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1-18-1986

## Newspaper Obituaries; Book 2 (T-Z)

Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier

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**TATE—Harrison Jr.**

Jan. 18, 1986, of Buffalo, N.Y., beloved friend of Avery Key; brother of Thomas A.; dear uncle of Geraldine Tate and Trudy Smith; also survived by other relatives and friends. Arrangements entrusted to the BUFFALO MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC., 66 East Utica St., where funeral services will be held Wed. 11 AM. Friends invited. Friends may call Tues. Family present 7-9 PM.

## **THOMAS—Alfonso**

February 10, 1992; husband of Margaret; father of Geraldine Johnson (Jerry) of Inkster, MI.; brother of Maurice; grandfather of Duane and Delirdre Cunningham. The family will receive friends Thursday 7-9 PM at the H. ALFRED LEWIS MORTUARY INC., 968 Jefferson Ave. where Paramount Lodge No. 73 F&AM (PHA) will conduct burial rites at 7:00 PM and where funeral services will be conducted Friday 11:00 AM. Interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

**THOMAS—Judson**

Monday, April 25, 1994, after a lengthy illness, husband of Lula; brother of Edward Thomas, Sr., Ernest Thomas (Dorothy) of Newark, NJ & Genevieve Kelley. Friends & relatives will be received Saturday at 10:00 AM at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 226 Cedar St., funeral service to follow at 11:00 AM. Flowers gratefully declined. Donations to The Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Building Fund. Interment in Rosewood Mausoleum at Forest Lawn. Arrangements by THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME.

# R.L. Thomas, accountant, insurance agent

Services for Robert L. Thomas, 46, an accountant and licensed real estate and insurance agent, will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday in Friendship Baptist Church, 402 Clinton St.

Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Thomas, who moved from Buffalo to New York City 15 years ago, died there Friday (July 6, 1990) in Manhattan Hospital after a brief illness.

He had worked as an accountant at M. Wile and Co. and as an insurance agent for New York Life here and was an accountant with

Catholic Charities in New York City, where he also had his own income tax service.

A Buffalo native, he graduated from School 37, East High School, Bryant & Stratton Business Institute and Erie Community College, where he majored in business.

Survivors include his parents, Florence and Edward Thomas; five brothers, Keith of New York City, Ronnie, Edward II, Judson and Kenneth, and two sisters, Carol Wilson of New York City and Carolyn Molson.

**THOMPSON—Charlotte McKnight**

July 23, 1987, The family will receive friends Monday 7-9 PM at the THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME INC., 995 Genesee St. Funeral services Tuesday at 11 AM from the Promiseland Baptist Church, 227 High St.

# Maggie Toler, was honored on turning 100

Services for Maggie Toler, 103, a Buffalo resident for 79 years, were held Wednesday in H. Alfred Lewis Mortuary. Burial was in Mount Hope Cemetery, West Seneca.

Mrs. Toler, a native of Pulaski, Tenn., died March 28, 1994, in Sheehan Memorial Hospital after a short illness.

Born Maggie Buford, she was the widow of William Reynolds and Forest Toler.

She moved to Buffalo in 1915 and soon became involved in civic activities. She was a member of the International Benevolent Or-



der of Elks and was a past president of the Women's Auxiliary of Jessie Clipper Post 430, American Legion. She was a member of the auxiliary for more than 60 years. She also was a member of Metropolitan United Methodist Church.

For her 100th birthday, the Buffalo Common Council proclaimed July 4, 1990, "Maggie Toler Day." She also received congratulations from then-President and Mrs. George Bush.

Mrs. Toler maintained her own apartment on Beverly Road until a month ago, when she fell and broke her hip. Relatives said complications from the broken hip and her age led to her death.

Survivors include four grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

# George K. Twitty, boxer, Democratic aide

George K. Twitty, 76, a former Golden Gloves and professional boxer, died Wednesday (April 6, 1994) in Veterans Hospital.

A native of Dendron, Va., he moved to Buffalo when he was young. He fought in several Golden Gloves boxing tournaments during the 40s and 50s here in Buffalo. He then turned professional and moved to Fall River, Mass., where he trained under Henry Armstrong, a former world boxing champion, and boxed under the name of "Georgie Hall."

After he left boxing, Twitty returned to Buffalo and worked for

the former Lippes Bakery until his retirement.

