COX

FAMILY

REUNION

DESCENDANTS

of

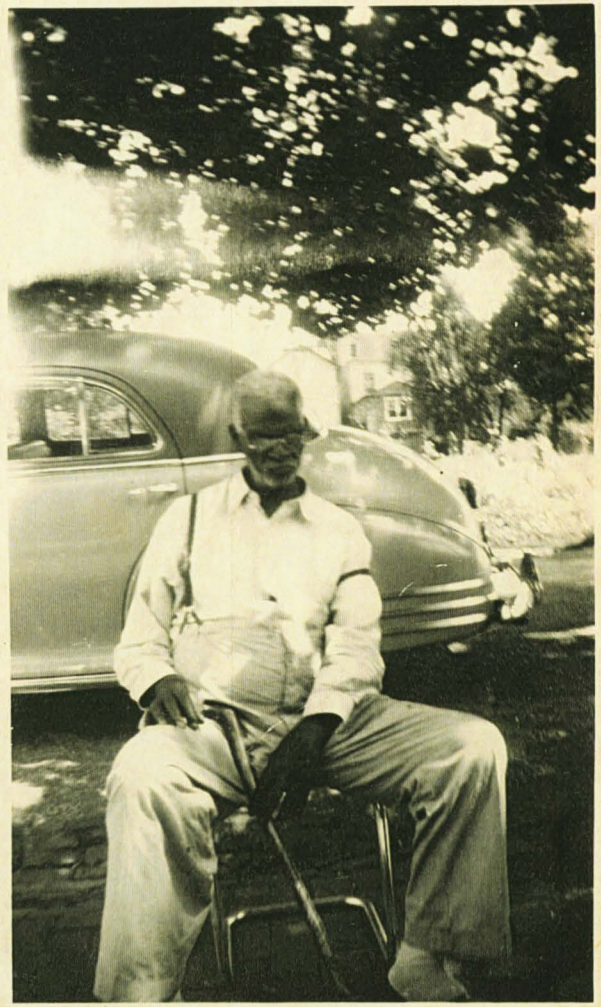
BARTLEY W. COX

and

MINERVA J. COX







Pic



Angela Matthews added this on 14 Aug 2010

tondolela originally submitted this to Woolfolk Family Tree on 12 Mar 2010

Category Type: Portrait / Family Photo

Media Objects for Eliza Jane Taylor

Death Cert


Eliza Jane Taylor

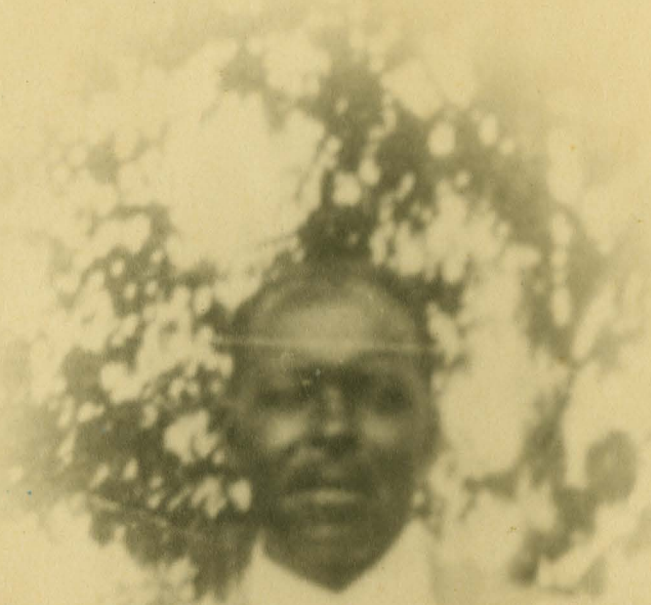
Attached to in this tree


Eliza Jane Taylor
1852 - 1919

Other trees this object is saved to

JESSUP-CHOATE FAMILY
by biggdogg24605 on 18 Mar 2012

Graham - Baldwin Family Tree
by biggdogg24605 on 29 Mar 2012







MINERVA COX'S

PARENTS AND SIBLINGS

FATHER'S MOTHER: Vinnie Flinchum
FATHER: Peter (Pete) Jessup

Grandfather: Stewart Anderson Taylor
Grandmother: Senie Petry Taylor

SISTERS: Julia Jessup
Betty Jessup
Minnie Jessup

BROTHERS: Fletcher Jessup
Vergil Jessup
Verlin Jessup

BARTLEY COX'S

PARENTS AND SIBLINGS

SLAVE MASTER

MATT COX

~~GRAND~~MOTHER

CAROLINE COX

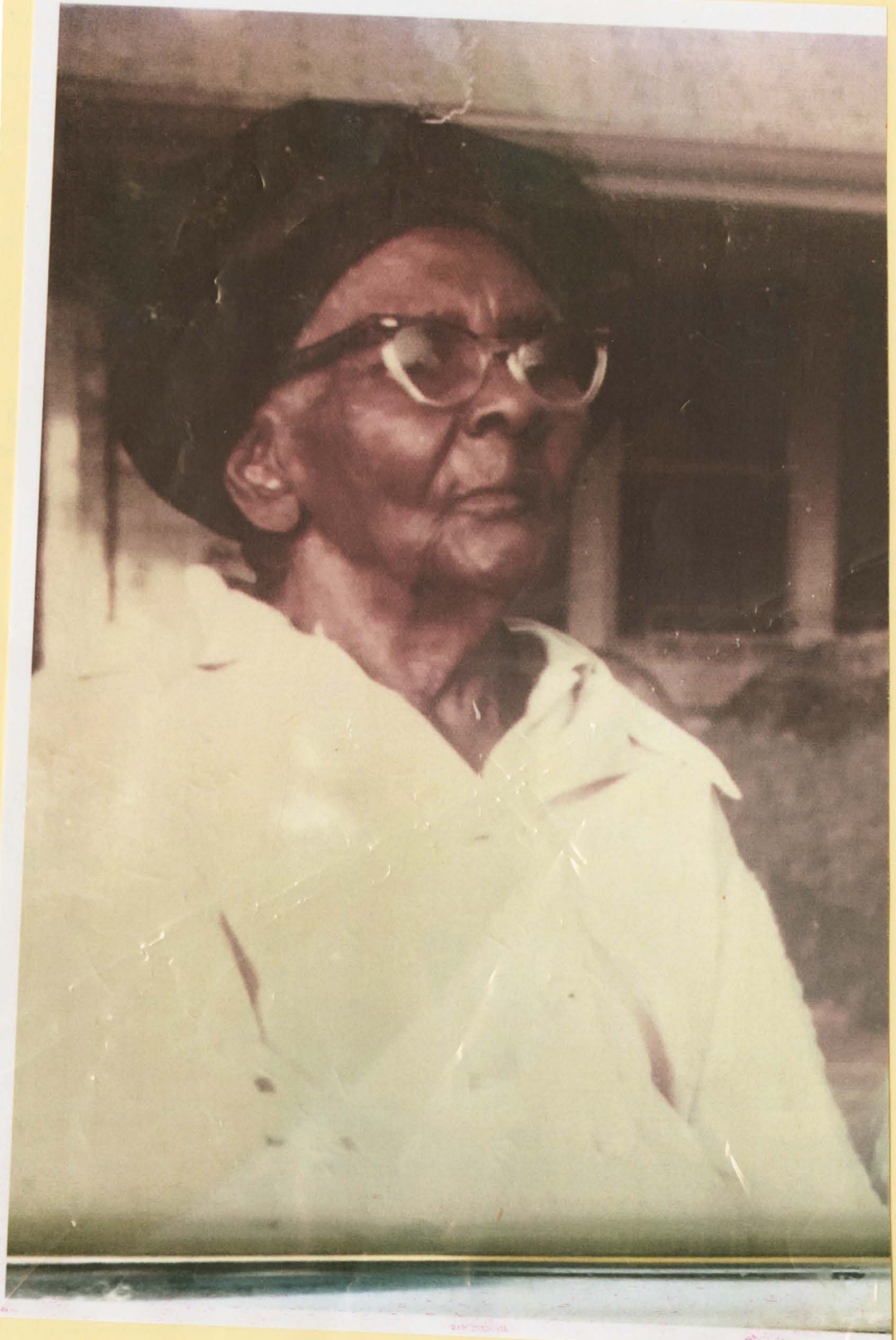
FATHER: Noah Cox

Mother: Jane Goodman Cox

Stepmother: Martha Cox

Sisters: Smithie Cox Martin
Caroline Cox
Mentora Cox
Ion E. Cox

Brothers: Dallas Alex Cox
Harbor Cox
Raleigh Cox
Thomas Cox



Not Growing Old

They say that I'm growing old,
I've heard them tell it times untold
In language plain and bold;
But I'm not growing old !

This frail shell in which I dwell
Is growing old, I know full well...
But I'm not the shell!

What if my hair is turning gray ?
Gray hair's honorable, they say.
What if my eyesight's growing dim ?
I can see to follow Him !

Who sacrificed His love for me
Upon the Cross of Calvary.
What should I care if Time's old plough
Has left its furrow on my brow ?

Another house---not made with hand---
Awaits me in the Glory Land!
What though I falter in my walk ?
What though my tongue refuse to talk ?

I still can tread the narrow way.
I still can watch, and praise and pray !
My hearing may not be as keen
As in the past it may have been.

Still I can hear my Savior say
In whispers soft, "This is the way".

The outward man (do what I can
To lengthen out this life's short span)
shall perish and return to dust,
As everything in nature must.

The Inward-Man, the Scriptures say,
Is growing stronger every day !
Then how can I be growing old,
When safe within my Savior's fold ?

`Ere long my soul shall fly away,
And leave this tenement of clay.
This robe of flesh I'll drop...and RISE
To seize the Everlasting Prize !

I'll meet you on the streets of gold
And prove that I'm not growing old !

By John E. Roberts

"MINERVA ORO JESSUP COX STORY"

INTRODUCTION

When I think of my mother's hands, I think of how they've picked me up physically, mentally, and emotionally. These hands have held me in so many ways since I was a small child even though I was a grandchild. I was born in August and my mother returned to work in September the same year. This negates nothing from my mother, but illustrates the closeness of my grandma and me.

"One of God's true, basic gifts given to everyone is a mother."

"You welcomed the work God gave you to be a mother. Thank you for embracing me and for teaching me life with blessings since the moment I was born."

"The tender works of a mother's hands – the blessings, warm the heart and span many years."

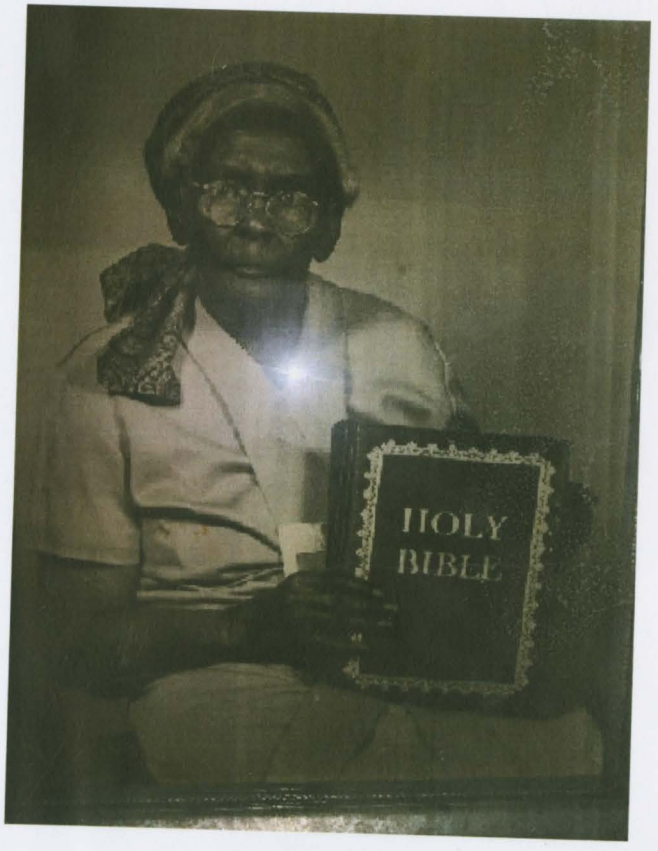
Honor..... thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land. Exodus 20:12

"Children are the anchors in a mother's life." Sophocles

"And Adam called his wife's name Eve because she was the mother of all living."

Genesis 3:20

Scriptures Cited and Quotes are taken
from the same source Praise for Mothers
The Clever Factory, Inc., Nashville, TN 37215 USA



Now it has come to me to do an awesome task. The job is exhilarating and overwhelming to write about one hundred and six years that my grandmother, Minerva, graced this great earth. It is a special favor I have been given by many cousins to write this biography of a timeless masterpiece. It is even more of an honor and privilege because I lived with her from birth to her death in 1981.

Further, I have reached the age, she called "my eyes are failing me", cataracts. She would tell me to bring that light closer. Of course, I became a smiling lamppost. She read her Bible, newspapers and poetry.

I find it fascinating: my cousins allowed me to do this duty. You see she lived under the administration and governance of twenty-one presidents, Ulysses S. Grant to Ronald E. Reagan. Wow! Many people cannot endure one president. This in itself makes this job overwhelming. Thank you family and I count it all still a joy! Grandma tried to stay abreast of world events.

I recall how broken-hearted, but level headed she was about losing our first casualty to war. Her grandchild, Clayborn, was the first grandchild to die in the Vietnam War. He was, Roy's, her eldest living son's, eldest grandson. We have been blessed; many wars have come, but this is our only casualty to war. God has blessed us. She hummed, 'Thank you Jesus' with tearful eyes when she thought of him. No matter how far away children may go or how many years pass they will never truly leave their home or family behind. A mother's love has the incredible power to encompass the globe. She made this song up, "Thank you Jesus, thank you Jesus, thank you Jesus, You have brought me from a mighty long way' has become renowned in the black churches.

Minerva Oro Jessup Cox was born March 13, 1875 (according to marriage license from Ancestry.com) in the Brim Grove community on the Daniel Taylor Plantation/Farm. The community lies between Westfield and Pilot Mountain. Daniel Taylor and his wife bequeathed the land to her mother's family, the Taylors. She was the daughter of Peter "Pete" and Eliza Jane....Taylor. The slave schedule of Daniel Taylor reveals Eliza was one of his slave children born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. Our discovery in this schedule was Daniel Taylor and wife of Pittsylvania County, Virginia owned Stewart who was 20 years old in 1840. Seine Jane Petry, (multaoo) would have been 18 in 1840, James Madison Taylor (1840, Clem Saunders (1845), Mary Taylor (mulatto) (1848), William Thomas(1849). This

appeared in NC Census in 1870. The above information was found in 1850 and 1860 Census of Pittsylvania County, Virginia. Eliza Jane 5, in 1860, Noah Jackson, 3, Celia, Francis, Biddie Easter, 1 or younger. These are the slaves of Daniel Taylor and his wife. According to his will he left 150 acres of land in North Carolina to James Taylor. A FREEMAN WHO HE RAISED AND IS HIS FRIEND. James is listed as living with Daniel in 1870 Census in Stokes County. Abraham and Andrew Taylor was born twins in North Carolina in 1870 Census. One must assume James Madison divided the land among his father and brothers. One family still owns their land in this community. Grandma said, "Her uncles did not have business sense and lost the land. This writer thinks it is interesting grandmas Jane mulatto and Mary Taylor mulatto who may have been her brother or their father. Daniel Taylor may be our relative too?

Well, ironically, with all these Taylors, we were related to everyone in Stokes and Surry County. One of our cousins said, "He was moving so he could find a wife." He moved to Philadelphia, PA. A few years ago he called and shared a story with me, as well as, questioned me. He met this beautiful, intelligent young lady. She was sharing her great-great-grandmother was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. You know where all our people come from and I was agreeing. He said her grandmother was Biddie Taylor Strickland. Oh yes, that is Grandma, Elizie's sister. I began to laugh. He questioned whether I was sure. I told him I had her tree. He thinks he wanted to marry her. Well, I laugh. I said you might want to rethink that idea. Send me the papers.

Seriously, African-American do not know their family. You take Grandpa Peter "Pete" Jessup.

We do not know any of his people. He and Grandma Elizie married and had seven children. Grandpa Pete came for Quaker Gap born in 1844 and died in 1929. Their children are Julia A.(1860), Elizabeth "Betty" (1872), James Virgil (1873), Samuel Fletcher (1874), Minerva Oro(1875), Mintora E. "Minnie", and Verlin Rex Jessup (1890). Julia disappeared one day after going for a walk. People said she was raped by a slave, or a white man, or killed, or became pregnant and left. She was much loved by many cousins; they named family members after her.

The other brothers and sisters married and had large families: Fletcher, Virgil, and Minnie. Minerva and Verlin had almost opposite sized families and loved to share it. He would cackle and tell he had eleven boys and three girls, and "Nerve" Minerva had eleven girls and

four boys. Interesting facts about Jessup was they were gifted with musical ability. They played instruments by ear and their voices were melodious and beautiful. Many would cry when they heard their voices. Two of Grandma Elizie's granddaughters sang with Bishop Shirley Caesar. Lately, one of Uncle Verlin's great, great, greats has been singing on Steve Harvey's and Larry Connick Jr. Show Little Big Shots.

Grandpa Pete's last name was Jessup, but we were not related to any African-American Jessup's in Westfield, Stokes, or anywhere in Surry County. I wonder why? His mother was Vinny Flinchum. Extensive research occurred according to Ancestry.com trying to locate slave owners with that last name. They could not find out where Granma Vinny hailed. There were no Flinchums in Stokes County. My thoughts are she was originally from Surry County near the Dobson and Yadkin County areas. I taught some Flinchums in those areas. Peter Negro was his Daddy according to Ancestry.com. I wonder if he was black or white.

Regardless, Peter was strong, self-willed man. He loved his wife and family. He could be called the protector. Grandma Liza was a mid-wife. One evening when returning home from delivering a baby; Frank Snody raped her. He never lived to share the story because Grandpa Pete killed him. He loved Grandma and went to Central Prison. He returned home for a short while but he could not stay. He left to live in Walnut Cove. Some of my aunts saw him there.

One day Bartley Woodrow Cox, a young handsome well-built man, met a fine young petite smooth dark brown lovely beautiful lady named Minerva Oro Jessup from the Brim Groves Community. They married in Danbury December 22, 1890. There's was a beautiful Christmas wedding. She would never tell, especially, younger grandchildren how old she was when she married. She never wanted us to marry at such a young age. She wanted us to go to school. A famous quote "A little education is a dangerous thing." They were married for sixty-nine years until his death in 1950. Minerva remained a widow until 1981 and declared herself as a widow indeed according to Titus, a book in the Bible.

They were blessed with a well versed, beautiful and talented family. Zilla Pricilla Roxanne, Bertha Imogene, Payne Nathaniel, Roy General, Julia Rosella, Eliza Jane, Martha Alberta, Crissie Myrtle, Flora Odell, Otis Graham, Zelma Olivia, Vera Minerva, Thomas Woodrow "Gorrell", Connie Bernice Virginia, and Baby Cox. The oldest child lived to be ninety-nine and the youngest lived to age ninety. All her children would go to heaven; none would be lost according to Minerva and the Bible.

Her daughter, Julia, claimed to be the first black college graduate in her family. The line was so different than today so who knows, but for this area of Surry as far as we know she was. The interesting story is she was a Lady before Her Time. She always wrote her name after she was married Julia Rosella Cox Flowers. She never left Cox out. She was born in 1900 so who would have thought of leaving their maiden name when writing their name once they were married. Interestingly, she knew she had a praying Mama. She went to college with no money. She went to Dr. Atkins, college president, and told him why she wanted to go to school. He sent her to class and she graduated. This was Winston Salem Teacher's College and she returned home and began teaching at Chestnut Ridge School. You see the mother is a vine in thy blood planted by the waters: she was fruitful and full of branches by reasons of many waters. Ezekiel 19:20.

Minerva had 73 grandchildren, 150 plus great grandchildren, 201 great-great grandchildren and 6 great, great, great grandchildren.

