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Newspaper Obituaries; Book 1 (M-O)

Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier

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Joe 'Groove' Madison, 58, dies; legendary jazz, blues organist

Legendary Buffalo jazz and blues organist Joe "Groove" Madison, 58, died Sunday (April 2, 1995) in his Butler Avenue home after falling ill while playing in a Bailey Avenue club. He had suffered from kidney disease for many years.

"He was still playing, right to the end," said longtime friend Andy Vitello.

Services for Madison will be held at noon Wednesday in McKendry-Dengler Funeral Home, 2540 Main St. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Madison was a throwback to Buffalo's rich and largely overlooked tradition in blues, soul and R&B — a heritage shared by artists such as Robert "Count Rabbit" Robinson, Matt Nickson, Johnny Soul, Jesse Butler, Barbara St. Clair and the late "King George" Alexander.

He and the rest were "the musicians that nearly every black artist, and a good many white, has played with or learned from," critic Elmer Ploetz wrote in a 1994 Buffalo Magazine profile of East Side music legends.

As a child in Niagara Falls, Madison learned every instrument he put his hands on and played the piano in his grandfather's storefront church.

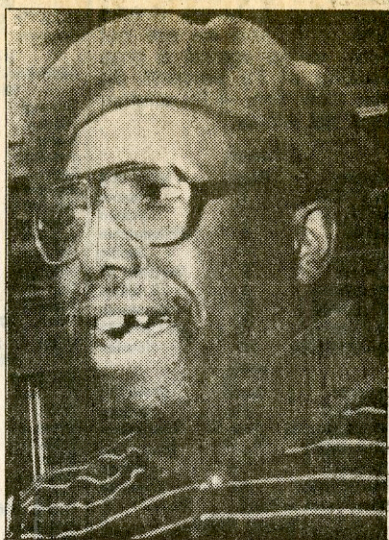
His father, a musician, "always had music going, especially jazz and standards," Madison told Ploetz. "He always had musicians coming over to the house who would jam. He'd sit me on his lap and show me a lot of piano."

Madison grew up during the golden age of jazz and rhythm and blues in the 1940s and '50s, when the local club scene was hopping.

"At one time, there were always places to play. On William Street, all down the street was nothing but clubs, and all of 'em had bands, four pieces or three pieces," he said. "It was like every day of the weekend was a holiday."

As a teen-ager, Madison grew to love bebop. But many of his first jobs were with bluesman like Elmo "Spoon" Witherspoon and Count Rabbit.

It was his later mastery of the difficult Hammond B-3 organ, with



Joe "Groove" Madison

its distinctive thick bluesy tones, that made Madison's reputation. He picked up the knack at the Pine Grill, and with it the nickname "Groove," from his similarity to the late Groove Holmes, a B-3 organ player in the Jimmy McGriff-Jack MacDuff-Jimmy Smith mold.

The organ was love at first sound for Madison, and he was one of the first area players able to handle the instrument.

He played for '60s soul sax legend King Curtis, touring the nation and playing places like the Apollo Theater and sitting in with performers like James Brown and jazzman Sonny Stitt, before returning in the 1970s.

For most of the last two decades, Madison made his living in venues ranging from the smoky confines of the Mirage, 3076 Bailey Ave., and Club 1218 on Jefferson Avenue to the sleek Calumet Arts Cafe downtown.

His admirers were legion. Ronnie Foster, keyboard player with George Benson and Stevie Wonder, took lessons from him as a teen-ager. Saxman Grover Washington Jr. played with him as a teen-ager as well.

Madison is survived by his wife of more than 30 years, Pearl; two daughters, Pamela Pickens and Regina Johnson; a brother, Willie; and a sister, Yvonne.

OBITUARIES

Edward J. Malone, restaurateur, promoter

Edward J. Malone of Buffalo, a retired local restaurant owner and entertainment promoter, died Wednesday (Oct. 16, 2002) in Sisters Hospital. He was 82 and had been living in St. Francis Geriatric Center.



Malone, a Buffalo native, was a graduate of Fosdick-Masten Park High School, where he studied culinary arts, and was an Army veteran of World War II.

