

In Memory of **Hilliard Douglas Ramseur**



Hilliard Douglas Ramseur was born July, 27, 1913, to Ernest Bennard Ramseur and Bessie Brite Mauney Ramseur (daughter of Wesley and Naomi Manuey; descendant of Priscilla). The oldest of eight, Hilliard attended schools in Cleveland and Gaston counties when he could. As was often the case during those times, schools were not always available for children of color. This was especially true as Hilliard reached high school age at the dawn of the Great Depression, and the meager funds available for “Colored” schools dwindled even further. Yet, Hilliard persisted and finally earned his high school diploma in 1933. Hungry for education and self-improvement, Hilliard moved to Washington, D.C. where he wanted to attend Howard University and medical school. Alas, the Depression, family responsibilities, and the lack of resources kept him from realizing that dream.

As traumatizing as World War II proved to be, it provided Hilliard an opportunity to travel abroad and exercise his skills as a leader. He received many commendations and promotions in rank and often regaled family, friends, and acquaintances with stories of his combat and military experiences.

Having married Geneva Borders (descendant of Betsy and Martha) in March 1942 just months before beginning his tour of duty overseas, Hilliard returned to his wife in Washington after the war. The couple soon returned to Cleveland County where Hilliard distinguished himself as a leader in the Washington Community, serving on both church and school boards. He completed the construction of the present Washington Baptist Church building, and became well-known for his skill in stone carpentry.

Hilliard was a devoted supporter of this family reunion. He spent many long hours with the late Reverend Dwight Costner, and more recently, Cousin Sarah Stowe Williamson, reminiscing, refining and adding details to the family’s history.

One child, Valorie Ramseur (McCullough), was born to Hilliard and Geneva in 1952. Lauren Ramseur McCullough, Valorie’s daughter and Hilliard and Geneva’s only grandchild, was born June 27, 1990. Hilliard was taken into Valorie’s home in Matthews, North Carolina, in December 1997 after learning he had terminal cancer. He died there on March 13, 1998.

Valorie Ramseur (McCullough)

Family Reunion

Roberts Borders Mauney Howell Briggs and Related Families