Bartley Woodrow Cox's parents are Noah Cox and Jane Goodman Cox. Noah and Jane had Bartley, Caroline, Ion E. and Raleigh as children. Noah showed up on the death certificate with a son, Thomas Cartwright Cox, as father of a son with a white mother. Cartwright was age 40 at his death. Again Noah shows up in 1890 Census in Dobson with Raleigh and Bartley married to Martha Bowles with Samantha "Smithie", Harbour, Alex Dallas Cox living in Mount Airy with his new wife and family. Noah's mother was Caroline Cox. He had three brothers -Cornelius, Abe and Clem. He also had one sister named Mary who married Sam Farris.

Minerva was a stern, strict mother who used spare the rod and spoil the child as her discipline guide. She stuck her chest out because her eleven daughters were all married before they became mothers. She testified as to how the Lord blessed her to rear daughters who brought her no illegitimate grandchildren. The men in the community used to bet who could get one of the Cox girls pregnant. It was to no avail because older sister Eliza would be ready to fight anyone of them. Grandma's exact words were "She had no grandchildren born out of wedlock." Dr. Tom Smith helped deliver many of her children and grandchildren. His was a very familiar name among the family.

She was a very powerful praying woman. She sent her son, "Gorrell" to Tennessee to help his oldest sister Zilla. Somehow she learned Zilla's family was sick with pneumonia and she also heard Tom was very mean to her and the seven children. Word came to her, Gorrell

and Moyer were sick and died. She left immediately with Bible in tote praying. Upon arrival she laid hands upon them and revived them. Gorrell reared a family of eight children. It is told that Moyer was killed by his Dad defending his Mama.

Minerva, a proverbial mother, noted when she crocheted a bedspread with twine for all fourteen of surviving children. She made a full size bedspread for each child. What a value!

She was similar to Hannah, in the Bible. She crocheted the bedspread and "Hannah made Samuel a coat and brought it to him from year to year. She came to see Eli with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice, 1 Samuel 2:10. Minervia made her children's clothing and dressed them royally.

She instructed her children to foster wisdom and understanding by studying the Bible, thus, successfully fighting the wiles of the world. She taught herself to read from a blue back speller. She only went to school about a year. She had too many miles to walk in all types of weather. She loved poetry and could memorize many poems. Poems like, 'Never Growing Old', and 'A House by the Side of the Road.' Thus, this verse from Proverbs 12:8-9 sums this best, "The teaching of the mother, shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head and the golden chain about the neck."

In the midst of rearing a family, she became a member of Locust Grove Primitive Baptist Church because Grandpa Bart told her it was closer than Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Pinnacle. She was attending Mount Moriah but I am not sure if she was a member. Brim Grove Community would be closer to her. I suppose they purchased property in Surry County near the Chestnut Ridge Community.

When she connected with Locust Grove Primitive Baptist the old Primitive Baptist she became disgruntled with their beliefs and worship. The lack of free will, the baptizing with water more than once, what will be will be philosophy, no music, no church education, and no formal training of the Bible. No encouragement of Bible reading in the congregation doing church services was causing her much conflict. They began to have two services; one in the morning and one in the evening. The morning group locked out the evening group. Grandma must have been in the evening group for they were locked out. The minutes recorded they locked the group out of the church.

Grandma and Aunt Betty, Grandma's sister, took axes and chopped the door down. They went into the building and had church. When the morning group discovered what had

occurred, they brought charges against the evening group. They appeared before the judge in a small building just past Surry/Stokes lines in Westfield. The building still stands. Minerva spoke vehemently about Christ and their rights. The judge told her she was the leader because she was assertive and the judge told them to find another place to worship. The minutes revealed they worshiped in brush harbors, homes, Hatcher school house and finally Fletcher Jessup, her brother, became weary seeing them traveling place to place and sold them land for $25.

Circa 1900 named Chestnut Ridge Primitive Baptist Church. At that time Chestnut Ridge was surrounded by black farmers owning hundreds of acres. Some of them were Fletcher and Mary Jane Jessup, Verlin and Dora Ann Strickland Jessup, Bartley and Minerva Jessup Cox, Archie Strickland, Robert and Ida McCarther just to name a few.

These farms were located on Highway 89E (currently Westfield Road), Cain Road (Chestnut Ridge Road) and Athey Simmons Road. This area was a black community, now, a lost community. There are three physical symbols of the black community, Chestnut Ridge Church, Ridge-Westfield School purchased by the church as an educational facility, and McCarther farm land on Athey Simmons Road where his son, Nathaniel, dedicated a portion to black farmers in the area.

The church was progressive and needed a new name that distinguished them from the old Primitive Baptist. Grandma's daughter, Julia, proposed and it was accepted to call themselves Progressive. Even though it appears as an oxymoron that meant we baptized once, we had Bible Study, Church School, BTU and choirs. The church had instruments to praise the Lord. This is what 'Progressive' meant and nothing less or more. They kept the name of the Sandy Ridge Association from which they haled, but the newly formed association was approximately fifty years younger. Many churches are older than Chestnut Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist Church but they left the Old Primitive Baptist and joined this new movement. Minerva would often say, "She was mother of Sandy Ridge Association and the NC/VA Primitive Baptist Convention. She was instrumental in saving the state convention.

Some of the older members of Mount Moriah in Charlotte shared that your Grandmother really started the state convention. The oral history came from some reliable sources and not from people worried about sex or power in the church. I talked with Christians who believed in Christ, there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek, bond nor free. When

God is in your program you cannot change what He has ordained to occur. Grandma had her grandchildren give her money for the state building. Every time she saw them, especially the older ones, she collected hundreds of dollars and brought it on Founders Day and Meeting Days in November. She turned it in separate from the church, especially, under Reverend Hemphill. Her vision was for dormitories to be built and a college for Primitive Baptist teaching to occur. She had two daughters to graduate from Winston Salem Teacher's College (WSSU) and most of the others attended John T. Martin School of Religion in Winston Salem. Surry County did not have a high school for blacks but she ensured all her children could read and write. She taught herself to read but wanted further advancement for her family. The mother's heart is the child's (offspring's) schoolroom. (Henry Ward Beecher)

Besides reviving her son and grandson who died from an illness in Tennessee, she could withdraw fire, cure thrust, and heal the sick because of her faith in God. God used her as an instrument to do these miraculous deeds. Much healing occurred in the home. One time I recall one of the McCarther twins that lived in Detroit had an illness. One of them called and stated she had been told that she only had six hours to live; I know Aunt Alberta and Uncle Lester, Aunt Julia and Grandma left for Detroit. I can't recall if mother and daddy went. They usually did. They drove and upon arrival, she was still alive. God is omnipresent in whatever you need. They have a prayer and devotion at the house and left. There were no cell phones to call and check how she was doing; they went on faith believing she would be living when they arrived. Today she still lives and is in her nineties'.

Another instance was my cousin Thomas W. Cox, Jr. was supposed to go to Iraq (Desert Storm). His father and mother called and those Aunts got on the phone with God. He never left the United States. HE went to a desert in California. The doctor told my sister to abort her daughter she was going to be deformed. My grandmother prayed. She was born May 13, 1981 and grandma died August 21, 1981. She works for the governor as Chief Deputy Director of Lost, Misplaced and Adopted and Social Service Children in one of our southern illustrious states.

Minerva was 106 years old in the hospital and wanted to come home. Mother and I took turns spending time with her in the hospital day and night. One Saturday night my Aunt from Winston Salem came to relieve us. She told us to go home and she would spend the night. When leaving I said to her, "Don't you let anything happen to my Grandma." Lo and

behold by mother went back, Grandma was dressed and about to leave. My aunt was sleeping soundly. I guess Grandma was going to walk home.

Another event in our family that is unforgettable is loss of more than eighty acres of land on Chestnut Ridge Road now known as Cain Road. All of Grandma's children were born in this house that "Pa" (Grandpa Bart) built. The house still stands. Much of the land surrounding the church and school was loss due to taxation without representation. This land was located around Chestnut Ridge P.P. Baptist Church and the former educational center – Ridge Westfield School. Farms down Highway 89 East, Athey Simmons Road and Cain Road were all owned by black farmers but was lost because of this tax. Grandpa Bart lost the farm circa July 1931.

My mother, Bernice Cox Lowe said, "She was about nine years old when this happened; and a Snoody, who was Sheriff or Deputy, came and put them out. The names are relevant because he was brother of the man Grandpa Pete killed for raping Grandma Elizie. There is a connection. Later in life, he was in a Rest Home in Greensboro and kept asking Cousin Erastus Jessup to bring Grandpa Bart to see him. This visit never occurred. I will leave this for a moment of thought as to why he wanted to see Grandpa Bart so badly.

My mother shared Grandpa Bart never got the piano from the side of the highway. She emphasized this with much emotion. One can only imagine the effect this had on a nine year old. Seeing what happened the next day when Snoody came and arrested Grandma. Mother didn't know where Uncle Gorrell and Pa were that day but she knew Grandma was home all day. Grandma was arrested for trespassing on their own property. Besides, my Mother walking miles around a direct route to school and because of bigotry, she now experienced her mother going to jail because of unjust laws and a lie about her mother. Can you only imagine the effect on a nine year old?

Back to Deputy Snoody, I offer a proposition I think he knew no one held a deed to the eighty acres supposedly my grandfather loss. I think he wanted to tell it. Rationale: The current owner in 1990's circa 1995 put the land up for auction on Friday and the auction was on Saturday. The owner bought it. My mother said, If my brother Gorrell was living we would get our land back. After Grandma was arrested during the week of her church revival she said she was finished with the land. In other words, nothing came before her commitment to Christ.

Ironically, my Aunt Vara went to pay tax every year and was told there was no property in her father's name. My understanding of NC Statue is if the land is in the wife's name the husband's name is automatically added. How can we get to heaven with our sins not forgiven?

Grandma loved to recite poetry. She would come to school and recite October Gave A Party, October's Bright Blue Weather, A House By the Side of the Road, Never Grow Old, and other Christian poems. She memorized anything she read. She made up the song, 'Thank You Jesus'. She sang it in the late 1800's. Her great nephew, Belvin Jessup – a Methodist Bishop, researched the author and discovered no author but his Aunt Minerva Jessup Cox. She introduced many songs to the area, 'I Shall Not Be Moved', Swing Down Sweet Chariot', 'I Am So Glad I'm Here' and many others.

She continued to recite, A House By the Side of the Road by Sam Walter Foss. Her dream came a reality when her children purchased 3 acres of land on Westfield Road. They built a house by the side of the road. Nine people were the highest number of residents to live there at one time. Well, ten when Uncle Tom Flowers came to visit Aunt Julia and Alfred. We had aunts, uncles, and cousins always visiting. My grandmother had nieces and nephews and their families visit as well. The number increased from seventeen to twenty at certain periods of time. We really did have fun during these special occasions. Mother's Day and Revival times are branded in my memory. We climbed trees, and played tag and softball. The older cousins would help us younger cousins run bases and bat and catch. We played by baseball rules. It was so much fun to steal bases. We played most Sunday evenings.

Our day began early and I tried to get up early to bathe in hotter water. Of course, the younger ones got their baths early because they needed help. We would gather around the table for breakfast. The menu consisted of steaming boiled apples from granny green apple trees, sweet savory smelling sausage, brimming full flavor of bacon, the eggs were eloquent, their sweet aromas spoke to you, scrambled or fried, gurgling grits were bubbling to go along with soft, tasty biscuits. Often there was country ham, fried fish and other meats added like tender loin. Especially on Sunday morning, Grandma prayed before we ate, "Thank God for this feast set before us." She prayed for all her children name by name. That wasn't enough, she pronounced every grandchild and I was sixty-eight and there were five after me. The amazing thing was the food stayed hot and was delicious. It was like child in Paul Lawrence Dunbar's poem, 'you set still, I see your feet,: and "don't you dare touch

those rolls." I bet Alfred was anxious to get to eat. The food hit your nostrils just right, but we waited until grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren were all named. Aunt Odell would tell me, you don't have any and would laugh.

At dinner time we would have worked all day. We could hear the grown-up women discussing Daddy messing up the sink with car grease. It was my mother and aunts mostly. So Alfred and I would go to the dirt pile behind the house and rub our hands. We made sure our hands were dirty and leave the water in the sink. Grandma would say, "Look at how hard those children worked today. The water is so dirty!" We would laugh and laugh. Jill and Julia caught on and followed suit.

We were almost disappointed when company came. We were happy because you wanted to have guest, but we knew it would interrupt our playing time. We knew we were going to have devotion even if it was just her children. We would always join into singing and listening to testimonies and scripture readings. Sometimes Uncle Roy was there and we heard preaching. Of course, Grandma and Aunt Julia was in the lane too even though they were never professed to be preachers.. Every Sunday afternoon we had it unless there was service like BTU at the church. People accepted Christ as their Savior and became ambassadors for Christ as a result of these meetings. Of course, they came to Chestnut Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist Church and was baptized. Grandma even had it outside under the locust trees. Cousin Rufus and Cousin Besty Finney France would come every Saturday. They would come up and sit under the tree and I would bring out those straight back chairs. Daddy would weave the bottoms of the chairs with rope, plastic and some kind of hard straw. The first time Grandma would notice things would get quiet. She would say, "It's about time to sing something like A Charge to Keep I have and A God to Glorify. Devotion began. Everyone who visited always participated in our devotion. If you come by for the curing of thrush, withdrawing fire, you never left without participating in the devotions. Grandma was a traveling evangelist. She could not drive. I never knew her to walk, but I heard about her walking. I remember her going to Mr. Charlie Waugh, his wife, and Miss Maggie and sharing Christ with them. We would go every day after school. My mother, Bernice, Aunt Odell, Aunt Julia, Alfred, Jill, Julia, and Grandma, and me, would go to see the Waughs. We went every evening after school, sometimes Daddy would go if he was finished with his work. The Bible says, "Go into the hedges and highways and compel men to come. I briefly recall them going to Stuart, VA and visit a man and his wife. They, too, became members of the church and were baptized. Grandma Minerva witnessed to blacks and whites.

She always shared studying the Bible with Joel Jessup, Sr., a white minister in the community. He came to visit her and study and witness together. Ironically, his grandson, Joel, moved across the street from us. He and I discussed the Bible and I shared the story. We both, were over whelmed. She could be called doctor, preacher, evangelist, Mother, Mother of the Sandy Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist Association and the North Carolina and Virginia Primitive Baptist District. Because of her work in the church she was given all these accolades. Her children were accolades: two teachers, 1 principal, two ministers, 10 cooks, pianist, inventor, social interactors, 3 interior decorators, house wives and story tellers. They were so talented and were all great singers. They practically taught themselves to read music. Her children were the best job being the best they could be and any mother would be proud to call them her children.

She loved to travel and tour places. She went to Pennsylvania, New York, Baltimore, Pinehurst, Aberdeen, NC, Alabama, New Jersey, Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina, Michigan, and Ohio. She was active in North Carolina and Virginia State Convention, as well as, a member of the National Primitive Baptist Convention of America. She was a supporter of Reverends Livingston, G.W. Gibson, and Stafford. Reverend Benny Hemphill eulogized her with the theme "Victory in Jesus."

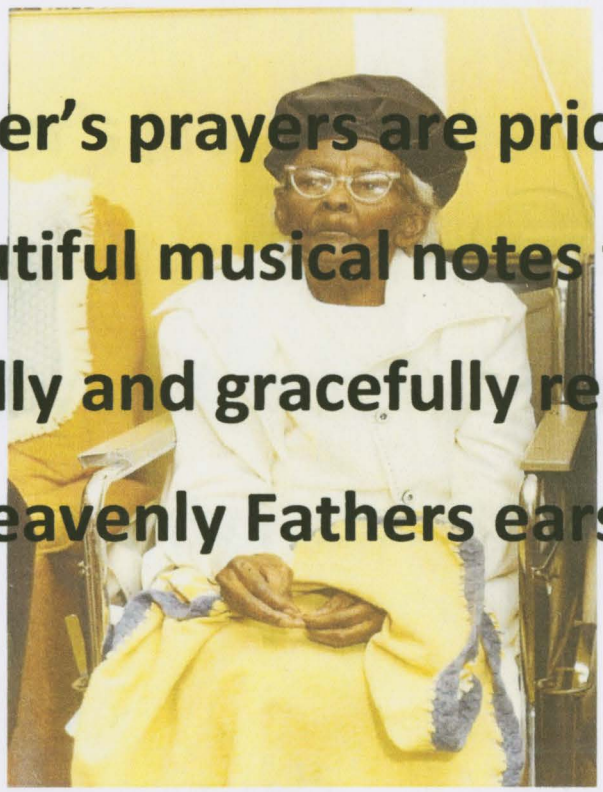
The many things occurring throughout life led her to believe persecution was a blessing and taught blessings flow down like a mighty stream. The Bible was a guide for her daily living. The Lord's Prayer became a creed to live by. She advocated our house is a house of prayer. There are signs all through her house like, As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. A family that prays together stays together. My nephew says how would you not know your family was not a part of a Christian home when in this corner there is a sign that says, 'As for me and my house we will serve the Lord as soon as you enter the house. You walk in another room, God began this family because two people fell in love. You will never miss it. You eat and you said a Bible verse after a long prayer, if my Aunt said the prayer. A mother's nurturing is never finished. It takes root and continues to grow. Her pure essence blossoms into every generation. My nephew is the fourth generation. When an explosion occurred in France, a fourth and fifth generation had just toured Paris France and didn't even know each other. They are blossoming both were juniors studying in Spain at the same time. A sixth generation was born the other day, she might be the President of the United States.

In the early 1920's Minerva was burdened and felt the weight of the world on her shoulders. She was fasting about 10 days and praying. The Lord revealed that in your

children children's day they shall be a wise race. You see she worried about her adult sons and daughters and grandchildren. There were wars and rumors of wars and she was very concerned. She believed in education and wanted them all to get an education if they could. She saw her family members become teachers, educators, politicians, engineers, doctors, lawyers, and leaders in various fields. They would ride the same buses and segregation would end.

Well they are professors, she has a granddaughter, Dr. Carolyn Watkins and her husband Monroe owing three child care centers in Surry County; Otis Cox, Jr. the first black executive in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, her grandson and a graduate of Morehouse; two daughters graduated from Winston Salem Teachers College, one daughter first black female principal in Surry County, granddaughter first to receive her Masters in gifted education, an airline pilot, one granddaughter, first black assistant librarian at Mt Airy Public Library, great grand-daughter the first black from Surry to attend the Duke School of Science and Math. Her great grandsons attended the Naval and Air Force Academy and she currently has a great grandson teaching at West Point.

She has great and great grandchildren graduating from the ivy league colleges and universities and lest we forget ACC in North Carolina and CIAA were where we began. I must add that her vision was universal. It was not pertaining to her family only, but her desire was to see her people all African-Americans achieve.



A mother's prayers are priceless –

Beautiful musical notes that

Gratefully and gracefully reach our

Heavenly Fathers ears!

The House by the Side of the Road

THERE are hermit souls that live withdrawn
In the place of their self-content;
There are souls like stars, that dwell apart,
In a fellow less firmament;
There are pioneer souls that blaze the paths
Where highways never ran-
But let me live by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

Let me live in a house by the side of the road
Where the race of men go by-
The men who are good and the men who are bad,
As good and as bad as I.
I would not sit in the scorner's seat
Nor hurl the cynic's ban-
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

I see from my house by the side of the road
By the side of the highway of life,
The men who press with the ardor of hope,
The men who are faint with the strife,
But I turn not away from their smiles and tears,
Both parts of an infinite plan-
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

I know there are brook-gladdened meadows ahead,
And mountains of wearisome height;
That the road passes on through the long afternoon
And stretches away to the night.
And still I rejoice when the travelers rejoice
And weep with the strangers that moan,
Nor live in my house by the side of the road
Like a man who dwells alone.