Spurred by a passion for business and a determination to succeed, Malone entered into a partnership with Jessie L. Davis in Eddie and Jessie's Barbecue Restaurant, located on Buffalo's East Side, and in E&J Entertainment Promotions.

Malone married Davis in 1970.

The couple's daughter, Shirley Hunter of Buffalo, said E&J Entertainment acted as the promoter when James Brown, the Supremes and other musical acts played in Memorial Auditorium. The per-

formers often ate at the couple's restaurant, too.

Malone and his wife closed both operations after 20 years in business.

At that time, Malone became the first African-American potato chip distributor in the Buffalo area when he became an independent contract worker for Brownie Potato Chip Co. He retired from Bachman Snack Corp., which had acquired Brownie.

Malone was a member of New Hope Baptist Church. His daughter said he was well liked by neighborhood children, even though he was strict with them. He was especially close to his only grandchild, U.S. Army Specialist Ronnie D. Cason Jr. of Hanau, Germany.

His wife died in 1994.

In addition to his grandson and his daughter, Malone is survived by a brother, Norman of Buffalo; and four great-grandchildren.

Service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday in New Hope Baptist Church, 543 Richmond Ave. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Willie Mae McAlpin, beautician, nurse

Willie Mae McAlpin, 77, of Buffalo, a licensed beautician and trained visiting nurse, died unexpectedly Tuesday (June 6, 2000) in Buffalo General Hospital.

Born in Bessemer, Ala., the former Willie Mae Greene was the eighth of 10 children. In 1941 she moved to Buffalo, where she met and married William H. McAlpin in 1946.



She was a licensed beautician and cosmetologist, and a visiting nurse until 1967. She then worked for the Buffalo Public School sys-

tem until her retirement in 1985. She worked in Schools 74, 17 and 54.

She was a member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Buffalo, where she served as a member of the Altar Guild, the adult choir and the Episcopal Church Women. She was honored in 1988 for 41 years of service to the church.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Deborah McAlpin-Dulin of Atlanta; a son, Frederick W. of Longview, Texas; a sister, Minnie Robinson of Gaithersburg, Md.; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday in St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 15 Fernhill Ave. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

The Rev. Landen L. McCall Sr., minister, barber

Jan. 7, 1921 — Aug. 20, 2006



Services for the Rev. Landen L. McCall Sr. will be held at noon Tuesday in St. Luke AME Zion Church, 314 E. Ferry St.

Mr. McCall died Sunday in Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He was 85.

Born in Manning, S.C., Mr. McCall moved to this area as a child. He was a graduate of Hutchinson-Central High School and

had attended Tuskegee Institute.

A World War II veteran of the Army Air Forces, he served in the Philippines with the Tuskegee Airmen. Before the U.S. military was

fully integrated in 1948, it was the only military program that trained African-American men as fighter pilots and bombers.

A barber by trade, Mr. McCall served generations of Buffalo families. Also a minister, he pastored at Peoples Community Church and at St. Luke AME Zion Church.

Mr. McCall also served on the Race Relations Committee of Mayor Frank Sedita and was a lifetime member of the NAACP.

A Mason, he was past master of Paramount Lodge 73, Bison Consistory 24 and Hadji Temple 61. He also was a past worthy patron of Naomi Chapter, Daughters of Eastern Star.

Survivors include his wife, the former Thelka V. Trueheart; two sons, Landen L. Jr. and Dwayne Dunavant; three daughters, Barbara J. St. John, Roslyn Smith and Sabrina Dunavant; and two sisters, Jamela Bell and Alfreda Gaines.

9-06

Services Held for The Rev. Landen L. McCall Sr., Minister, Barber

Services for the Rev. Landen L. McCall Sr. were held in St. Luke AME Zion Church, 314 E. Ferry St. Mr. McCall died August 20 in Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He was 85.

Born in Manning, S.C., on January 7, 1921, Mr. McCall moved to this area as a child. He was a graduate of Hutchinson Central High School and had attended Tuskegee Institute. A World War II veteran of the Army Air Forces, he served in the Philippines with the Tuskegee Airmen. Before the U.S. military was fully integrated in 1948, it was the only military program that trained African-American men as fighter pilots and bombers.

