



## Dorothy Barker Ison

December 21, 1940 - March 31, 2026

With great sadness, but with the promise that those who “believe in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live,” we share our mother, Dorothy Wanda Barker Ison’s, passing at home, surrounded by family, on Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

Dorothy was born Dec 21, 1940, in Burke, Elliott County, KY, the daughter of David Nelson and Blanche Faye Ison Barker, the 7th of nine children born to this union. She was preceded in death by her parents and by her siblings Allen, Granville, Glenn, Lucille, Ralph, and Richard. She is survived by brother Denzil Barker and sister Marcella Manning, both of Grayson, KY, and a large and loving host of others left to mourn her passing and miss her smiles.

On June 15th, 1957, Dorothy married Samuel M “Sam” Ison in Soldier, Carter County, KY, this union lasting 68 years. Sam and Dorothy are the parents of two daughters, Samone Ratcliff, and her husband Steve, and Louise Mason, and her husband, Dan. They have 5 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great grandchild due in July.

Mommy told us recently that she tried to teach us something every day, and we can attest that she did indeed accomplish that task.

Mommy made most of our clothing. When we were children, sewing was a

budget friendly way to keep replacing the clothes we either outgrew or wore out. As we grew up, she taught us to sew and indulged our efforts with trips to Piece Goods for patterns and material of our choice. She took the fabric scraps left over from sewing clothes for our family and stitched them into beautiful, warm quilts. What a wonder it was to snuggle under one and think “I had a dress made from that” or “Sissy had a blouse made from that.” I think it would please her to know how I have picked up her love of sewing and quilting and shared it with my granddaughter.

She taught us to garden. Our first garden on the homeplace was in a place where the creek used to run, and so it was very rocky. Sissy’s and my first gardening job was to pick up rocks and throw them into the new creek bed where it had been rerouted. Then of course we helped to pull weeds, squish bean and potato beetles, string beans, shell peas (and eat half of them raw), and hoe weeds, which Sissy used to hate! Mommy had a knack for making a meal out of whatever was in season or in the pantry without the requirement of a trip to the store. She was an expert bread baker and made the whole house smell mouthwateringly delicious. There aren’t many smells that compare. And she made the best dressing I have ever eaten, bar none.

She taught us to love learning. She read to us from the beginning that we might love reading, and we do. Both of us read before we attended school. Even before beginning her formal education, Sissy, or Louise, loved nothing better than a handwritten page of math problems, complaining loudly if Mommy happened to repeat even one. Me, not so much.

She taught us so many songs and to sing along following her beautiful voice. A favorite memory is her playing the piano as she, and we, sang “Bringing in the Sheaves” - between loads of laundry in the old wringer washer. Sissy thought it was “Bringing in the Sheets.”

She loved words, as does Sis, although this talent escaped me. Mommy was witty. Even as she lay near what we thought for sure was death, at the beginning of the end of this mortal journey, she would compliment the nurses with vocabulary and phrases worthy of great literature. Even until the end she kept, and used, that vocabulary!

She had a great love of the woods and taught Sissy and me to love and come to know all that grows there. She taught us the names and uses of so many plants and herbs. She studied her Peterson Field Guide and delighted in finding something new, especially orchids, that she had not seen before. If while hiking she happened upon something she did not know to grow in her own woods, she might on occasion, dig a small clump to transplant. She was adept at adding little limestone gravels, pine needles, old leaves, or whatever it might need to flourish in the hills around her home, so that she could enjoy it year after year, closer to home. Each year, beginning in the spring, she started a list of all the wildflowers she would see during her daily walks. The snow would be barely gone, and spring would be nowhere in sight, as far as I was concerned, and she would announce to us, I have 75 flowers on my list so far this year! This is a true story, and it still amazes me. She had the eye of an eagle! Of all the gifts she gave us, this gift of love for all that grows around us, and the desire to see and find what there might be out there, could quite possibly be our best and favorite. We both are working to share that gift with our own children, and now, our grandchildren.

And I can not leave out that she taught us faith and love of God by way of her quiet example. Personally, she encouraged me as only a mother can as I worked to find my own way toward faith in Christ, life-giving repentance, and recognition of the truths found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. She continued to build on this foundation until the end, sharing words of comfort, precious truths, inspired observations, and bits of guidance and knowledge that we can

carry with us for the remainder of our lives.

She was and will always be, our mother.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 4, 2026 at Whitt & Sons Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Jesse McDavid officiating. Burial will follow in the Elliott County Memory Gardens.

