

# GRAVES & THOMAS



Carlyle Nickle Graves and William Preston Thomas Jr. were married at six o'clock in the evening September 15, 2007, at the Oxford-University United Methodist Church in Oxford. The bride's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Frederick Graves III of Batesville. The groom is the son of Mrs. Jane Carter Thomas of Greenwood and the late William Preston "Bill" Thomas.

The bride is the granddaughter of Mrs. Joan L. Houston of Batesville and the late Charles R. Houston and the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. "Buddy" Graves.

The groom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. William Shands Carter of Ruston, Louisiana, the late Mr. and Mrs. James Talbert "Tol" Thomas III.

Rev. Martin Alexander Case and Rev. Ollie Vernell Rencher performed the double-ring ceremony. Soloist Elizabeth Wright Raggio, organist William Jason Derrick, and harpist Cherie Stafford Matthews provided nuptial music.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a Monique Lhuillier gown of ivory re-embroidered Alençon lace over ivory silk. It featured a sculptured bodice scalloped at the strapless neckline and natural waistline from which fell the full A-line skirt, trellised with covered buttons down the back onto the chapel train. She wore a walking-length cape-cut illusion veil. The bride carried a nosegay of green and white garden hydrangeas, mini calla lilies, Polo roses, and Eskimo roses hand-tied with chartreuse Cymbidium orchids, hypericum berries, and stephanotis. Antique handkerchiefs from her great grandmother and the groom's

grandmother were tucked into the French ribbons. The bride wore a two-strand pearl necklace with a clasp fashioned from a pin that was a gift from the groom's father to his mother. The necklace was a wedding gift from the groom.

Attending the bride as her maid of honor was her sister Jordan Rebecca Graves. Matrons of honor were Meredith Carlson Fleming and Elizabeth Luster Sherman. Bridesmaids were Hallie Claire Archer; Susan Shel Gary; Suzanne Herron Helveston; Blewett Elizabeth Melton; Martha Ann Parker; Mary Cates Permenter; Ann Carter Thomas, sister of the groom; and Leigh Taylor Patton Unruh. The bridesmaids wore formal gowns of sable taffeta and carried bouquets of Milva, Circus, and Cherry Brandy roses embellished with hydrangeas, Cymbidium orchids, hypericum berries, and stems of lisianthus, all hand-tied and wrapped with French ribbons.

Anna Rose Thomas and Betty Jane Thomas, cousins of the groom, were the flower girls. The honorary bridesmaids were Rebecca Clayton Barrier, Jessica Holt Cox, Jennifer Myers Garner, Emily Sneed Hatcher, Brooke Andrea Lawyer, Brittany Paige McDonald, Lindsey McClelland Oakley, and Ann Powers Haymans. Taylor Phillips Beard read the scripture, and Lindy Robison Lowe served as the bride's proxy.

Michael Bradley Hawkins served as best man. The groomsmen were Wynne Stephens Cox; Thomas Rayburn Eatherly; Alan Lawrence Ellis; Howard O'Keefe Graham II; Thomas Houston Graves,



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brother of the bride; Jamie Giles Houston; John Taylor Howell; David Lee McKinnon; Owen Nerren Pratt; Laurence Nicholas Chandler Rogers; and Edward Andrew Stephenson. Brendan Graves Baker, cousin of the bride, served as junior groomsman. The ushers were Andrew Paul Cates, Michael Alan Galey, Christian Thornton Marley Jr., Timothy Hudson Mashburn, Lance Gregory Niel, and cousins of the bride William Harrison Nickle and Tyler Warren Lovelace.

Robert Alexander Carson and Bryan Steven Nickle, cousin of the bride, served as candle lighters. Program attendants were Amber Ash Eatherly, Shannon Renee Donald, and Virginia Dean Hammett. Guest book attendant was Sydney Caroline Reid, cousin of the bride. "Cookie" girls were Sally Reid Boswell and Sloan Carlisle Reid, cousins of the bride; Isabella Rose Morrow; Savannah Virginia Savage; Eleanor Havens Smith; Sadie Grace Smith; and Sophie Caroline Smith. Anna Haley Purvis directed the wedding.

Following the ceremony, the wedding party rode Oxford's double-decker bus to the reception at the Oxford Conference Center. Guests danced to the music of The Memphis Soul Revue and enjoyed a beautifully catered buffet by Pretty Presentations Catering. Favorite special dishes were 208 South Lamar crab cakes and wontons and Taylor Grocery fried catfish and hushpuppies. The late night "chicken-on-a-stick" from McPhail's Chevron topped off the evening.

On Friday, close friends hosted the bridesmaids' luncheon at the home of Mrs. Bill Fleming in Batesville. That evening the groom's mother hosted an elegant rehearsal dinner at the Oxford University Club. After the beautiful dinner and well wishing toasts, friends of the couple hosted a dance at the Library with music by Class Reunion. A wedding day brunch given by friends of the families was held in Oxford at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Nance.

After honeymooning in St. Lucia, the couple is at home in Memphis, Tennessee.

