

Family, John Edgar Brian Speer

Hot Springs Village VOICE

John E. Speer

Posted Aug 13, 2015 at 2:35 AM

JOHN E. SPEAR, 75, of Hot Springs Village, Ark., died Aug. 10, 2015 at St Vincent Infirmary in Little Rock, Ark,

He was a charter member of the Arkansas Society of the General Society War of 1812; president of DeSoto Trace Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and vice president of the State SAR; a member of Sons of the Confederate Veterans, the El Mina Shrine, Galveston, Texas and South Park Masonic Lodge, Beaumont, Texas.

He was very active in these groups' programs to bring American history alive for high school students, as well as programs to help the wounded veterans of Arkansas. He was a graduate of South Park High School, Beaumont, Texas (Class of 1957) and attended University of The Ozarks before joining the U.S. Marines.

He was preceded in death by his parents, **MARGUERITE GREEN SPEER** and **LOICE BRIAN** of Beaumont, Texas; his wife, Jean A. Speer of Hot Springs Village and one grandson, **BRIAN MARSHAL COLBY** of Hot Springs Village.

He is survived by one son, **AARON SPEER** (Lee Lee) of Silsbee, Texas; two daughters, **KIMBERLY ARCH** (Mike) of Boerne, Texas, and **DANA KISEL** (Jeff) of Rockport, Texas; a stepdaughter **LINDA ANN COCKRELL** (Fletcher) of Hot Springs Village; nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a number of nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speer will be cremated and interred in a private family cemetery in South Carolina. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice

Family, John Edgar Brian Speer

Find A Grave

JOHN EDGAR SPEER

BIRTH 25 Aug 1939
Jefferson County, Texas, USA

DEATH 10 Aug 2015 (aged 75)
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas, USA

BURIAL Unknown

MEMORIAL ID 152351936 - [View Source](#)

RITA MCGEE OKERVALL

BIRTH 3 Apr 1940
Huntsville, Walker County, Texas, USA

DEATH 28 Dec 2001 (aged 61)
Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, USA

BURIAL Forest Lawn Memorial Park and Funeral Home
Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, USA

MEMORIAL ID 95713707 [View Source](#)

Rita married **JOHN EDGAR SPEER** about 1959 and divorced sometime before 1961. She then married **HARLEY VALENTINE BOWEN** (date unknown) until his death in 1962, Finally she married **JOHN EDWARD OKERVALL** in 1964

Family, John Edgar Brian Speer

JEAN ATKINSON SPEER

BIRTH 4 Oct 1929
Louisiana, USA

DEATH 9 Nov 2014 (aged 85)
Hot Springs Village, Garland County, Arkansas, USA

BURIAL Unknown
MEMORIAL ID 138736948

Mrs. **JEAN ATKINSON SPEER**, 85, died at her home in Hot Springs Village, AR on Sunday November 9, 2014. She was born in Melder, LA on October 4, 1929. She was a graduate of Northwestern Louisiana State University and taught home economics in Jefferson and Orange Counties, Texas for 41 years. She was a certified home economist. She was a member of the Arkansas Chapter of NSDAR; U5, Daughters of the War of 1812; and Docencia and Garland County Extension Homemakers.

She is survived by her husband, **JOHN SPEER** of Hot Springs Village, AR; one daughter, **LINDA MARSHALL COCKRELL** and husband **FLETCHER** of Hot Springs Village; one granddaughter, **LANE DICKEY** and husband **MAJOR CHRISTOPHER DICKEY** of Columbia, South Carolina and three great grandchildren, **JOEL** and **HANNAH DICKEY** of Columbia, South Carolina and **BLAKE COLBY** of Vass, North Carolina; and a number of nieces and nephews, one great niece and two great-great nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, **JANIE SANDERS** and **WILLIE GULF ATKINSON** of Forest Hill, LA; one sister, **ES ATKINSON TILLEY** and husband **CLYDE "Buddy"** of Alexandria, LA; two brothers, **H. LOYD ATKINSON** and wife **WILLIE MAE** and **CECIL F. ATKINSON** and wife **GLADYS** all of Forest Hill, LA: one grandson, **BRIAN COLBY** of Hot Springs Village, AR; and one nephew.

