



## John W. Van Wagoner

February 29, 1924 - January 18, 2022

John W. Van Wagoner, 97, passed from his beloved earthly homestead to his heavenly home on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

Born a fourth-generation farmer in Oradell, New Jersey, John was a man who loved the land and his family. He graduated from Pennington High School in 1941 and attended Rutgers University until World War II brought him back home to work the family farm in Hopewell Township, Mercer County.

In 1945, John contracted polio. Doctors said that he would never walk again. Yet with determination and great support from his family, he learned to walk again, step by step.

In 1950, he noticed a newspaper photo of new agricultural agent Edith Whitlock and announced he would marry her. Thirteen months later, he did.

Their family grew. In 1962, they bought a farm on Arney's Mount in Springfield Township, Burlington County, and everyone pitched in to make it work. In 1975, John's dairy farming evolved into raising crops and selling filters for anything with a motor. "Mr. Filter Man" enjoyed connecting with others and meeting their needs.

John was resourceful, deeply curious, and a person of faith.

A thrifty handyman-mechanic, he improvised solutions to many mechanical problems—with baling wire, duct tape, and anything else on hand. Though typically a man of few words, he often peppered visitors with questions to learn as much as he could: how they saw the world, details of their work, their genealogy to add to the ever-growing database he kept as a hobby. A longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Holly, John was a founding trustee of the Samuel Miller Christian Retirement Center and attended a weekly men's prayer breakfast.

He is preceded in death by parents Warren and Anna Van Wagoner, wife of sixty years Edith and sister Dorothy Bryan. He is survived by children Elsie (Paul) Nicolette, Nancy Shafran/fiancé Doug Cunningham, David (Anne) Van Wagoner, Evelyn (Dean) Eachus, Janet (Tim) Rosenberger, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

John's memorial service—facemasks required—will be held Saturday, February 26 at 1:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 125 Garden Street, Mount Holly NJ 08060. If unable to attend, visit <https://vimeo.com/event/1743816> for a video livestream.

In lieu of flowers, you may contribute either to First Presbyterian Church at the address above or to your favorite charity.

Arrangements by the Perinchief Chapels, Mount Holly

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

FEB **26**. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church  
125 Garden St.  
Mt. Holly, NJ

# Tribute Wall



“ *John W. Van Wagoner*

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October 29, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ *John W. Van Wagoner*

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October 29, 2022 at 09:53 AM



“ *John certainly did love that farm. He was a constant fixture on the Mount. I enjoyed talking with him when he was in the mood. Never one to shy away from his opinion. His way of getting to the point was refreshing. He will truly be missed as both a neighbor and a fellow farmer environmentalist. I am sure he's looking down on us still watching over the Mount he loved so much for over 60 years with Elsie by his side. Gods speed John*  
*Tony Marinello*

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**Anthony Marinello** - February 28, 2022 at 06:45 PM

SB

“ I am thankful to have known John Van Wagoner. Uncle John was my late husband's uncle and he and his late wife, Aunt Edith treated myself and our children like their own. I describe Uncle John as “Some Man!” He could have a somewhat formidable look about him, but he had a kind smile which revealed his kind and generous nature. I was very blessed by Uncle John and Aunt Edith's caring and generosity. Uncle John had a keen mind and was a man of wisdom which served him and others well. He did not have an easy life, but met and got through his challenges with God's help. He was a man of faith and shared it with others. I praise God that Uncle John now lives with Jesus in eternal joy. May God's peace be a comfort to all of his family and friends. In His Love Sharon Bryan

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**Sharon Bryan** - January 25, 2022 at 11:16 PM

BM

“ So very sorry for your loss. John was my mother's ( Ruth Romme) cousin. Although i never knew him personally, i loved learning of him through the beautiful obituary. What a special man he was! My sympathies to all the family. Love, Barbara McGroarty

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**Barbara McGroarty** - January 20, 2022 at 12:08 PM

AF

To add to what my sister, Barbara McGroarty said, my mom, dad and I (before she was born) would visit Aunt Anna and family on the farm many times. My memories of great times of adventure in the barn, exploring in the pastures and family luncheon times with John and his family. My sympathies to the entire family. John was definitely a special man. God bless you.

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**Alice Fisher** - January 20, 2022 at 08:59 PM