

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

African American Funeral Programs, Willow Hill
Heritage & Renaissance Center, Bulloch County,
Georgia

Student Research Projects

3-1-1997

Elder Dehard Dekle

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/willowhillheritage-
obituaries](https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/willowhillheritage-obituaries)



Part of the [Public History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

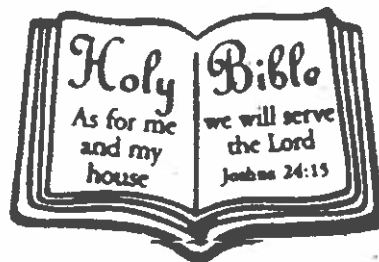
"Elder Dehard Dekle" (1997). *African American Funeral Programs, Willow Hill Heritage & Renaissance Center, Bulloch County, Georgia*. 2309.

<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/willowhillheritage-obituaries/2309>

This obituary is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Research Projects at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in African American Funeral Programs, Willow Hill Heritage & Renaissance Center, Bulloch County, Georgia by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Homegoing Celebration

Sunrise
July 4, 1912



Sunset
February 24, 1997

Elder Behard Bekle

In Memoriam.

I have finished now with this house of clay,
Please kindly and carefully lay it away,
And let me rest from this life of pain;
Toiling in sunshine, storm, and rain,
Trying to help the sick and poor,
And turning no needy from my door
I strive to do my Master's Work
Never a duty did I shirk
Many times I was misunderstood,
When I had done the best I could.
I am tired now, so let me rest.
Don't cry, don't you know God knows best?
Please, no sad hearts, no hung down heads,
Don't weep for me, for I am not dead.
I have another house you know
Where only God's redeemed can go,
I do not need this house of clay
So, tenderly, carefully, lay it away.

A dedicated Christian soldier, Elder Dekle held many leadership positions throughout the years. He served as President of the New Mt. Pleasant Sunday School Association, Chief Evangelist of the New Mt. Pleasant Primitive Baptist Association, and Vice-Moderator of the New Mt. Pleasant Primitive Baptist Association. He also served as the pastor of the New Bethaven Primitive Baptist Church in Collins, Georgia until the time of his passing.

As a young man, Elder Dekle was united in Holy Matrimony to the late Mrs. Luree Ellis Dekle and to this union, two children were born, one of whom preceded him in death.

He was then joined in marriage to Mrs. Ivy Byrd Dekle, who preceded him in death.

Elder Dekle was then united in marriage to Mrs. Bessie Littles Dekle, who also preceded in death.

On January 19, 1983, he was joined in Holy Matrimony to Mrs. Abbie Lee Smith Dekle.

At his death, he leaves to mourn a devoted friend and a Christian lady, Mrs. Alberta Nichols.

Elder Dekle passed into eternal rest on Monday, February 24, from the Bulloch Memorial Hospital after an extended illness. He leaves to cherish many loving memories: his wife, Mrs. Abbie Lee Dekle of Statesboro, Georgia; two daughters, Mrs. Evelyn D. Jeffers of Atlanta, Georgia and Mrs. Carolyn Cannon of Grand Rapids, Michigan; two step-daughters, Mrs. Juanita Hodges of Metter, Georgia and Mrs. Sallie Barnes of Augusta, Georgia; two sons-in-law, Mr. John D. Cannon of Grand Rapids, Michigan and Mr. James Pryor, Jr. of Atlanta, Georgia; one brother-in-law, Mr. Claude Ellis of Pulaski, Georgia; four sisters-in-law, Mrs. Mattie Lou Ellis of Pulaski, Georgia, Mrs. Effie Dekle, Mrs. Lula Dekle, and Mrs. Almeeter Phillips, all of Metter, Georgia; thirteen grandchildren; eighteen great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

*But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren,
concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow
not, even as others which have no hope.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13

*And he gave some, apostles;
And some, prophets;
And some, evangelists;
And some, pastors and teachers;
For the perfecting of the saints,
For the work of the ministry,
For the edifying of the body of Christ.*

