



In sorrow and with love, from all of us at the Fairfield museum

Dear Mrs. Andrews,

It was very upsetting to hear such news as I read your email last evening. I am very sorry. I never met John, and probably never would have, yet through our phone conversations I always felt that we were friends. I will always be thankful that John asked us here at the museum to help him complete his desire to have Jesse's grave relocated and to again have a memorial in place. I had inwardly hoped that John would someday be able to return to Fairfield County one more time, as he had some years ago, and to see firsthand what he had started. I had looked forward to keeping him in touch with the placing of the Veteran's Administration marker that he had sent to us, along with the granite monument that are to be placed in the Methodist cemetery here in Winnsboro. I feel thankful now that John knew what he had started with his wish to relocate Jesse's grave site had gone much further. If John had not put all this in motion it likely would have never happened, and for that we should all be thankful. It will be well documented in our records here at the museum that it was through John's leadership that started years ago that has led to where we are today in marking and recording Jesse's historic legacy to the founding of Methodism here in Winnsboro and Fairfield County.

I want to thank you for providing the site to view photos of John and to read his obituary. It was meaningful to me to learn more about his life and family. I was truly impressed, and yet not surprised somehow, to learn of his service in WWII and how well decorated he was for that service to our country. He seems to have been a man who followed through to the end of his life to seek out and to accomplish what he felt was important. I am deeply sorry you had to lose John so suddenly through such an accident. I truly hope you had a chance to connect with him during those couple of days before he died. You said that you were blessed to have been married to John for 41 years and that he lived a wonderful and productive life until the age of 91. That tells me you are in a pretty good place. Take care and be good to yourself in the days and months ahead, and you will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

With Sincerity and Love, Col Gates