Let me live in my house by the side of the road,
Where the race of men go by-
They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong,
Wise, foolish - so am I.
Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat,
Or hurl the cynic's ban?
Let me live in my house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

Sam Walter Foss





PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

100TH Birthday Celebration

Honoring

Ida Belle Penn - Cox

Saturday, November 24th, 2018

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Best Western Premier, The Central Hotel
800 East Park Drive
Harrisburg, PA. 17111

Given with love by her children :
Etheleen, Louvenia, Nathaniel and Deborah

Please **RSVP by : October 29th, 2018**

(717) 540-1325 (717) 497-6614



CHILDREN OF

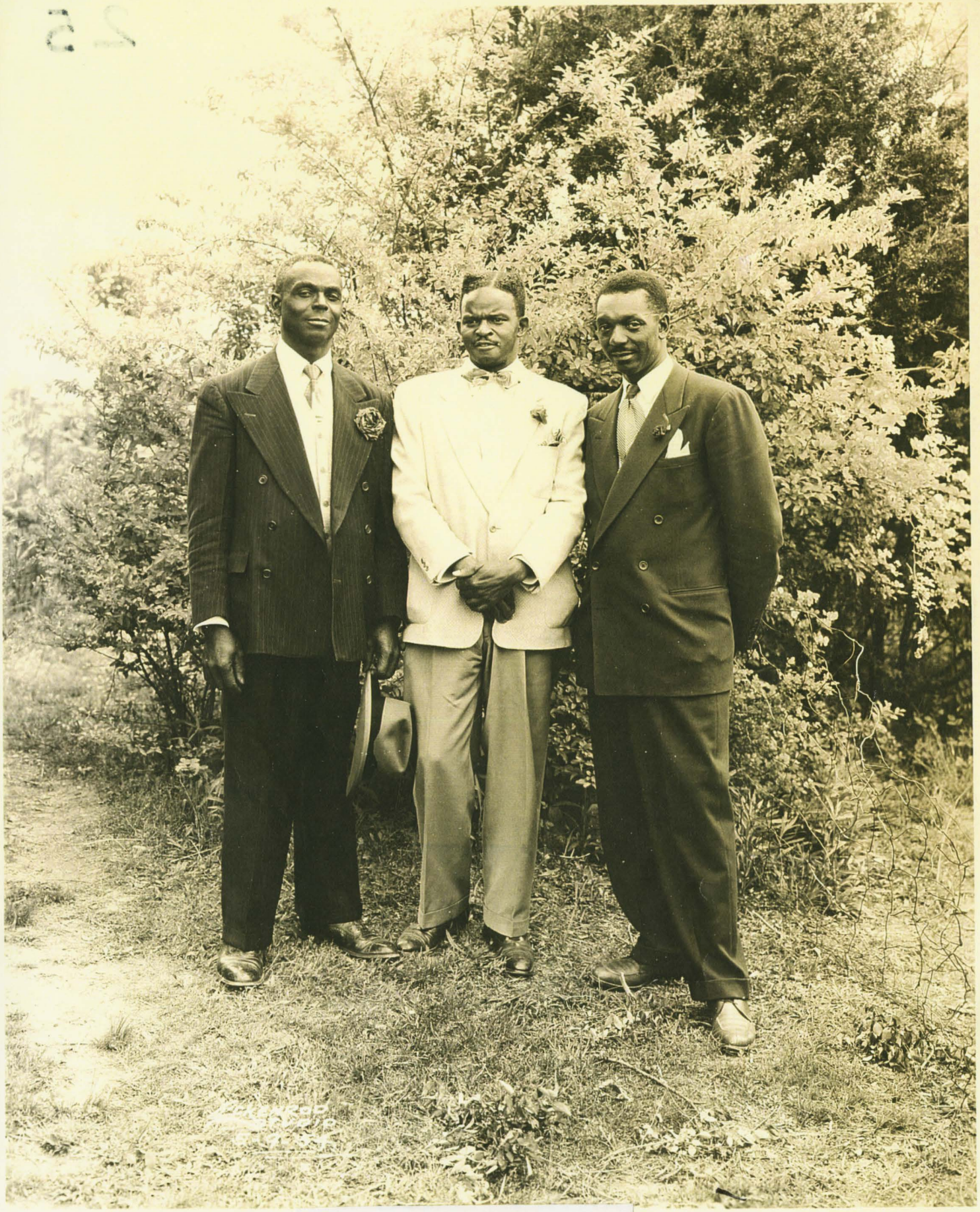
BARTLEY AND MINERVA J. COX

ZILLA ROXANNA COX McELROY
BERTHA COX FRANCE
ROY G. COX
PAYNE COX
JULIA COX FLOWERS
ELIZA COX WITCHER
CRISSIE COX McCARTHER
ALBERTA McCARTHER
FLORA ODELL COX
ZELMA COX HORTON-FAISON
OTIS GRAHAM COX
VARA MINERVA COX COKLEY
THOMAS W. "GORRELL" COX
BERNICE COX LOWE
BABY COX



JULIA, ODELL, ELIZA, ZELMA, GORRELL, VARA, GRAHAM, CRISSIE
FRONT ROW: BERNICE, ROY AND MINERVA COX





ROY, GRAHAM AND GORRELL




ECKENROD
STUDIO
5-9-54







ZILLA ROXANNA COX McELROY

October 24, 1891 – August 28-1990

Spouse: Thomas McElroy

CHILDREN:

Mae Willie Lawrence – Deceased
Clara Thompson – Deceased
Moyer McElroy – Deceased
Raymond McElroy – Deceased
Edward McElroy – Deceased
Ina Bowles – Deceased
Thomas McElroy, Jr.

GRANDCHILDREN:

Robert Bowles
Eric Lawrence
Kenneth Thompson
Dale Thompson
Claris Thompson

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN:

Annice Lawrence – daughter
Darren Lawrence







BERTHA COX FRANCE

February 11, 1893 - September 13, 1960

Spouse: Floyd France

CHILDREN:

Walter France - Deceased
Jesse France - Deceased
Irma Lee Bingman
Veatrice Holmes
Naomi Davis
Hazel Jenkins
Cassie Taylor - Deceased
Arnix France - Deceased
Matthew France - Deceased

GRANDCHILDREN OF BERTHA COX FRANCE

GRANDCHILDREN:

Andrews, Ruth
Benyman, Charlene
Davis, Barbara
Elliot Beverly (Calvin)
France, Calvin
France, George (Marseilles)
France, Henry
France, Roger
France, Willie Arthur
Moody, Jackie
Myers, Eunice (Herbert)
Owens, Cynthia
Robbins, Jamesie (Charles)
Young, Andre R.
Woods, Shirley

GREAT GRANDS

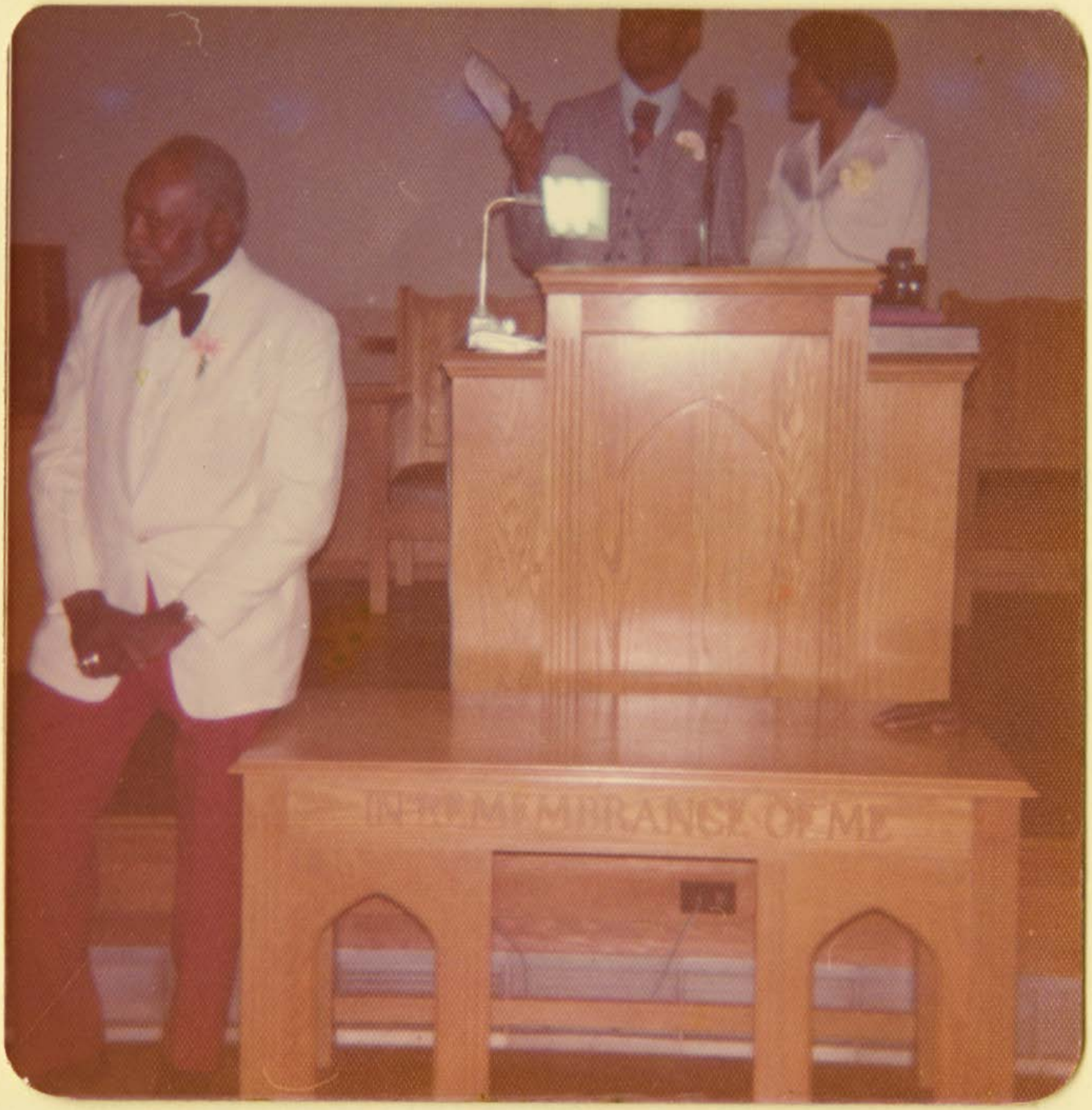
Chandler, Jr., Ronald
Davis, Archie
Davis, Taft
Dradgen, Thomasina
France, Galyn
France, Dwayne
France, Priscilla
France, Tammy
Moody, Brenda
Moody, Bridgett

GREAT GRANDS:

Myers, Crystal
Myers, Michelle
Myers, Millicent
Robbins, Barry
Robbins, Gerald
Robbins, Terry
Saunders, Pamela (Kevin)
Thomas, Angela
Woods, Jr., James
Woods, Sylvia

GREAT GREAT GRANDS

Andrews, Napoleon
Andrews, Natalie
France, Shawn








PLAZA
THE SALVATION ARMY
HACIENDO EL BIEN
THE SALVATION ARMY





Rotterdam

DINING ROOM





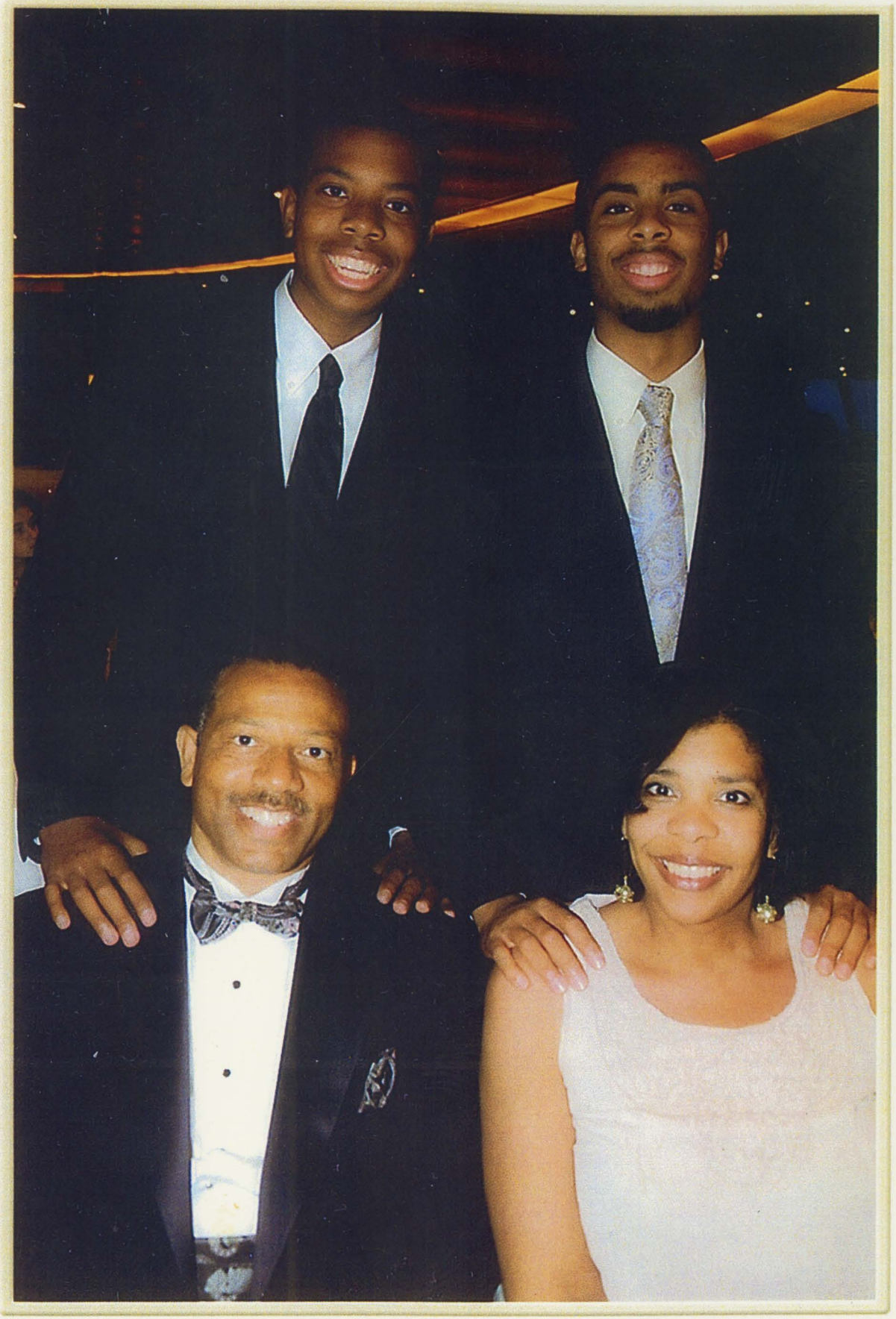




A world of good wishes awaits you...

ms Zaandam

31st December 2011







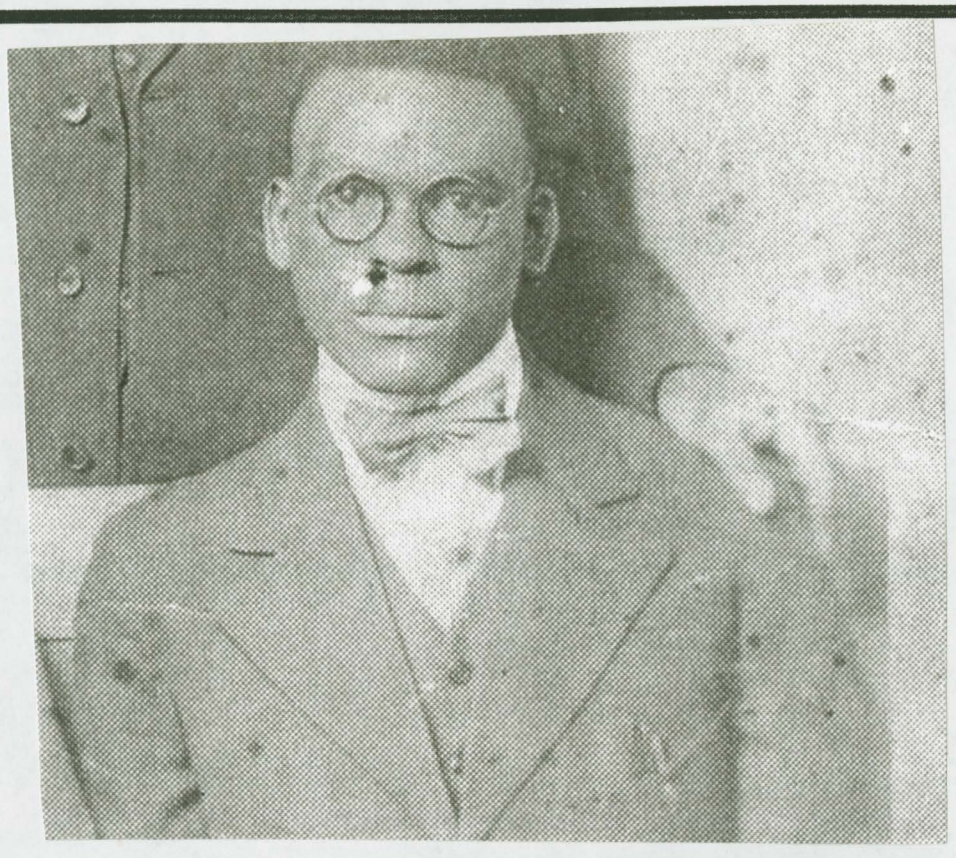

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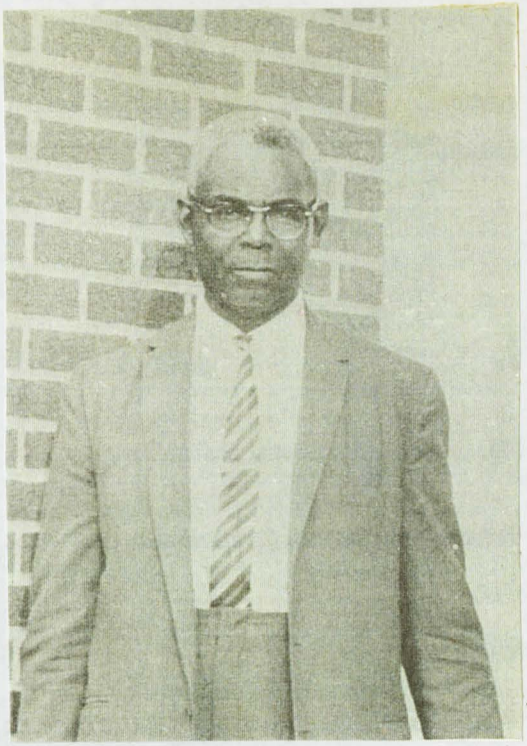






PAYNE COX

Payne was a minister. He attended the John T.Martin School in Winston-Salem, NC. He died around 1932.



