

History of the Willie Bee (W.B.) and Maggie Fairley McNeill Family

Willie Bee (W.B.) McNeill Sr. was one of three children born to the late Willie B. McNeill and Laura (Persel) McNeill. Maggie Fairley McNeill was the sixth of twelve children born to the late Jack Fairley and Lydia (Manning) Fairley. Both Willie Bee McNeill Sr. and Maggie Fairley were born in the late 1800's and were raised in Purvis, NC a small town outside of Rowland, NC. Lydia (Manning) Fairley, Maggie's mother, died early in her life and left husband Jack Fairley alone to care for their twelve children. Jack Fairley soon married Mrs. Kate, who already had four children of her own. With such a large family, the two families were reported to not get along. Jack Fairley left with his new wife (Mrs. Kate) and the Fairley children were sent to live with relatives where they were well cared for. Maggie Fairley went to live with one of her mother's sister.

One Sunday evening, Maggie Fairley saw this handsome young man (Willie Bee McNeill Sr.) all dressed up in his white spats driving down the road in his horse and buggy. After the usual courtship, they were united in holy matrimony and started their family on a farm in Purvis, NC. While



living in Purvis, NC their first five children were born; James Cleveland, Willie Bee Jr., Mary Letha, Sarah Jane, and Palmer Lee. They later moved their family to Maxton, NC where they had five more children; Estella, Annie Bell, John Walter, Maggie Juanita, and Lillye William. In all, Willie Bee and Maggie Fairley McNeill had seven girls and three boys.

Willie Bee McNeill Sr., called "W.B.", worked as a sharecropper on a farm there in Maxton, NC. He also owned a cane mill where he produced molasses for his neighbors in the community which was a major second source of income to the family.

Maggie at an early age was converted and joined the Shiloh Baptist Church in Purvis, NC. After moving their family to Maxton, NC, they were affiliated with the Sandy Grove Baptist Church. Maggie served as a missionary and attended church regularly until her health failed her.

Tragedy struck the McNeill family when W.B. was killed in a car accident back on July 26, 1947. After the death of her husband, Maggie was left alone to care for her family. By this time, most of the McNeill children had completed school and were beginning to branch out on their own. The death of her husband W.B. was followed by the deaths of her sons Willie Bee McNeill Jr. on March 30, 1953 who died tragically from gunshot wounds and James Cleveland McNeill Sr. on March 5, 1955 who died after a long illness.

Maggie Fairley McNeill was a strong praying woman who was determined to be the pillar of strength for her family. She helped her family gather up the broken pieces and continue to move on with their lives. Maggie believed in helping others in the community and served her community



well. In the community she was a past officer of the Bonny Memorial United Order of Tenth. The children in her community liked her very much and many of them called her “Grandmother”. She lived a full and fruitful life, as a very devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She loved caring for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren which Alesia (Renee) and Beverly experienced many times.

Those who knew her well remember her working in her home always busy, even when her health was failing. She loved quilting and made many quilts for her children over the years. One of the quilts she made is still on



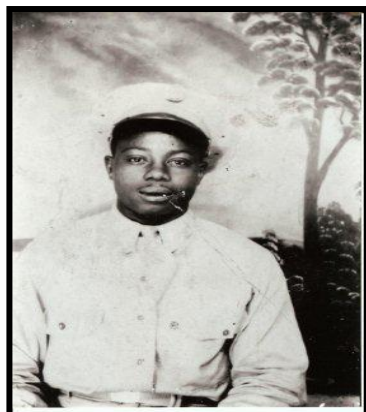
display at the Museum in Maxton. Maggie often quoted the 23rd Psalm “Ye thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for thou art with me...” as her favorite passage from the Holy Bible. Maggie enjoyed attending the early family reunions and was proud of her family.

At the age of 84, on January 26, 1973 Maggie slipped away from us in Scotland County Memorial Hospital in Laurinburg, NC. In November 1974, the family celebrated the 12th family reunion at the original home site in Maxton, NC. This was the first McNeill family reunion held in their home town. Mother Maggie would have been proud of us for continuing the family reunion tradition.



8th McNeill Family Reunion
1970
Wilmington, NC

James Cleveland McNeill Sr.



James Cleveland McNeill Sr., the 1st born child of W.B. McNeill Sr. and Maggie Fairley McNeill was named after his Uncle Cleveland, his mother Maggie's older brother. James Cleveland went to school in Robeson County as a young child. As a young man, James Cleveland McNeill worked as a mechanic for Drennan Garage in Maxton where he serviced trucks and worked as a truck driver. He also worked on a farm with his father as a sharecropper and assisted him in the cane mill where they made molasses. James Cleveland also served his country as a World War II Army Veteran.

Christine Malloy McNeill went to school in Scotland County, NC

where her mother Vacey Malloy also taught school. Christine worked as a domestic housekeeper for several white families in Maxton until her later years where she was employed and retired as a supervisor from Belk's Department store in Laurinburg.

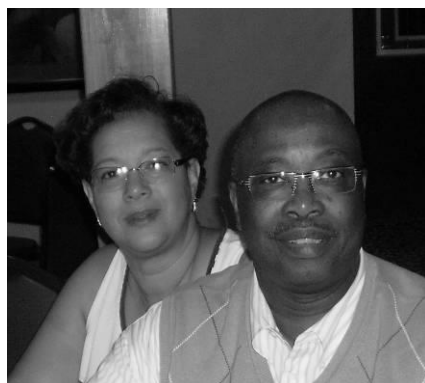
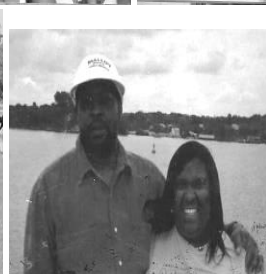
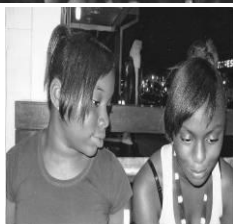
James Cleveland McNeill Sr. and Christine Malloy McNeill were joined in Holy Matrimony in Bennettsville, South Carolina. From this union, the first branch of the McNeill Family Tree began with the birth of five children; James Cleveland II, Catherine, Earnestine, Warren, and Bobby. Prior to her union with James Cleveland, Christine had a daughter named Charlene Johnson. Christine and James Cleveland began raising their family on Graham Street in Maxton and later moved to the home they built on MLK Drive (Highway 74). Many of us have fond memories of walking down Highway 74 to their home from Brooklyn to visit with them, while our parents echoed "stay off the highway" in the background.



