

ROSS BANES ANDERSON, JR., CELEBRATES 90th BIRTHDAY

Ross Banes ("Banes") Anderson, Jr., the oldest grandson of Anne Arundel County Civil War Veteran Richard Thomas Anderson (of Company "C", the "Duvall" Company, Second Battalion, C.S.A. Maryland Infantry), celebrated his **Ninetieth** birthday last April 9, 2001, at the Mt. Vista Grove Retirement Community at Pasadena, California.

Banes is a retired Presbyterian minister and is perhaps the oldest living great grandson of Absalom (III) Anderson and of Louisa Priscilla (Woodward) Anderson. For some years he and his wife, the former Christine ("Chris") Hardy, who was born in England but grew up in Toronto, Canada, have resided at Mt. Vista Grove, which is owned and operated by the Presbyterian Church.

That anniversary weekend, some 21 of Banes's and Chris's growing family joined in the birthday celebration.

Grandfather Was an Ordained Methodist Minister

Although he was born in the Highland Park section of Los Angeles, Banes's childhood was spent largely in Alameda, California, near San Francisco. His parents were Ross Banes Anderson, Sr., and Laura (Robinson) Anderson, both originally from Baltimore, Maryland, where his maternal grandfather, Cyrus N. Robinson, was a Baltimore business man who was also an ordained Methodist minister, and whose father, before him, the Reverend Thomas Robinson, had also been a Methodist minister in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, including of the old Severn Circuit. His parents had been married at the old Grace Methodist Episcopal Church (today's Grace United Methodist Church of North Charles Street, Baltimore), before they moved to California soon before Banes's birth.

As a child, Banes Anderson had been selected for the Stanford University Study of Gifted Children, and he spent a number of summers with his maternal grandparents and family in Baltimore, Maryland (including on the Magothy River, where maternal cousins had waterfront property).

As a youth, Banes was quite active in "Christian Endeavor", and he attended the University of California, from which he graduated in 1932 with a major in Greek language and studies. He then attended what is now the New York Theological Seminary but received his Th.B. degree in theology from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1936.

Served as Presbytery Moderator and Stated Clerk

As an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church (Presbytery of San Francisco in 1936), Banes served during his career as minister of six United Presbyterian Churches at Santa Maria, San Francisco, Fresno, Three Rivers, and San Joaquin, California. He retired in 1976.

He received his doctor of theology degree in 1947 from the San Francisco Theological Seminary at San Anselmo, California. In 1944 he served as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara and later (1972) as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of San Joaquin. In 1969, he was President of the Fresno Area Council of Churches, and he is listed in *Who's Who in Religion in America*.

In the summer of 1967, Banes exchanged pulpits with the pastor of the Presbyterian Cathedral at Dunkeld, Scotland.

Their Four Children

Banes and Chris Anderson have four children:

Carol Coombs (valedictorian of her high school class), a graduate of Occidental College who has

resided in Austin, Texas, since 1975, is a Mother, a secondary school teacher, and choir director at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas;

Paul (president of his high school senior class), graduate of the University of California, commissioned Naval officer with two tours of duty on the USS Coral Sea off the Vietnam coast and one tour of duty commanding a river boat in the Mekong Delta, M.B.A. degree from the University of California, and Director of Special Projects for Crocker-McAllister Leasing;

Ross (III) (editor of both his high school and College newspapers), a graduate of Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington, Pulitzer Price award winning reporter, columnist, and editorial writer at the *Seattle Times*, and listed in *Who's Who in America*; and:

David, graduate of Whitworth College, employed earlier in the advertising departments of the two Spokane, Washington, newspapers, and later in similar capacities in Florida and New Jersey.

Banes and Chris Anderson have visited some of their Anderson relatives in Anne Arundel County on several occasions in recent years, which were but extensions of earlier and some simultaneous visits they have had over the years with Banes's Robinson family at Severna Park, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

(Banes Anderson, left, and his wife, Chris, as pictured with Marvin Anderson (back row) and with Banes's Severna Park, Maryland, Robinson cousins, John A. ("Jack") and Lucia Robinson.)