ROY G. COX

April 25, 1898 - January 11, 1983

Spouse: Della Hickman Cox

CHILDREN:

James Oscar Cox - Deceased
Nathanel Cox - Deceased
Joe Bill Cox - Deceased
Howard Cox - Deceased
Robert Leo Cox (*Gloria*)
Irene Cox Hatcher - Deceased
Ella Mae Cox Hatcher - Deceased
Catherleen Cox Robinson - Deceased
McCleda Cox Hatcher
Romain Cox Hooper

GRANDCHILDREN OF REVEREN ROY GENERAL COX

Banks, Louvenia
Cox, Benjamin
Cox, Christopher
Cox, Darlene
Cox, Darrell
Cox, Deborah
Cox, George
Cox, Gilbert
Cox, Gwendolyn
Cox, Jr., Howard
Cox, Joe Ray
Cox, Kenneth
Cox, Linwood
Cox, Nathaniel
Cox, Jr., Robert Leo
Cox, Thomas
Cox-Allison, Carla
Cox-Gillespie, Robin
Hatcher, Anthony
Hatcher, Clayborn
Hatcher, Fred
Hatcher, Jerry
Hatcher, Phillip
Hatcher, Robert Lee
Hatcher, Timothy
Hatcher, William
Hill, Sandra
Hunter, Priscilla
LeMelle, Lorna Cox
Little, Deltrina
Reynolds, Alice Faye
Robinson, Pam
Robinson, III, Leroy
Robinson, Mark
Robinson, Beth
Tunson, Etheleen
Hooper, Amy
Hooper, Candy
Hooper, Elaine
Hooper, Trina
Walker, Adrainne

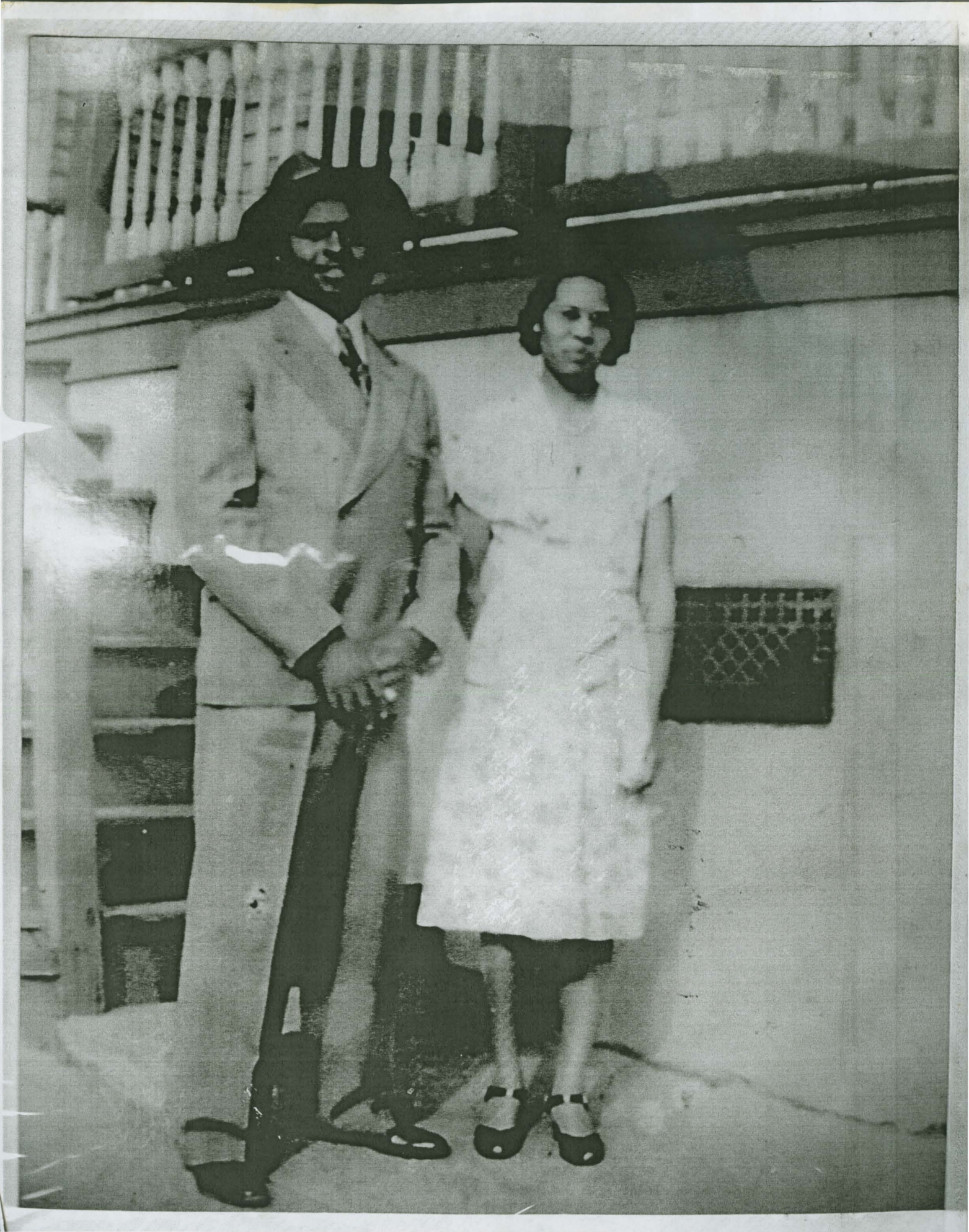
GREAT GRANDS

Allison, Joshua
Ashley, Megan
Banks, Joann
Brickus, James
Cox, Ashley
Cox, Benjamin
Cox, Chelsea
Cox, Deitre
Cox, Gregg
Cox, Jonathan
(Kim)
Cox, Leana
Cox, Maetrina
Cox, Michelle
Cox, Morgan
Cox, Maetrina
Cox, III, Robert
Cox, Shawn
Gillispie, Harrison
Hatcher, Aaron
Hatcher, Chris
Hatcher, O. J.
House, Richard
Hunter, Brandi
McNeil, Wayne
Styles, Joy
Tunson, Allen
Tunson, David
Woodruff, Kennet
Hatcher, Amber



Together - Again









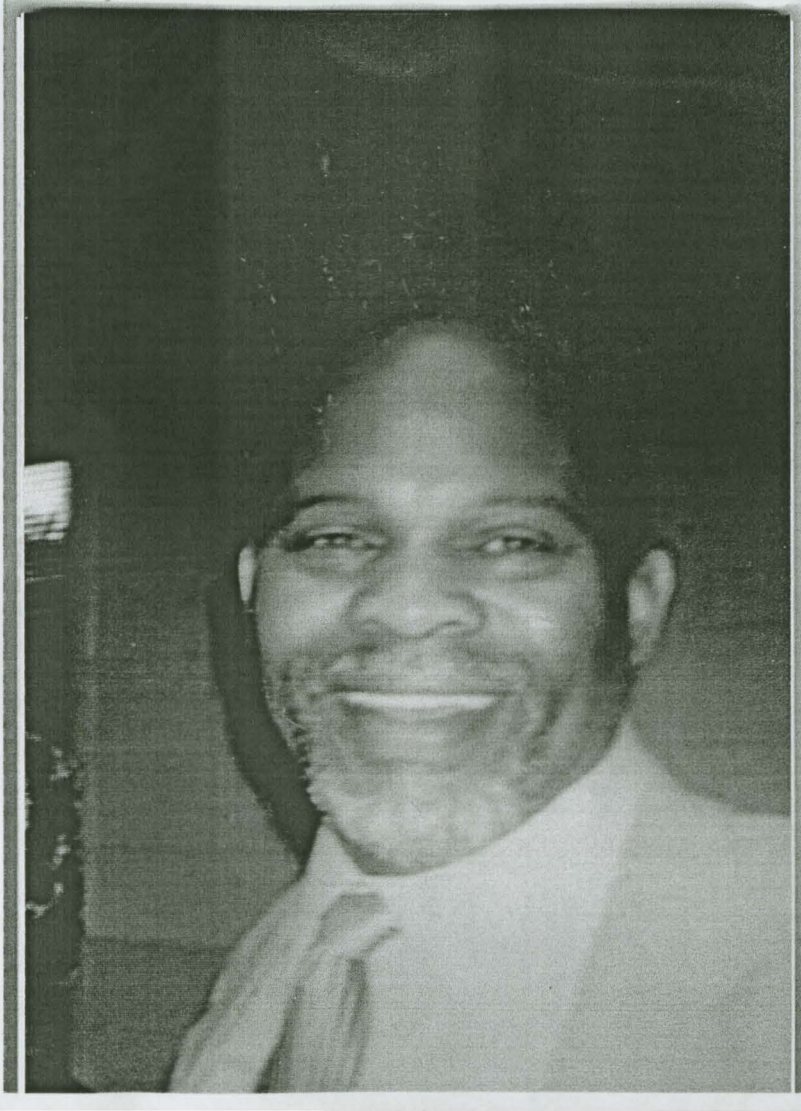








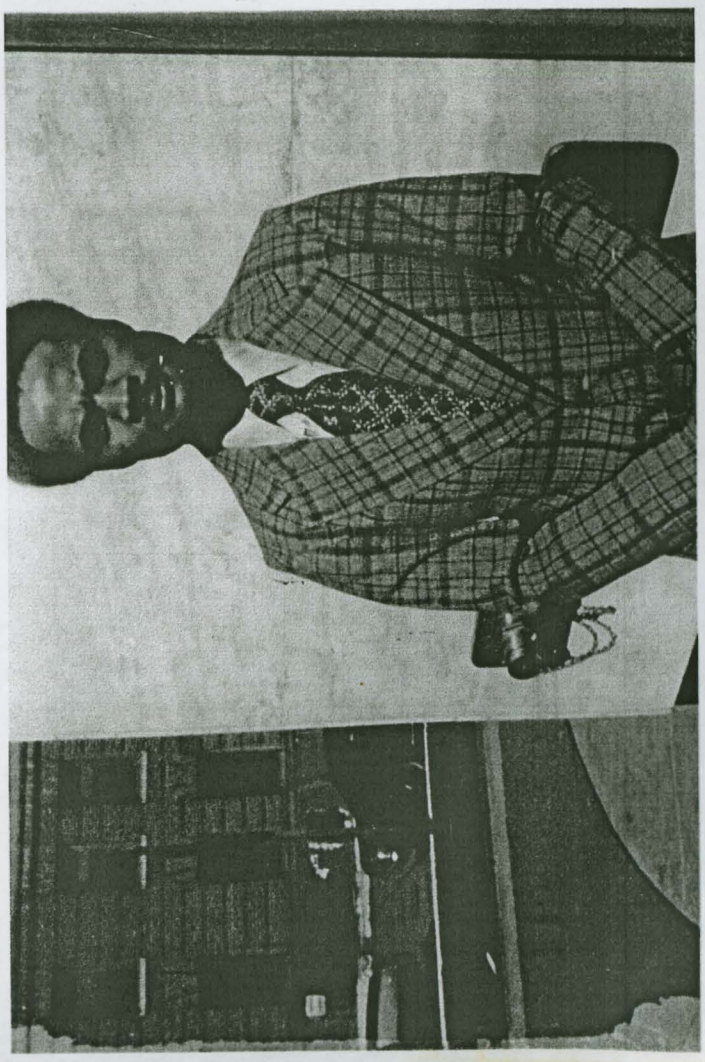
























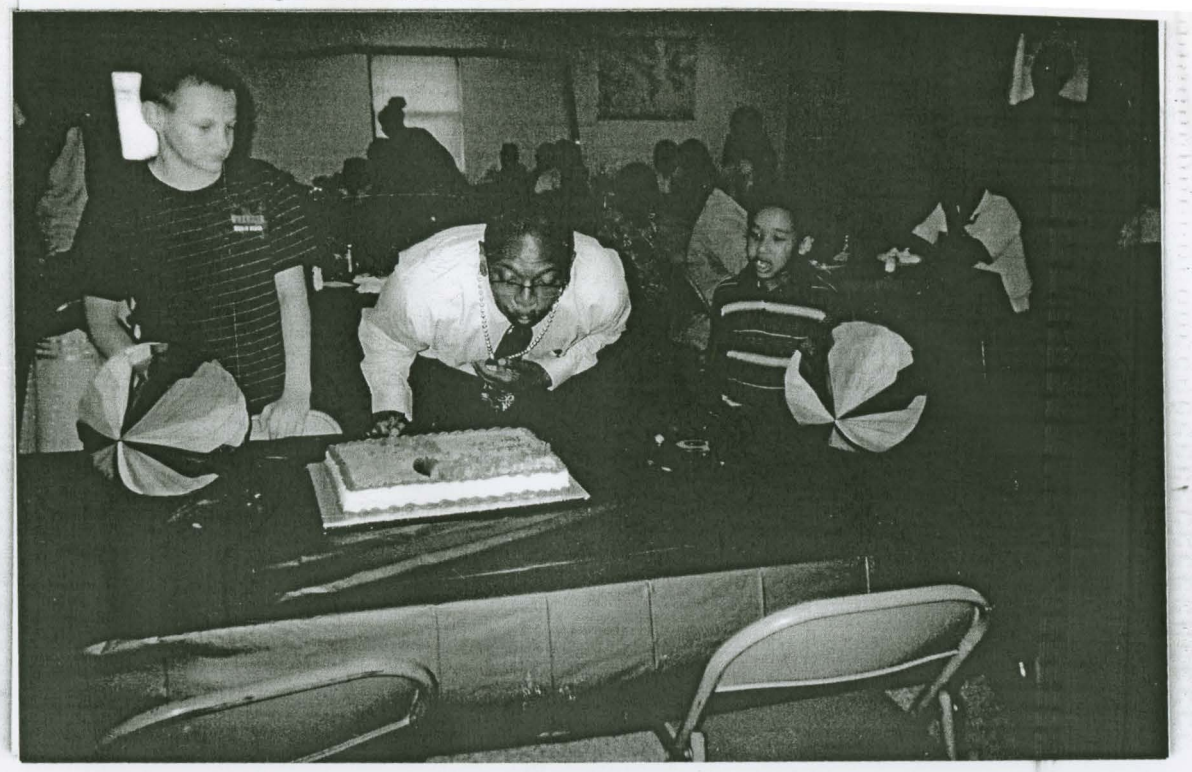







Her legacy continues....