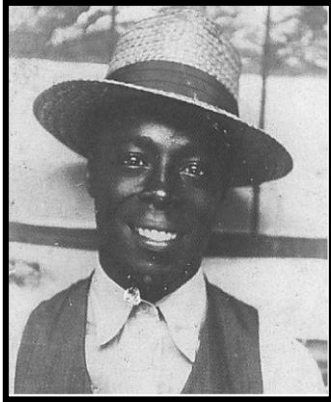
After a long illness, James Cleveland McNeill Sr. died on March 5, 1955. Several years later, Christine was married to James Moody and they continued to live in the Home on Highway 74 near her sister Flora Nancy. Christine loved caring for her family and assisting her children whenever she could. She raised two of her older grandchildren Nancy McNeill Collier and James Cleveland McNeill III (Goode) as her daughter and son. Christine's children and grandchildren had transitioned up north to the Pennsylvania and NJ areas to live where she often visited. While in New Jersey, Christine became ill and on September 19, 1987 passed away in the hospital. She was returned home to Maxton, NC and was laid to rest in Maxton Cemetery. Many of us remember her funeral as if it was yesterday because of the long line of cars that passed through the streets of Maxton carrying her family members, friends, and church family. Christine Malloy McNeill Moody was preceded in death by her first husband, the late James Cleveland McNeill Sr. and her two daughters Earnestine McNeill who was killed in a car accident in 1959 and Catherine Perry (Wesley) who died suddenly in Plainfield, NJ on March 15, 1966.

Today, the James Cleveland McNeill Sr. and Christine Malloy McNeill Moody family continues to grow with their children; Charlene Pope Johnson (died in May 2004) and her son, Scott Johnson resides in New York, NY; Cleveland McNeill (Joan) of West Orange, NJ has two sons, Jason and Jonathan who also live in West Orange NJ. Jason has two daughters, Jendaya and Imani, Warren McNeill (Wanda) of North Wales, Pennsylvania two children, Ashley McNeill who lives in Atlanta, GA and Sterling (Stephanie) who live in Charlotte NC; Bobby McNeill (Teresa) of Orange, NJ. Nancy McNeill Collier (William), the eldest daughter of Catherine Perry lives

in East Orange, NJ, her brother, Craig Perry has one daughter Shalette and her sister, Serena Bennerman (Jason) lives in Somerset and has three children – Jordan, Jarred, and Darnell. Earnestine’s two children, Chappell (died September 1989) and Goode, who resides in North Carolina along with his daughter, Christie and Christie’s son David. All together there are ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild to the James (Christine) McNeill branch.



Willie Bee McNeill Jr.



The 2nd child born to W.B. McNeill Sr. and Maggie Fairley McNeill was named Willie Bee Jr. Willie Bee Jr. was educated in the public schools in Robeson County. He was a construction worker and worked as a community worker. He traveled throughout the eastern part of NC helping to build roads. He was united in holy matrimony in Dillon, South Carolina to Gladys King from Faison, NC. From this union came one son, Donzella.

Willie Bee Jr. was violently killed in 1954 and died from gunshot wounds. He is buried in the Beauty Spot Cemetery in Maxton, NC His wife Gladys remarried after his death and raised their son Donzella in Greensboro, NC. Donzella served several years in the armed services. He is currently married and

has one child. Donzella and his family lived in Decatur, Georgia for many years, but recently moved back to Greensboro, NC to be near his mother Gladys.

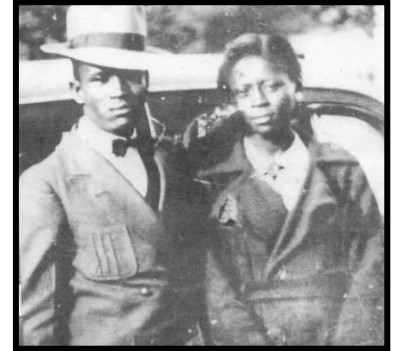
Gladys attended the 34th reunion that was held in Greensboro, NC which was hosted by Alesia Brown and Sarah Alice Bridges. Over the years Gladys has kept in contact with Aunt Lillye and other members of the family. Gladys Everett currently resides in a senior citizen home in Greensboro, NC.



Mary Letha McNeill Bridges



Mary Letha was the 3rd child and first daughter of W.B. McNeill Sr. and Maggie Fairley McNeill. Mary Letha received her formal education at the Robeson County Training School and Laurinburg Institute. She also attended McDuff's School in Laurinburg, NC. She was joined in holy matrimony to James Bridges in Bennettsville, South Carolina on December 12, 1938. From this union eight children were born; Lucinda, Annie Ruth, James Frank, Marvin, Sarah Alice, Jeanette, Robert Vernon, and George Raymond. This was



the start of the third and largest branch of the Willie Bee and Maggie Fairley family tree.

James Bridges was an employee at Hasty Veneer Mill in Maxton until his death May 1952. He was a very sharp dresser and member of Sandy Grove Baptist Church. Mary Letha worked as a domestic housekeeper in the 1950s, a machine operator at Rona Plastics in Plainfield, NJ in the 1960s, and a seamstress for Keck's Drapery in Maxton, NC in the 1970's. Also in 1970s she started the first Pre-K and Kindergarten program in Maxton at her home. The program grew larger than expected and was eventually moved into the Sandy Grove Baptist Church. At an early age, she joined Sandy Grove Missionary Baptist Church where she served as a faithful member of the Missionary Circle #1, Usher Board, BTU, Director of Vacation Bible School, and Mother of the church until her declining health.

