

OBITUARIES



LEWIS ATWOOD CROWELL

BANGOR - Lewis Atwood Crowell, husband of the late Julia "Julie" (Thompson) Crowell,

passed away on March, 9, 2015. He was born 11 May 1926, in Bangor, the son of Frances (Atwood) and F. Donald Crowell.

A graduate of Cushing Academy, Maine Maritime Academy, and the University of Maine, Orono, Lewis served as an officer in the U.S. Merchant Marines. He and his father ran Dunham Hanson Company in Bangor for many years. A long-time resident of West Broadway, Lewis was known for his love of golf and affection for his long-haired daschunds. He was affectionately known as the "dog whisperer" in his neighborhood.

He was predeceased by his sister, Jane C. Morse. He leaves behind a special niece, Cynthia Johnson-Barbato; her husband, Peter Barbato; and her son, Drew Johnson, all of New Jersey; cousins, Susan (Atwood) Warren and Kathy (Atwood) Constantine, who was always there for him, both of Bangor; his only nephew, Samuel C. Morse of Amherst, Massachusetts; and his longtime friend and caregiver, Andrea Hand of Bangor and her daughter, Jessye of Michigan.

At his request there will be a private committal service in the spring at Oak Hill Cemetery in Winterport. Lewis requested for those who desire that memorial contributions be directed to the Maine Maritime Academy Scholarship Fund, care of the Development Office, 66 Pleasant St., Castine, Me 04420-5000. Condolences to the family may be expressed at

www.BrookingsSmith.com.

WILDA 'GIGI' 'GRAMMIE' (FROST) KERNS

HAMPDEN - Wilda "GiGi" "Grammie" Louise Kerns, 89, wife of the late Elliot P. Kerns, died March 10, 2015 at a Bangor hospital surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Mariaville, May 4, 1925, daughter of Merle C. and Ellen B. (Austin) Frost.

Wilda was a graduate of Ellsworth High School, and received a degree in Christian Education from Providence Bible Institute, known as Gordon-Cromwell College and she received her B.S. in elementary education from the University of Maine. She was a former teacher in various Maine schools, and an active foster grandparent at the Weatherbee School in Hampden. Wilda and her late husband, Elliot, were active in numerous Baptist churches in Maine. She was also a Maine Troop Greeter as well as a frequent visitor to Phillips-Strickland House.

Wilda was predeceased by her husband and a son, David K. Kerns. She is survived by her sons, Gary Kerns and wife Jeanne of Topsham, Stephen Kerns and wife Terry of Fountain, CO; daughters, Karen Hicks of Levant, Cheryl Lare and husband Ron of Hampden, Deborah LaFlamme and husband Russ of Lisbon; nineteen grandchildren, twenty-five great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren; and a sister, Neva Carson of Kingman, AZ. The family would like to give a very special thank you to the staff at EMMC on the 6th Floor for giving such wonderful, loving comfort and care.

Friends may call from 3-4 PM, Friday, March 13, at Brookings-Smith, 133 Center Street, Bangor, where the funeral service will be held at 4 PM with Pastor Russell LaFlamme (Wilda's son-in-law) officiating. The family invites relatives and friends to share conversation and refreshments at the Family Reception Center of Brookings-Smith, 163 Center Street, Bangor, following the service. Interment will be in the spring at Pyle Cemetery, Mariaville. Gifts in Wilda's memory may be made to a charity of one's choice. Condolences to the family may be expressed at

www.BrookingsSmith.com.



CHRISTINE ADA SMITH

HARRINGTON - Christine Ada Smith, age 93, the wife of the late Chester V. Smith, passed away on Monday, March 9, 2015, in Ellsworth, Maine. Christine was born in Island Falls, Me, on May 6, 1921. She was the daughter of Oscar and Ethel Curtis Garnett. She was one of 12 Children. She lived most of her life in Harrington, Maine.

She worked for Jedrey Clam Shop, Frye's Clam Shop, and Roy Ray's clam shop in Harrington Me. In addition, she was the cook for St. Regis Lumber for 2 years.

She is survived by her children Helena McMillan and her husband, Bill of Groveland, California and Paul Smith and his wife, Diane of Sparks, Nevada, six grandchildren: Karen McMillan of Pleasant Hill, California, Michael McMillan of Las Vegas, Nevada, Marc McMillan of Dublin, California, Lindsay Smith of Manchester, New Hampshire, Bradley Smith of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, and Laura Smith of Harrington, Maine, and four great grandchildren: Kyle, Joseph and Jordan McMillan of Las Vegas, Nevada and Bennett Cole Smith of Franklin, Maine. She is also survived by her brother Rodney Garnett of Brunswick, Maine.

Christine loved to knit and crochet; she also loved to read and was an outstanding cook.

She was a member of Faith United Methodist Church of Columbia, Maine.

Christine's family feels that she would rather have donations made to the Faith United Methodist Church in her memory in lieu of purchasing flowers. Arrangements were made by Bragdon-Kelley Funeral Home in Ellsworth, ME.