A veteran of World War II, he was the Ellicott District Democratic committeeman for the past 15 years.

Surviving are his wife, the former Rita Butler; a daughter, Barbara Clark; a sister, Elizabeth Cooper; a brother, Phillip; and one grandson.

A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Monday in the Antioch Baptist Church, 24 Urban St. Burial will be in St. Matthew Cemetery in West Seneca.



**UNION—Clara B.**

November 2, 1992; mother of Constance Union; grandmother of Marlon Shallowhorn; god-mother of Derrick Moore (Jackie); sister of Bernice Willis (David), Georgia Miller and Donald Scott. Wake and Funeral Service will be held Friday from 7-9 PM at St Paul AME Zion Church, 610 Eagle St. Rev. G.M. Tydus officiating. Arrangements by THOMAS T. EDWARDS FUNERAL HOME INC.

# Charlie Ed Walker, hardware store owner

Services for Charlie Ed Walker, the former owner of the Security True Value Hardware Store, 425 E. Ferry St., will be conducted at

11 a.m. Saturday in New Hope Baptist Church, 543 Richmond Ave. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Walker, 69, died Tuesday (Sept. 29, 1992) in Roswell Park Cancer Institute following a short ill-

ness.

Born in Baconton, Ga., he relocated to Buffalo after serving in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He was employed for 23 years as a supervisor at American Standard. After American Standard

ceased operations here, he worked at Houdaille Industries. He opened Security Hardware in 1976 and retired Feb. 29 this year.

Walker was active in the community, holding positions on the board of directors of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Buffalo Municipal Softball League and the Planning Committee of the Buffalo Convention Center.

In addition to being the recipient of numerous business and industry awards, Walker was a Prince Hall Mason. Masonic services will be conducted at 7 p.m. today in New Hope Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife of 28 years, the former Wilma J. Bolden; two daughters, Angela M. of Fairport and Phyllis A., and a brother, Robert J.



## **WATTS—Robert**

Aug. 6, 1985, of Buffalo, beloved father of Mrs. Howard Menney and Mrs. Dave (Marie) McCray and Martique Watts; brother of Mrs. Sarah Brown, Luther, Andrew and Willie Watts; also survived by 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and other relatives and friends. Arrangements entrusted to BUFFALO MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 66 E. Utica St., where memorial services will be held Fri. morning at 10 o'clock. Friends invited.

rsday, November 24, 1988

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## Marvin Wells

A Mass of Christian Burial for Marvin Wells, 70, a former Buffalo resident, will be offered Friday in Cleveland.

Wells died in Cleveland on Sunday (Nov. 20, 1988), a week after suffering a stroke.

Born in Sulligent, Ala., he moved to Buffalo at age 4 and attended School 28 and South Park and Burgard Vocational high schools. He then entered the Navy, in which he was a member of a championship basketball team.

Wells spent his working life in Cleveland, where he was employed for many years by Ford Motor Co. and later was secretary of a retired autoworkers' organization.

Surviving are his wife, Willie Maude Quarrels Wells; a daughter, Dolores McCarly of Buffalo; two sons, Phillip of Oklahoma City, and Kenneth of Cleveland; a brother, Melvin of Buffalo, and four grandchildren.

# Melvin Wells, was runner-up Mr. America

Funeral services were held this week for Melvin Wells, 75, a professional bodybuilder who once placed second in the Mr. America contest and later was inducted into the Mr. America Hall of Fame. Burial was in Forest Lawn.

Wells died March 17, 1994, in Buffalo General Hospital after a long illness.

Known as the "Buffalo Hercules," Wells placed second and received the "best arms" award in the Mr. America contest in January 1949.

He was inducted into the Mr. America Hall of Fame in 1985.

In 1949, Wells became the second African-American to appear on the cover of Strength and Health Magazine after he won the title of Mr. Strength and Health.

He also was chosen the most muscular man at the 1951 Nation-

al AAU Championships.

A graduate of the former Hutchinson High School and a star basketball player, Wells worked as a foreman at the Chevrolet plant on East Delavan Avenue and later as a foreman at the Ford Stamping Plant in Woodlawn.

In 1957, he started working as a clerk at the Court Street post office in the U.S. Courthouse, where he worked until his retirement in 1991.

He served as a master sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II, when he was stationed in Japan.

Survivors include his wife, the former Julia Adams; a daughter, Loretta Dunkwu; a stepson, Leroy Powell; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.