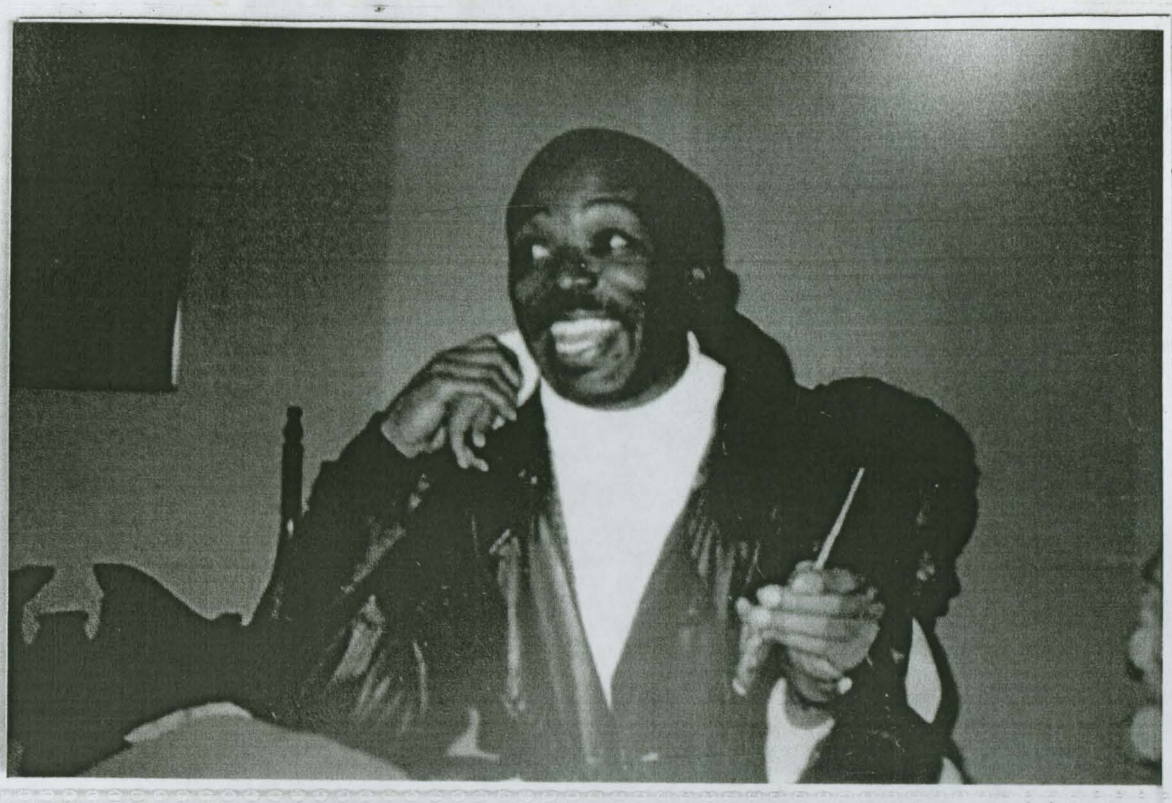








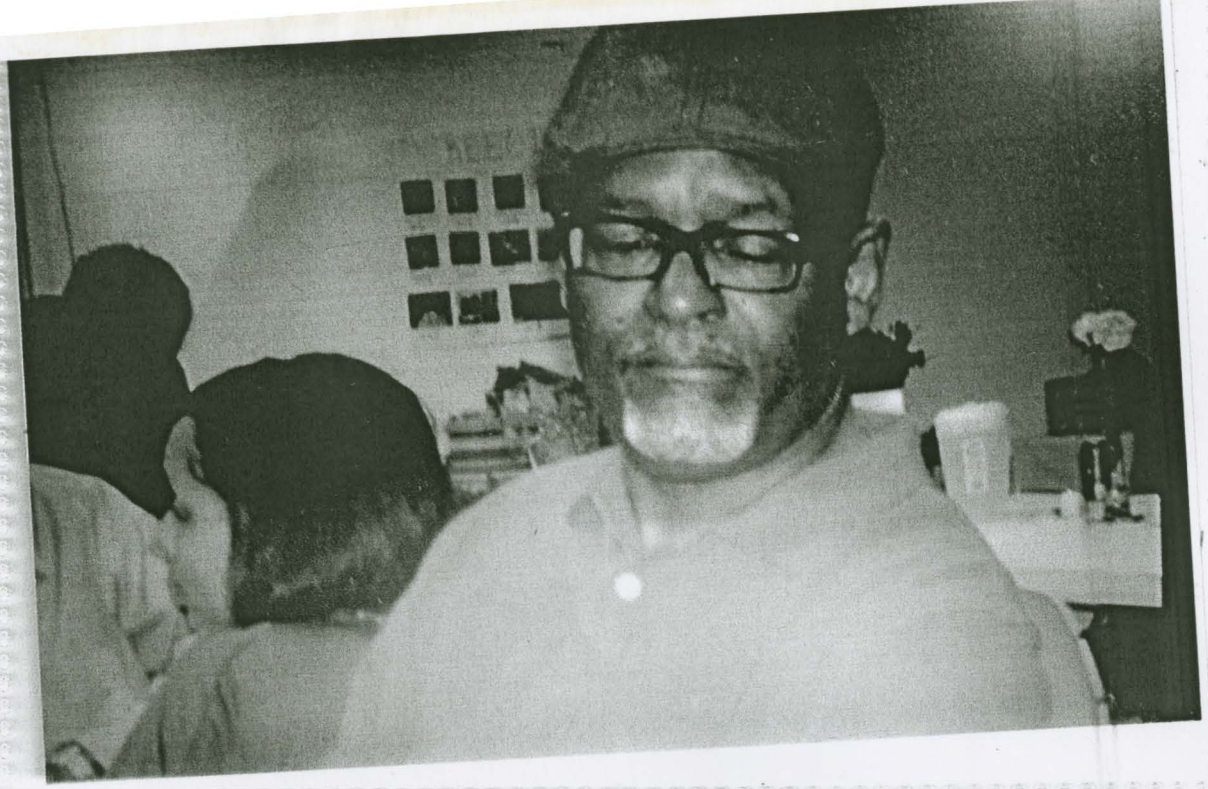






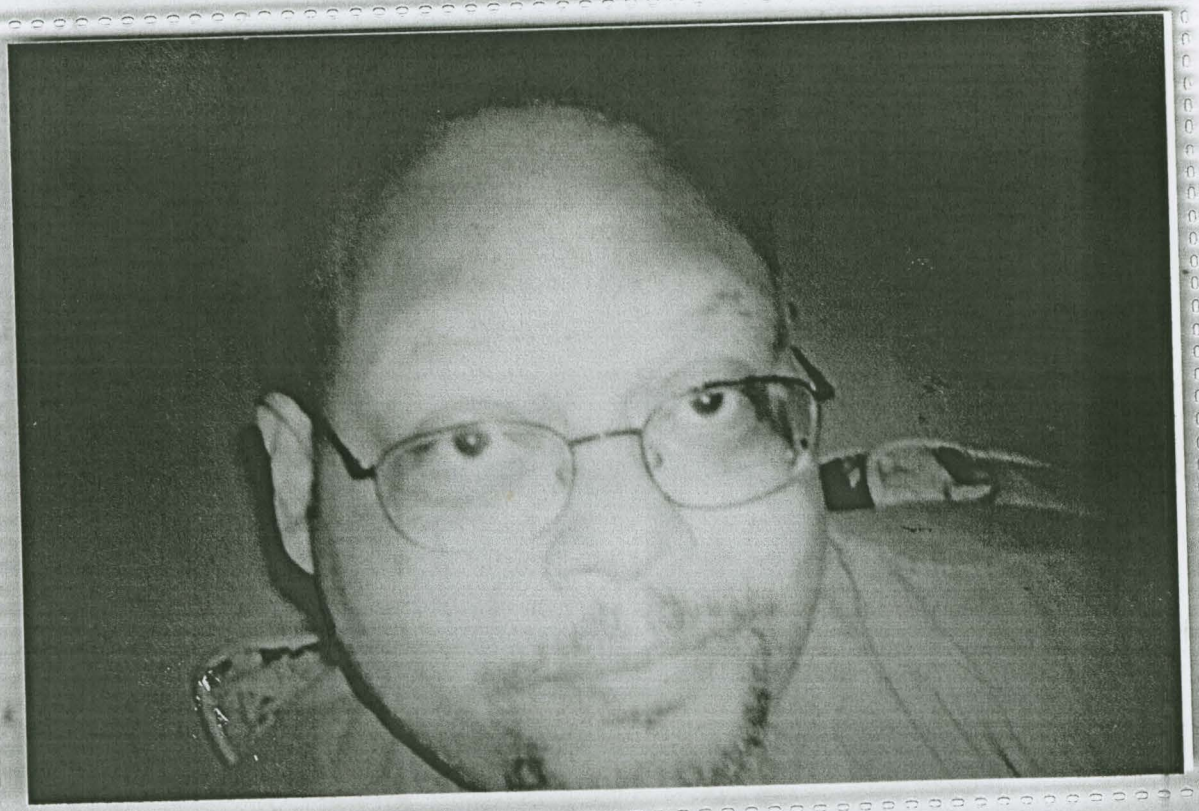


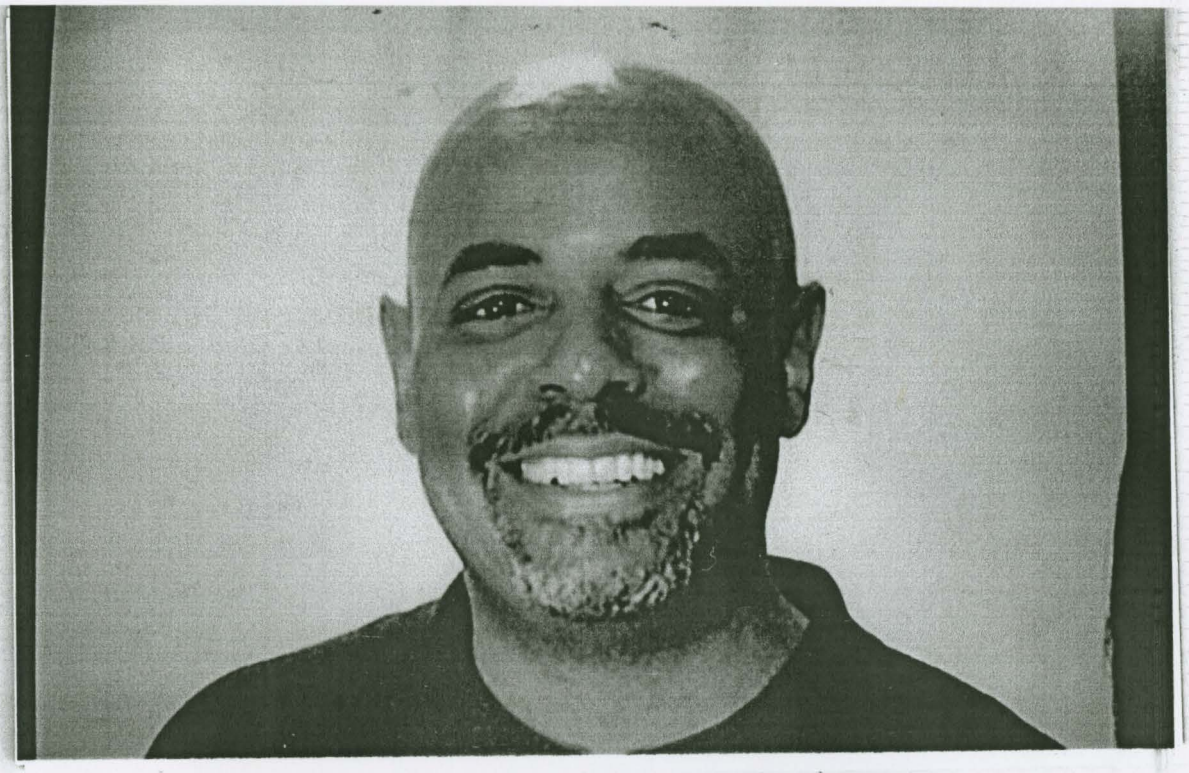


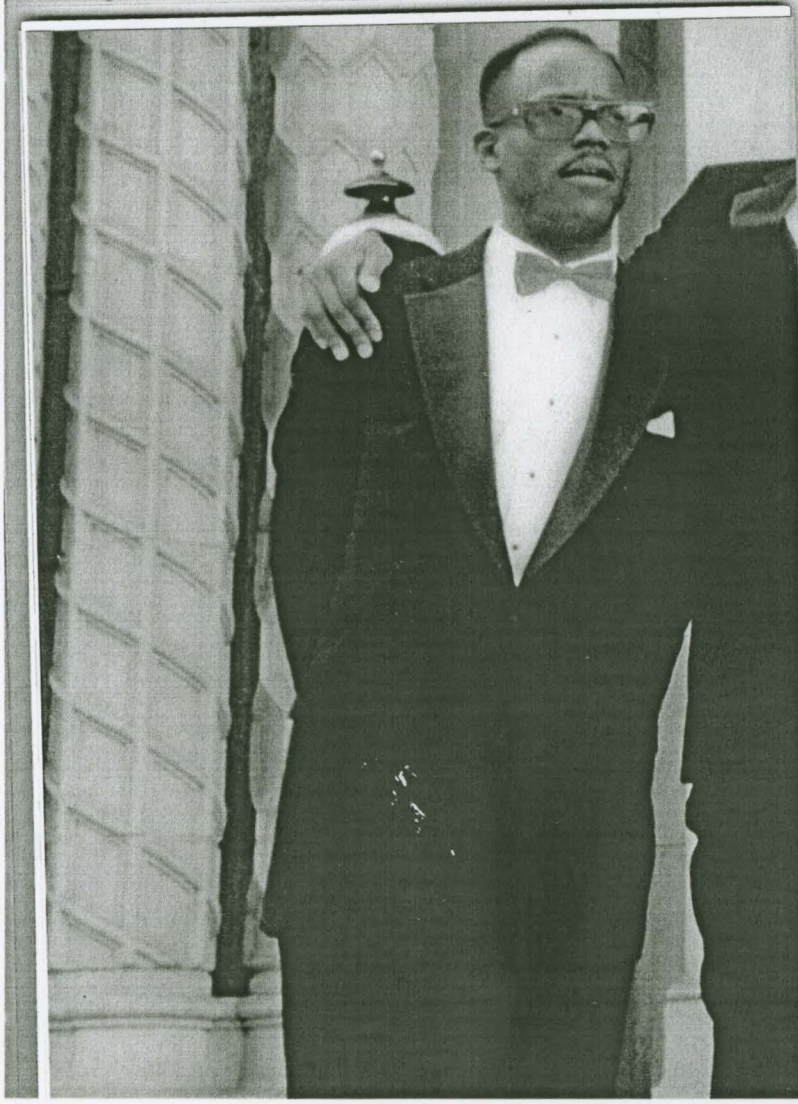








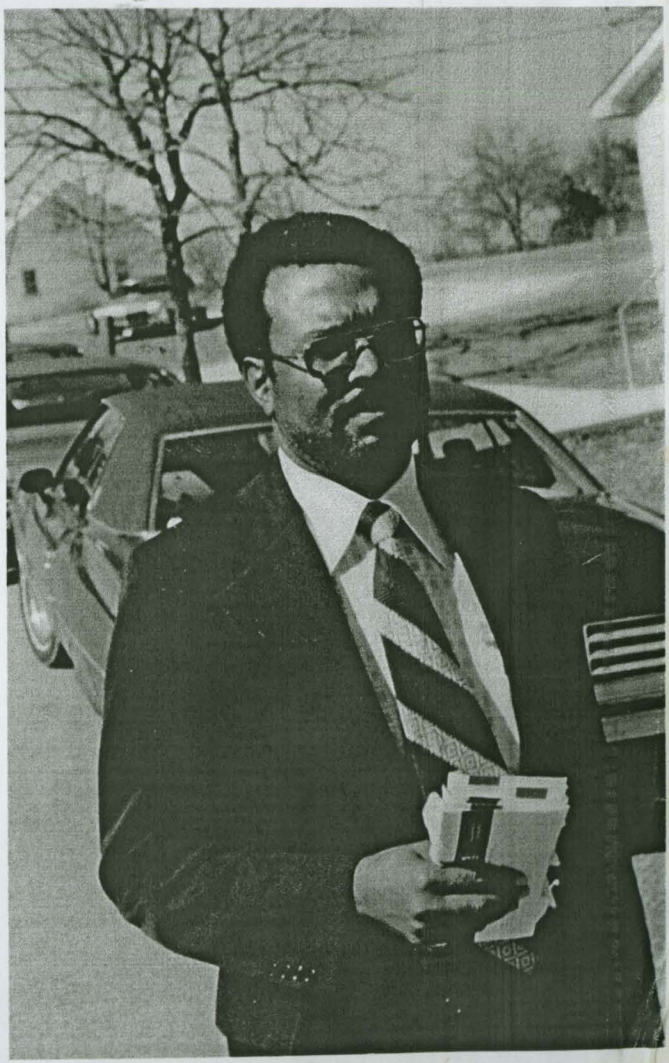







CHESTNUT RIDGE
PROGRESSIVE










105
Field Day
LIBERTY ELEMENTARY









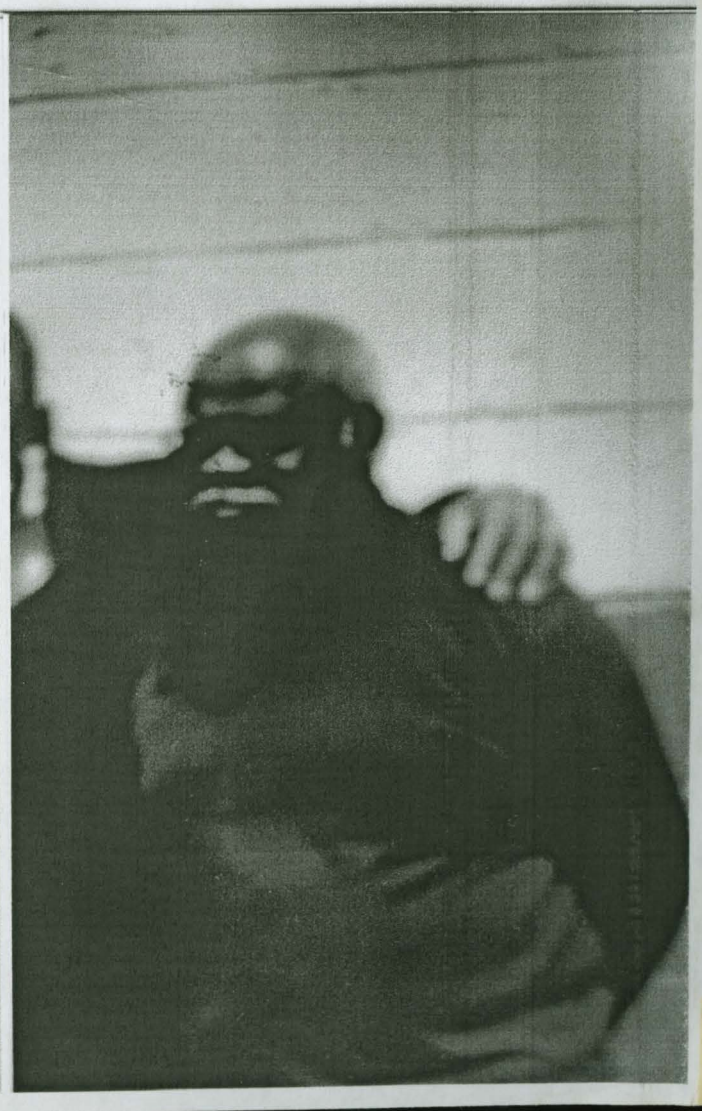














1985

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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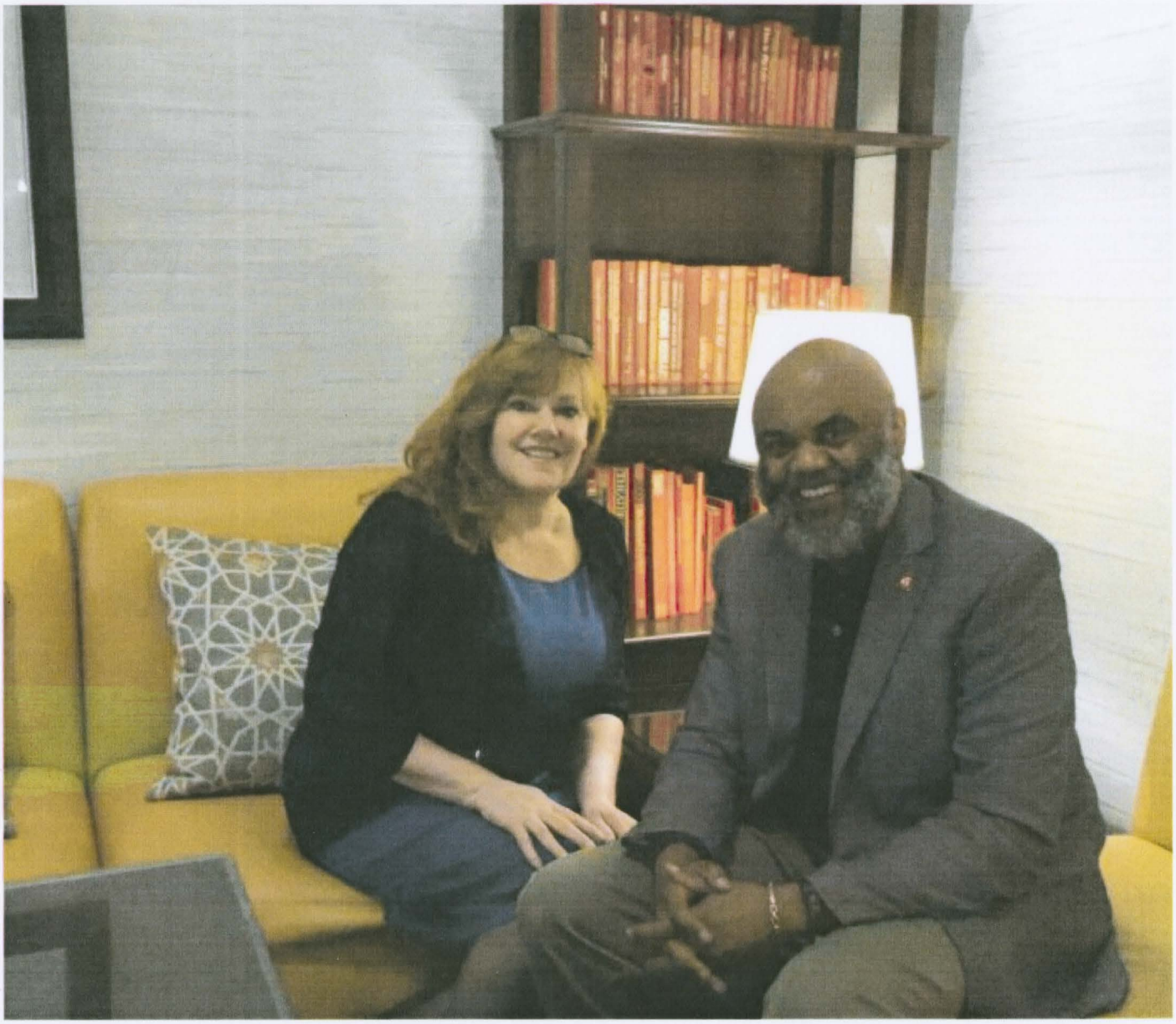
About the author



Christopher Cox

Christopher G. Cox has over 20 years of experience in the real estate and finance industries. He has understands the complexities and diversity of the real estate market, and he has a passion of helping people realize the American Dream.

Interview with EXIT Realty Corp. CEO Tami Bonnell



I had the honor of interviewing EXIT Realty Corp CEO Tami Bonnell. EXIT Realty Corp. International, a full-service real estate franchisor, opened for business in Toronto, Canada on September 3, 1996, and in record time, expanded across North America. Its unique business model, the EXIT Formula, is one of the key reasons for the company's phenomenal growth.

Tami took over as EXIT'S CEO in 2012, and she is consistently named as one of the most influential people in real estate in North America.



JULIA ROSELLA COX FLOWERS

January 1, 1900 – August 12, 1990

Spouse – Thomas Alfred Flowers

CHILDREN

Alfred Bartley Flowers

GRANDCHILDREN OF

JULIA ROSELLA COX FLOWERS

Flecia

Andrea

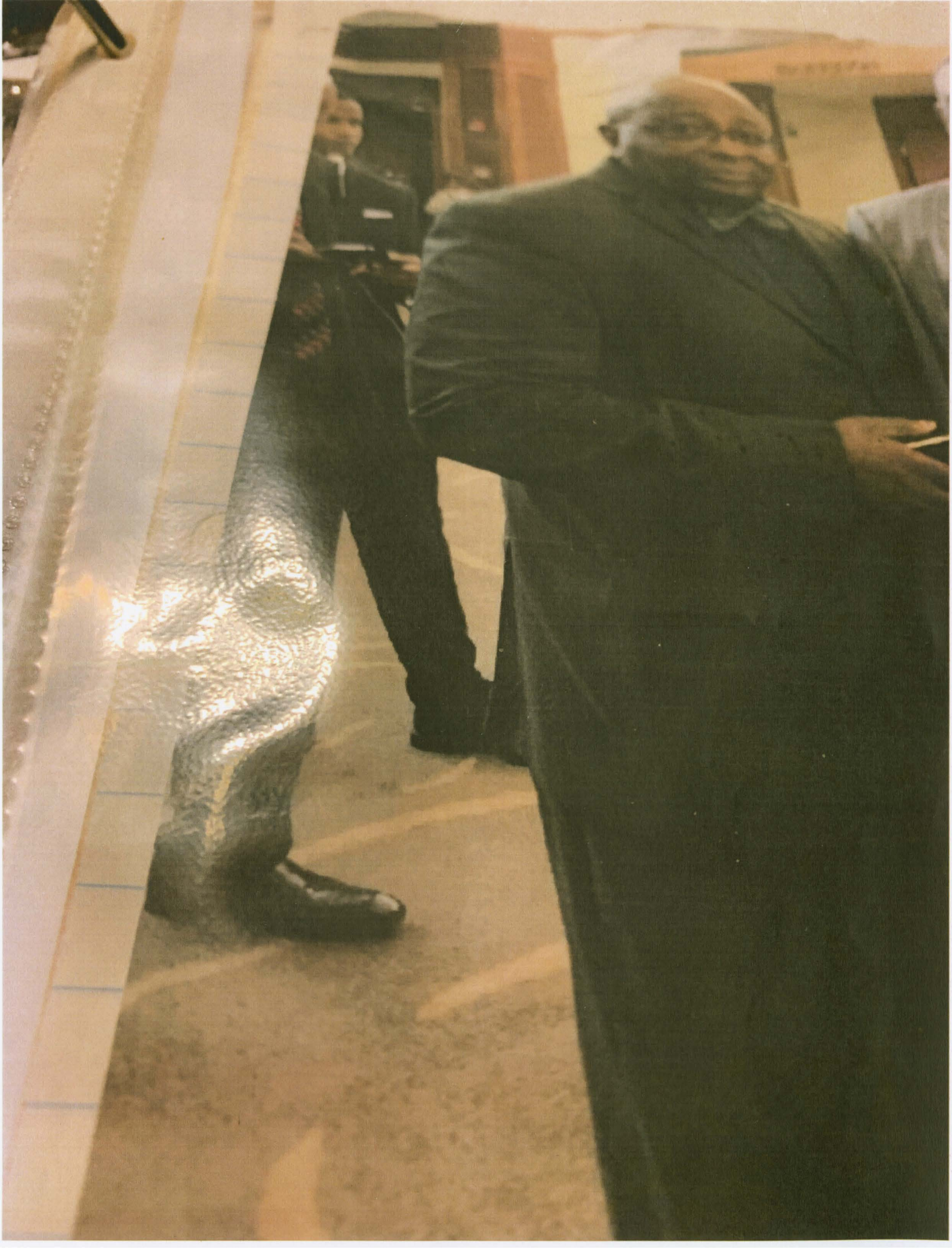
GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Brianna Venerable

