



# John William Gant

March 29, 1919 - January 6, 2018

Mr. John William Gant, age 98, of Pisgah, Alabama, passed away on Saturday, January 6, 2018 at Highlands Medical Center, Scottsboro, Alabama.

Born March 29, 1919, in Pisgah, John accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior as a teenager. As a member of the Pisgah Baptist Church, he served in numerous capacities, including as trustee, chairman of the 1967 building committee and member of the pastor search, finance, and building and grounds committees. John was one of 14 members of the Young Men's Sunday School Class who committed to pay the salary of the first full-time pastor of the church. He also served as a member of the Alabama Baptist State Executive Board and as treasurer, chairman of the audit committee and trustee of the Sand Mountain Baptist Association.

During World War II, John served in squadron operations with the 9th Air Force at bases in England, France and Belgium. After being honorably discharged on December 9, 1945, he enrolled at the University of Alabama in March 1946 and graduated in March 1948 with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce and Business Administration with major in accounting. After initially practicing with an accounting firm in Birmingham, John opened his own accounting practice in Scottsboro on January 1, 1950. He became the second Certified Public Accountant in North Alabama in 1952 when the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy issued certificate no. 239 to him. John's firm expanded to include offices in Ft. Payne and Albertville, and, at the time of his retirement in 1981 and now, is known as Gant Croft & Associates, P. C.

John was a charter member of the Pisgah Civitan Club, in which he served in all elected offices, and a two-term Lt. Governor and chairman of finance of Alabama District North, Civitan International. He was honored as a Fellow of Civitan International. John was instrumental in recruiting to Pisgah the Dover Mills textile manufacturing plant which had a very positive effect on the growth and development of the community.

John's hobbies included flyfishing, quail hunting, shuffleboard and genealogy.

John is survived by: 3 Children: John William Gant, Jr. and wife, Schuyler, of Birmingham, Kathryn Virginia Gant Griffith and husband, Dwight, of Pisgah, David Granville Gant and wife, Kristi, of Pisgah; 1 Sister: Bettye Grace Gant Scott of Birmingham, and formerly of Venice, Florida; Grandchildren: John William Gant III, Harrison Lee Gant, Ryan David Griffith and wife, Victoria, Andrew Kyle Griffith and wife, Malorie, Meagan Kathryn Griffith Hale and husband, Matt, Matthew David Gant and wife, Jessica, Kala Sharea Matthews and fiancé, Adam, Zackery Keith Matthews and fiancé, Samantha, Heather Gant Roberts and husband, Koty; and 7 Great Grandchildren. He is preceded in death by: Wife: Virginia White Gant; Parents: William Granville Gant and Lillie Pearl Wheeler Gant; Wife's Parents: William Frazer White and Cornelia Dell Cox White.

The funeral service is Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Pisgah Baptist Church with Bro. Tommy Turner officiating. Burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery. The family will receive friends at Pisgah Baptist Church on Wednesday from 12:00 noon until the funeral service. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial gifts to the Pisgah Baptist Church, P. O. Box 10, 2259 Co Rd 58, Pisgah, AL 35765 or to another charity.

The family expresses gratitude to caregivers Mary Jo and Gilbert Puckett, Geneva Kerby and Oxford Healthcare for their in-home care and assistance.

# Cemetery

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## Pisgah Cemetery

corner of Co Rd 58 and Co Rd  
374

Pisgah, AL, 35765

# Events

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**JAN** **Visitation** 12:00PM - 02:00PM

**10**

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Pisgah Baptist Church

2261 Co Rd 58 P O Box 10, Pisgah, AL, US,  
35765

**JAN** **Service** 02:00PM

**10**

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Pisgah Baptist Church

2261 Co Rd 58 P O Box 10, Pisgah, AL, US,  
35765

# Comments

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“ I first met John Gant in 2002. I was researching the people and history of Pisgah and the Blow Gourd community. I was told that Mary V McCurdy was a good source of information for my research. I went to her house and discussed history to her for a while. Mary told me about a historical library in Pisgah that she worked in sometimes. She said John Gant had started it and it was opened on Thursday evenings and she gave me his phone number.

I called John and he told me the library was opened on Thursday evenings but he would meet me there at anytime. I was still working at that time and we set up a time on a Saturday. The library was inside the old Pisgah City Hall in a little room in the back. John showed me records, pictures, family books, school yearbooks, and newspaper clippings that he had collected and had made available to the public. He and Mary V and Majorie Adams spent time there on Thursday evenings cutting out clippings of marriage announcements and obituaries of people from the Pisgah area and filing them. At that time he had a scanner that he could make copies for people that came to the library doing family research. He had a computer that somebody had donated to the library. He explained to me that he wanted to put all the marriage and death records on the computer in a database that people could search and print out. At that time he didn't have a printer. He said he didn't know anything about computers and printers. He asked me to buy a printer and he would pay me for it. And he asked me to create a database and enter the marriage and death notices on the computer. I told him I would do it but it would be slow because I was still working. That day I became a volunteer at the library.

In a few years John became disabled to get to the library and I started visiting him at home. I would call and make sure he was home and felt like a visitor. We always made plans for me to visit after he had listened to Rush Limbaugh radio program. He loved Rush. I loved the times we spent talking about Pisgah and the people and the old days. It was rare that I could ask a question about the area and he didn't know something about it. He was an encyclopedia of historical information and enjoyed sharing his memories and knowledge with people that would take the time to listen.

Even after he was unable to get out and go he would get phone calls wanting information about a relative or history of something in the area.

John was an icon of Pisgah, Alabama, and I will miss my friend greatly.

Rayburn C Hall - January 08, 2018 at 09:35 PM