Mary Letha's lovely home, located in the section of Maxton called "Brooklyn", has always been everyone's first stop when they would come to Maxton to visit. She was a helpful person and blessing to all she encountered. Her passion for cooking was often enjoyed by her family members. You could always count on receiving a good meal or something to eat before you left Maxton after visiting her home. During her illness, her son George carried on that tradition whenever family came to visit.



Mary Letha raised her oldest grandchild Alesia Renea Bridges-Brown as her daughter there in her home in Brooklyn. As a young child, Alesia remembers spending afternoons at her Great-grandmother Maggie home on West Cottingham Street in Maxton with her Cousin Beverly. She also remembers the frequent trips she and her Grandmother Mary Letha took to the countryside in Lumberton, NC to visit Great-great Aunt Lucinda and Uncle Robert. She loved going with her Grandmother Mary Letha to the country because she

got to see a real log cabin, drink from well water, and watch Uncle Robert milk the cows. Whether it was helping friends and relatives, caring for children, getting involved in her church and community Mary Letha was always willing to lend a helping hand.

Mary Letha loved attending family reunions. For many years she was the eldest member of the family always willing to share her wisdom, history of the family, and offer friendly advice. She was a Mother, Grandmother, Aunt, Sister, and friend to us all. She loved her family, church, and community in which she lived.



Mary Letha McNeill Bridges was called home on January 5, 2011 after celebrating 92 years of life. She was the eldest living descendant of the McNeill family for many years and was a true blessing to her siblings, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews who all looked to her for wisdom and advice over the years and treated her with the greatest respect. She was preceded in death by her husband James Bridges, four of her children; Marvin Bridges, Lucinda Bridges, James Frank Bridges Sr., and Robert Vernon Bridges, and one daughter-in-law Martha Bridges.

Today, the Mary Letha McNeill Bridges and James Bridges family continues to grow with their children; Annie Ruth McLaurin (John) of Piscataway, NJ, Sarah Alice Bridges of Piscataway, NJ, Jeanette Hill (Ollie) of Mableton, GA, George Raymond Bridges of Maxton, NC, grand-daughter Alesia Renea Bridges-Brown (Ronald) who was raised by Mary Letha as a daughter, daughter in-laws Edwina Bridges (James Frank) and Hattie Bridges (Robert Vernon) of Maxton, and 15 grand-children and 31 great-grandchildren.



Darryl Hill,



Sarah Jane McNeill McEachin



Sarah Jane was the 4th child born to W.B. McNeill Sr. and Maggie Fairley McNeill. Sarah Jane graduated from the Robeson County High School in Maxton, NC. She went on to attend the Fayetteville State Teacher's College in Fayetteville, NC. Upon completion she moved to New York to live with her Great Aunt Frances and Uncle Arthur Ballard. While there she attended the New York Community School of Medical Research in New York City, NY where she became a licensed medical technician.

Sarah Jane soon met the love of her life the late John McEachin and the two were married on August 21, 1951. The couple had two beautiful daughters Barbara and Brenda. Sarah and John raised their daughters in New York

City known as the "Big Apple". The two-bedroom apartment on the 12th floor of the high-rise apartment building was their home for many years. Many of us can remember the challenges of finding a parking place along the streets of New York when coming to visit.

John McEachin or "Johnny" as we called him was born on November 1, 1922 and was one of eleven children. He was raised in Bowmore, NC a small town not far from Maxton, North Carolina (Sarah's hometown). He graduated from Raeford's Upchurch High School. In his youth he became a member of

Wall's Chapel United Methodist Church. John served his country by joining the United States Army and was a veteran of World War II. While in the armed service, John received several awards; American Theater Service Medal, Theater Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service stars, Good conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. After serving overseas, in the United States Army from 1943 to 1946, Johnny travelled to New York City where he continued his education at the Central School of Nursing.



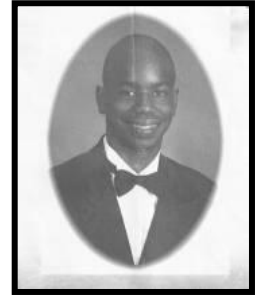
Sarah worked at the New York University Medical School Research Department Rheumatoid Study Group for 24 years. Her research team later moved to the Montiforie

Hospital, Abler Einstein School of Medicine Department of Orthopedic Research. She retired from research in 1992. John McEachin practiced nursing for 40 years before retiring from New York's City's Metropolitan Hospital in 1993. While in New York they were members of the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church of New York City. There Sarah served on the Board of the Session for four years and was leader of Fellowship Group 5. Sarah and Johnny were proud grandparents, and enjoyed supporting their grandchildren in the various endeavors from playing soccer, basketball, and dance recitals.

In 1993 they moved back to North Carolina where they purchased a home in Hope Mills, NC located directly outside of Fayetteville, NC. While there they attended Wilson Chapel Presbyterian Church in Maxton, NC. They also attended Johnny's home church Walls Chapel Methodist Church in Bowmore, NC. Johnny was called home on July 13, 1999 at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville, NC. After Johnny's death in 1999, Sarah became a member of Walls Chapel Methodist Church. Although she has never mastered the art of driving, she still manages to get around in Hope Mills with the help of her friends and family.

In 2007, Sarah lost her grandson Reggie McEachin at the age of 25 due to a tragic car accident. With the strength and love of their family and friends, the McEachin and Burton families picked up the pieces and continued on keeping their loved ones memories close to their hearts.