French sports stars killed in Argentina helicopter crash

BY ELIANA RASZEWSKI AND MARK JOHN REUTERS

PARIS — France mourned on Tuesday the deaths of three sports stars who were among 10 people killed when two helicopters collided in a remote region of Argentina during the filming of a reality TV show.

Investigators removed the bodies of Olympic swimmer Camille Muffat, yachtswoman Florence Arthaud and boxer Alexis Vastine from the charred wreckage of the two aircraft, but said it was still unclear what caused the accident on Monday afternoon in the rugged western province of La Rioja. There were no survivors.

Amateur footage taken from the ground showed the two helicopters flying in tandem at low altitude when one appears to deviate into the path of the other. Both helicopters then plunge to the ground.

A second video showed dozens of people rushing through the heavy undergrowth toward the helicopters' burning wreckage. The accident occurred around 5.15 p.m. local time.

French President Francois Hollande paid tribute to the athletes he said had "made France shine."

"They are dead because they wanted to push the boundaries. They wanted to make new exploits known to the world, make people aware of new countries and regions," Hollande said.

In Paris, an involuntary manslaughter investigation has been opened, an automatic procedure when French citizens are killed abroad, a judicial source said.

As part of the TV show, other contestants were standing blindfolded on the ground a few hundred meters from the helicopters' flight path, French media reported. They ran to the crash site but could not extinguish the fire, an assistant to the contestants told French broadcaster RFL.

A magistrate judge at the site said all 10 bodies had been retrieved from the helicopters' mangled ruins and were being taken to a morgue in the provincial capital.

Two pilots and several members of the ALP-TV production company involved in



REUTERS PHOTO BY JORGE TORRES

Charred wreckage of the two helicopters which collided in the region of Villa Castelli, in the Argentine province of La Rioja on Tuesday. France mourned the deaths of three sports stars, Olympic swimmer Camille Muffat, yachtswoman Florence Arthaud and boxer Alexis Vastine, who were among 10 people killed in the crash during the filming of a reality TV show.

filming the adventure show "Dropped" for private TV station TF1 were among the dead, officials said.

A spokesman for Argentina's Air Accident Investigation Board said it was too early to determine if human error, mechanical failure or something else was to blame.

Two French investigators, as well as two technical experts, were dispatched to Argentina to help gather evidence.

"The whole of French sport is in mourning because we have lost three huge champions," Thierry Braillard, junior minister for sports, town and youth affairs, told RTL radio.

"Florence Arthaud — we all knew her as the 'Fiancee of the Atlantic'," he said, referring to a nickname Arthaud earned through many daring voyages, including a 1990 record for the fastest solitary Atlantic crossing.

TF1 issued a statement expressing solidarity with the victims' families. French media said filming had been suspended and the crew and other contestants were heading back to France.

French news channels and social media were awash with tributes for the three stars.

Guy Muffat, Camille's father, told RTL radio his daughter had had a fantastic life that was cut short too early.

"She had some beautiful qualities. She was frank, hon-

est and a patriot. France meant something for her. Everyday she showed great tenacity and courage. How could you not be proud of her?" Muffat said.

"Dropped" involves contestants being left in the wilderness and using their skills to find their way back to civilization.

The collision marked the second time in two years that a reality show produced by ALP for TF1 had been hit by tragedy.

In April 2013 the doctor charged with looking after contestants in the long-running "Koh-Lanta" endurance show committed suicide after one of the competitors died following one of the tests, complaining of heart pains.

Arthaud, 57, was one of the first women to carve a place for herself in the top levels of sailing.

She had a brush with death in 2011, when she fell off her boat into the Mediterranean. Rescuers whisked her out after she called her mother by mobile phone.

Muffat, 25, won 400 meters freestyle gold at the 2012 London Olympics. Vastine, 28, won bronze at the Beijing 2008 Olympics.

"I am sad for my friends, I'm shaking, I'm horrified, I can't find the words," tweeted Sylvain Wiltord, an ex-footballer for English Premier League club Arsenal and a fellow cast member.

Translating German obituaries, students help unearth ancestry

BY JAMIE FORSYTHE
BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

BELLEVILLE, Illinois — Working in pairs, the fourth-year German students at Belleville East High School had different approaches to the challenging task at hand — translating an obituary from an old-time German newspaper in Belleville into English.

Seniors Colin Creedon and Daniel Jackson chose to translate the old German dialect, known as Fraktur, into German first and then translate the German text they were more familiar with into English.

"We have to translate it and then rearrange it so it makes sense in English," Colin explained.

In contrast, seniors Meghan Gingrich and Peyton Kaercher chose to translate the old German dialect directly into English.

"Once you know what the words say, it's really easy," Peyton said.

The class assignment overseen by teacher Andrew Gaa isn't just for a grade. It serves a larger purpose and has helped at least one family from California learn more about their ancestry.

Once translated by the German students and proofed by Gaa, obituaries are then posted online by the St. Clair County Genealogical Society.

That's where Craig Eberhard of San Diego, California, found the obituary of his great-grandfather.

Eberhard recently sent an email to Belleville District 201 officials and Gaa thanking them and specifically the two students who translated the obituary — Sam Marek and Scott Williams, Class of 2013.

