



## Mary Louise Root Cowen

July 22, 1928 - June 2, 2021

Mary Louise Root Cowen, 92, of New Castle, passed away on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at Henry Community Health in New Castle.

She was born on July 22, 1928 in New Castle, a daughter of Gwynn and Lola (Hamm) Blevins.

Mary grew up in rural Henry County on a family farm. She graduated in 1946 from Hagerstown High School and later attended Ball State University in the nursing program. She married John C. Root Jr. on August 22, 1947. Mary worked for many years as the cook for Dalton School as well as Hagerstown Elementary. She ministered with her husband and children as song evangelists in many revivals and camp meetings.

Following her husband's passing in 1975, Mary moved to Overland Park, KS and ministered at KCCBS where she held several positions. She met Kenneth Cowen and they were married on April 14, 1984. Together they moved to Union Bible College in Westfield, IN where they also ministered in various positions. Through the years she supported Kenny in his pastorates at several Church of God (Holiness) churches in Boonville, Macon and Brush Arbor, all of Missouri, before retiring to New Castle in 2014.

Mary enjoyed her time living and fishing at Lake Taneycomo in Missouri. She

also enjoyed quilting, sewing, stain glass, reading, writing and was a published author of a children's book. Mary loved spending time with her family and hosting meals in her home.

Those left to cherish her memory include her husband, Kenny Cowen of New Castle; children, John D. (Linda) Root of Economy, Michael D. (Gayle) Root of Decatur, Alabama, Carol (Phil) Mattingly of Hagerstown, Robert "Bob" J. (Natalie) Root of New Castle and Dawn Elaine (Jack) Hayward of Buffalo, MO; 17 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband, John C. Root Jr.; daughter, Mary L. Root; daughter-in-law, Shirley Root; special great-grandsons, Kinsler Tate Mattingly and Gabriel Root; siblings, Frank Blevins, Robert Blevins, Madge Thompson, and Ted Blevins.

Memorial contributions may be offered to The Gideons International for Bibles.  
[www.gideons.org/donate](http://www.gideons.org/donate)

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am, Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at Sproles Family Funeral Home with Rev. Kenneth Cowen and Pastor Ron Coleman officiating. Burial will follow at Brick Cemetery in Hagerstown.

Friends may call from 5 – 7 pm, Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at the funeral home.

You may send the family a personal condolence at [www.sprolesfamilycares.com](http://www.sprolesfamilycares.com).

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Mary Cowen.

# Cemetery Details

## Brick Cemetery

5352 N. Brick Church Road  
Hagerstown, IN 47346

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(765) 521-2400  
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com  
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

## Service

JUN 9. 10:00 AM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home  
2400 S Memorial Dr  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(765) 521-2400  
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com  
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sproles Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mary Louise Root Cowen*



**Sproles Family Funeral Home** - June 09, 2021 at 08:21 AM



*Webcast for Mom Root Cowen 10:00 (est.) 9:00 central*

**Bob Natalie Root** - June 09, 2021 at 08:32 AM

AM

“ *I did not know Mary, but I recently bought a book written by her at a thrift shop in New Castle, IN. I started reading the book just a couple days ago, then decided to look up the author, and that's when I found Mary's obituary. Though I am only on page 15 of Mary's book so far, I have already been so blessed by the lessons she put into the sweet stories, and I plan to read these to my granddaughter as she grows up, so she can learn about the love of God! I'm sorry about the passing of Mary. She must have been a very special Christian woman who loved the Lord with all her heart! Her legacy will live on in the hearts of future generations! Angela*



**Angela Michelle** - September 06, 2021 at 08:17 AM

GB

“ Sorry to hear of your Lose, our prayer are for your family. Love and prayers, Gary and Melba Brewer

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**Gary & Melba Brewer** - June 09, 2021 at 12:23 PM

GF

“ I met Mary Louise Root Cowan through her son, Bob Root when I was coaching basketball at Kansas City College and Bible School, and later had the privilege of meeting most of her family. She was a very special person and had a wonderful testimony for the Lord. She was also an inspiration to me at a difficult time of my life.

