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## Winnie "Mom" Sanders

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Kacie Richards  
Arkansas History  
December 8, 2016

### Winnie "Mom" Sanders

Winnie Sanders is an exceptional lady with a wonderful story through her life of serving. Born in 1896, never did she think that she would have the nickname Mom. When Ouachita Baptist became home to the 69th college training detachment, Winnie "Mom" Sanders became the house mom. She loved her boys like they were her own and was always a listening and encouraging ear. Although she was only the house mom for one year, she dedicated her life to those boys. The boys loved her so much that when they were flying planes they would tilt their plane to the side when passing her house to symbolize waving to her. In fact, she saw promise in all of her boys but there was one in particular that she saw immense promise in. That man was George Wallace. He became the governor of Alabama, and sent a car down to Arkansas to ensure that Winnie would be at the inauguration. George was also the only independent candidate to get electoral votes in a presidential election.

Winnie kept in touch with her boys and their families throughout the years, and it was a rare day when she did not have any letters. When one of them would pass away she donated a book in their honor to the Ouachita library. There are nothing but kind words about Winnie and she had made a difference in everyone's life that she came in contact with. She has left a positive impact on Ouachita and her legacy will never be forgotten.



# 'Mom' Sanders Funeral Today; George Wallace To Attend

Mrs. Wynnie Dearing Sanders, aged 72, of Arkadelphia died Monday in St. Vincent's Hospital at Little Rock.

She succumbed suddenly after having shown considerable improvement following the breaking of her hip in a fall June 30.

Mrs. Sanders was society editor of the Daily Siftings Herald. She was past Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star Chapter here.

She was a past president of the American Legion Auxillary here, a past Department chaplain of the American Legion Auxillary, was pianist for the Rotary Club, also pianist for the Men's Class at the First Methodist Church of which she was an active member for many years. Mrs. Sanders was a teacher for the Annie Maude Evans Bible Class.

Mrs. Sanders was known as "Mom" to hundreds of former U.S. Air Force Training members of Detachment No. 67, which was instituted at Ouachita Baptist College during World War II. She served as hostess and counselor for these cadets who had an off-campus club house downtown. Most of the cadets were sent overseas and fought in several theaters of war. Some were casualties. Mrs. Sanders corresponded with many of the young men, giving them news about each other, as she acted as an exchange for them. She maintained this service after the war.

Many of these former cadets have visited the Sanders' home as business of travel brought them into or through Arkansas. The former cadets had set up a section of the Riley Library at Ouachita University and contributed many books for the shelves of that section in honor of her.

One of the cadets was George Wallace, former governor of Alabama. She was a guest at his inauguration at Montgomery. She was also a guest at the inauguration of the late Mrs. Wallace. Mr. Wallace is now a candidate for president of the United States. He has sent word that he will attend Mrs. Sanders' funeral in this city.

She was born at Newark, Ark., Nov. 26, 1896, and was married to C. M. Sanders in 1919. He died eight weeks ago.

She is survived by a foster daughter, Mrs. E. E. Lee of Arkadelphia; four brothers, T. H. Dearing of Kingsport, Tenn., L. R. Dearing of DeWitt, J. E. Dearing of St. Louis, and Bill Dearing of Newark; two sisters, Mrs. E. E. Shipman of St. Louis, and Mrs. A. F. Adair of Charlotte, N.C.

The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Murry-Ruggles Funeral Chapel at Arkadelphia by Rev. Fred Harrison and burial will be in the National Cemetery at Little Rock.

Pallbearers will be Ed Flaig, Harold Neel, Rufus Neel, Kelth Tudor, Aubrey Blevins, Al Alexander, Tom Chandler, Jr., D. G. Lamb and Don Messersmith of Pine Bluff.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Riley Library at Ouachita University.