A barber by trade, Mr. McCall served generations of Buffalo families. Also a minister, he served as pastor at Peoples Community Church and at St. Luke AME Zion Church.

Mr. McCall also served on the Race Relations Committee of Mayor Frank Sedita and was a lifetime member of the NAACP. A Mason, he was past master of Paramount Lodge 73, Bison Consistory 24 and Hadji Temple 61. He also was a past worthy patron of Naomi Chapter, Daughters of Eastern Star.

Survivors include his wife, the former Thelka V. Trueheart, longtime Challenger columnist; two sons, Landen L. Jr. and Dwayne Dunavant; three daughters, Barbara J. St. John, Roslyn Smith and Sabrina Dunavant; and two sisters, Jamela Bell and Alfreda Gaines.



Charles E. McGriff Sr., member of Buffalo Water Board

Jan. 31, 1936 — Feb. 9, 2008



Charles Edward McGriff Sr., a member of the Buffalo Water Board and a former legislative assistant for the Common Council, died Saturday in

his Buffalo home after a brief illness. He was 72.

A member of the Water Board since 2001, he was noted for his votes against rate hikes and his opposition to the ill-fated plan to sell the city's water system to Erie County.

Active in Democratic politics on the East Side for many years, he had been a legislative assistant to Council Member Clif-

ford Bell and had worked in City Hall on economic development in the 1990s.

Born in Buffalo, the ninth of 11 children, he was a 1955 graduate of Burgard Vocational High School.

He served in the Army stateside, then worked in security at the General Motors axle plant on East Delavan Avenue and in the security department at Buffalo Savings Bank. He also was a sales coordinator at Mendleson Furniture.

Mr. McGriff was an active member of the Davis Specials and the Buffalo Youth Choral and had been a member the Cofratraes, an East Side social club, since he was in high school. In 1979, he co-founded the Buffalo chapter of The

Cousins, the largest African-American family in America, which has more than 9,000 members and chapters in 23 states.

Long active in Durham Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, he was named Lay Person of the Year by the Rochester-Syracuse-Buffalo District AME Zion Church in 2000. He also was a Mason.

Surviving are his wife of 46 years, the former Jennifer Rollins; a son, Charles Jr.; two daughters, Kathleen McGriff Powers and Courtney; a brother, Grover L.; and three sisters, Hattie Munger, Ernestine Bazemore and Velma Ferguson.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday in Durham Church, 200 E. Eagle St.

MC NEAL—Charlotte M. (nee Davis)



Retired elementary school teacher, entered into rest on Thursday, April 10th after a six year battle with cancer. Beloved wife of Henry, her husband of 54 years; devoted mother of Trevor (Dawne); Meryl of

Decatur, Ga. Survived by two sisters, Ruth Richardson (Isaiah) and Kathryn Chavous (William). Also survived by four grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Mrs. Mc Neal was an active member in several community and religious programs and organizations. Donations in memory of Mrs. Mc Neal may be made to Church Women United, in care of the Buffalo Council of Churches. The wake will be held Wednesday, April 16th from 7-9 PM at FIRST SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH, 15 Pine St., Buffalo, where funeral services will be held on Thursday, April 17th at 11 AM. Arrangements by the H. ALFRED LEWIS MORTUARY.

Henry A. McNeal, dedicated deacon

Henry Austin McNeal, a deacon in a Buffalo church for more than 40 years, died Wednesday (Feb. 6, 2002) in an Atlanta hospital. He was 84.

McNeal worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Buffalo for 34 years.

But his "real life's work was serving his God and his fellow man through his church," said his son, Trevor of Buffalo.



McNeal served as a deacon and a church clerk at First Shiloh Baptist Church. He and his wife, Charlotte, worked together in the church pantry. He continued working there after her death in 1997 until he moved to Atlanta with his daughter.

Born in Pittsburgh, McNeal grew up in Buffalo. He graduated from Hutchinson-Central High School. He enrolled in Morgan State University in Baltimore,

where he planned to study for a career in medicine. But his college education was cut short when his father died. He returned home to help his mother raise his two brothers and sister.