Thank you, Mary.

Gene Frye  
Kansas City, KS

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**Gene Frye** - June 09, 2021 at 12:13 PM

MB

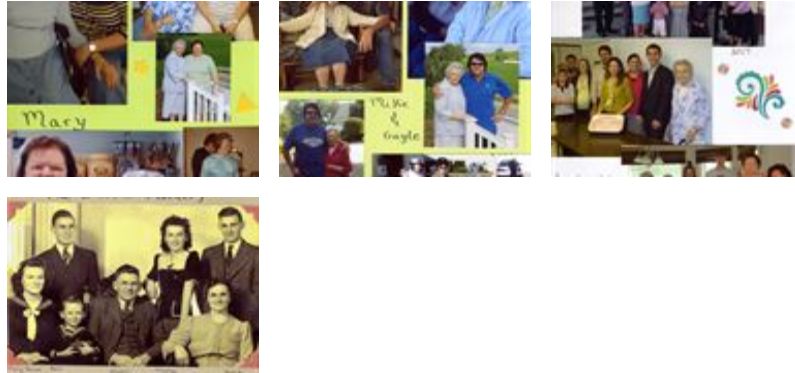
“ Sis Cowen was a sweet and precious lady. It was my privilege to get to know her while attending church together. She will be greatly missed by all. The Beverly's are holding the family up in pray during this time of loss and sorrow

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**Monica Beverly** - June 09, 2021 at 09:08 AM



“ 4 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Sproles Family Funeral Home** - June 08, 2021 at 04:44 PM

JB

“ *John, I never had the pleasure of meeting your Mother, but I know she had to be a very special lady by the way your face glowed when you spoke of her. Our love and prayers to both you and Linda, and your family.*

*Julie, Caleb, Abbie Blaase*

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**Julie Blaase** - June 08, 2021 at 01:42 PM

MR

“ *Michael, Dana and Evan Root purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Mary Louise Root Cowen.*



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**Michael, Dana and Evan Root** - June 08, 2021 at 08:19 AM

01

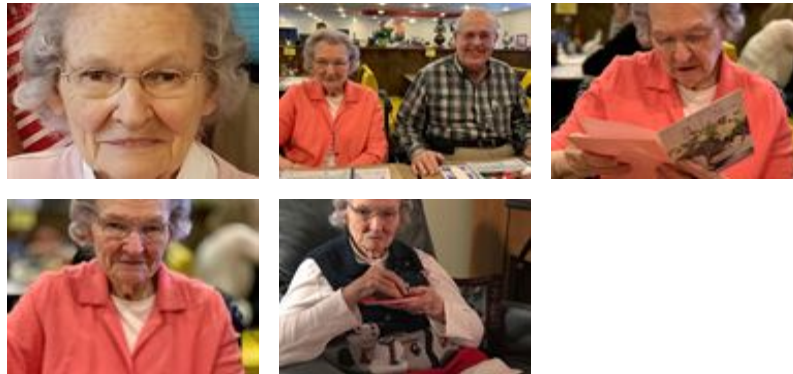
“ *Overland Christian High Class of 1985 purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Mary Louise Root Cowen.*



**Overland Christian High Class of 1985** - June 07, 2021 at 07:54 PM



“ *135 files added to the album LifeTributes*



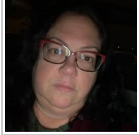
**Sproles Family Funeral Home** - June 07, 2021 at 06:15 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Louise Root Cowen.*



June 07, 2021 at 04:26 PM



“ I did not personally know Mrs. Cowen, but I know her son and daughter and her grandchildren. She had to be amazing to raise such wonderful children. My heart goes out to each and every one of her family as you grieve the loss of this beautiful woman.

