

Lee Rowe

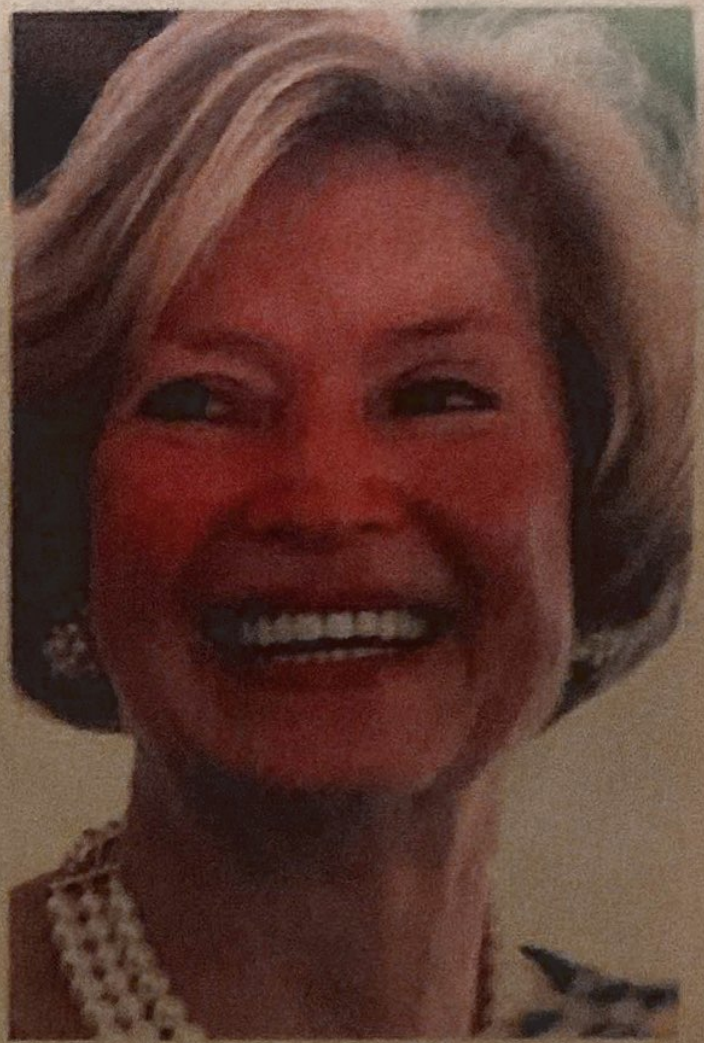
Lee Pelham Cooper Rowe of Fredericksburg and Vero Beach, Fla., died Friday, Feb. 5, 2016, at her home in Fredericksburg.

Born Nov. 4, 1925, in Oklahoma, she was the daughter of Roy Corda Pelham and Mary Myrtle Morris Pelham. She spent her childhood in Plainview, Texas, attended college at San Diego State and graduated from Mary Washington College. She also attended the University of Mexico and the University of Heidelberg.

Mrs. Rowe taught history and Spanish at Falmouth High School and was librarian at Harris Elementary School in Key West, Fla., and Maury Elementary School in Fredericksburg. At Maury, students asked Mrs. Rowe for a book about the Spanish language. Finding no such book on the market, Mrs. Rowe decided that she would write one herself. Her book, "Fun with Spanish," was Little, Brown and Company's bestseller for 1965.

Her writing career continued with "Fun with French," "Fun with Italian," "Fun with German" and "More Fun with Spanish." She also wrote for other publishers—for Abelard-Schulman, "Five Fables from France;" for Putnam, "The Pirate of Puerto Rico;" and for Charles E. Tuttle Company of Japan, "The Chinese Language for Beginners."

In the mid-'70s, Mrs. Rowe launched a new career as a realtor. Her husband, E. Randolph Cooper, owner of Cooper's Furniture on William Street, gave her his warehouse next door, where she opened Cooper Realty. She joined forces with Fritz Leedy and expanded her business into Cooper-Leedy Realtors, occupying the furniture store when Mr. Cooper retired because of the kidney ailment that eventually caused his death.



In 2001, she married Charles Spurgeon Rowe, retired editor and co-publisher of The Free Lance—Star. They divided their time between Fredericksburg and Vero Beach, Fla., where they became residents. Mr. Rowe predeceased her in March 2015.

Mrs. Rowe is survived by her niece, Virginia Kay Smith Jackson (Jim); her great-niece Marcia Smith Anderson and Marcia's children; her great-nephew, Dyron Smith (Christie) and their children; and her great-great-niece, Mica Brooke Henson (Wes) and their children. She is also survived by her stepchildren, Ashley R. Gould (Jeffrey) of Nashville, Tenn., Charles S. Rowe Jr., (Jennifer) of Fredericksburg, Timothy D. Rowe (Lori) of Chapel Hill, N.C., Laura A. Huntsman (Stephen LeMener) of Pennington, N.J., and Kathleen J. Huntsman of Fredericksburg; and 11 step-grandchildren. Mrs. Rowe was predeceased by her sisters, Billye Beats Roden, and Anita Pelham Finney.

A funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at St. George's Episcopal Church with the Rev. Joe Hensley officiating. The family requests that expressions of sympathy take the form of donations to a favorite charity.