MARGUERITE MARTHA GREEN SPEER

BIRTH 26 Jan 1920
Texas, USA

DEATH 19 Feb 1995 (aged 75)
Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, USA

BURIAL Wilkinson Cemetery Orange, Orange County, Texas, USA
MEMORIAL ID 70268281 - View Source

Marguerite was first married to **LOICE ELMER "Bill" BRIAN** in March 11, 1938. They divorced in the early 40's and she remarried to **ALTON SPEER**. **MARGUERITE** and **BILL** had 2 children, **JOHN EDGAR [BRIAN] SPEER** born in 1939 was later adopted by her second husband, **ALTON**. The second was a baby girl who was either stillborn or died shortly after birth and was never named.

Family, John Edgar Brian Speer

HERBERT ALLEN BRIAN

BIRTH 16 May 1951
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas, USA

DEATH 31 Aug 1981 (aged 30)
Collin County, Texas, USA

BURIAL Blue Ridge Cemetery, Blue Ridge, Collin County, Texas, USA
PLOT Section 60
MEMORIAL ID 93727228 - [View Source](#)

Family, John Edgar Brian Speer

LOICE ELMER "BILL" BRIAN

BIRTH 12 Mar 1921
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, USA

DEATH 19 May 1956 (aged 35)
Houston, Harris County, Texas, USA

BURIAL Williamson Cemetery
Vidor, Orange County, Texas, USA

PLOT South side plot S0983 with a marker

MEMORIAL ID 33381403 - View Source

LOICE ELMER BRIAN was born in Dallas, Texas and was the 1st child of **JOHN TALMAGE BRIAN** and **ACHSAH (Axie) ELIZABETH MAXEY**, The timing of the family's movements after his birth are unclear but they first moved to Port Arthur, Texas, then Phoenix, Arizona, Beaumont, Texas and finally Vidor, Texas.

LOICE had red, curly hair and would often wear a skull cap in an effort to straighten his hair. He disliked his name and decided to become known as **BILL**. Bill was 7 years older than his only surviving sibling and enjoyed teasing his little sister.

BILL married **MARGUERITE MARTHA GREEN** on March 11, 1938, 1 day before his 17th birthday Their first child, **JOHN EDGAR BRIAN**, was born 17 1/2 years later in August, 1939. In November, 1942 **MARGUERITE** delivered their second child; a daughter. It is unknown if the daughter was stillborn or if she died shortly after birth but she was never named and neither a birth or death certificate can be located. Information concerning her birth and death were provided by Bill's younger sister, **CHRISTENE [BRIAN TINSLEY]**, who was 13 at the time.

Following in the family tradition he became a carpenter but May 21, 1943 in the midst of WWII he enlisted in the US Army and was in officers school but ultimately was discharged somewhere between 1944 - 1945, It is also during this time that he and **MARGUERITE** divorced.

In 1947 he married **DORIS LEA PEVETO**. Little is known about their marriage or divorce other than they were living in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1948 and Bill was working as a cleaner for a dry cleaning company.

In June, 1950 he married **MARTHA JEAN MCJUNKIN** in Little Rock, AR, Martha had 2 daughters from her previous marriage and together Bill and Martha had a son, **HERBERT ALLEN BRIAN**. Bill's father, John Brian, moved in with Bill and Martha at some point during their marriage and lived with them until his death in 1954. After his father's death, Bill and Martha moved to Houston, Texas and lived in the Greens Bayou area.

Shortly after their move to Houston, Bill suffered his 1st heart attack. After recovery the family moved to the Montrose area and Bill became the manager of a cleaning plant in Rice Village. In 1956 Bill suffered a massive heart attack and died at the age of 35 and was brought back to Vidor to be buried next to his infant daughter and his beloved mother.

Family, John Edgar Brian Speer

Former Vidor Man Dies In Houston

The Orange Leader
Tuesday, May 22, 1956

VIDOR (spl) – Funeral service were held yesterday in Houston for **LOICE E. BRIAN**, 35 formerly of Vidor and the step son of Mrs. **GOLDIE BRIAN** of Vidor, friends learned today.

BRIAN was a native of Vidor but had lived in Houston for the part of two years. He died of a heart attack In Houston Saturday night.

Services were conducted in the Carswell Funeral Home in Houston and burial was in the Williamson Cemetery at Vidor with Methodist pastor officiating.

Other survivors include a sister, Mrs. **CHRISTINE [BRIAN] TINSLEY**, formerly of Orange and now of Houston; the widow, two sons and two daughters.

