

Verland J. Beckham

Verland J. Beckham, 74, of Newton, died Monday, Dec. 7, 2009, at his home in rural Newton of natural causes.

65 H-R 12-10-09
A funeral service was held at 1:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 11, at the Wallace Family Funeral Home, with the Rev. Roger Russell officiating. The family greeted friends at the funeral home prior to the service. Burial will be in Wittemberg Cemetery in rural Newton. Memorials may be made to the Wittemberg Cemetery or Wittemberg Church and may be left at the funeral home.

He was born Jan. 8, 1935, in Newton to James and Dorothy Granquist Beckham. He lived most of his life in Newton and rural Newton, but had also lived in Grinnell for a couple of years.

He was married to Pat Doak on June 6, 1954, at the First United Methodist Church in Newton. Verland graduated from Newton High School in 1953 and attended Drake University.

He was a masonry contractor owning and operating Beckham Masonry, Inc. from 1964 until he retired in 1997. He attended the Wittemberg Church. He was a member of the Jasper County Contractors Association, Jasper County Museum and Genealogical Society. He was also on the Jasper County Cemetery Commission and was the sexton of the Wittemberg Cemetery.

He enjoyed restoring antique cars and took pride in his house, yard, and shop. Verland also did genealogical work and after he retired he restored tombstones at several cemeteries.

He is survived by his wife, Pat Beckham of Newton; two sons, Robert Beckham of Baxter and David Beckham of Newton; four grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; his half-brother Glenn J. Woody of Newton; his half-sister Tootie Slycord of Newton; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; half-brother, Franklin Beckham; and two half-sisters, Elizabeth Robertson and Shirley Dop.