Today the Sarah and John McEachin family continues to grow with their children; daughters Barbara Burton of New Brunswick, NJ and Brenda McEachin (Willie) of Rockingham, NC, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



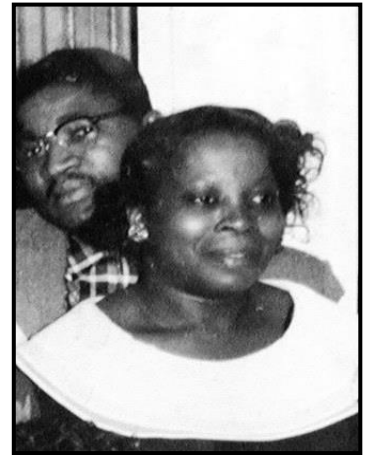
Palmer Lee McNeill Jemison



Palmer Lee was the 5th child and third daughter to be born to W.B. McNeill Sr. and Maggie Fairley McNeill. Palmer Lee was born on September 1st in Robeson County, NC. She was educated in the schools of Maxton, NC.

She confessed Christ as her personal Savior in her youth and became a member of Sandy Grove Baptist Church in Maxton, NC. She left the south to live with her Aunt Florence (Uncle Lacey Fairley's wife) in NJ and eventually made her residence in Plainfield, NJ. She soon joined the Temple Church of God in Christ where her younger sister Estella also became a member. There Palmer Lee was the Mother of the Church and worked pervently in the Sunday school, Prayer Band and other axillaries of the church. Palmer Lee remained a faithful member of Temple Church of God in Christ in Plainfield, NJ for over 30 years.

She met Charles Jemison Sr. from Tuscaloosa, AL while living in Plainfield, NJ. On July 3, 1947 they were married and settled in their home on 207 Stebbins Place in Plainfield, NJ. From this union came five children; Charles Jr. (June), Roy, Dorothy, Arthur, and step-daughter Barbara Jean. Charles and Palmer Lee were opened hearted people. They welcomed their family members into their home and helped many of them get their start in Plainfield, NJ. Because of their willingness to share their home with others Charles and Palmer Lee became the first host of the McNeill Family Reunion. There was never any shortage of food when you went to the Jemison home, and "Aunt Pam" as we called her always had a fresh batch of fried chicken just waiting for you. The Colonel (KFC) didn't have anything compared to Aunt Pam's fried chicken; it was truly "finger licking-good".



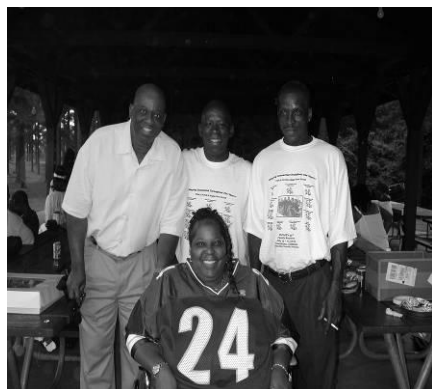
Charles Jemison had his own soda business in a neighborhood store called Charles Jemison & Sons. He also worked for the Watchung Spring Water Company of 434 West Fourth Street. At the second anniversary of the company's handling of Squirt, Charles Jemison was given a pen and pencil set in recognition of 10 years of service. Charles also worked for Premium Plastics before he retired. He spent much of his spare time fishing. His daughter Dorothy spent many of her younger days fishing with her father. When you went to visit the Jemison's, if Uncle Charles wasn't in his favorite reclining chair then he was out on a boat somewhere doing deep sea fishing or at one of the nearby lakes. Uncle Charles loved fishing so much that it was only fitting that he was laid to rest with one of his famous fishing poles in 1984.

Palmer Lee worked for Rona Plastics where she made plastic goods for the home. She also worked as a machine operator at Design and Moldings Company of Piscataway, NJ for over 15 years. Remember those brown trash cans and hampers that were in your house when you were small that looked like wood, those were probably a gift from Aunt Pam that she got from the company she worked for. I am sure one of us still has them in our home today.

After Uncle Charles death, in September of 1984, Aunt Pam continued to live in Plainfield, NJ for a number of years until her health started to fail. She loved her children dearly and kept in touch with them no matter how

far away they moved. Her home was filled with many memories of her family which still remain today in her various children's home. Palmer Lee eventually moved to Tuscaloosa, AL to live with her daughter Dorothy. During a stay in Maxton, NC Palmer Lee was called home to be with the Lord and her beloved Charles when she died on March 2, 1992 in Scotland County Memorial Hospital in Laurinburg, NC. Her death took a big toll on the entire family especially her brother and sisters who had been together for so many years. It is because of her strength, giving spirit, and love for family that we continue to celebrate family reunions.

Today the Palmer Lee and Charles Jemison Sr. family continues to grow with three sons Charles Jemison Jr (Kim) of Somerset, NJ, Dr. Roy Jemison of Albuquerque, NM, and Arthur "Aut" Jemison of Tampa, FL; one daughter Dorothy "Dot" Jemison of Tuscaloosa, AL; one granddaughter and three great-grandchildren.



Estella McNeill Taylor



On May 10, 1928, Estella often referred to as the “Fox of the Sisters” by her nephew was the sixth child born to W.B. McNeill Sr. and Maggie Fairley McNeill. She was educated in the public schools in Maxton, NC and Robeson County Training School. She went to Plainfield, NJ after high school where she found employment and enrolled in Essie Mae Beauty School. She graduated and became a licensed cosmetologist.

Estella worked for the Celanese Pharmaceutical Inc in Bridgewater, NJ where she retired from after 21 years of service. Estella was a member of the Temple Church of God in Christ where she attended for more than 50 years. While at Temple she served as the pianist, the Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, faithfully attended Tuesday Morning Prayer,

Weekly Prayer & Bible Band, and Thursday Night Pastoral Teaching. She served also as a community worker in the Grandmother Caring Program. In 2004, Estella was specially recognized by her church for her faithfulness and many years of dedicated service. For this, her pastor, officers and members gave her a day of honor for “her faithfulness, take a bow.” Estella was surprised and pleased by the celebration in her honor which was attended by her son Jerry and Daughter-in-law Angel, daughter Brenda Pryor, and several family members including her brother John McNeill and wife Bertha, her sister Lillye Wells and husband John, and several nieces and nephews from the surrounding area.

