



Wayne Weaver Hitt

Sept. 30, 1935 - July 18, 2025

Wayne Weaver Hitt, 89, of Morganton, NC passed away on Friday, July 18, 2025 peacefully following a rapid decline in health. He was born in Nash County, NC on September 30, 1935 to the late Wayne Wade Hitt and Buna Agnes Rollins Hitt. Wayne was the owner/operator of The Camera Center for more than twenty-seven years with it closing in January of 2000. In his younger years, he enjoyed boating and water skiing. Wayne was an official certified Mayflower descendent who loved old movies, to read, travel, and capture and share the beauty and stories from his camera. After retiring, he volunteered at the History Museum of Burke County for many years. Wayne enjoyed sharing his knowledge of the history of Burke County and the building of Lake James.

Throughout his life, he was active in the community in front and behind the scenes, donating very generously of his time and monetary gifts towards his passions: three of which were the History Museum of Burke County, The Burke County Library archives, and South Mountain Childrens Home. He loved to travel abroad, having visited nineteen different countries and took over thousands of pictures to share with family and friends.

Wayne is survived by numerous close and extended cousins in Burke and Cleveland counties, Georgia and beyond.

He will be entombed alongside his parents at Burke Memorial Park Mausoleum. A simple service will be at 2pm. on Saturday, July 26, 2025 in the Colonial Chapel of Sossoman Funeral Home.

at 2pm, on Saturday, July 10, 2020 in the Colonial Chapel of Sossoman Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, and because of Wayne's love for history, memorial contributions may be made to either the History Museum of Burke County, PO Box 416, Morganton, NC 28680 or Preservation North Carolina, PO Box 27644, Raleigh, NC 27611-7644 or the Ava Gardner Museum, 325 E. Market St., Smithfield, NC 27577.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

I WAS SORRY TO HERE OFMR WAYNE PASSING YOU HAVE YOU HAVE MOVED
TO A BETTER PLACE REST MR WAYNE NO MORE PAIN

—MARSHA KILLIAN

With so many cousins spread out, Wayne Weaver was the chain that kept in contact and linked all the cousins together best he could. He was great to share fun stories, milestones, and updates. He liked to be asked questions about growing up with many Aunt's, Uncles, Cousins, and a Grandmother with 9 children who ran a tight ship with an iron fist. Like Aunt Buna and Uncle Wayne he was proud of his family heritage. When he told me his Aunt Ola Hitt in SC turned 103 I thought he might live to be 103. He never slowed down always staying active, traveling, and giving quietly without recognition to so many organizations. He wanted to see that the history of Morganton and Burke County stayed a-lived even after his passing. He didn't give to be noticed he gave with a cheerful heart so others could hear, learn, and appreciate history. He was quiet, observant, yet spoke volumes with his pictures, love for family and history. Wayne Weaver might appeared complex but he was a good man who appreciated simplicity. He was ready to leave this world, feel better, and celebrate. RIP Wayne Weaver "Plu "

—Ann

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Wayne Hitt, talented photographer and friend, has been known by many for his years of service to the Burke Community as owner of the Camera Center in Morganton, for his friendship through the years, for his dry wit and his skills as a raconteur of history or the day's events, for his Christmas cards featuring a stunning photograph from his travels that year, and for the hundreds of hours he invested in the work of the History Museum of Burke County. He will be missed – and remembered.

—Maxine McCall

I will forever have fond memories of Wayne! He was a very patient boat driver for all of us crazy Rollins cousins at Lake James. I am grateful for all of his volunteered hours! He was our family historian and photographer. I have many Rollins family photos in which we displayed at our own lake house where i became the “boat driver” and thought of him each time i had to keep a crowd safe!! He will be missed!

—Ann

–Patti Moser

May you SIHP Wayne. I appreciate your service through the years at the "Camera Center". Deepest condolences to all who knew and loved you.



I will always remember uncle Wayne and his passion for photography. He always made it to the Rollins Christmas party where he would have everyone a copy of the previous years party and would line everyone up for the present party picture. There are a lot of memories in the pictures he took and everyone was thankful for his time and generosity towards the Rollins family.