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**Lorna Stimmel Miles** - June 07, 2021 at 03:45 PM



“ Bro. and Sis. Cowen were our high school class sponsors and organized our senior trip to Florida. We so appreciated their dedication to helping our class to have a positive experience on that trip. I still have a coin collection that they gave me when they had our class over to their home for breakfast one morning.

Bro. Cowen, we are sorry for your loss and will keep you in our prayers.

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**Christopher Sumpter** - June 06, 2021 at 12:47 PM



“ I had the greatest pleasure of meeting Mary when she came to Addison Place. Oh what a joy she was to me and our staff. I enjoyed my morning talks with her and her wisdom she shared with me. She helped me with preparations for my activities. I will miss her smiles and know deep in my heart she will be one of my most treasured guardian Angels now. RIP sweet friend! Prayers of comfort going up for all of the family.

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**Crista Lum** - June 06, 2021 at 07:38 AM

DM

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to Kenny, Carol and Phil, Bob and Natalie all the way from Wichita, Kansas. I really enjoyed listening to her play the organ at church, she will be deeply missed.

*Deborah Maidon*

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**Deborah Kay Maidon** - June 05, 2021 at 05:50 PM

CH

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

*Bob and Carol Huffine*



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**Carol Huffine** - June 05, 2021 at 05:47 PM

PS

“ My memories are endless! She introduced herself as "Ma" and has been ever since. I don't know how many wonder meals I ate at her table! She wasn't just Mary's mom. She told me many times I was one of her girls. She was the Best example of what a God loving, God serving, person should be. I am so honored & so Blessed to have known & been loved by this dear woman & family. I miss her already, but know she is rejoicing in Heaven. I can see her & Mary sitting on the piano bench playing & singing together again! She will always be special to me & live on in my heart! Love & prayers to Kenny, her children, & grand children as they learn to live without her loving spirit daily. Pami 💕💕

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**Pam Sunderland** - June 05, 2021 at 03:59 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Mary Louise Root Cowen.*



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June 05, 2021 at 12:50 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss*

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**Mary owens** - June 05, 2021 at 12:20 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Louise Root Cowen.*



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June 04, 2021 at 09:18 PM



“ *Paula VanHook lit a candle in memory of Mary Louise Root Cowen*



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**Paula VanHook** - June 04, 2021 at 07:28 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mary Louise Root Cowen.*



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June 04, 2021 at 06:36 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Louise Root Cowen.*



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June 04, 2021 at 05:20 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Louise Root Cowen.*



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June 04, 2021 at 03:54 PM

SW

“ Dear, sweet, Sis. Mary Cowen was my mentor and dear friend during my college years. She and Kenny continued to mentor my husband Michael and me during our early years of marriage. I've always appreciated Sis. Cowen's faithful example of being a Jesus-follower by speaking truth in love, caring for and about people, and doing what God calls us to. Her care for me made a huge difference to this shy, insecure teenager so long ago, and I've missed being able to interact with her more as I've experienced life's challenges. May God comfort Bro. Kenny and continue to guide and lead him as he grieves the loss of this wonderful woman.



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**Shawna Wright** - June 04, 2021 at 03:42 PM



“ Dear Kenny, Carol and Phil, Bob and Natalie and family. Your loss is Heaven's gain. May God bless and keep you during this time of mourning sister Cowens lost. She was a great spiritual inspiration to me for all the years that I have known her. John shares the same feelings that I do a sister Cowan. Through her testimonies I Learned how to persevere through difficulties I learned how to trust God and lean on him why was at its toughest, and that I could have joy and peace in my heart through great tribulations I also learned so much more from her I loved her sweet spirit hi rejoiced and she rejoice I wept with her she wept. What a wonderful godly gentle woman that she was John and I both have many memories of our time with her and Kenny and the rest of of her family. Please remember it is not a goodbye for us it is so long until we meet again which We Will. God bless you all and remember that John and I are praying for you every day. Love and Prayer's, Bev. and John Crull ❤️🙏

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**Beverly Crull** - June 04, 2021 at 02:16 PM