Elijah Taylor was from Virginia. He worked as a Postmaster for many years in Plainfield, NJ. He was a very sharp dresser and handsome man. He met Estella McNeill soon after she moved to Plainfield and swept her



off her feet. They were soon married and from this union came three children, Brenda, Jerry, and Rozetta. Estella like Elijah was a very sharp dresser. She was always dressed in her Sunday best with her sharp looking suits and dresses. Even when she wore her family reunion tee shirts she out dressed everyone else. Estella and Elijah divorced after many years of marriage. Although divorced their love and respect for one another still remains. When Estella celebrated her 80th birthday Elijah was there to show his love and support to her and her family.



Estella and her children continued to live in their home on West Third Street in Plainfield, NJ for many years. Her home was filled with photos and memories of her family throughout the years. You felt important if you made the McNeill Family wall of fame in her home. Estella lived in her home until she took ill and was moved to a senior citizen home. Estella is currently under the care of her son Jerry and his wife Angel. Estella still remains “The Fox” of the McNeill

sisters as is evident in her family reunion, birthday and Christmas photos taken in recent years.

Today, the Estella and Elijah Taylor family continues to grow with their three children Brenda Pryor of Plainfield, NJ, Jerry Taylor (Angel) of Piscataway, NJ, Rosetta Townsend of Plainfield, NJ, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



Annie Bell McNeill Carelock



The girls just kept coming and on November 25th Annie Bell the 7th child was born to W.B. McNeill Sr. and Maggie Fairley McNeill. Annie attended public schools in Maxton, NC. While in high school, Annie started dating Erwin Carelock, son of Curtis and Joe Ella Carelock. Annie and Erwin Carelock were married on March 6, 1949 in Maxton, NC.

Shortly after their marriage, Erwin decided to leave his hometown of Maxton, NC and explore his opportunities out in the Mid-west. He moved to Cheyenne, WY in November of 1950, where his brother James was stationed into the United States Air Force. Erwin quickly found a job on the base and sent for his wife Annie to join him. In January of 1951, Annie took the long bus ride from Maxton to Cheyenne, WY. While in Wyoming they had their first child, Ervin Earl Carelock Jr on September 30, 1952. They were both excited after previously losing two children at birth while in Maxton, NC.

In late 1953, prior to the birth of their second child, Betty Ann, they left Cheyenne and moved back to the east coast to Springfield, MA where they made their home. Erwin worked numerous jobs over the years which included William Drugstore, American Windows Cleaning, Enfield Bowling Alley, and Eastern Auto Park where he worked for over 18 years. As their family began to grow, with the addition of three more boys (David, Frankie, and Danny) and one daughter (Darlene), Erwin and Annie quickly realized that the small two bedroom apartment in a three story home owned by his brother James was no longer efficient for their growing family. In September 1968, Annie and Erwin purchased their first and only home located at 15 Vassar Street in the historic Hill-McKnight area of Springfield, MA where they lived for 40 years.



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Both Annie and Erwin Carelock accepted Christ at an early age, and joined Bethel AME Church in Springfield, MA where they have been faithful members since 1954. Annie and Erwin served their church well over the years. Annie was the President of the Sarah Allen Stewardess Board, a Class Leader, and member of the Missionary Society. In 1993-1994 Annie was named "Ms. Bethel". Erwin was a member of the Trustee Board, Steward Board, Son's Of Allen, Men's Usher Board, and the Gospel Choir. His love for singing was not only expressed in his church choir but throughout the community as a member of the prestigious quartet group called the Humble Gospel Singers, which he sung with for 15 years.

Annie worked at Steiger's Department Store in downtown Springfield for over 20 years where she served as the Curtain and Drapery Department Manager. Annie enjoyed playing bingo on Monday Nights at the Springfield Boy's Club with her sister Maggie. Annie and Erwin have been blessed to spend their married lives together for over 63 years.

In 1999, Annie and Erwin renewed their wedding vows at their 50th wedding anniversary hosted by their children. Several members of the McNeill family were there to show their love and support.



Erwin continued working for Central Chevrolet Car dealership for over 20+ years to support his family until his retirement in 2007. Erwin loved family gatherings and wanted desperately to have a family reunion with all of his children and grandchildren. So in October 2007, the families meet in Marietta, GA at the home of Darlene and Robert Mitchell to celebrate the “1st Erwin and Annie Carelock Family Reunion”. This was the first time in 15 years that all six of the Carelock children were together for a family celebration.



In 2009, the Carelock children and grandchildren gave their parent’s a surprise 80th birthday party in Springfield, MA. Members of the McNeill family came from Maryland, Pennsylvania, NJ, and New York to join in the celebration.

Over the years, Annie has been battling Alzheimer’s. She currently resides in the Wingate nursing home facility in Springfield, MA. She is in good spirits and sends her family her love. Erwin has moved into a senior citizen apartment in Springfield, MA. Erwin

continues to care for his wife and spends 4 to 5 each and every day visiting with her in the nursing home.

Today, the Erwin and Annie Carelock family continues to grow with their six children; Ervin E. Carelock Jr. (Cecilia) of Springfield, MA, Betty Washington of Waukegan, IL, David Carelock (Virginia) of Cheyenne, WY, Frankie Carelock of Meridian, CT, Danny Carelock of Umatilla, FL, and Darlene Mitchell (Robert) of Marietta, GA, 13 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.







John McNeill



John McNeill is the third son and 8th child born to W.B. McNeill Sr. and Maggie Fairley McNeill. John or “Big John” as he’s affectionately called was an active little boy and was everyone’s favorite. He was educated in the Maxton Public Schools. As a young man he worked on the farm and was the man around the house. He established his shop in the front yard just like George Raymond had in his mother Mary Letha’s backyard. Big John called his place the “Slab Shack”. At the Slab Shack they would have parties and sell sandwiches, barbecue, and all the latest drinks of the south. The Slab Shack was definitely the

place to be back in the day if you were looking for a good time. Mother Maggie would often have to tell Big John to keep the noise/music down, but they seemed to manage.