# John K. Whitney Jr., Gaymar president

Private services will be held for John K. Whitney Jr., 43, president and chief operating officer of Gaymar Industries Inc., a medical equipment manufacturer in Orchard Park.

Whitney died Sunday (April 10, 1994) in his Orchard Park home after a long illness.

Born in Camp Rucker, Ala., where his father was stationed in the Army, he attended school in Kenmore and Orchard Park. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from Carnegie Mellon University and his master's in business administration from Golden Gate University.

While at Carnegie Mellon, he won first place in a national architectural student competition. Representing the United States at subsequent International Congress of Architects student competition in Madrid, Spain, he won third prize: a six-week architectural tour of Russia.

His winning design was for low-cost housing structures for Bangla-

desh. He and a small group of students tested the design by traveling to Guatemala and constructing a model there.

He later worked for Bechtel Corp. in San Francisco as an architect and project leader, designing and supervising construction in Saudi Arabia and then became vice president and partner in Crossing Inc., a real estate development company in Tacoma, Wash.

He returned to Orchard Park in 1990 to become executive vice president at Gaymar, a company founded by his father. He became president and chief operating officer in 1992.

Survivors include his wife, Concepcion; a stepson, Samuel, and a stepdaughter, Judith, both students at Arizona State University; his parents, John and Marilyn of Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico; and three sisters, Jean Chait of New York City, Ann Ami of Novato, Calif., and Mary.

# Clara Mae Williams, longtime club singer

Services for Clara Mae Williams, a well-known nightclub singer, will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday in Friendship Baptist Church, 402 Clinton St. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Miss Williams, 77, died Tuesday (Sept. 12, 1989) in Roswell Park Memorial Institute after a long illness.

Miss Williams was a popular vocalist who performed regularly for many years in nightclubs, including the Club Moon Glow, the Havana Casino and the Glen Park Casino. She was fondly referred to as the mother of the Colored Musicians Club, 145 Broadway.

She also entertained often in Toronto and Hamilton, Ont., and performed at fund-raising events for local political figures.

During the early 1930s, Miss Williams left Buffalo to pursue a

singing career in New York City, where she became friends with Pearl Bailey, Lena Horne and the late blues singer Alberta Hunter. During World War II, she toured the United States with USO shows, entertaining troops at military bases.

She was a member of the Actors Guild.

In her later years, Miss Williams served as a volunteer foster grandmother at the West Seneca Developmental Center. More recently, she was a volunteer senior companion.

Born in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Miss Williams came to Buffalo as a child and lived here for most of her life.

She was a member of Friendship Baptist Church for more than 60 years.

## **WILLIAMS—George X.**

Aug. 9, 1982, husband of the late Helen Vernell (Cobb); father of Jethon Sharrieff; brother of Mrs. Glenwood Pino (Hildred), Melvin C., Mrs. Cortez Wells (Jessie), Jerome A. and the late John Jr. and Helen Collins; grandfather of Jethon Sharrieff II; son of the late John Sr. and Jessie Williams; dear friend of Evelyn Lugo; also is survived by many nieces, nephews and friends. Family present Wed. and Thurs. 2-5 and 7-9 PM at the (Delavan Chapel) AMIGONE FUNERAL HOME INC., 1250 East Delavan Ave., where funeral services will be held Fri. morning at 9:15 and from Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 10 AM. Mr. Williams was a former employee of the Sears & Roebuck Co. for the past 38 years.



Church at 9:30 AM.

**WILLIAMS—Melvin**

*Sonny*

April 2, 1992; beloved son of the late John and Jessie Williams Sr.; dearest brother of Hildred (Glenwood) Pino, Jessie (Cortez) Wells and the late George, John Jr. and Helen Collins; also survived by several nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and god-children. The family will be present on Tuesday 2-4 and 7-9 PM at the (Delavan Chapel) AMIGONE FUNERAL HOME INC., 1250 E. Delavan Ave. where funeral services will be held on Wednesday at 8:30 AM and from Our Lady of Lourdes Church at 9:30 AM. Friends are invited.

1985

# Messiah Williams Passes

Messiah Williams, 82, of Alfred D. Price Courts, died Tuesday, August 20th, in Sheehan Memorial Hospital, after suffering a heart attack.

He was well known in the community, which he walked throughout frequently.