A World War II veteran, McNeal enlisted in the Army shortly after his 1943 marriage and rose to the rank of first lieutenant.

He was a life member of the NAACP and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Besides his son Trevor, he is survived by a daughter, Meryl of Atlanta; four grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Services will be held at noon Wednesday in First Shiloh Church, 15 Pine St. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

In Memoriam

856-5555

BUFFALONEWS

MENCER—Clara

January 2, 2001, of Buffalo, NY. Beloved aunt of Hampton (Tracy) Gillespie, III; also survived by many friends and loving church members. Friends may call Wednesday at New Covenant United Church of Christ, 459 Clinton St. at Spring. Visitation 10:30 AM. Funeral services 12 Noon. Arrangements are entrusted to MEMORIAL CHAPELS OF BUFFALO, 66 E. Utica St. Interment Garden of Time at Forest Lawn Cemetery. Rev. Will Brown officiating.

Aviva L. Merritt, nurse at Children's Hospital, community advocate

March 4, 1941 — Jan. 18, 2008



Aviva L. Merritt, a Buffalo health and community advocate, died Friday in Buffalo General Hospital. She was 66.

Born in Birmingham, Ala., Ms. Merritt was one of the area's few African-American skilled nurses when she started at Children's Hospital in 1958 after attending nursing school while working nights as a nurse's aide. She was a surgical nurse in labor and delivery, and later moved into child care and mental health work.

In 1977, she entered the insurance field as a sales agent with Allstate. She retired 22

years later as senior female agent in the Buffalo-Rochester territory.

During her last two years with Allstate, Ms. Merritt was board president of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America's local chapter. When the organization lost its funding and executive director, she served for a year as unpaid acting director before the budget was restored and she was named executive director in 2000. She later was program manager for the Arthritis Foundation of Western New York.

A past president of Kensington-Bailey Neighborhood Housing Services, she was treasurer at her death. She was a past member of the local United Negro College Fund board, where

for five years she raised money with the "Jammin' Women."

She was a member of the Langston Hughes Institute board and treasurer of the Geneva B. Scruggs Health Care Center board before funding problems brought down the nonprofit organization in 2003.

Ms. Merritt was host of a local-access cable television show, "Aviva," that sought to inform and inspire young African-American women. She had been working on a book titled "Avivaisms" and initiated a public speaking program.

She received many community awards, including one from Washington, D.C.-based Buffalo Soldiers for her work with the Sickle Cell Association. She was a 2001 graduate of Leadership

Buffalo and won a Black Achiever award in 2000. She was named to the board of the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier in 2006.

She was founder and president of the Nursing Guild of the Evangelistic Temple and Community Church Center, where she was life member. She also was a member of the NAACP, Buffalo Urban League, Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier and Mary B. Talbert Civic and Cultural Club.

Surviving are a daughter, Joyce Walker, and a son, Ryan Richards.

A service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in Evangelistic Temple and Community Church Center, 92 Hedley Place.

Frank E. Merriweather Jr., publisher, is dead at 77

By CARL ALLEN
News Staff Reporter

Services for Frank E. Merriweather Jr., 77, publisher of the Buffalo Criterion, the oldest African-American weekly newspaper in upstate New York, will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday in Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church, 641 Masten Ave. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Merriweather died Monday (May 22, 1995) in Erie County Medical Center after a long illness.

He was a founding member of the Buffalo Urban League and former vice president of the Buffalo Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Merriweather and the Criterion led the fight for African-Americans on the Buffalo School Board and other appointed public boards in the 1950s. He served on a variety of community and civic boards.

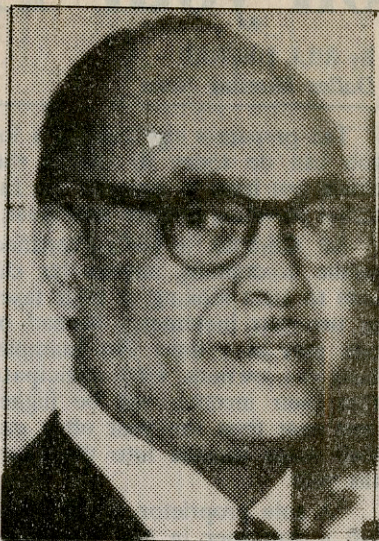
Born in Houston, Merriweather joined the Criterion Press, started by his late father, as an errand boy and newspaper deliverer in 1923.

