Calvin Dickinson III, s/o **William Calvin Dickinson Jr.** (1907-1990) & **Evelyn Cleavie Parker** (1910-2001), both buried in Pine Crest Cemetery, Atlanta, Cass Co., TX.

*See Charlene Dixon (White) Dickinson Obt.

William Calvin Dickinson III passed away on August 30, 2021 at his home in Cookeville. He was born March 30, 1938 in Shreveport, Louisiana though he grew up in Texas.

He received his undergraduate degree with majors in history, religion, and philosophy and his master's degree in history from Baylor University and his Ph.D. in British History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He taught at Chowan College in North Carolina for several years before moving to Cookeville to teach history at Tennessee Tech, receiving numerous awards for his teaching and research. Spending time on researching the books and articles brought much joy to him, as he did love history. The numerous books he wrote largely had to do with Tennessee. He enjoyed architecture and art and traveling to Europe with friends and family.



He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Cookeville and sang in the choir for many years. Additionally, he was a dedicated member of the Rotary Club of Cookeville. He and his wife Charlene often had dinner parties for friends, with Charlene cooking up some tasty dishes day before in preparation.

He is survived by his brother: George E. (Phyllis O.) Dickinson from Charleston, South Carolina and their two children: Cynthia S. Dickinson (William C. Garrison, husband) and daughters Lucy Marie and Rose Charlene Garrison from Pittsfield, Massachusetts and Daniel P. Dickinson (Roxane V. Pickens, wife) and sons Maxwell Calvin and Isaac George Dickinson from Coral Gables, Florida.

He was preceded in death by his wife: Charlene White Dickinson and his parents: William Calvin Dickinson and Evelyn Parker Dickinson. Calvin and Charlene would have been married 60 years on September 8.

A graveside service was held Saturday, September 4, 2021 at Crest Lawn Cemetery with Dr. Kevin Conrad officiating. A celebration of Dr. Dickinson's life will be held at a later date.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 2 September 2021

Charlene Dixon (White) Dickinson Obt.

b. 30 March 1938, Fort Worth, Tarrant Co., TX – d. 30 April 2021, Nashville, Davidson Co., TN, md on the 12th of September 1960 to **William Calvin Dickinson III**, b. 30 March 1938, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, LA – d. 30 August 2021, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN. Charlene Dixon (White) Dickinson, d/o **Charles Bruce White** (1911-1968) & **Bertha Long** (1902-1994), both buried in Shannon Rose Hill Memorial Park, Fort Worth, Tarrant Co., TX.

*See William Calvin Dickinson III Obt.

Funeral services for Mrs. Charlene Dickinson were held Thursday, May 6, 2021 at Cookeville First United Methodist Church with Rev. Rob Wheeler officiating. Interment followed at Crest Lawn Cemetery.



Born to Charles and Bertha White in Fort Worth, Texas in 1938, Charlene Dixon White was their firstborn child. She married William Calvin Dickinson on September 12, 1960. She was very fond of her brother and sister-in-law George and Phyllis Dickinson, and their children Daniel and Cindy Dickinson. Daniel later married his wife Roxanne, who gave birth to two boys Maxwell and Isaac. Cindy married Will

Garrison and they have two daughters Lucy and Rose. Charlene's brother Tommy and her parents preceded her in death. Charlene Dickinson departed this life on April 30, 2021.

Calvin and Charlene met at Baylor University, fell in love and married. She graduated in 1960 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and continued her education with a Master's degree in Social Work. Calvin and Charlene relocated to Murfreesboro, North Carolina in 1962 where Calvin began teaching History. While completing her Master's degree, Charlene served as a social worker in the Tarheel State. In 1971, after Calvin completed his Ph.D. at UNC Chapel Hill, the Dickinson's moved to Cookeville where he accepted a tenure track position at Tennessee Tech. Charlene briefly taught introductory classes in Sociology.

After two years at Tech, she resigned her position to pursue her love of cooking via the culinary arts. She owned and operated two restaurants and a highly successful catering service. Her first establishment was the Backdoor Restaurant. The next was The Cellar with its accompanying watering hole, The Vault. Her catering career provided food for numerous weddings, receptions, special occasions, fund-raisers and many more events for over thirty years.

During their adult lives, Charlene and Calvin cultivated a multitude of close friends and acquaintances who shared their love of world travel, fine food, and exploring cultural experiences new to them. They cherished those adventures and created special life-long memories. They made annual pilgrimages to Charleston, South Carolina, Miami, Florida, and Maine to celebrate Christmas with the family.

Charlene was an avid reader and an active writer. She appreciated the written word, and was rightfully proud of an essay she published about the lives of animals. Her hobbies included gardening both vegetables and flowers; decorating- both formal and informal; and entertaining guests in her home. Charlene was a legendary and fabulous hostess.

Charlene and Calvin attended the First United Methodist Church regularly. She relished singing in the choir and was honored to be an occasional soloist. A philanthropist, Charlene routinely volunteered her time to assist at the Methodist Church's Food pantry. An active member of numerous clubs, Charlene enjoyed participating in Town and Gown, the Cookeville's Readers Club and the Cookeville Gardening Club.

A devoted animal lover Charlene dedicated untold hours to improving the welfare of her four-footed friends. She enthusiastically supported the Putnam County Animal Shelter. Beginning in 2005 Charlene supported an annual "Hat Party," on the same day as the Kentucky Derby. She used the event to raise funds for the shelter. Because of her efforts, organizers of the "Fur Ball" showed their appreciation by giving her the "The Golden Bone Award," in 2020.

Her graciousness, love of life and infectious laugh will be sorely missed.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 4 May 2021

*See Cumberland Tales & Schoolyard Tales at: ajlambert@yahoo.com