Patrice Venerable

Ashley Knight

Ava Rodriquez









ELIZA COX WITCHER

February 11, 1902 - May 8, 1992
Spouse: John Oscar Witcher

CHILDREN:

Alese Robinson - Deceased
John Jr. Witcher - Deceased
Inez McDaniels - Deceased
Isnora Washington - Deceased
Juanita Diggs - Deceased

GRANDCHILDREN OF ELIZA COX WITCHER

GRANDCHILDREN

Davis, Washington Penny Harvetta
Dent, McDaniel Frances
Diggs, Charles (Tonya)
Diggs, Jeffery (Danell)
McDaniels, Arnold
McDaniels, Charles
McDaniels, Paula
McDaniels, Zachary
Johnson Washington, Isanora Carolyn
Washington, Debbie
McDaniels, Fred
McDaniels, Alise
Beamon, Washington, Vincsena
Washington, Jr., Vinson
Wade Washington, Juanita
Witcher, Curtis
Witcher, Dianne
Witcher, John Oscar III "Tony"
Witcher, Jimmy

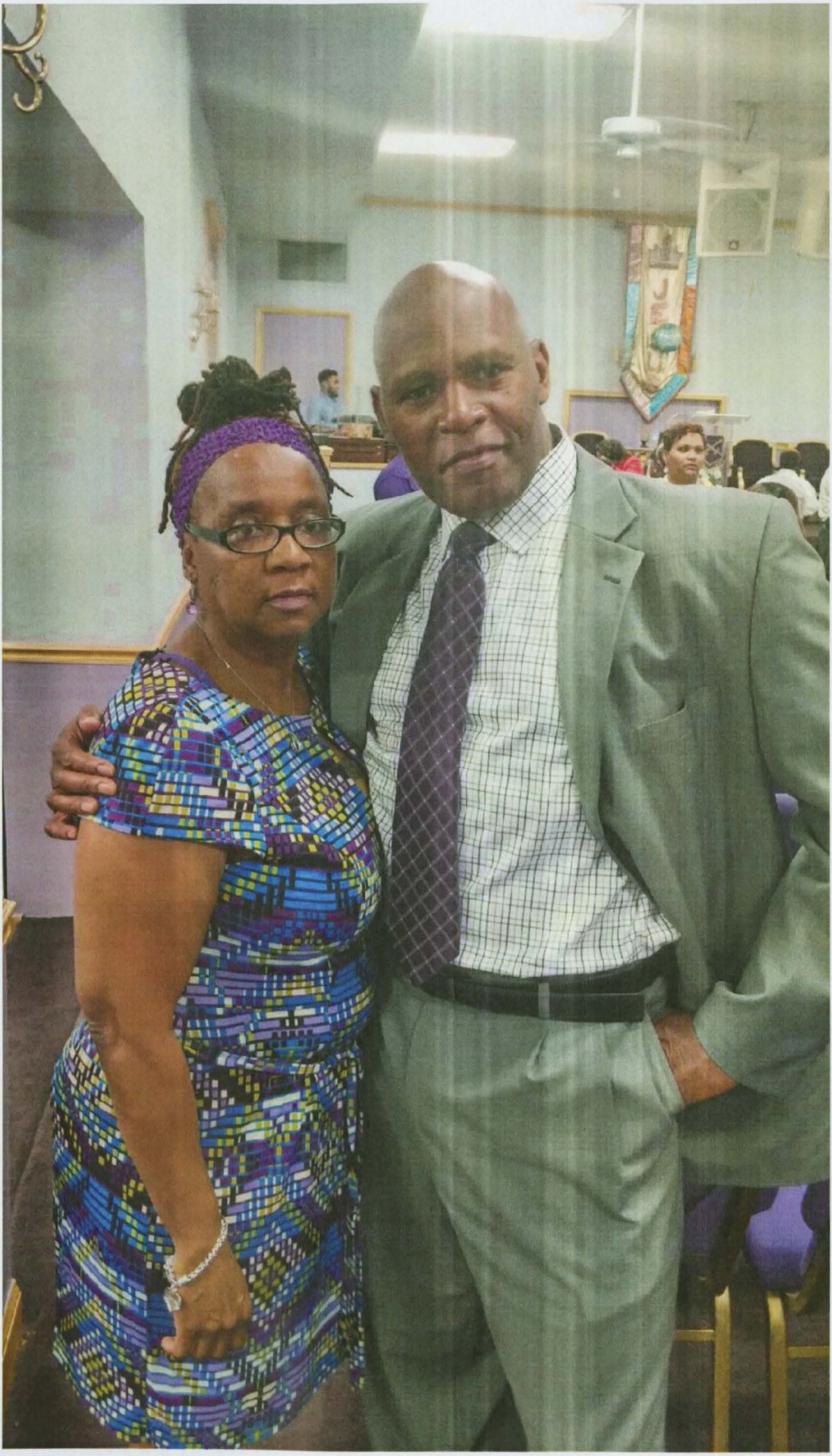
GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Diggs, Charlene
Diggs, Charles
Diggs, Gene
Diggs, Jacsmyne
Diggs, Jeffery
Diggs, Shalonda
Gary, Wade
Giovann, Wade, Sr.
Gevan, Wade
Davis, Tracy
Davis, Nikki
Davis, Tonya
Davis, Toni
Davis, Tommy
Charles Anthony Phillip Andre Charles Shnenga Donnell Cornell Rodney Joseph

GREAT – GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Wade Jr., Giovanni
Wade, Jayla
Wade, Grayson
Wade, Gavin
Wade, Lillian
Wade, Garrison
Diggs, Jordan
Diggs, Jeffery
Carter, Mya
Carter, Michael
Diggs, Carbin

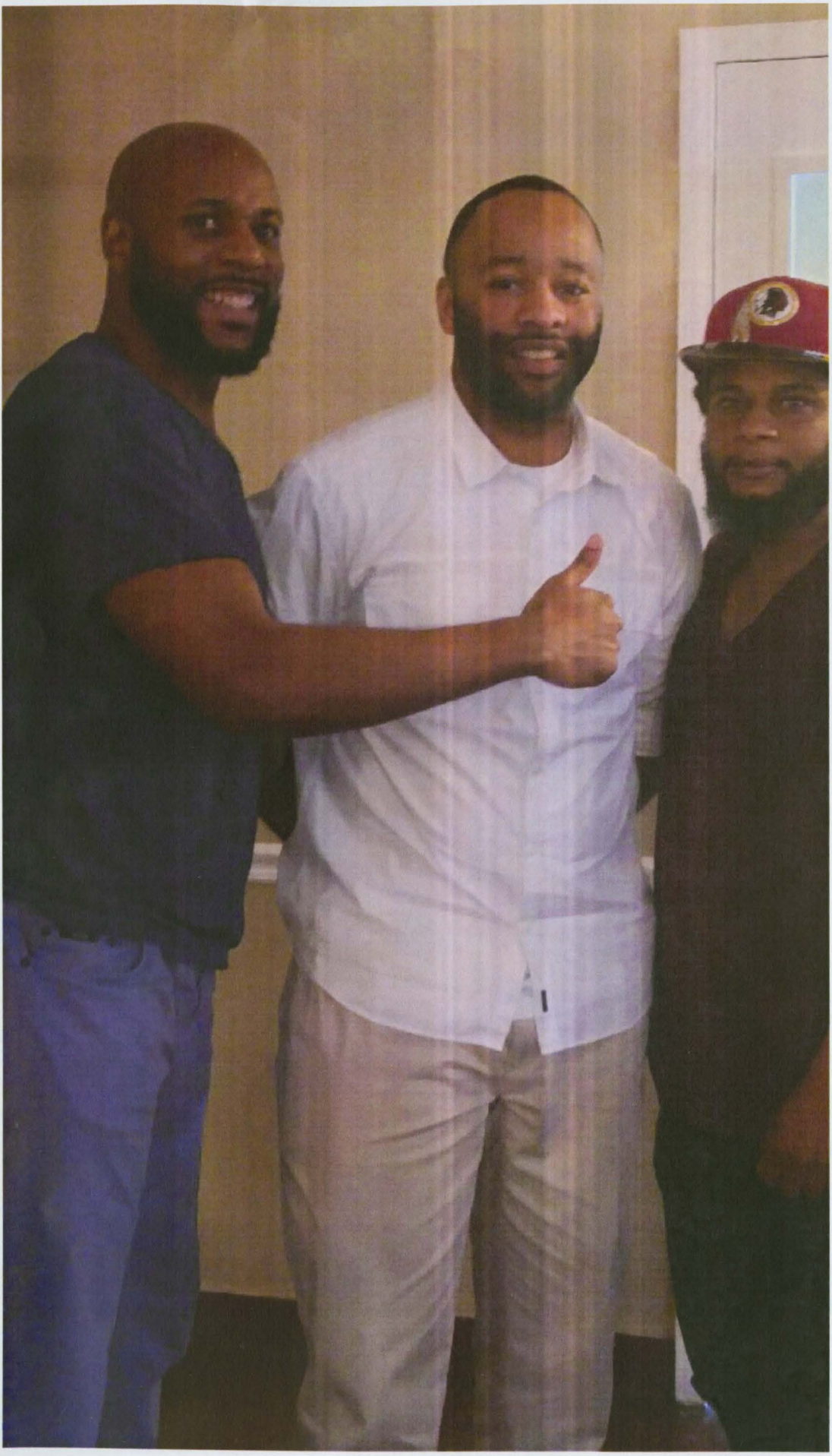






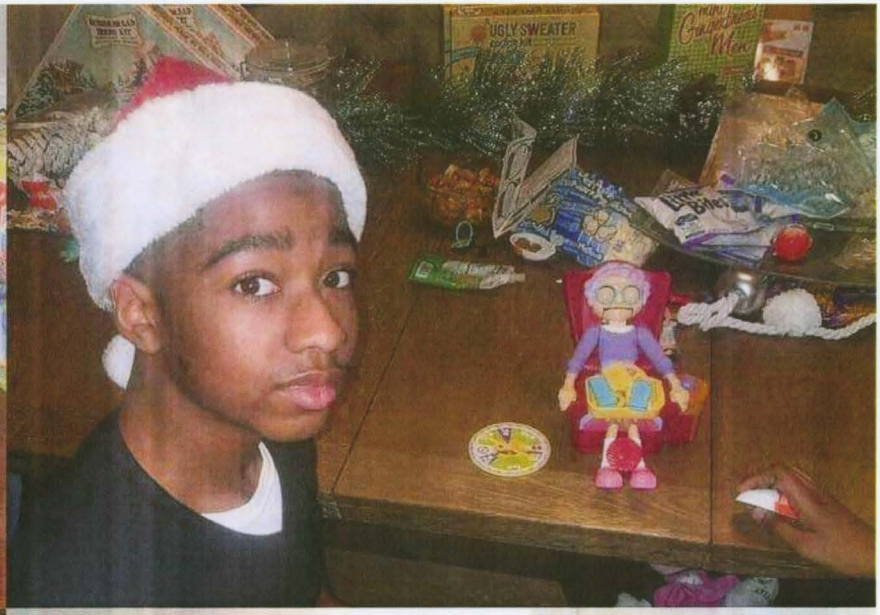


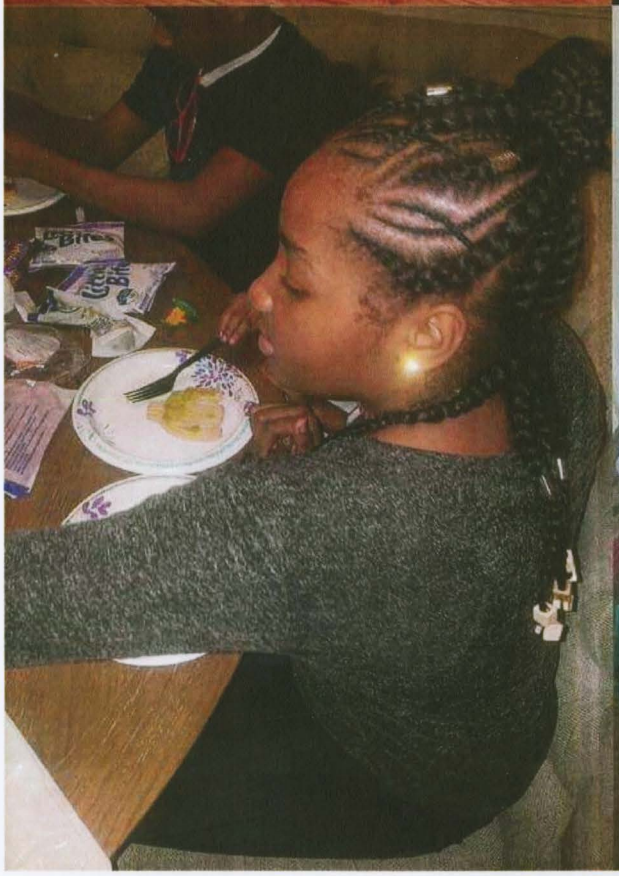







GREEDY GRANNY
SHARK BITE
Giggle Wiggle


UGLY SWEATER




Wish
28






Happy 50 TH Birthday

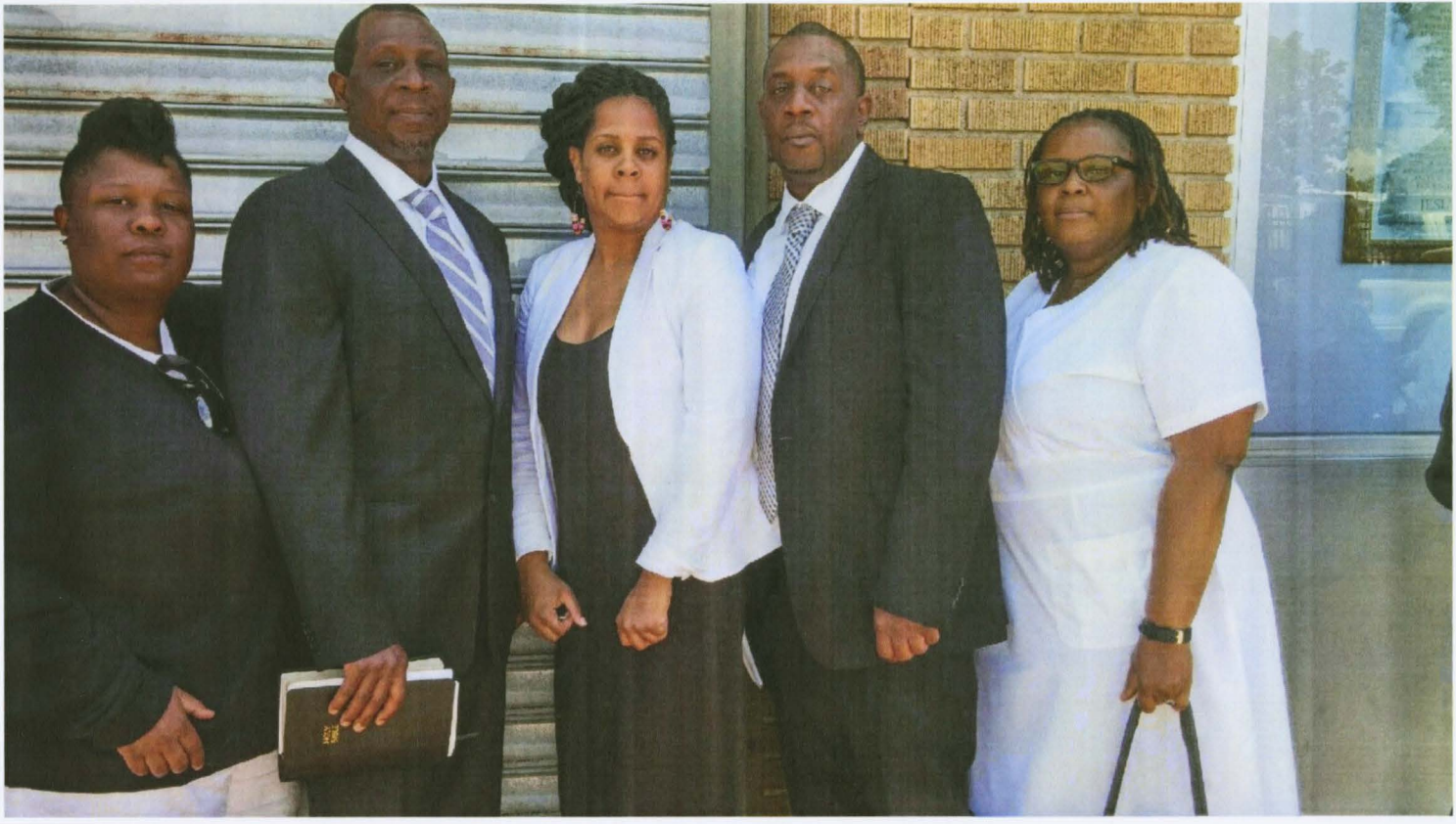

Happy 50TH Birthday!


Happy 50th Birthday
50th Birthday Phil


Happy 50TH Birthday!












Hampton
&Suites
HILTON





CRISSIE COX McCARTHER

April 19, 1904 - May 4, 1977
Spouse: Sylvester McCarther

CHILDREN:

James Avery McCarther (*LaDonna*)
Sylvester Wayvelle McCarther (*Faye*)
Arnetta Smith
Loretta Moore
Otha Robinson (*John*)
Crissie Smith (*Dennis*)
Carolyn Watkins (*Monroe*)

GRANDCHILDREN OF CRISSIE COX MCCARTHER

GRANDCHILDREN

Adams, Crystal (Jeff)
Barber, Johnsene (Rodney)
Brayboy, Genieve (Dennis)
Chandler, Bukeka
Chandler, Jr., Herbert
Chandler, Oronde
Chandler-Stimage, Carmen
Gaines, Alfredia (Charles)
Hanna, Tammy (Roni)
Hunter, Janell
McCarther, Aaron
McCarther, Alphonsa
McCarther, II, James Avery
McCarther, Tina
Moore, Brenda
Moore, Derrick
Moore, Everette
Moore, Todd
Richardson, Kim
Robinson, Anthony
Robinson, Lynette
Robinson, Princetta
Smith, Pleasant Ronald
Smith, William Donald
Watkins, Cedric
Watkins, Crissie
Watkins, Monroe

GREAT GRANDS

Adams,Kayla
Adams, Kira
Brayboy, Lathan
Brayboy, Meisha
Chandler, D'Angelo
Chandler, Kyra
Gaines, Tamara
Hunter, Kharri
McCarther, Jordan
McCarther, Matthew
Moore, Abigail
Moore, Byron
Moore, Ernie
Moore, Evan
Moore, Everette
Moore, Noah
Moore, Rachel
Moore, Sheldon
Richardson, Ashley
Richardson, Michael
Stimage, Krista




Goldcroft





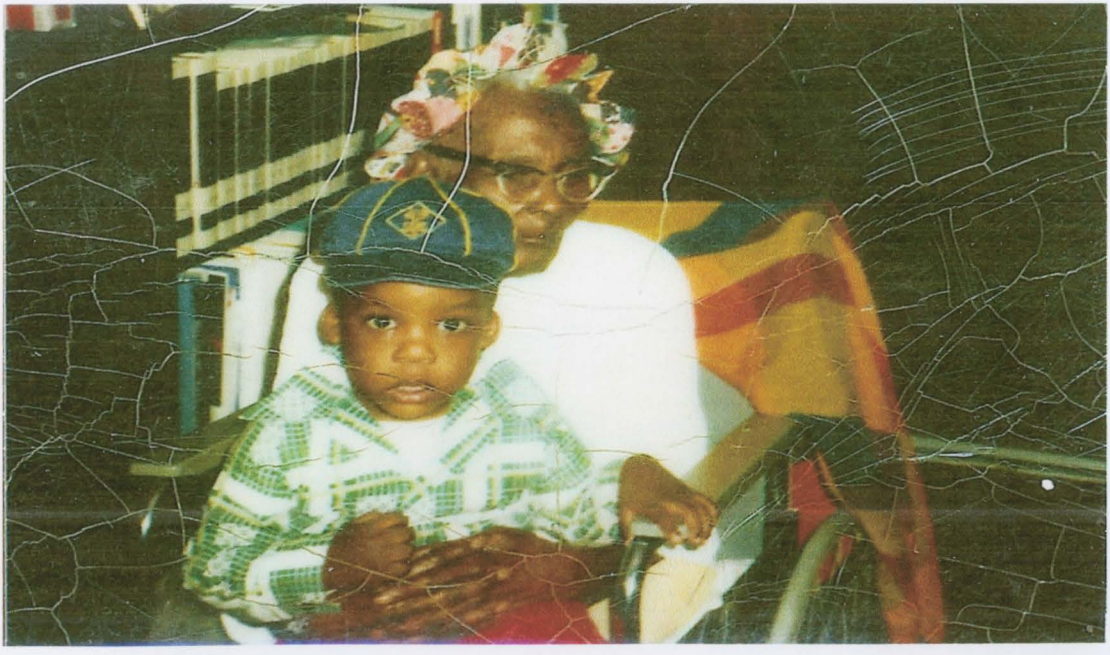




















ALBERTA COX McCARTHER

February 15, 1906 - December 20, 1970
Spouse: Lester McCarther

CHILDREN:
Gladys Olivia Long
Ida Cardell Smith (*Robert*)
Minerva Vernell Johnson
Doretha Mae Turner
Stafford McCarther (*Phyllis*)
STEP DAUGHTER:
Katie Lee Hatcher (*Thomas*)

GRANDCHILDREN OF ALBERTA COX McCARTHER

GRANDCHILDREN:

Higgins, Shelia (*David*)
Jackson, Juanita (*Rev. Lionel*)
Jackson, Pamela (*Arnold*)
Long, James
Long, William
McCarther, Rodney
Turner, Gregory
Turner, Rev. Hermon (*Minister Trina)*
Turner, Priscilla Ann (*Lamont Haliburton*)

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN:

Goodson, Eleicesha
Haliburton, Louvenia
Higgins, Catherine
Higgins, Raven
Jackson, Alexis
Jackson, Arnold Jr.
Jackson, Brittani
Jackson, Courtney
Turner, Christian
Turner, Ebonie
Turner, Genea Marie
Turner,Gregory
Turner, Kelly

THE FAMILY OF ROBERT AND ALBERTA MCCARTHER

**KATIE LEE HATCHER (Thomas , Deceased)

Aurilla
Lenora------Michael
Thomas, Jr.