He also delivered the old Buffalo Times for two years, when he was about 7, before his father, the late Frank E. Merriweather Sr., began the Criterion in 1925.

Merriweather was a graduate of Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Ala., where he earned degrees in journalism and printing operations. He also attended School 32, Hutchinson-Central High School and the old Buffalo Collegiate Center. He studied violin at the Memorial Center and the Urban League and played with his school orchestra throughout high school.

Merriweather also was a member of the Buffalo Symphony Training Orchestra and the Buffalo All High Orchestra. He led a jazz orchestra that performed for six years.

Merriweather honed his skills in every aspect of printing and press operations under his father and was helping to operate the printing business and the newspaper by 1935. He continued to operate the business after his father died in 1959.



Frank E. Merriweather Jr.

American community.

"His loss is a great one. He was a griot in the truest sense of the word," said Barbara Banks, editor and publisher of the Buffalo Challenger, the city's other major weekly black newspaper. Griots were the historians and storytellers in traditional African societies.

"He was a walking history book and could recite names and dates, right out of his head. I have a great respect for Mr. Merriweather," she said.

Merriweather also was active in local politics. He was a 5th Ward and 5th District Republican committeeman from 1952 to 1960 and a Masten District committeeman from 1960 to 1978. He also served on the Erie County Republican Executive Committee. In 1951, he ran unsuccessfully for the 5th Ward seat on the old Erie County Board of Supervisors.

He served for a short time as information clerk for the Buffalo Common Council before returning to the newspaper business full-time. The Criterion is one of the oldest black-owned business in Western New York.

Merriweather was active in the Masons and helped found Frontier Lodge 1024, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He was also a member of Ionic Lodge 88, Prince Hall Affiliation.

The newspaper became an official publication of the NAACP and during the late 1940s and 1950s pushed for black representation on the School Board, which was at that time was appointed; the board of the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority; and the city's Planning and Redevelopment Corporation.

The Criterion was instrumental in establishing the Willert Park Housing Project, the first federal housing complex in the African-

He was a longtime member of Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church and served as organist.

Merriweather was a member of the Rapid Transit Board, the board of Crisis Services and the Hickory Street Center Board.

He continued to play a role in the day-to-day operations of the Criterion, which continues to be operated by the family.

Among honors he received over the years are Refuge Temple of Christ's 1993 Appreciation Award for Outstanding Community Service and the 1993 Black Achievers Award. He also was the first recipient of the 1981 Langston Hughes Institute Distinguished Arts Award and was recognized for outstanding service to the community by the University of Buffalo Alumni Association in 1986. He was honored for community service by the Afro-American Police Association in 1973.

Survivors include his wife, the former Evelyn Patterson; three daughters, Carole-Ann Booth, Evelyn Ferguson and Frances-Jill Gist; two sons, Frank E. III and Bruce C.; a sister, Barbara Sims; and 11 grandchildren.

MICHAUX, Maria A. (Rebasti)



Suddenly, January 30, 2003, beloved wife of the late Charles L. Michaux Jr.; devoted and loving mother of Bruna, Ramona (Elonzo) Draffin, Charles L. (Debora) III, and John; daughter of the late Giov-

anni and Erminia Rebasti; beloved grandmother of Matthew Michaux, Ramona (Alan) Lee, Anthony Draffin, Chantal (Gary) Kokin, and Maria Michaux; four great-grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren; and dearest sister-in-law Joan Durant; predeceased by 5 sisters and 3 brothers; also survived by host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends in the United States and Italy. No prior visitation. A mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday morning at 9:30 AM at the Immaculated Conception Roman Catholic Church, 144 Edward, corner of Elmwood. Flowers gratefully declined. Memorials may be made to Alzheimers' Assoc. Arrangements by H. ALFRED LEWIS MORTUARY, INC.