Mr. Williams had been a 50-year subscriber of the Buffalo Criterion.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Aug. 24th, from the Jefferson Ave. Community Church, of which Mr. Williams was a long and active member.

He retired from the Tonawanda Chevrolet Plant several years ago and prior to that, was a utility man for Charles and Morrison's Dept. Store. He was also a gifted artist, having made several outstanding paintings.

Mr. Williams is survived by his wife, Evelyn; and four sons: Randall, Gerald, Roger and Henry; two brothers: Stanley Williams, who was a former Criterion columnist for six years, and Dallas Williams; and one sister, Ruth. His older sister Quintella Jasper, passed away this spring.

Burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery. The Thomas Edwards Funeral Home was in charge of the remains.

The pastor, Rev. Nathaniel Burgess, officiated.

## OBITUARIES

### Maude Ardelle Williamson, Dunlop retiree

Services for Maude Ardelle Williamson will be conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday in St. Phillip's Episcopal Church, 16 Sussex St. Burial will be in Forest Lawn.

Mrs. Williamson, 85, died Friday (April 30, 1993) in Sisters Hospital after a brief illness.

She grew up in Wellsville, Va., where she attended school. She graduated from St. Paul's Normal School in Laurenceville, Va.

She married the late Eli W. Williamson Jr. in 1928. They then moved to Lackawanna and to Buffalo the following year.



Mrs. Williamson worked at Curtiss-Wright Aircraft during World War II. After the war, she worked for Dunlop Tire Corp. until her retirement in the early 1970s.

Mrs. Williamson was a member of St. Phillip's Church, where she was active in the Episcopal Church Women, the Altar Guild and the Union of Black Episcopalians. She also was a member of Bishop Brent's Guild, the Vestry and Daughters of King.

Survivors include a daughter, Lorraine Hughes; four sisters, Roberta and Elaine Brown, both of Richmond, Va., Sarah Ford of Washington, D.C., and Gelene Briggs of Pleasantville, N.J.; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.



# Fred D. Willis Sr. Is Dead; Was Hospital Executive

A memorial service for Fred D. Willis Sr., assistant to the vice president for planning at Buffalo General Hospital, will be held at 6 p.m. today in the Emmanuel Temple Seventh Day Adventist Church, Peckham and Adams streets.

Willis, 70, died Wednesday (Dec. 7, 1988).

A native of Winston-Salem, N.C., he lived in Buffalo most of his life and was associated with Buffalo General for nearly 20 years.

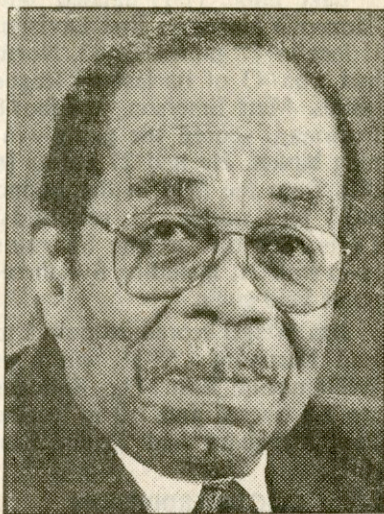
In 1969 he joined an advisory board charged with planning programs for the hospital's Community Mental Health Center. He served a two-year term as chairman of the center's board of directors and was a member of the hospital board of trustees from 1972 to 1979.

Willis was named manager of Buffalo General's Ambulatory Services Clinic in 1979, and when planning began in 1980 for the hospital's 16-story tower, he was appointed an assistant to vice president for planning, a position he held until his death.

"In the almost 20 years he was associated with us, Fred touched and influenced hundreds of lives," said Dr. William V. Kinnard Jr., Buffalo General president. "We will never forget his gentle, caring and compassionate manner."

A community leader, Willis was a member of the Community Action Organization in the 1960s. He later served as VISTA coordinator for Erie County and in 1968 returned to the CAO as youth development director.

In 1971 he became executive director of the Drug Abuse Research and Treatment Center. There he created and directed a countywide mental health program serving 250,000 residents.



Fred D. Willis Sr.

A lifelong Democrat, he also was a musical figure who performed as a soloist, director and arranger, once collaborating with Duke Ellington to present a concert of sacred music at Kleinhans Music Hall. He was a member of several singing groups and director of the Twin Coach Choir.

