

Wade Sutton – NCFS – 1968

From [Facebook, September 3, 2020](#)

LODD history. Swain County Fire Warden and state forest ranger Wade Sutton, 52, died on December 7, 1968, while fighting a forest fire. Found this clipping tonight, from the Asheville Citizen-Times.

Forest Ranger Dies Fighting Swain Fire

BRYSON CITY — A veteran firefighter with the state forestry division was killed Saturday fighting a 100-acre forest fire in the Almond section of Swain County.

Swain County Coroner Dr. William E. Mitchell identified the man as Wade Allen Sutton, 52. He said Sunday night probable cause of Sutton's death was carbon monoxide poisoning and burning. Dr. Mitchell said he would withhold ruling on the death until autopsy results are complete.

Firefighters from Graham County were brought in to help put out the fire that seared some 100 acres in the mountainous region off Wataua Creek in the Almond section of the county.

Mitchell said Sutton, state forest ranger and fire warden for Swain County, was notified of the fire around 9:15 a. m. It was around 11 a. m. when Sutton and his assistant R. Q. Camby got to the scene.

Mitchell said the two men split up to fight the fire. Camby went up the mountain and Sutton went down the mountain. He said Camby had worked his way around the fire and met the firefighters from Graham about 4:30 p. m.

They began searching for Sutton and found his body about three hours later about 300 yards from where he and Camby parted company that morning.

A native of Swain County, Sutton was a veteran of World War II. He had been with the N. C. Forestry Division for 12 years as a county ranger.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Lucille Sutton; a son, Dale Sutton of Lenoir; two daughters, Mrs. Janice White and Mrs. Judy Estes, both of Bryson City; three brothers, Clyde and Harry of Detroit, Mich. and Fred Sutton of Asheville; three sisters, Mrs. Dover Dean of Bryson City, Mrs. Frank Coulter

of Baltimore, Md. and Mrs. Wymer Mincey of Cullowhee; and three grandchildren.

Services will be held at 3 p. m. Monday in Jackson Line Baptist Church, of which he was a member.

The Rev. Berlin Aldridge will officiate. Burial will be in the Sutton Family cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Odell Shuler, Fred Duval, Mack, Gene and Cecil Sutton and Samuel Cogdill. Honorary pallbearers will be N. C. Forestry personnel of District 9.

The body will remain at Bill Moody Funeral Home until the services.

Asheville, Citizen-Times - Monday, Dec 9, 1968