Services Held for Marshall D. Miles



Marshall D. Miles

Funeral service for Marshall D. Miles, was held Thurs., Dec. 11th, at 11 a.m., from Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church, 641 Masten Avenue. The Rev. James S. Webb, Jr., officiated.

Mr. Miles departed this life on Thursday, December 4, (1997).

Mr. Miles was born on Oct. 2, 1905, in Demopolis, Alabama, to the late Hattie Marshall-Miles and Walter Miles. One of six children, he moved to Buffalo, in 1919, and attended Hutchinson Central High School.

Mr. Miles was co-owner of the Safety Savings and Loan Association, in Los Angeles, California; Miles Shoe Repair and Miles Brothers Dairy, which was the first Black dairy, in Western New York. He also worked at the Pierce Arrow Factory, and the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce.

He was a life member of Paramount Lodge No. 73; Bison Consistory No. 29; Hadji Temple No. 61; and the NAACP. He was a supporter of youth programs, such as the Boys Club of Erie County, the YMCA, Golden Gloves; and the P. A. C.

Mr. Miles met John Roxborough in Detroit, Michigan, who introduced him to Joe Louis. He and the Brown Bomber immediately struck up a close friendship, and Marshall became his manager in 1932.

He was a long time member of Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church.

Mr. Miles was previously married to the late Della Newson, and the late Dorothy Roberts. He leaves to cherish his memory, a loving and devoted wife: Charlene Fuqua-Miles; a son: Jourdan M. Fuqua-Miles; a brother, Percy Miles; and a host of relatives and friends.

The Memorial Chapels of Buffalo, 66 East Utica St., were in charge of the arrangements. Interment was in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: George K. Arthur, Carl Buckner, Robert Hunter, Jourdan Fuqua-Miles, Frank Watson, and Robert Watts.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Joseph Baskin, Sidney Cottrell, Jimmy Dilapo, Samuel Freeman, King W. Peterson, Lee Smith, Tommy Tucker, Herbert L. Bellamy, Joseph Day, The Honorable Vincent Doyle, Rev. Leeland Jones, The Honorable Frank A. Sedita, Jr., Henry Stieger, and Paul Woodson.

The Criterion and staff extend our deepest sympathy to the family. The late Frank E. Merriweather, Jr., and Senior, Editors of the Buffalo Criterion, were acquaintances of Mr. Miles.

James L. Mills Sr., retired businessman

A Mass of Christian Burial for James L. Mills Sr., a retired businessman and a World War II veteran, will be offered at 11 a.m. Tuesday in St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, 555 Northampton St. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Mills, 77, died of complications from diabetes Thursday (June 22, 2000) in Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Born in Statesville, N.C., he came to Buffalo as a teenager. He served in the Army in the Pacific Theater during World War II.



During the 1960s, Mills operated a Texaco service station on Jefferson Avenue and later owned Mills Carting and Hauling.

A devoted St. Martin de Porres parishioner, he was a member of its Holy Name Society and the usher board. He also was active in the annual Catholic Charities drive and was an enthusiastic bingo worker.

Mills was also a life member of Amvets Henry Pollard Post 5. He loved fishing and hunting as well as vegetable and flower gardening.

Surviving are his wife of 57 years, the former E. Josephine Baugh; a son, James L. Jr. of The Hague, Netherlands; a daughter, Joyce M. Gais; and four grandchildren.

MINER—Doris "Dot"

March 22, 1997, family will receive relatives and friends Wednesday 11-12 Noon. Funeral immediately following at Macedonia Baptist Church, 237 E. North St. Auspices EXODUS GARDENS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

MONTAGUE—John S.

September 29, 2002, beloved husband of Marjorie Crockett Montague; father of the late Joel J. Montague; honored Army Veteran and a 42 year retiree of Bethlehem Steel. The wake will be held Thursday, October 3, 2002 at 11 AM followed by the service at 12 Noon at the BRIAN K. LEWIS FUNERAL HOME, 2528 Bailey Ave. Friends are welcome.



MORSE—Willard A.