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PUBLICATIONS

**SAR MAGAZINE
WINTER 2010**

Arkansas (6)

Warren Keith Bogy, 181782, Joseph Bogy
Timothy David Cruise, 180857, John Crumpler
Oscar Eve Jones III, 180856, Richard Taylor
Alexander Avery Ross, 181411, William Hudson
JOHN EDGAR SPEAR, 181500, **JAMES BRIAN**
Marion Clark Tener, 180987, John Tener

**Confederate Veteran
Mar - Apr 2016**

The Last Roll

David O. Dodd 619
Benton, AR

David D. Sparks
JOHN EDGAR SPEER

Family, John Edgar Brian Speer

**Palmetto Patriot
2013 Winter**

Col. William Bratton Chapter marks grave of Patriot James Brian Sr.

By Greg Greenawalt

CLOVER - The Col. William Bratton Chapter honored Revolutionary War Patriot James Brian Sr. with an SAR grave-marking ceremony Nov. 9 at the Mill Creek Cemetery (431 Harper Davis Rd., Clover SC 29710, GPS: n35 08.100, w81 05.233).

JAMES BRIAN SR. was an Irish immigrant who migrated to York County, South Carolina, and served in the Revolutionary War under Col. William Hill. The ceremony was a joint effort between the Col. William Bratton Chapter and the Desoto Trace Chapter SAR in Hot Springs, Arkansas. **JOHN SPEER**, a Desoto Trace member, is a direct descendant of Patriot **BRIAN**.

The grave-marking was attended by SAR state officers Mark Anthony, Dan Woodruff and Greg Greenawalt, as well as members of area chapters of the DAR, CAR and the Fort Mill VFW Chapter. Military Honors were rendered by Post 43, The American Legion, Fort Mill, with a 21 gun salute and a cannon volley. Benny Paterson was in charge.

The event was coordinated by Col. William Bratton Chapter President Murray White.

**Invocation for Private James Brian Sr.
Marker Dedication
with the Col. William Bratton Chapter
at Mill Creek Cemetery.**

Lord on this Divinely inspired day, you have led us each here, to this time and place by different roads, from distance places and we have all come together by the Holy Spirit, to stand together in Patriotism, in honor of those who served this great country from its founding, and birth, to the men and women who this day are fighting terrorism, standing against oppression, and keeping our right alive (to not only worship you Lord) but to be your light of Hope, Faith and Love that your Son Jesus Christ, and all the generations that have followed his example have died for.

Lord, this day we have gathered to stand in solidarity, to stand proud but also underneath your protection and we pray for you continued blessings on those gathered, the families they represent and the country that we all love. May we as one people do your will Lord, nothing more and nothing less, in Christ's name we pray. AMEN.

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Prayer of Dedication

"I will begin the Prayer of Dedication with the very words that might have been said over the grave of Pvt. **JAMES BRIAN SR.** so many years ago when he was laid to rest" A Reading of the 23rd Psalm:

1. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.
3. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Lord on this Veterans weekend, we remember the reason why we came to this great land. We remember that we came to escape the class wars and religious oppression of Europe, that we came to the New World for opportunity. What you blessed us with, Heavenly and Divine Father, was the opportunity to grow, to prosper and the freedom to worship and to know you great God.

Today Lord, this weekend, we remember that freedom, opportunity and faith sometimes have great costs, sometimes must be defended, and that loyalty, patriotism toward country and the God that it resides under is worth defending. Lord we are gathered here in remembrance of one Veteran of the American Revolution, Pvt. **JAMES BRIAN SR.**, who when the time demanded answered the call to service in a time of uncertainty. In a season of chaos, Pvt. **BRIAN** stepped forward to support the great cause of Liberty for a land oppressed, to bring freedom where bondage had ruled and to allow America to grow, develop into the strongest nation this world as ever seen.

Lord, this day we ask for your blessings on this marker commemorating our respect for Pvt. **JAMES BRIAN SR.**'s example of service during the Revolutionary War that granted us the ability to prosper in wealth, justice and in greater service of your Son, the divine servant that we all must follow. Lord, when this marker is viewed let us remember that where God is present, service is required and so it is in Christ's name that we pray. AMEN.

The Rev. Neill McKay
Beth Shiloh Presbyterian Church

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Transcribed from original documents by Brent R. Brian & Martha M. Brian.

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[BMGEN](#)

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