**GLADYS O. LONG (James, Deceased)

James
William

**IDA CARDELL SMITH (Robert) & MINERVA VERNELL JOHNSON (Lee, Deceased)

(No children)
10 Stepchildren

Shelia Higgins (David)
Raven
Catherine

**DORETHA MAE TURNER (Herman Sr., Deceased)

Priscilla (Lamont)
Genea

Herman, Jr. (Trina)
(No Children)

Gregory
Eleschia

Juanita (Lionel)
Courtney
Brittani

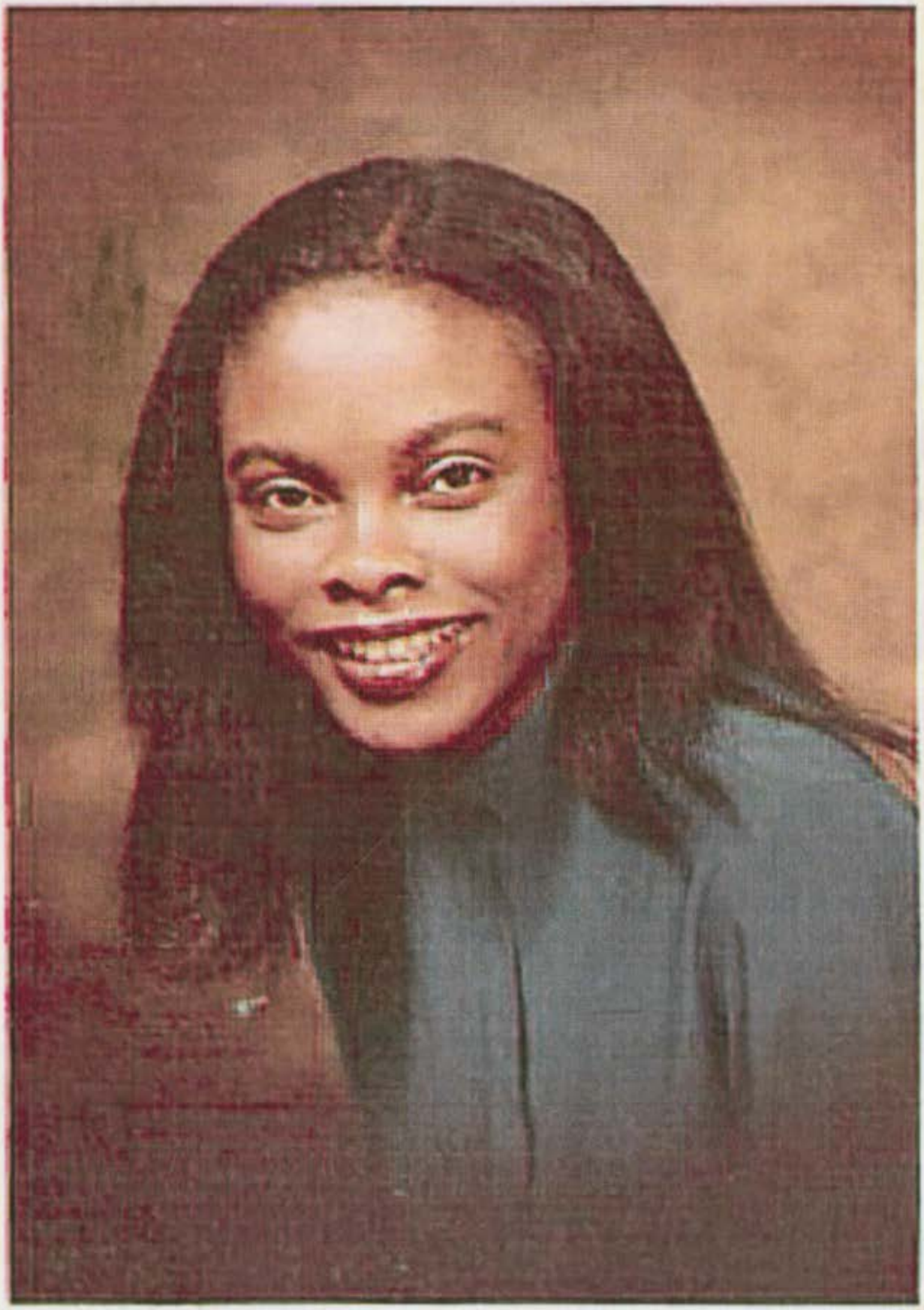
Pamela(Arnold, Sr.)
Gregory
Kelley
Alexis
Arnold, Jr.

**STAFFORD LESTER MCCARTHER (Phyllis)

Robert (Kandis)
Robert, Jr.
(one on the way)

Dwayne
1 daughter

Rodney





























ODELL COX

August 15, 1908 - June 11, 1994

Aunt Odell was a very special aunt. She never married and always lived at home. Even though she never had any children, she did assist in the rearing of many of the grandchildren. We loved her dearly and she was very special to all of us.











Descendants of ZELMA COX HORTON-FAISON

January 30, 1910 – March 2, 1990

Spouse: James Horton



CHILDREN:

James Ray Horton
Clifton Horton (Doris)
Napoleon Horton
Dolores H. Phillips - Young

GRANDCHILDREN:

Angela H. Burkard (Tim)
Larry Horton
Clifton Horton
Anthony Horton (Amy)
Andre Horton (Yulanda)
Michele H. Hines (Lionel)
Lamar Horton
Lisa Horton
Reginald Phillips
Nate Horton

GREAT- GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Jaylen Horton
Toji Horton
Nylee Horton
Zara Horton

GREAT GRANDCHILDREN:

Monte' Horton
Q'uiana Nicole Horton
Paige Horton
Michael Burkard
Grace Horton
Mason Hines
Vaughn Horton
Lichele Horton
Arabella Horton
Armata Horton





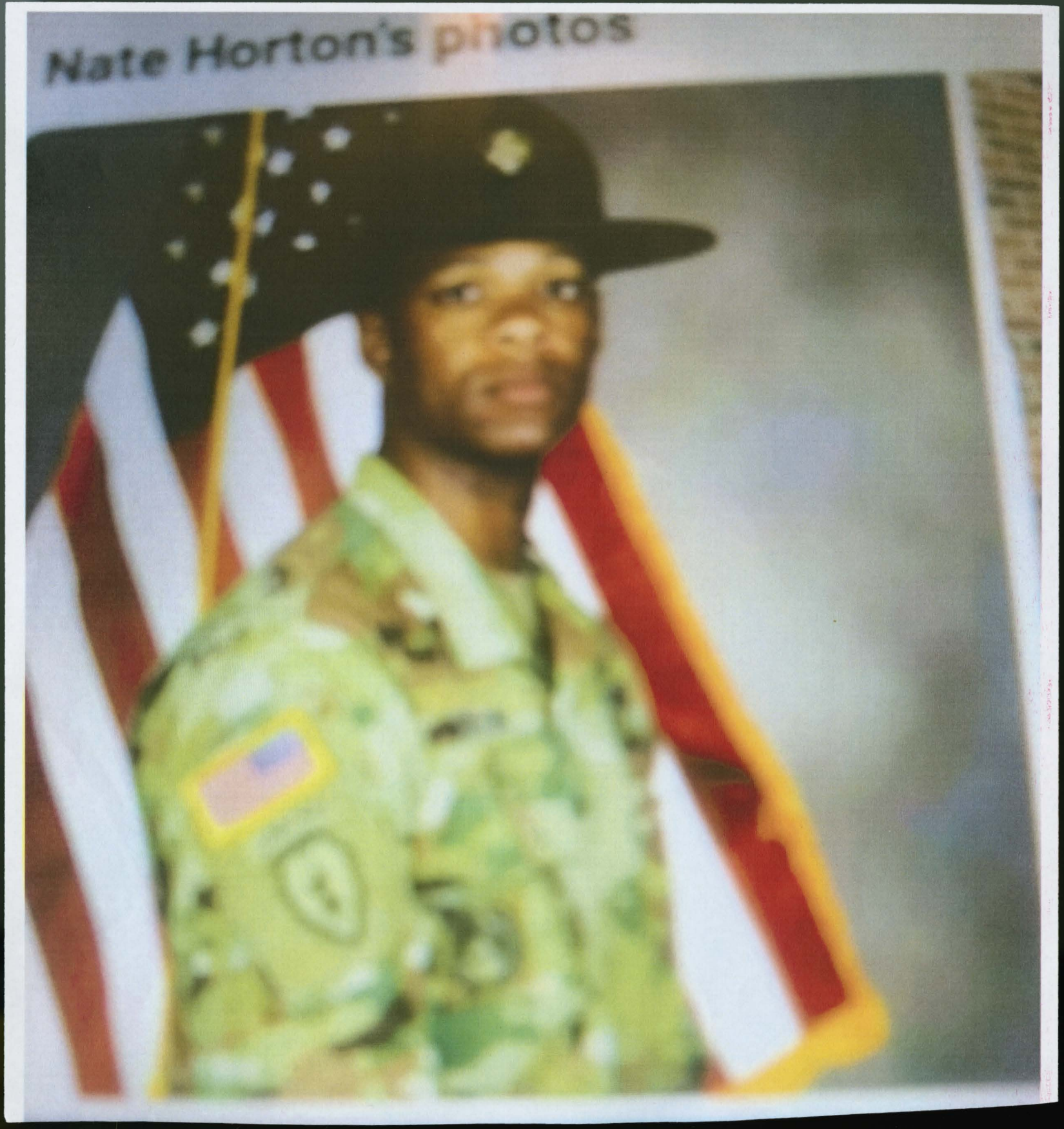


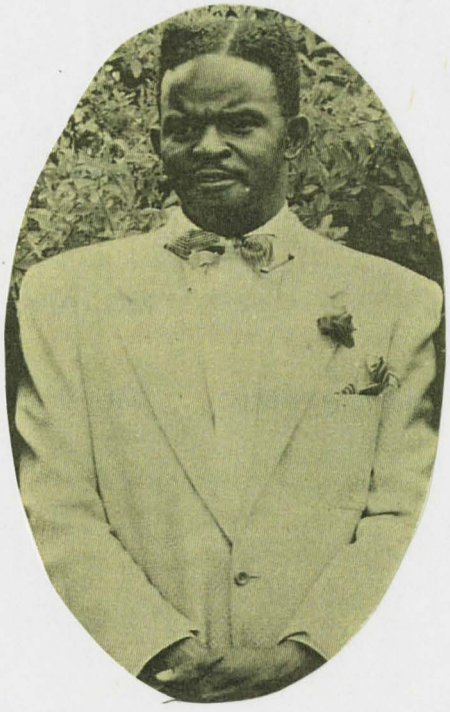





ello...




Nate Horton's photos



OTIS GRAHAM COX

March 1, 1912 - July 21, 1989

Spouse: Geraldine Gaither Cox

CHILDREN:

Tremain Cox

Patricia A. McDaniel

Otis Graham Cox, Jr.

GRANDCHILDREN OF OTIS GRAHAM COX

GRANDCHILDREN

Cox, Keith
Cox, Kevin
Cox, Wendi
Jones, Frederic Duane
Royster, Darnetta (Maurice)
Wiggs, Deborah
Wardlow, Albert
Wardlow, Donald

GREAT GRANDS

Jones, Satina
Lee, Satina
Lindler, Jonathan Gregory
Lowry, Sherri
Mondowney, Makeda
Rogers, Ian M.
Royster, Kelli G.
Royster, Kalab
Warlow, Eileen
Warlow, Meka
Warlow, Klevin
Wiggs, Jr., Adrian
Wiggs, Tonya









VARA MINERVA COKLEY

July 27, 1914 - May 21, 1995
Spouse: Frank P. Cokley

CHILDREN:

Sparkel Roydell Puryear
Frank Cox Cokley
Angelo Kevin Cokley (*Elma*)

GRANDCHILDREN OF VARA COKLEY

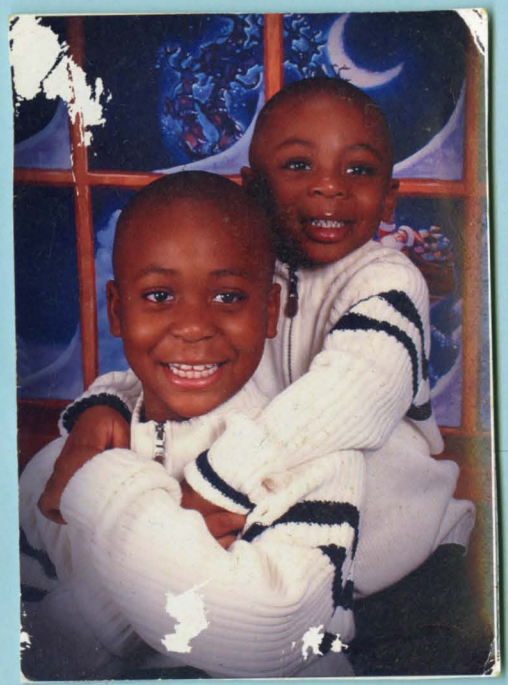
GRANDCHILDREN

Kevin Cokley (GiGi)
Michael Angelo Cokley (ardell)
Julius Christopher Cokley
Vincent Tyrone Cokley (Kimberly)
Greta Cokley
Frankie Cokley
Cheryl Cokley
Kimberly Cokley

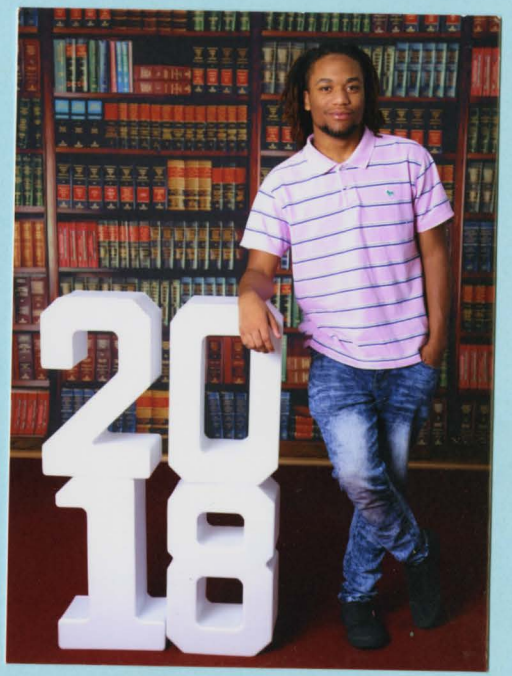
GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

Patrick Trenton Cokley
Angela Cokley
Andrea Cokley
Nicholas Chase Cokley
Isaiah Cokley
Kristen Renee
Mikayla
Asa Cokley
Isis Cokley
Phillip Cokley
Tyler Cokley
Justice Cokley
Jordan Cokley
Micah Cokley
Alexis Cokley


UNITED WE STAND
WOMEN'S
AUXILIARY
of the
P.P.B.S
CONV.






2018













A Year of Merry Memories...

Seasons Greetings from Leonard, Stephanie Robert, Robin & Raven



THOMAS W. "GORRELL" COX

December 25, 1917 - April 13, 1988

Spouse: Mattie Ethel Strickland Cox

CHILDREN:

Sherlene Pinkney (*Leonard*)
Doris Ann Robinson (*Samuel*)
Madelyn Robertson (*Christian*)
Rev. Donald Cox
Thomas Cox (*Cynthia*)
Janet Waller
Michael Cox (*Gwen*)
Patti-Jo Moore (*Willie*)

GRANDCHILDREN OF THOMAS W. COX

GRANDCHILDREN

Pinkney, Jr., Leonard
Pinkney, Geoffrey
Harris, Dwight
Harris, John
Slade, Natalie
Cox, Monica
Cox, Michele
Walton, Donya
Waller, Nicole
Bullock, Donnya
Cox, Stacy
Cox, Trina
Plant, David
Robertson, Joshua
Cox, Jeremy
Maison, Antionette
Moore, Devon
Moore, Dionne

GREAT GRANDS

Harris, Victoria
Harris, LaToya
Slade, Amber
Cox-Cowan, Eddie
Cox-Cowan, Akhee
Cox-Cowan, Alexis
Cox, Brian
Cox, Shanna
Cox-Henderson, Quentin
Cox-Henderson, Quincy
Jenkins, Hayia
Harkless, Tory
Harkless, A. J.
Mason, Accarlo
Robertson, Brooklyn
Cox, Madison

GREAT GREAT GRANDS

Cox, Jr., Kenneth
Cox, Kimaya
Jenkins, Ayanna
Jenkins, Aanya
Jenkins, Amore







Glory to God

IN THE HIGHEST

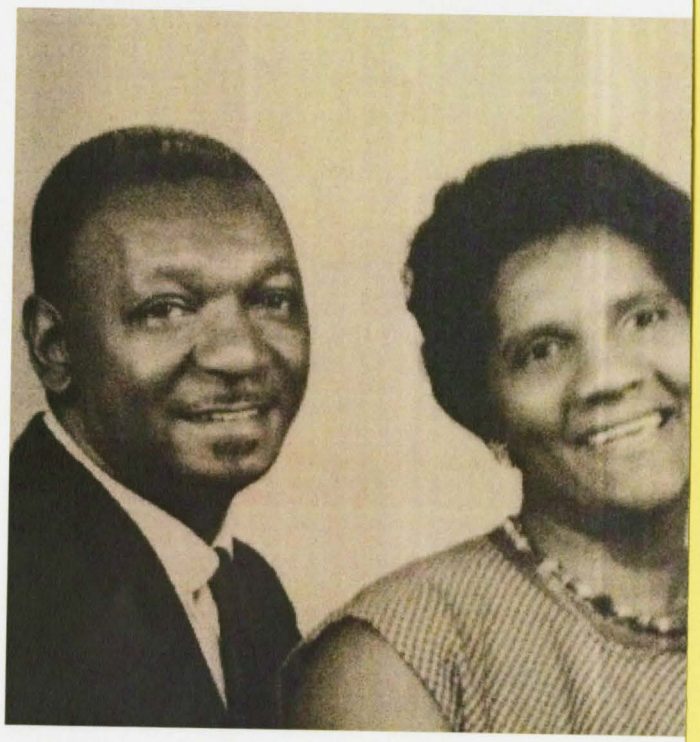
Happy Holidays
From
Leonard, Stephanie,
Robert, Robin & Raven