Departed this life January 14, 2008; loving husband of Ellen M. (nee Matthews); son of the late Allen and Fannie Graham Morse; cherished father of Trent R. (Janet), of Indianapolis, IN, Lloyd A., William "Jackie" Sloan, of Oakland, CA, Noreen L. Posey, of Southfield, MI and the late James R. Matthews; also survived by eight grandchildren, a host of great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends. Relatives and friends may visit THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME, INC., 995 Genesee St., Thursday from 5-7 PM and Friday, 12 noon to 5 PM. The family will receive friends Friday, 7-9 PM at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1525 Michigan Avenue. Mass of Christian Burial will be conducted Saturday, 10:30 AM at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 15 Fernhill Avenue. Interment, Acacia Park and Resthaven Memorial Gardens, North Tonawanda, NY. Right Worshipful Morse was Past Patron of Naomi Chapter #10 OESPHA, Honorary Past Potentate of Hadji Temple #61 AEAO NMS, Past Commander-In-Chief of Bison Consistory #29 AASRPFA, Honorary Past High Priest of Companion Chapter #35 Holy Royal Arch Masons and Past Master of St. John's Lodge #16 F&H, under whose auspices Masonic Services will be conducted Friday at 7 PM. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the Blind Association of WNY, 1160 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14209.

Willard A. Morse, truck driver, mechanic, Mason, volunteer

April 2, 1927 — Jan. 14, 2008



Willard A. Morse, active as a Mason and a community volunteer, died Monday in his Buffalo home. He was 80.

Born in Baltimore, he came to Buffalo as a child. A graduate of Hutchinson-Central High School, he was a member of the Webelos Club, which started him on a lifelong love of community service.

He worked for many years as an auto mechanic and operated a Mobil service station at Michigan and William streets. Later, he was a mechanic at Sears on Main Street, then was

a truck driver for the city Street Sanitation Department. He retired in 1992.

Mr. Morse was involved with several neighborhood organizations, notably the 78 Restoration Program, which helped people buy and fix up homes in the Jefferson-East Ferry area.

He was a member of the Urban League, the NAACP and the Council of International Visitors. He was a volunteer for more than 40 years for the Blind Association of Western New York, and he and his wife were a host family for foreign students from all over the world attending Buffalo State College and the University at Buffalo.

A Mason for nearly 50 years, he was a master Mason in St. John's Lodge 16, where he held

many offices, and was active in the Consistory. He also served as auditor for the Council of De-liberations and grand inspector general.

Also a Shriner, he was a charter member of Companion Chapter 35, where he was secretary. He also was recorder and an honorary past potentate. He was a past patron of Naomi Chapter 10, Order of Eastern Star, and a member of Esther Court 9, Heroines of Jericho.

Surviving are his wife of 36 years, the former Ellen Matthews; three sons, Trent, William and Lloyd; and a daughter, Noreen Posey.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 15 Fernhill Ave.

A. Mardell Mosley Muldrow, hospital worker

By LONNIE HUDKINS

News Staff Reporter

The death of A. Mardell Mosley Muldrow in Buffalo General Hospital on Thursday (July 22, 1999) at age 69 ended an active career and retirement that included living in the same house with three other generations of women, bowling three times a week and roller skating whenever she got the chance.



Born in Richmond, Va., she came to Buffalo in 1940. She was a graduate of Hutchinson Central High School and worked at Buffalo General Hospital for 35 years until her retirement in 1991.

Mrs. Muldrow, whose husband, Anthony C., died in 1975, started as a nurse's aide at Buffalo Gen-

eral and was an angiology technician when she retired.

In her later years, she made her home with her mother, Mozell Mosley, who is 90; her daughter, Marcia A.; and her granddaughter, Marquisha A. Muldrow.

She was active in the Floral Club of First Calvary Missionary Baptist Church and helped her daughter, a Girl Scout leader, in Scout projects.

Her daughter recalled that Mrs. Muldrow bowled three times a week until she was diagnosed with a terminal illness in May.

"She also loved to roller skate," her daughter said. "She could skate backwards and was very skilled at it. She was a remarkable person."