While in Maxton, he married Fannie Young from Wakulla, NC and from this union was born three children John Walter, Freddie, and David. Freddie was raised by Mother Maggie on West Cottingham Street in Maxton. Big John later decided to move to Plainfield, NJ where his sisters Palmer Lee and Estella had made their home. He moved in with his sister Palmer Lee and brother-in-law Charles Jemison on Stebbins Place. Soon after moving to Plainfield, NJ, Big John met the love of his life Bertha Holmes.

Bertha Holmes McNeill is the first daughter of Hunter and Carrie Lee Holmes. Bertha was born in King and Queen County, VA. She lived there with her parents, her five sisters and baby brother. She graduated from Pace School. Bertha and her family were faithful members of Mt. Olive Church and her grandparents attended Zion AME Church. Throughout her childhood, Bertha would attend both churches.

As a child, Bertha loved spending time on her grandparent’s farm taking care of the animals. She often attended to the sick animals. Her grandmother told her that one day she would take care of many sick people and her grandmother was right. Bertha decided to go into the medical field. She left her family in Virginia and went to stay with her dearest cousin who was like a second mom to her in Baltimore, Maryland to pursue her goal. While in Baltimore she took night courses in the medical field and later decided to go into the field of nursing.

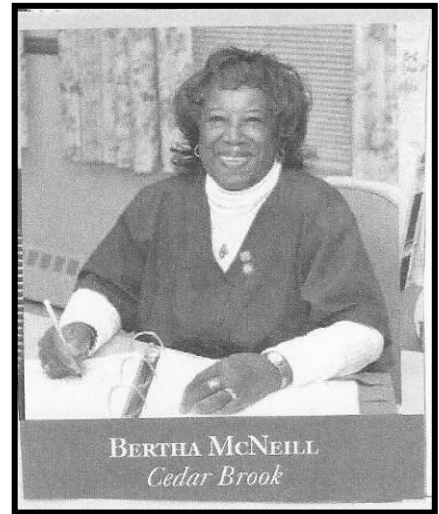
After the death of her cousin, Bertha moved to Westfield, NJ with her aunt and worked at the Muhlenberg Regional Hospital. She worked as part of the nursing staff for over 15 years. Bertha enjoyed taking care of the sick and took care of her aunt until she passed away.

Bertha left Westfield, NJ and moved to Plainfield, NJ. Bertha met Estella who was looking for a roommate after living with her sister Palmer Lee for a little while. They immediately became great friends and Bertha began getting to know the McNeill family. Bertha was later introduced to Big John and after dating for several months; Big John finally worked up the



nerve to ask Bertha to marry him which she graciously accepted. From this union they added a daughter to the family tree named Stacey.

Big John, like his older sister Palmer Lee also worked as a Machine Operator at Rona Plastic. Once he retired he continued to work on cars. His driveway and yard are always filled with vehicles in need of repair. While Big John takes care of cars Bertha takes care of the sick. Bertha worked on the nursing staff at JFK Hospital in Plainfield, NJ for over 22 years. In 2002, she was recognized as the “Employee of The Year”. Bertha also takes very good care of Big John which makes the McNeill sisters very happy. Bertha is a devote member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church and a 30 year member of the Eastern Star’s.



Big John and Bertha’s home is across the street from Palmer Lee and Charles at 212 Stebbins Place where they currently reside today. The families seem to congregate between the two homes whenever we have a function going on or just stopping by for a visit. John and Bertha’s home has always been the place where one could have fun, eat a variety of food/goodies and listen to good music on the radio. Just like the old Slab Shack, Big John and Bertha’s home is the place to be.

As the years go on, the John and Bertha McNeill family will continue to grow with daughter Stacey and granddaughter Dominique.



Maggie Juanita McNeill Howard



Maggie Juanita Howard is the 9th child born to W.B. McNeill Sr. and Maggie Fairley McNeill. As a child, she was educated in the public school system in Maxton, NC at R.B. Dean School: after de-segregation it became R.B Dean Elementary school and is still know by that name today. She later received formal education in the field of nursing. She left her hometown of Maxton and moved to New York City. While in New York, she met her husband the late Willie Howard a native of Decatur, Georgia. They were married on May 12, 1956 in Bennettsville, SC.

Willie Howard worked as an employee of Simon & Schuster Book Publishing in New York City. He was a sharp dresser and made sure his family was well dressed. Maggie received her license as a Certified Nurse Assistance while in New York



and worked for the Veteran's Administration. Willie and Maggie began raising their family in a high-rise Wagner Apartments in Harlem, NY at the address 2369 1st Avenue, Apt.2A. In 1965, Willie Howard transitioned home to be with the Lord. In her time of sorrow, the McNeill sisters and brother were there to lend Maggie support who never remarried because her one and only true love never faded from her heart.

Maggie was determined to go on and raise her children alone in New York City but the Big Apple soon lost its glamour. The Harlem riots began in 1964 through the 1970's. During that time the escalation of racial tension, inequality and riots amongst the New York burrows was at a high. It was hard to escape the produced exponential increase of violence, crime, economic poverty, and the explosion of gangs. Maggie who came from a two parent tight knit, hardworking home that instilled honorable values was able to get out. Coupled with the



facts that Maggie had an education and a strong financial status she knew it was time to relocate because this was never the environment in which she wanted her two young children to grow up in. She then called up her sister Annie and brother-in-law Erwin to assist her in moving to Springfield, MA. Maggie wanted to make sure she had her family support close by while she adjusted to the new city. She moved in a house directly behind her sister Annie; so, they could be continuing supporters for each other. They shared adjoining back yards where their children played together often. Maggie began working fulltime for the VA hospital in Northampton, Ma. In the summertime, she had a part-time job at the local amusement park (Riverside now known as Six Flags). The Carelock and the Howard children loved it because they got to go to the amusement park at least once a week and got

free food while they were there.

Maggie was the Aunt that he kids loved to play with. She would spend many of her off days playing kickball and touch football on Vassar Street with the Carelock children and others in the neighborhood. No one seemed to mind and enjoyed having her in the mix. She even tried riding a bike until one day she accidentally fell off

one of the neighbor's bike and broke a couple of teeth. After that her playing in the streets with us seemed to diminish. But Maggie had her other outlet, Monday Night Bingo at the Springfield Boy's Club. She played bingo there for years and was considered one of the regulars. Annie and Erwin would join her on occasion but Maggie never missed a beat. Shortly after this time Maggie purchased a new seven bedroom home on 47th Clarendon Street. In 1971 she hosted the McNeill Family Reunion at her home. This was a very exciting event for Maggie and she enjoyed it thoroughly.

As her children got older and became adults, Maggie yearned to go back home to Maxton. She had promised her mother she would one day return to Brooklyn to live. She purchased some land in Maxton and soon brought a home in the same neighborhood she was raised. It turned out to be only down the road from her mother's newest home and the opposite road of her mother's first home. She transferred from the VA hospital in Northampton, MA to the VA hospital in Salisbury, NC. Maggie loved her job as a nurse and was glad to be back in NC. She moved into the nurse's quarters of the VA hospital in Salisbury, NC and would take the drive home to Maxton on the weekend or her days off.

One day her nursing quarters caught fire and Maggie suffered from smoke inhalation and 2nd degree burns. Soon after this tragic event Maggie retired from the VA hospital and made her home permanently in Maxton. Now she was able to spend time with her oldest sister Mary Letha, her youngest sister Lilley, her daughter and only grandchild at that time. Maggie enjoyed helping out in the community and driving folks around. She never gave up her love for bingo and would drive people, several times a week to Dillon, Bennettsville and many other locations to play bingo. Over the years, Maggie would attend church services at Sandy Grove Baptist church where she attended church as a child. She currently attends Brooklyn Community Church where she is the mother of the church.

Today the Willie and Maggie Howard family continues to grow with their two children; Andre Howard of Maxton, NC and Roslyn Fleming (Willie) of Wilmington, NC, seven grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.





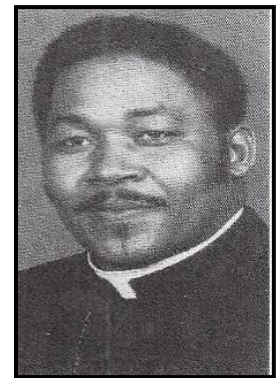
Lillye McNeill Dumas Wells



Lillye M. D. Wells is the 10th and youngest child born to W.B. McNeill Sr. and Maggie Fairley McNeill. She is a retired educator with a Master's Degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of Bridgeport, CT with advanced studies at Yale University and Rutgers University and a certified librarian from Columbia University in New York City with studies from the Atlanta University Atlanta, Georgia in the use of newspapers in the Classroom. Her experience includes forty-two (42) years in the education field. She has been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. since 1953 joining at A & T College Greensboro, NC.

As a young girl growing up in Maxton, NC, Lillye enjoyed the rural life of playing in the playhouse, built by her brother John Walter and pumping water for the farm animals on the farm. She was and still is afraid of cats, snakes, and big dogs. In her play area she was always the teacher. She taught her dolls sometimes made out of corn shucks and coke bottles, because she could not bring the real dolls outside for fear they might get wet. Therefore no one was surprised at her choice of teaching school. She always called her students "her students, her children". Lillye taught school in South Carolina, Connecticut, and North Carolina where she finally retired. Lillye's tenure was a reading teacher, librarian, English teacher, and Assistant Principal in Connecticut and North Carolina and Director of a Special Reading Program in Wilmington, North Carolina. All of her students excelled from where they were when they came into her classes in terms of their skills, personalities, and behaviors. Today, Lillye has students who are principals, superintendants in schools, teachers, along with excelling in other areas.

Lillye has traveled extensively and spent time in Senegal, Africa with the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church. There with other minister's wives she ministered to the needy and taught the blessings of Jesus Christ. Lillye was married to the late Reverend Leounidas Reed Dumas who was a pastor in the AME Zion Church n from this union came one daughter Beverly.



Lillye and Leounidas met in Rockingham, NC at a girlfriend's house (Willette Green) while Lillye was teaching in Baden, NC. After a short courtship they got married at her mother's home in Maxton, NC. Rev. Dumas a Pastor with the AME Zion Church ministered at several churches in the South Carolina and North Carolina Districts. He was appointed to Warner Temple AME Zion Church in Wilmington, NC in the 1960's. During his tenure as Pastor of Warner Temple he led the congregation to build a new church building and educational building which is still in place today. In 1970 Lillye and Rev. Dumas hosted the 8th Family Reunion in Wilmington, North Carolina in this new church. After leaving North Carolina, Rev Dumas was appointed to Mt. Pleasant AME Zion in Danbury, CT. They stayed in Connecticut for 15 years, where Rev. Dumas continued making improvements to the church foundation in churches he was appointed to in Danbury and Ansonia, CT. Upon his return to North Carolina he ministered at several churches in both North Carolina and South Carolina Districts prior to his death on September 3, 1993. Reverend Dumas was also a licensed barber and enjoyed cutting folks hair his pastoral duties. Lillye was blessed to find employment in all the cities she traveled to with Reverend Dumas/Uncle Lee.

In Maxton, NC, Lillye has served two terms as Town Commissioner. There she performed highly as a community leader. Advocating for the good of the citizens with great emphasis on youth educational growth

and advanced care of the older segment of the community and therefore founded the "Lillye Network Programs", a 501(c) program for the good of mankind.



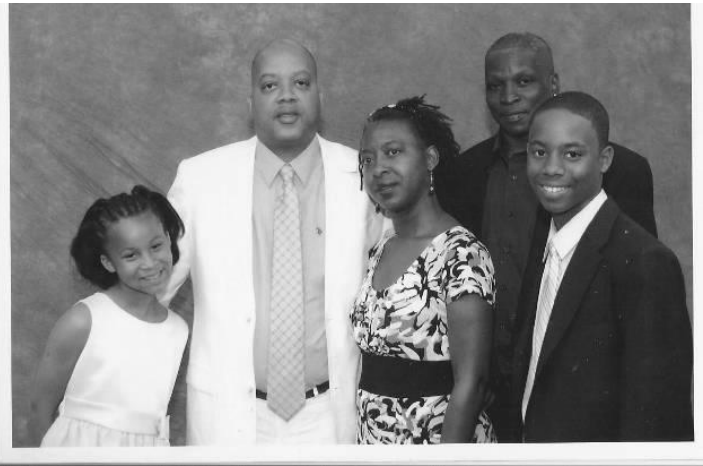
Lillye returned to Baden, NC in 1999 as keynote speaker and met her second husband John Henry Wells. In 2000, Lillye married John H. Wells, and moved to Baltimore, MD. John Wells is a World War II Veteran and is active in the Disabled American Veteran Association. He retired from the Baltimore Mass Transit Authority where he was a bus and train operator. He was a trustee in the Wayland Baptist Church for over 40 years and is presently a Sunday School Teacher there. Together they established a 501 (c) Community Service Program geared towards community service and providing physical assistance to needy families. They serve as leaders in mentoring and they offer assistance with referrals to other agencies for further services.

The program also provides a food pantry and clothing giveaway, small household items and furniture and possible temporary housing to those in needs. They also pride themselves on the saying, "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day; Teach a man to fish and he'll never be hungry." They also provide the education to equip those who need the skills to aid in finding and securing employment.

Lillye is very active at the Wayland Baptist Church, where she teaches Adult Sunday School, and is an active member of both the Senior & Missionary Ministries. Her city affiliation at this time is she serves on the Maryland State Board of Social Workers Examiners since 2008. She is up for re-appointment in July, 2012. In 2010, Lillye wrote and had published a biographical book of life imprints entitled "*Kaleidoscopic Life Imprints*" It is the result of lessons learned from her first husband and only child and memories and life stories from her second husband, John. They are narratives that speak of lessons learned through life experiences regarding prejudices, fear, love and finances growing up in the south. Presently, Lillye and John enjoy a lifestyle in Baltimore, surrounded by John's immediate family. In June 2010, Lillye revisited Western Union High in Wayman, NC where she had taught back in 1960 for her student's 50th Class Reunion.

The Lillye McNeill Dumas - Wells Family maybe small but it is continuing to grow with daughter Beverly Holland (Artice "Ray") of Tampa, FL and two grandchildren, Artice and Ranita.





Clara Fairley Broadway



Clara Fairley Broadway was the eldest niece of Maggie Fairley McNeill and daughter of Lonnie Fairley Barnes. She spent many of her younger days at Mother Maggie's home in Maxton, NC with her first cousins. Clara Broadway was born on July 5, 1913 in Purvis, NC. She was the daughter of Edward Taylor and Lonnie Fairley Barnes. As a young girl growing up in Rocky Mount, NC, she attended the Nash County Schools.

Clara moved to Baltimore, MD in 1929. In March 1930, she met James Broadway, Jr. and the couple was wed on November 23, 1931. From this union six children were born, Lorna Brown, Raymond Broadway, Ralph Broadway, Gloria B. Barnes, Barbara B. McLeod and Gerald Broadway. Together Clara and James built a household filled with love and laughter.

Over the years, Clara enjoyed working in her garden and making special dinners and treats for her children and grandchildren.

Clara Broadway's nurturing spirit extended beyond her immediate family. She worked as a nurse's aide at Maryland General Hospital. She also worked in Baltimore City Public Schools as a teacher's aide. She retired from the school system in 1979. She opened her home and heart to three foster children. There was always space for one more at her dining room table.

"Mother Broadway" was a woman of deep faith. She joined Southern Baptist Church in 1944. She was a lifetime member of the Senior Usher Board. She was also a Junior Usher supervisor until her legs failed her, after which she served as their advisor. She held the office of Pastor's Aide President since 1968. She was also the Mother of the Church. Whether it was in cooking meals for fundraising suppers or offering words of encouragement to a new Junior Usher, she served Southern tirelessly. Clara received many awards for her outstanding work in the church and community. Clara traveled extensively to Egypt, the Holy Land and many cities throughout the United States.

Clara loved her Aunt Maggie dearly, and wrote to her often over the years once she moved to Baltimore, MD where she made her home. Clara and her children would visit Maxton, NC during the summers. Many of her children southern impressions came from their visits to Maxton. The first reunion Clara attended was the 22nd McNeill Family reunion in 1984 which was held in Laurinburg, NC. She was the eldest member in attendance at our family reunions for many years. The Broadway and Barnes Families hosted the 27th McNeill Family Reunion in 1989 in Baltimore, MD. It was a great time enjoyed by all in attendance.



On Wednesday, October 10, 2001, Clara Broadway departed this life and went on home to be with her Lord and her beloved James, her daughter Lorna and her three sons Raymond, Ralph and Gerald. Clara left behind to celebrate her life and cherish her memory: two daughters, Gloria B. Barnes and Barbara B. McLeod of Haslett, Michigan; one son-in-law, John Barnes; eleven grandchildren, thirty great grandchildren, thirty-two great-great grandchildren, two great-great-great grandchildren; one adopted son, Reverend Nathaniel Higgs; one adopted daughter, Margaret Elbeck; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends who were touched by her spirit.

As we celebrate our 50th McNeill Family Reunion we thank God for our dear cousin Clara and her family for their love and support of the family reunions throughout the years and for giving us this extended branch of the McNeill Family Tree.