Friends may visit at the funeral home from 6:00 till 8:00 p.m. Friday, April 03, 2026 and after 10:00 a.m. Saturday until the service hour at the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

## Elliott County Memory Gardens

Elliott Co, KY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 3. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Whitt & Sons Funeral Home  
1260 North Ky 7  
Post Office Box 704  
Sandy Hook, KY 41171  
(606) 738-9600  
<https://www.whittandsonsfuneralhome.com>

## Service

APR 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Whitt & Sons Funeral Home  
1260 North Ky 7  
Post Office Box 704  
Sandy Hook, KY 41171  
(606) 738-9600  
<https://www.whittandsonsfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall

MF

“*You will be forever loved. Eternal rest grant unto you, Dorothy and let perpetual light shine upon you. May the angels lead you into Paradise.*”

*Sauber and McMurtrie families*



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**Michigan friends and family** - April 14 at 08:30 AM

PH

“*My Aunt Dorothy was one of the kindest women I've ever met. She always encouraged and looked for the positives in everything. Love and prayers for Sam, Samone, Louise, and all the family.*”

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**Penny Harless** - April 04 at 06:52 PM

CH

“*Sending love and prayers for my Ison family today. Dorothy was a very special lady, always with a smile and a hug. I'm so very sorry for her loss.*”

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**Christa Hargraves** - April 04 at 12:47 PM

RO

“ It was with sorrow of heart that I learned of Dorothy's passing, but it was also with the blessed hope that for her to be absent from the body was her privilege to be present with the Lord. While here at the funeral visitation, I am observing so many good and wonderful people who have come to pay their respects and this is a funeral in itself. Dorothy has left a wonderful legacy to her family and friends, and her influence will live far beyond her years. May the power of faith, the strength of family, and the comfort of friends sustain all of those who love Sam and Dorothy and are diminished because of Dorothy's passing. It is obvious that she had a life well lived and was a person well loved. Special thoughts and prayers for the family and for Steve and Samone whose friendship I cherish. The Ison family is in the prayers of the Owingsville First Church of God, the Owingsville/Bath County Ministerial Association, and the Christian Social Service Center in Bath County. What a beautiful heritage the Ison family has received!



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**Rev Lowell C. Rice & OFCOG** - April 04 at 11:04 AM

LB

“ Lonnie And Donna Fay Barker lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Barker Ison



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**Lonnie and Donna Fay Barker** - April 04 at 02:11 AM

CP

“ So Sorry for your Families loss. She was a very Kind, Sweet Lady. She will be missed. 🙏  
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Cathy Pennington - April 03 at 07:39 PM

JS

“ Sam one and Louise,  
I am so sorry to hear this sad news. I've heard each of you tell stories about her and I've always known she was a wonderful lady, because she has 2 great daughters. Sending love and prayers for all of you!



Janet Stewart - April 03 at 05:45 PM

GL

“ I'm sure sorry to hear of Dorothy passing. She was such a sweet lady, always kind and smiling. My kids loved going to she and Sam's house for Halloween to get her homemade treats. She will be greatly missed. Sending love to the family.

Geraldine Lewis - April 03 at 02:21 PM

BA

“ Love and prayers for comfort in wonderful memories of Dorothy.. One special memory for me is our singing in church and the blessing I received when we sang #340. I Know in Whom I Believe.. Barbara and Lawrence Adkins

Barbara and Lawrence Adkins - April 03 at 02:09 PM

WL

“ Wes & Lyndzi purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dorothy Barker Ison.



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Wes & Lyndzi - April 03 at 11:51 AM

WL

“ Wes & Lyndzi planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dorothy Barker Ison.

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Wes & Lyndzi - April 03 at 11:51 AM

IJ

“ Although I didn't know Mrs. Ison, her obituary caught my attention. What a wonderful tribute to her. If only the rest of us mothers could pass along the skills, knowledge, expertise and love that she did. Sending my condolences to her family.

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ingrid Jordan - April 03 at 11:33 AM

EF

“ Always smiling and sweet. Dorothy was a wonderful person and a wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She is smiling down on us from her heavenly home . No-one could have anything but good memories of her. My thoughts and prayers are with Sam, Louise and Samone. I love you all.



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Evlynn Fugate - April 03 at 10:13 AM

SB

“ Sue Brickey lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Barker Ison



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**Sue Brickey** - April 03 at 09:20 AM

RA

“ Dorothy was always a sweet, kind, and supportive person. I miss sitting with her in church at Newcombe Valley. She will be missed



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**Roma Adkins** - April 03 at 08:51 AM

DL

“ My memory posted before I finished, so to continue. I was saying Dorothy had such a sweet smile and loved telling all about her adventures and travel with Sam and the girls all over the country. I will miss her sorely, but know she is in the arms of our Lord and Savior, Doris and JD Lewis

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**Doris Lewis** - April 03 at 05:27 AM

DL

“ Doris Lewis lit a candle in memory of Dorothy Barker Ison



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**Doris Lewis** - April 03 at 05:10 AM

DL

“ Dorothy was my best friend. We met in Church and quickly became seat buddies years ago. Dorothy had a sweet smile and loved telli

Doris Lewis - April 03 at 05:06 AM

LB

“ That was a beautiful life summary of Aunt Dorothy, Samone ❤️ I'm sorry for your loss 🙏🌹 Lad Barker

Lad Barker - April 02 at 11:26 PM

KB

“ Ken and Sheri Barker purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dorothy Barker Ison.



Ken and Sheri Barker - April 02 at 11:02 PM

JM

“ Samone I'm so sorry for your loss. But heavens gain. Your mom truly was an angel. After all she raised you. You always were such a amazing person and I know its because of your parents. I remember looking forward to your mom's visits at Isonville because she was always so sweet so kind. And I sure looked forward to the delicious treats. Much love many prayers



Judy Mulkey - April 02 at 10:30 PM

LR

“ *She was a good friend, I loved her dearly.* ”



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**Lisa Ratliff** - April 02 at 10:17 PM