Ephesians 4:11-12

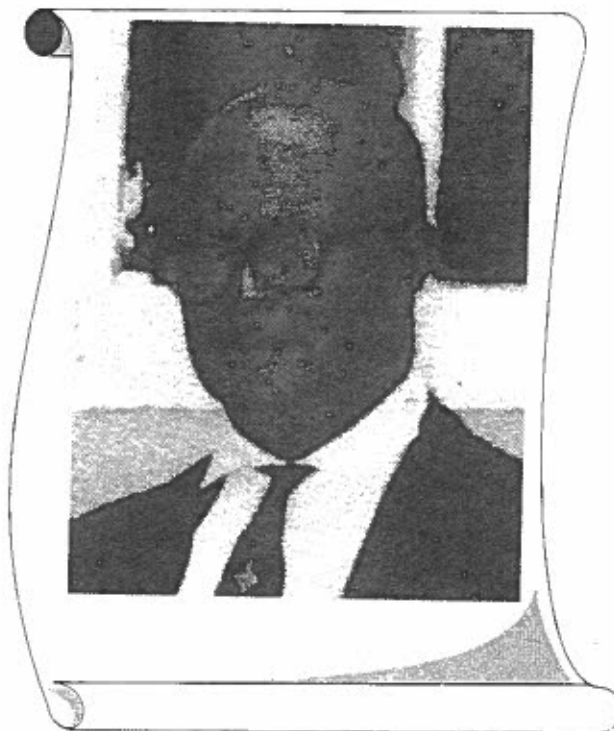
Obituary

Elder Dehard Dekle was born in Candler County on July 4, 1912 to the late Mr. Butler Dekle and Mrs. Sarah Byrd Dekle.

At an early age, he accepted Christ into his life and became a member of the Sams Creek Baptist Church in Metter, Georgia. He later moved his membership to the Thankful Baptist Church in Metter, where he was ordained as a Deacon and served as Secretary of the Queen of Victory Association.

While attending Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia, he united with the Methodist faith and became the pastor of a church located in Eden, Georgia.

Upon moving to Statesboro, Georgia, Elder Dekle became a member of the Bethel Primitive Baptist Church, where he was a faithful church worker until he was called to serve as pastor of St. Paul Primitive Baptist Church in Bartow, Georgia.



Tribute

Order of Service

Processional

Viewing

Presiding Elder James Johnson, Jr.

Selection Bethel Church Choir

Invocation Rev. Julius Abraham

Scripture Old Testament Rev. David Reddick
New Testament Associate Minister Joe Mosley

Hymn "I Love Thy Church Oh Lord" Rev. James Harrington

Solo Mrs. Shaunta E. Rock

Tributes New Bethaven Primitive Baptist Church
Deacon Muriel Jackson

Bethel Primitive Baptist Church
Deacon Charles Jackson

Bulloch County Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
Elder Early Humphries

Remarks (Limit -- 3 Minutes Please)

Solo Mrs. Mae Iris Butler

Resolutions and Acknowledgements Hodges Staff

Selection Bethel Church Choir

Eulogy Elder N. E. Rodgers

Recessional

The family will receive friends and share repass at the Sams Creek Community Center, Metter, Georgia.



Acknowledgement

We would like to take a moment to thank everyone for all the acts of kindness shown to us during this most difficult time. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and pray that God will richly bless each of you.

The Dekle Family

Services Entrusted To:
Hodges Funeral Home
Metter, Georgia
Y'lonne Hodges, Mortician/Manager
Percy Hodges/Jerry Gibson, Licensed Morticians
(912) 685-2400

Honorary Pallbearers

Ministers of the Georgia State Primitive Baptist Convention
Ministers of the New Mt. Pleasant Primitive Baptist Association
Bulloch County Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
Deacons of New Mt. Pleasant Primitive Baptist Association

Active Pallbearers

Mr. John Tapley, Jr.	Mr. Jim Dekle
Mr. T. W. Dekle	Mr. George Dekle
Mr. Butler Dekle	Mr. Jack Dekle
Mr. Henry Dekle	Mr. Robert Dekle

Floral Attendants

New Mt. Pleasant Women's Congress

In Loving Memory of Elder Behard Dekle

Saturday, March 1, 1997
1:00 P.M.

Bethel Primitive Baptist Church
Statesboro, Georgia

Elder James Johnson - Presiding

Elder N. E. Rodgers - Eulogist

Interment - Sams Creek Church Cemetery
Metter, Georgia

In Loving Memory