ANNOUNCING

Graduation

Amber Charisse Slade
Central Dauphin East
Class of 2009



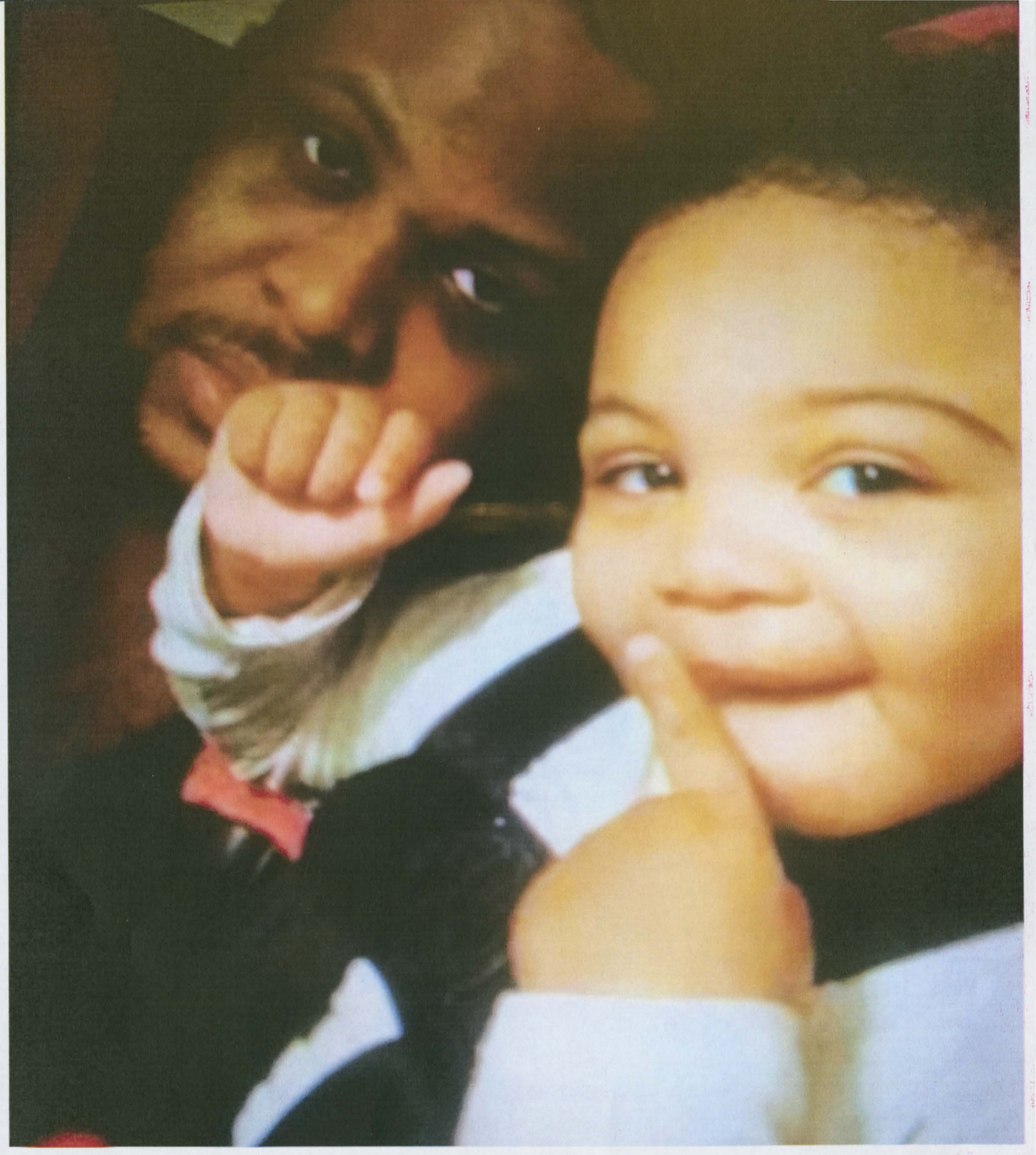





















USA







BERNICE COX LOWE

Spouse: Thomas Jefferson Lowe

CHILDREN:

LOWE, LASHENE
SMITH, TOMMIE JILL (*Kenneth*)
BRATTON, JULIA A. (*Charles*)

GRANDCHILDREN:

SMITH, MONIQUE
BRATTON, CHANTAE
SMITH, MARCUS
BRATTON, CHARLES
BRATTON, CONNAY



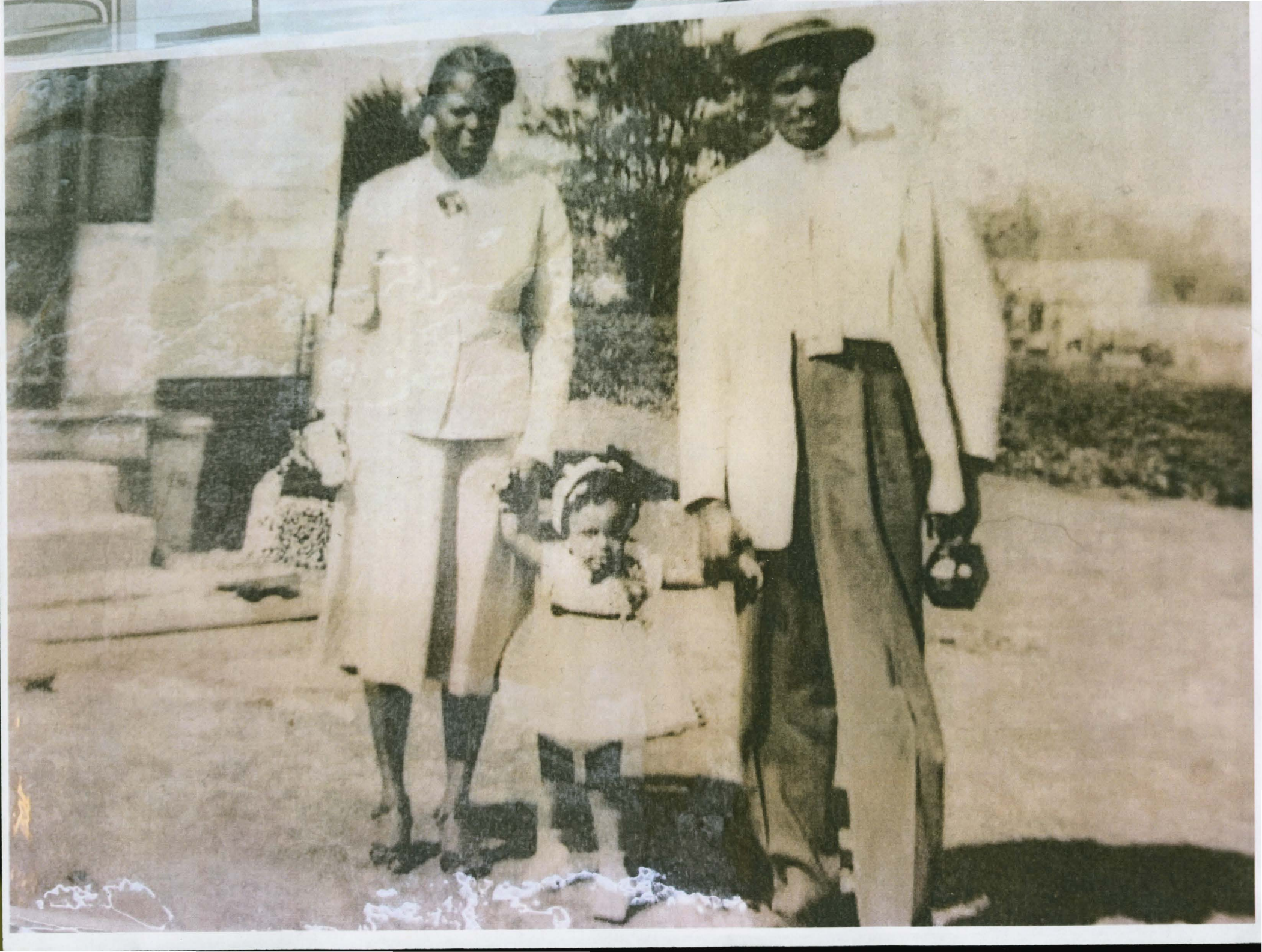







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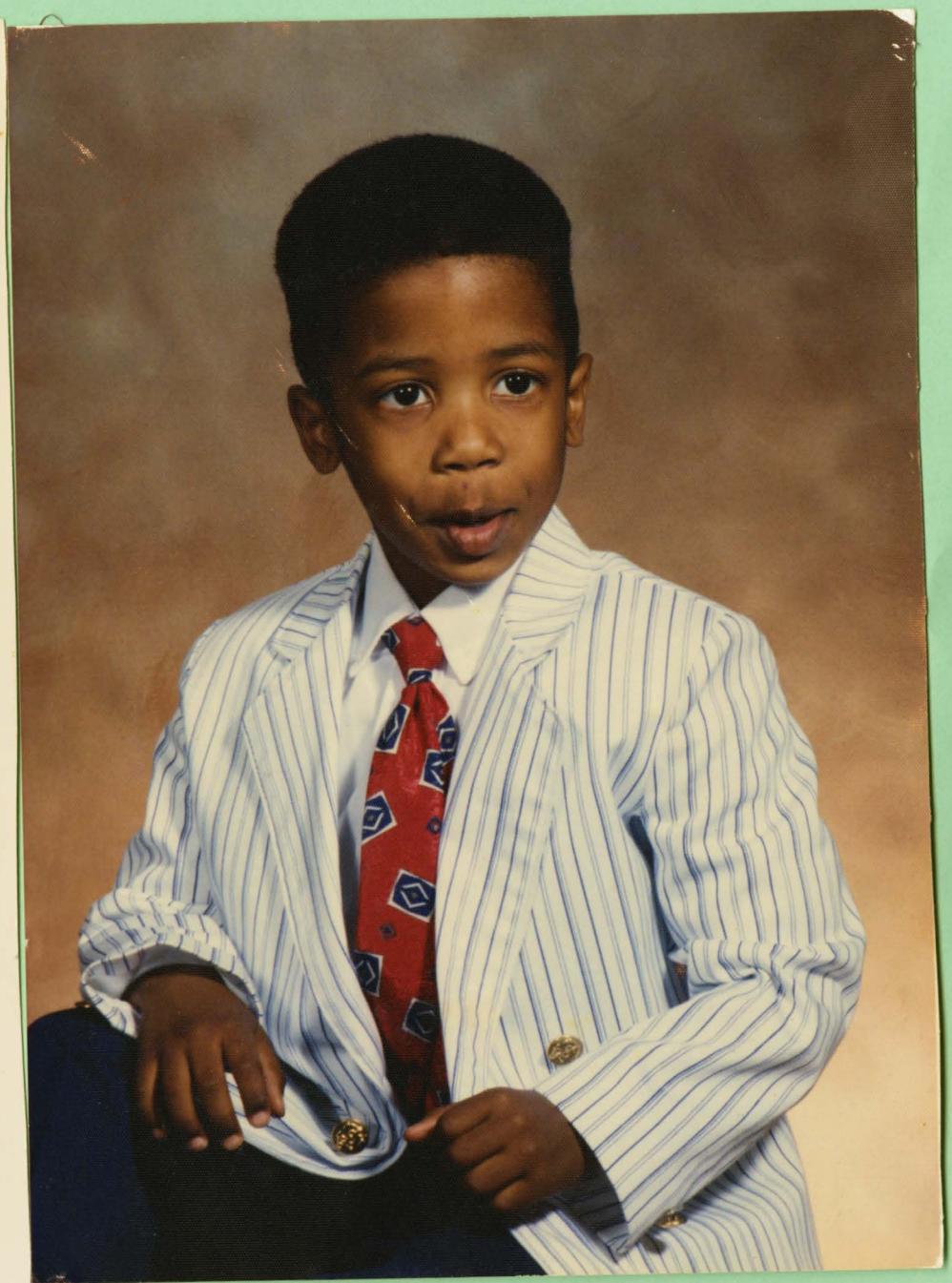



Jets










WELCOME












HARRISON







Mrs. Minerva Jessup Cox Was Quite A Lady

We will write today of some Afro-Americans who have been written up in the newspaper articles of the past. The first is from a Mount Airy News article of Tuesday, March 15, 1997, when the subject, Mrs. Minerva Jessup Cox from the Westfield section, had turned 100. The headline stated that the "100-year-old woman can cure thrush, draw fire." The writer would have been skeptical but she had seen an elderly white woman "draw out fire" with a few unintelligible words, stated that a woman could tell a man the magic words and a man a woman - nothing else would work.



RUTH MINICK

Mrs. Cox had a stroke when she was about ninety and was confined for a time to a wheel chair to which everybody thought she would be confined to the rest of her life. But she fooled them and was using the wheel chair because it was comfortable. She also took up her hand exercises with a sponge instead of with a ball because the ball hurt.

Mrs. Cox was born Minerva Jessup and married Mr. Cox when she was about seventeen. They had 15 children, 11 of whom were still living. She always lived within 10 miles of her place. Her grandparents were slaves. Their master was kind and willed the land on which they lived. She went to a one-room school and went only one year because of the distance. She learned from a blue-backed speller that year but taught herself to read. She became a busy midwife. A very devoted Baptist and Christian, she said she brought up her children "in the Christian way" and it paid off. She still read the Bible at 100.

On her one hundredth birthday she was given a party to which 680 people came, including the mayor of Mount Airy.

Then there was the 84-year-old Jay Stewart who was that age when he was written up, date not known. Mr. Stewart's parents were from Stuart, Virginia. His mother, whose mother had been a slave, was brought to Mount Airy by the Hollingsworths. Her husband worked at the livery stable on Main Street for Bob and John Harris. They had ten children, one of whom was Jay.

Jay attended the black school on Rockford which had only two rooms. He attended that school until he reached the fifth or sixth grade. Incidentally, Mr. W.F.Carter organized this school and brought teachers from Rockingham County, one of whom was J.J. Jones.

Anyway, a Professor Radford was Jay's first grade teacher and a Professor Crumedy his second. Miss Ida Ferguson taught arithmetic.

At the early age of 12, "Mr. Jay," as he was called, went to work for the Southern Railroad and worked there for 10 or 15 years. He said that Main Street was a "mudhole."

"Mr. Jay" remembered some black-owned businesses on Main Street. One was a meat market owned by Willie Ferguson. Aaron Penn also owned a barber shop, a pool hall and a hardware store in the lower part of town.

"Mr. Jay" and his brother operated Stewart Brothers Cafe for many years on the corner of Virginia Street, then known as Needmore. There was also a theater on one side of the cafe.

Stewart and his wife had ten children, all of whom moved away to get an education, there being no high school at that time in Mount Airy.

The third African-American of note was from Elkin, John Wesley "Pap" Jones, a former slave who became the first black minister of the Methodist Church.

Originally from Lenoir, the Rev. Mr. Jones was fortunate in that the son of his master came out to slave quarters and taught the little boys to read. When "Pap" Jones chose his bride they had the traditional ceremony of both bride and groom jumping over the broom. Pap's master had fixed up the barn loft for them to live in.

At an early age he felt the call to preach and took the name of Wesley after Methodist founder John Wesley. He joined the Methodists and was ordained a minister. His first church was a brush arbor.

By that time, the Civil War was evidently over, and Pap began to preach around, picking up substance where he could. He first moved to Wilkes County and then to Elkin, where he became minister to many churches around that town. He thus became the first black Methodist minister of the Methodist church

History Of Chestnut Ridge Church, Minerva Cox Interwoven

By R.J. BERRIER
News Staff Writer

Churches have been formed for a multitude of reasons, but the history of Chestnut Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist began early this century because of something unique in religious annals.

This church began because of a lockout.

According to the records of the Westfield-area church, one of the more prominent black churches in this section, the lockout occurred in January 1907.

Minerva Jessup Cox was deservedly given the title "the mother of Chestnut Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist Church." This most unusual woman was a founder of her church and, at 100 years of age, was still faithfully attending services there each Sunday.

(It is also worthy of note that, while 100 years old, she continued to go to the polls to cast her vote as well.)

The matriarch of her church was 104 years old in 1983 when death stilled the active religious and community leader.

According to its historical records, Chestnut Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist Church was established July 23, 1904. It began under the auspices of Locust Grove Primitive Baptist Church.

The church membership became divided between a Chestnut Ridge group and a Locust Grove segment. The Chestnut Ridge group would hold its meetings in the morning, while the Locust Grove members met at night.

> Church loyalty was expected — and demanded. Minutes indicate that a member was called before the church council because he did not attend Sunday School.

The Rev. W. Pink Smith, a licensed minister, was part of the group that eventually left the home church. Others included Mrs. Cox, Joseph France, Jaeie King, Halie France, W.P. Smith, Green Hatcher, J.O. Roberson, Calip King, Bettie France, Ellen Finnie, Mary Hatcher, Nancie Franklin, Lila King, Josie Moore, J.H. Strickland and Felvin Biden.

It was Jan.26, 1907 that the lockout action occurred. Mrs. Cox and others broke down the door, entered and held a service.

Court action followed and the ruling was made that Mrs. Cox and her group would have to find another place to worship.

Green Hatcler Schoolhouse was utilized — in keeping with the close association that then existed between churches and schools — as were houses of members and, in warm weather, brush arbors.

In 1907, the Chestnut Ridge group bought the property on which the church is now located for $25. The next year, the payment of church dues — 5 cents a month for each member — began.

S. Fletcher Harris, who made his land available to the church, became a member Oct. 14, 1907. He left to become the pastor of Samuel's Grove Primitive Baptist Church.

On Aug. 24, 1912, the group moved into its church building, which they named Chestnut Ridge Primitive Baptist Church. The Rev. Gentry W. King was pastor.

It was in 1914 that Chestnut Ridge's involvement with other Primitive Baptist churches began. An association meeting was held on Thursday before the second Sunday in August.

Loyalty was expected — and demanded. Minutes indicate that a member was called before the church council because he did not attend Sunday School.

The Rev. King was the moderator of the association for many years and pastor of Chestnut Ridge for 32 years.

The Rev. Roy G. Cox became pastor in January 1945. Services began to be held each Sunday, rather than twice a month.

The Rev. Cox led the church in a building program that resulted in a new sanctuary and the purchase of five acres of land for an educational center. Cox had declared that he did not want any other minister to inherit debts made while he was pastor. He fulfilled his wish, for his death came only two days after the mortgage document was burned.

The church purchased the old Ridge-Westfield School, which is located beside it, for expansion purposes in 1968. The former school is now the church's educational center.

Elder Larry Tatum served as interim pastor from 1979 until 1980. The Rev. Timothy Lyons then served briefly. The Rev. Charles Hairston assumed the duties in 1987, filling the pulpit until earlier this year.

Churches formed from Chestnut Ridge include King's Mountain View Primitive Baptist and Exodus Primitive Baptist.

"Mother" Cox often said in her testimonies that she "grew up to be a mother" of the Chestnut Ridge, Sandy Ridge Association, North Carolina and Virginia Progressive Primitive and National Primitive Baptist movements.

She was the widow of Bartley Woodrow Cox and the mother of 10 children. Largely self-educated, she attended a one-room school in the Brim's Grove community for only a year.

The church leader taught Sunday School until she was 85 and her eyes began to fail. She continued to read her large-print Bible, however. At 90, she suffered a stroke and was told that she probably would never walk or use her hands again.

Those medical authorities reckoned without an indomitable spirit. The woman was walking and using her hands within four months. She had been given a wheelchair in which she often sat — not because she needed to but "because it sat so good."

When she was 100, more than 600 people attended her birthday party at the church. The Surry County Board of Commissioners proclaimed March 11, 1979 "Minerva Cox Day in Surry County."

Minerva Cox did something few people can hope to accomplish — she helped found a church and was the church mother. In the process, she also assisted in the founding of her church's Women's Council, Women's Auxiliary and Women's Missionary groups.



The church as it presently looks.




An unidentified member stands in front of the old Chestnut Grove church.