Mr. W.J. Gordy, 83, of 1019 Cassville Road, Cartersville, died Thursday, Aug. 19, 1993, at Cartersville Medical Center, Aug. 25, 1993.

He was born on May 15, 1910, in Aberdeen, a son of the late William Thomas Beah Gordy and Annie Jones Gordy. He had been a professional potter since 1922 and together with his late wife had owned and operated Gordy Pottery for 57 years. His work has been in the Smithsonian Institute since 1940, with a book written by Nancy Sweezy entitled "Raided in Clay" recognizing his work in the Smithsonian. He was a life member of Southern Highland Guild and received the Governor's Award in the Arts in 1983. He was awarded the first Bartow Cultural Heritage Award, was voted Man of the Year in 1984 with Sept. 15, 1984, declared W.J. Gordy Day by the late commissioner of Bartow County, Frank Moore, in honor of his "great creative and cultural achievement." He was an instructor at John C. Campbell Folk Art School, where he demonstrated making pottery for school children. He was recently honored with a book of his life entitled "Evolution of a Potter" by the Bartow History Center.

He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Navy. He was a life member of VFW Post 6124, serving as commander for seven years, and was voted Mr. VFW of Georgia in 1983. He was a member of the Carl Boyd Post of American Legion Post 42. He was a member of Cassville Baptist Church, where he had served as a Sunday School teacher for several years.

He was chairman and a member of the Cassville School Board of Trustees for several years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jewell Gordy, on Aug. 15, 1992; a son, William Ray Gordy, in 1939; and a sister, Sarah Moore.

Survivors include three daughters and sons-in-law, Joan and Dwight Adams of Gainesville, Fla.; Grace and J.B. Bearden of Calhoun; and Betty and Terry Williamson of Rome; a son, Harold Gordy of Cartersville; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; three brothers, D.X. Gordy of Greenville, Herbert Gordy of Newnan, and Jack Gordy of Cartersville; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral was Saturday, Aug. 21, at 4 p.m. from the chapel of Parnick Jennings Funeral Home, with the Revs. Charles Walker, Paul Harwell, and J.R. Huddleston officiating. Interment was in Liberty Hill Cemetery in Acworth. Grandsons were pallbearers and included Lowell Adams, Douglas Adams, Darrell Adams, Brice Bearden, Scott Brown, and Terry Williamson Jr. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Bartow History Center, Etowah Arts Council, or American Cancer Society. Aug. 25, 1993

Parnick Jennings Funeral Home of Cartersville was in charge of arrangements.