Willis was an elder in the Emmanuel Temple Church, where he was choir director and taught a class on the spirit of prophecy.

Surviving are his wife, the former Alice McPheters; his mother, Sadie C. Willis of New York City; two sons, Fred Jr. and Cleo V., both of Dayton, Ohio; five daughters, Mildred E. Gill of Pine Forge, Pa., Ruth E. of Orlando, Fla., Linda C. Edgecombe of Norwalk, Conn., and Karen A. Britton and Ava M. Rivers, both of Huntsville, Ala.; a stepdaughter, Rosalind; two brothers, William R. Jr. and James P. Sr. of New York; two sisters, Rosa E. Small of New York and Mary C. Fulton of Winston-Salem, and 21 grandchildren.

**WOOLWINE—Phyllis N.**

May 16, 1987 of Buffalo, NY; beloved wife of the late Thaddeus; dear daughter of Mrs. Sylvia Barton; sister of Ms. Betty Barton, Mrs. I. Mary VanLandingham, Paul Barton and Sandra Lindsey; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends. Arrangements entrusted to BUFFALO MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC., 66 E. Utica St., where friends may call Wednesday. Vesper services 7:30 PM. Family present 7-9 PM. Funeral services Thursday 11:00 AM from St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 15 Fernhill Ave. Friends invited.

**WRIGHT—Edward W. Sr.**

Sept. 4, 1984, beloved husband of Evelyn (nee Mostiller) Wright; father of Evon Steward, Edward W. Jr. (Shenetta), Eugene, Elaine, Eric (Grace) Gottlieb, Ernest (Nadine) Wright, and Eunice Jackson (Charlie); brother of the late Robert Wright, also survived by seven grandchildren and other relatives. The family will receive friends Fri. 7-9 PM at the H. ALFRED LEWIS MORTUARY INC., 968 Jefferson Ave. Funeral services Sat. 10 AM from Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. Church, 1107 Main near Best St. Interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

# Edwin Wright, Veterans Hospital employee

Services for Edwin Wright, 74, a World War II U.S. Army Corps of Engineers veteran and retired Veterans Hospital employee, will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday in the Richard Meadows Funeral Chapel, 2528 Bailey Ave. A prayer service will be held at noon. Burial will be in Bath National Cemetery.



Wright, a native of Luray, Va., died Sunday (May 23, 1993) in

Veterans Hospital after a long illness.

He moved to Buffalo before World War II and during the war served in North Africa, Italy and Germany with the 384th Engineers. He was a technical sergeant when he was discharged.

Wright was a supervisor of the dietetic department of Veterans Hospital when he retired in 1976. He was a life member of the AM-VETS and served as commander of Henry Pollard Post 5 from 1962 to 1964.

Survivors include a brother, Chester, of Baltimore.



# Bernard Zeldner, Market Owner

Bernard Zeldner, owner of Zeldner's Wild Game & Gourmet Center at 638 Clinton St. which supplied many Buffalo area restaurants with pheasant, venison, buffalo and other exotic dishes, died today (Sept. 27, 1974) in Sisters Hospital.

Mr. Zeldner of 95 Covington Rd. was 58.

Born in Baltimore, Mr. Zeldner moved to Buffalo where he attended Hutchinson-Central Technical High School.

After graduating, he joined his parents in the Arrowhead Market at 638 Clinton St., where he spent the next 40 years in the food business.

In 1964, he expanded the market and changed the name to Zeldner's Wild Game Gourmet Center, specializing in the sale of the more exotic meats and game.

In 1972, he was shot in the chest in an attempted holdup in his store and was in critical condition in Columbus Hospital.

However, he recovered and

returned to work, remaining active in the business until his death.

He is a past president and founder of the Save Cash Market Groups of Buffalo, a group of markets in the inner city.

He also was a member of the Jonathan David Lodge of Pythians, the New York State Grocers Association, the New York State Produce Association and the Civilian Air Patrol during World War II.

Surviving are his wife, the former Anita Feller; 2 daughters, Mrs. James Shur of Holliston, Mass., and Michele of Philadelphia; a son, Charles of Beit Hashitta, Israel; 2 sisters, Mrs. Al Cole of Yorktown Heights, and Mrs. Henry Goorevich, and 2 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 3 PM Sunday in the Delaware Park Memorial Chapel, 2141 Delaware Ave. Burial will be in Pine Hill Cemetery, Cheektowga.