Survivors also include three sisters, Earlease Carry of Washington, D.C., Dorthy Brown and Lannell Jones.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday in First Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 467 William St. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Murphy Jr., expert on drug addiction, dies at 82

By KAREN BRADY

News Staff Reporter

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Murphy Jr., 82, a physician here for half a century and an authority on narcotics addiction, died Sunday (Feb. 13, 2000) in Beechwood Nursing Home, Getzville.

Known as a doctor who made house calls and treated people who could not pay, he maintained a private practice at Broadway and Michigan Avenue for nearly 40 years. He also headed the outpatient methadone clinic at Sisters Hospital for 21 years.

He was a physician for the Buffalo Public Schools and the Erie County Health Department. He was medical director of the outpatient geriatric clinic at Sisters Hospital and an internist affiliated with Millard Fillmore Hospital and the former Deaconess Hospital.

After he retired in the early 1990s, he volunteered his medical services at Geneva B. Scruggs Community Health Center.

"Dr. Murphy was a good, hard-working, funny and humble man who loved his family and treated those who went to him for medical care with expertise and loving dedication," said a daughter, Pamela E.

As a medical expert on drug addiction, Murphy served on the Erie County Narcotics Guidance Council and the Mental Hygiene Community Services Board and was often called on to comment, particularly on heroin addiction, by the news media.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, he moved to Buffalo with his parents at age 6. He was a graduate of School 17 and Lafayette High School.

As a youth, he was active in St. Philip's Episcopal Church and in sports and the Boy Scouts. He delivered newspapers to help his family financially.

After enrolling at Fisk College in Nashville, Tenn., where he majored in chemistry and excelled at varsity football and baseball, he worked summers on passenger boats that docked at Buffalo and as a porter on the old New York Central Railroad to earn money for his tuition.

Recruited to play for the Negro Professional Baseball League after college, he chose instead to go to Meharry Medical College, also in Nashville. He received a medical degree in the early 1940s and did his internship at Homer G. Phil-



Dr. Benjamin Franklin Murphy Jr.

lips Hospital in St. Louis.

Active in the Buffalo community, Murphy served on the boards of the Michigan Avenue YMCA and Baker Hall. He was a life member of the NAACP and the American Lung Association. He also was a member of the National Medical Association and the Upstate Medical Alliance.

He received numerous honors, including an Upstate Medical Alliance Doctor of the Year Award, the 1994 Community Service Award of the Buffalo Branch of the NAACP and the 1994 Health Award of the African-American Task Force on AIDS.

He also was presented a United Negro College Fund Outstanding Alumnus Award and was a charter member of Alpha Kappa chapter of Sigma Pi Phi fraternity and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Murphy was active in his adulthood at Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church, serving on numerous committees and donating a stained-glass window at the church in honor of his late parents, Benjamin F. and Edith Lawrence Murphy.

He enjoyed sports, hunting, fishing and gardening.

Surviving, in addition to his daughter Pamela, are his wife of nearly 56 years, Clyde Wilkins Boddie Murphy; another daughter, Clyde E. of Alexandria, Va.; a son, Benjamin F. III; a sister, Vivian Rowan of Washington, D.C.; and two grandchildren.

A service will be held at noon Thursday in Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church, 641 Masten Ave. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

NOLES—Douglas E. Sr.

Suddenly May 9, 2001, son of the late Errie McCoy and stepson of Bishop C. H. McCoy; survived by beloved Eva (Bateman) Noles; loving father of Delores Lindsay, Douglas Sr. (Andrea), Tyrone (Colleen), Eric (Cindy), Cheryl (Victor) Howell, Stacey and Trent; also survived by 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; brother-in-law of Charles (Anita) Bateman, Barbara Johnson and Donniezell Duke. Family will be present Monday 4-8 PM at THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME, 995 Genesee St. Funeral will be held Tuesday 12 Noon at the St. Matthew's Cemetery Chapel, 180 Old French Rd.

NORWOOD—Casterwell H.

September 13, 1994. Friends may call Saturday at 9:30 AM at Durham AME Zion Church, 176 Eagle St., where funeral services will be held at 10:30. Interment Ridgeway cemetery. Arrangements by PROVIDENCE MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME.