

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Members of GIA Officials Assoc.	Edward R. Lowe
Edward Parrish, Jr.	W.T. Coleman
Leon Lomax	Jonathan Williams
Willie C. Bowden	Richard Rock
Walter McNeely	Carl Brown
Robert Hudley	

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Dr. David J. Griffin	Augusta Austin
Walter Belton	S. Gerald Atkinson
Richard Perry	William Green
Willie Moore	Carl Outlaw
Leroy Livingston	Nathanial Kennedy
Thomas P. Williams	

FLORAL ATTENDANTS

First African Baptist Ushers
First African Baptist Boy Scout Troop
Members of Sunday School

INTERMENT

Greenwood Cemetery

Services Entrusted
to

BRUNSWICK FUNERAL HOME

— DIRECTORS —

Mr. L.E. Lewis

Mrs. W.P. Holmes

2700 Albany Street
Brunswick, Georgia 31520
(912) 264-1725

OBSEQUIES OF THE LATE MR. JOSEPH M. ATKINSON



AT
FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
1416 AMHERST STREET
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1988
4:00 P.M.

REV. J.E. HOPE, PASTOR
OFFICIATING

OBITUARY

Mr. Joseph M. Atkinson was born in Springbluff, Camden County, March 6, 1909, to the late Clement Atkinson and Mary Miller Atkinson, one of southeast Georgia's most prominent families.

From the union of this couple, 23 children were born, 17 of whom reached adulthood and were blessed with the good fortune of being able to pursue lifetime goals of their choice -- in the professions of their choice. Even the mother was a legend within itself, as, in her role of midwife, she delivered hundreds of babies to mothers in Glynn County for many years, while rearing her own, along with her husband. Known to all as "Joe", Mr. Atkinson attended Old Risley during his elementary years, later going on to Selden Institute, an institution he dearly loved, so much so that he initiated a movement to reunite all living graduates of that school from throughout the country, who came back to the site of the school biannually -- a custom still followed. "Joe" was married to Anna Frazier Atkinson who preceded him in death, while her son, Alfred, continued living with "Joe" until his death.

His life story is a literal "Who's Who" in the religious, civic, political and athletic arenas.

Familiarizing himself with all the doctrine and beliefs of the Baptist Church, he diligently served in innumerable positions during his lifetime as he had affiliated himself with the First African Baptist Church along with several other family members.

He sang, for many years in the senior choir; served on various committees, outstanding of which was the finance group, where he, along with several others, organized the church's largest renovation project ever undertaken by the church in 1976.

When he retired as Superintendent of the Sunday School two years ago, he had served in that capacity for 55 years.

His further love for young people was manifested through work with the Boy Scouts, where he himself earned the Silver Beaver Award.

A registered Democrat, he was active in promoting good citizenship, while taking advantage of attending practically all of the related meetings and attempting to put what he learned into practice in Glynn County and surrounding counties. He was considered well versed in the history of the area and most especially of the black population.

He became the first manager of McIntyre Court and continued to work part time in the Human Services Division of the Brunswick Housing Authority, headquartered at the same site until his illness.

He was elected as the first Silver-Haired Senator; was a charter member of the First Down Club; worked with the Salvation Army; the Job Corps, and the Labor Department.

He was responsible for the formation of the Old Georgia Interscholastic Association (GIA) for black officials who were in charge of high school sports.

"Joe" passed away Saturday morning, one day before his 79th birthday, in Miami, Florida, where he had been transferred from Savannah to be with a loyal, devoted, loving, and caring niece, Mrs. Vivian ("Inee") Green, who was with him to the end.

Other survivors include four brothers: Dr. Whittier C. Atkinson, St. Simons Island, Georgia; Dr. Nolan Atkinson, Wynnwood, Pennsylvania; Judge Richard Atkinson of Washington, D.C.; Mr. Alexander Atkinson, Chicago, Illinois; two sisters, Mrs. Harriett Williams of Brunswick, Georgia, and Mrs. Lillian Armstrong of Jekyll Island, Georgia; two brothers in law; Mr. Joseph Armstrong, Jekyll Island, Georgia, and Mr. Clarence S. Buggs, Miami, Florida. Two sisters in law; Mrs. Frances Atkinson of Wynnwood, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Alice Atkinson of Chicago, Illinois, a nephew in law, Dr. Herbert Green of Miami, Florida, a host of other nieces and nephews, grand nieces and nephews, cousins, and many many friends.

"When I Must Leave You"

When I must leave you
for a little while --
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrows to you
through the years,
But start out bravely
with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same,

Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways,
Reach out your hand
in comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you
and hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die
For I am waiting for you in the sky!

Helen Steiner Rice

ORDER OF SERVICE

PROCESSIONAL

HYMN: "Take My Life and Let It Be", page 338 Choir

SCRIPTURE

Old Testament Rev. E. Brogsdale

New Testament Rev. George Darrisaw

PRAYER Rev. E.C. Tillman

SOLO Mrs. Erma Summers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OBITUARY Read Silently

SELECTION Choir

"Count It All As Joy"

638-7344

REMARKS Rev. F.B. McKenzie

EULOGY Rev. J.E. Hope

RECESSIONAL

265-9196

Rennie Lewis

689-6026

The family of Mr. Joe wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation, for all acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy extended to them during their hours of sorrow and bereavement.

"May God Richly Bless Each and Every One of You"