Eberhard said the "practical project" Gaa has his German students complete is "one to be appreciated and admired. Without that I never would have known that history of my great-



TNS PHOTO BY STEVE NAGY/BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

Belleville East High School German teacher Andy Gaa helps his students translate the obituaries of German residents from the area who died more than 100 years ago.

great grandfather," he said.

The obituary of his great-great grandfather, Eberhard said, allowed him to "connect some of the dots" of his family's history.

"There was so much information in there," he said of the obituary. "It gave a little bit of color to my great-great grandfather."

Eberhard's great-great grandfather, Friedrich Pannier, 1832-1893, was a farmer, who came to Belleville in 1866 by way of the German sailing schiff, the Undine. He brought his wife and five children, including Eberhard's great grandfather, William, who was 6 years old at the time. William moved from Belleville to Orange County, California.

Gaa said the German students are providing "a service to people," who can't read German and don't live locally and can't access the old newspapers on microfilm at the Belleville Public Library.

The in-class assignment to translate the obituaries is challenging for the 19 fourth year students, according to Gaa.

"Old German script is hard to read," he said.

The students agree.

"The letters that they used are not what they would look like now," said senior Thomas Carter. "The letters they used

back then are obscure."

Meghan said some of the letters in Fraktur look exactly the same.

"Once you get into the flow of it, it becomes easier," said senior Madelyne Knipp. "A lot of times I just use the context clues to figure it out."

The students don't have to tackle it alone. They work with partners, and Gaa is available to help as well.

"The challenge is translating it and making it sound like good English," Gaa said. "There's definitely an art to it."

Meghan said it's "really neat" to be involved in a project that could potentially help someone find out more about their ancestors.

"I would like to trace my own ancestry sometime," she said.

Madelyne said it's "really cool" to translate the old German obituaries into English. "I like translating this stuff knowing it's going to help people," she said.

Once the obituaries are translated into English by the students, they type them up and submit them to Gaa for review.

Gaa must ensure the obituaries are entirely accurate since they will be placed online and used to research family history.

DNA from ancient teeth solves mystery of African slave burial

BY GEOFFREY MOHAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Researchers have analyzed the DNA of ancient teeth to identify the regional origin of three African slaves buried more than 300 years ago on a former Dutch colony in the Caribbean.

The development could open the door to broadening the understanding of African-American ancestry linked to the European trade in slaves, which often is limited by scant historical record keeping and incomplete genome and population data, according to the study, published online Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"I like to think of DNA as another type of archive, another type of record that we can use in order to understand the past," said the study's lead author, Hannes Schroeder, an archaeologist who studies ancient DNA at the Natural History Museum of Denmark.

When they were unearthed accidentally in 2010 during the construction of an office complex, the three skeletons in the Zoutsteeg area of Philipsburg, on the Dutch side of St. Martin, offered strong clues that they had not been born there. Paramount among them were front teeth that had been chipped and filed in patterns that were significant to African tribal cultures, a practice that was largely abandoned after enslavement, Schroeder said.

The dental patterns, however, were not enough to deter-

mine where the three likely came from in Africa.

The two men and one woman, ages 25 to 40, probably died between 1660 and 1680, when St. Martin was ruled by the French and Dutch. Although archives of the slave trade have expanded greatly, they mention only one docking at St. Martin in the last half of the 17th century, and do not list even the port of embarkation, let alone the origin of the slaves themselves.

Since the publication five years ago of the first ancient genome, researchers have begun shifting focus to relatively recent DNA in areas where little data have been published, including Africa and the Americas.

Carlos Bustamante, a geneticist at Stanford University, has pioneered a method to extract workable DNA from highly damaged and contaminated samples, and has mapped out the overlay between geography and genome characteristics. A recently published Mexican genome study, for example, shows that mixed-heritage or mestizo DNA strongly reflects the population patterns of pre-conquest Mexico — DNA, in a sense, maps out the structure of the pre-Colombian world.

Bustamante and Schroeder used a similar approach to isolate and sequence relatively short strands (67 base pairs) of DNA extracted from the dental roots of the Zoutsteeg Three. The researchers then compared sets of distin-

guishing characteristics from each individual's genome with those from 11 West African populations.

"It's similar to when you have a small trace amount of an element, you can test it because it's so unique," Bustamante said. "These DNA markers become like trace elements, that when compounded, give us a lot of evidence."

One man and the woman probably came from non-Bantu tribes in present-day Nigeria and Ghana, the study found. The other man may have hailed from northern Cameroon, researchers concluded.

Elements of the Cameroon man's DNA appeared so atypical, in fact, that researchers at first suspected they were looking instead at accidental contamination from modern European DNA. But a reverse migration from Europe to Africa several thousand years ago spread that set of "European" genetic variations across many African populations, Bustamante explained. The haplotype is highly represented in the Lake Chad basin, and rises to 95 percent in one area of northern Cameroon, according to the study.

The methods used in the study are relatively new, and differ from many commercially available DNA ancestry studies, which often focus on markers from one parent or a single chromosome. As a result, such ancestry data can gloss over many generations of genetic mixing.