–Keith Rollins



Definitely an unforgettable Cousin! I will miss our phone calls but I am blessed to have visited with you in August. Great memories. May you be rejoicing with all the family gone before. RIP Prayers to all the family and friends .

–Beth Cannon

Thank you Wayne Weaver for documenting life through the lens of a true photographer. It was always a good experience talking with someone so articulate & good natured. We will miss you, your sense of levity, and your insights. - Will Alexander

–Will Alexander

Wayne will be well remembered in our Morganton High School Class of 1953 . He was quiet and very Knowledgeable.

–Reba P Reece

Wayne was a wonderful man. A great storyteller, a lover of the arts, of history, and a supporter of the neediest among



us. He will be missed at the History Museum- and by those who knew and loved him. Rest in peace.

Morganton and Burke County has lost one of their most knowledgeable historians. I've spent many hours volunteering with Wayne at the History Museum of Burke County. He was eager to share his knowledge of the area with us volunteers and our many visitors. He also shared some hilarious stories of growing up here and some the characters he encountered over the years. He will be missed immensely. May he rest in peace.

—Terry Smith

Wayne did so much to see that the history of Burke County is preserved and interpreted. He shared his substantial knowledge about Burke County with countless individuals through History Museum guided tours, individual and small group conversations, photography, and more. He was always willing to help others record history as it happened and lent his photography skills to Historic Burke Foundation numerous times, documenting living history events at the Charles McDowell House and commemorative crossings of the Catawba River. It would be interesting to know how many hours he invested in the History Museum, including the old Train Depot, the museum proper, checking mail at the post office, meeting with folks from the Carolina Room at the Burke County Public Library and on and on. He worked five days a week as volunteer Assistant Curator of the History Museum for many years. His time at the History Museum comprised a second career after he closed his camera shop. I am one of the people who benefited from his tutelage and enjoyed his company. He gave generously of his time, skills, and money. He leaves a substantial void and will be greatly missed.

—Linda Lindsey

Wayne was a kind and patient man. He endured many of my visits to his store when I was a young man.

—Tom Fuldner



Our condolences to family and friends for the loss of Wayne. He was always an interesting and sweet person to talk to when he came to the cleaners weekly. Rest in peace. The staff at Valdese Cleaners

—Amy Crotts

Wayne Weaver helped to make wonderful memories for all of our families! He was so kind to take us water skiing all day long for many summers at lake James. Christmas won't be the same without him to take our group picture at the Rollins get together.

—Tammy Spake

We have known Wayne for a long time, as he was one of the Morganton luminaries and always had a good word for those he met and got to know. He will definitely be missed by all who met and got to know him.

—Chrisand LucilleHartmann

Wayne weaver was a cousin and friend. Always enjoyed being with him when during times at Easter and special events. Always sharing his time with me. Always looked forward to having him be with family for Thanksgiving... will miss him!

—Idys—cousin

Morganton has lost one of its most knowledgeable historians. Wayne was a great mind. He had a wealth of knowledge about Morganton and Burke County history. I've spent many hours volunteering with him at the History Museum of Burke County. He was eager to share his knowledge with all of us volunteers and our visitors. I was amazed at his knowledge of Broadway and Hollywood musicals, movies and actors. He shared many hilarious stories of growing up in Morganton and the characters he encountered over the years at his photography business. He lived his life on his terms right up until the end. I am so glad I had the privilege to get to know him. I will miss him, but in the words of Walt Disney, "Don't be sad it's over, be glad it happened".

—Terry Smith



I am so going to miss my friend Wayne. We worked together at the History Museum. He would be the first to tell you he led a full life with very few bumps in the road. He was generous, knowledgeable, had a soft spot for children whose lives were touched by distress. That is not to say he wasn't sometimes gruff, abrupt, and opinionated, for he was at times, but it could be forgiven, for it could not disguise his true character as mentioned above. Good Bye.

—Michele Fugate

A humble, quiet man who gave generously of his time and assets to nonprofits in our community! Always looked forward to our chats on Friday afternoons as a Docet at the Burke County History Museum as Wayne provided leadership in its development!

—Ed Hardin