

**Cradle to the Grave**  
**Our Legacy of Love and Hope**  
**A collection of African American funeral programs**  
**“Honoring the life of David “Buster” Brown, Sr.”**

“Your attitude determines your altitude,” author unknown.

This was one of the many principles that David “Buster” Brown Sr. lived by. His other principles included being a loving, giving and caring person to his family and neighbors.

Brown was born June 10, 1913 in Whiteville, Tenn. to the late Smith and Emma Crowder Brown.

As young people often did in the early days, Brown and married beautiful, young woman named Callie Sue Graves. Their love for each other developed and they were married under a big oak tree by Will Powell, the Justice of the Peace, and his daughter was their witness.

When asked about her wedding under the big oak tree, Mrs. Callie Sue laughed, “yes we did”. “It wasn’t uncommon for young people to elope in those days.”

David and Callie Sue Brown were married for 67 years and 21 days before his death in January 2001. To this union seven children were born, four girls and three boys. None of the children eloped yet they are all married.

“My parents balanced each other,” said Dorothy Jarrett, one of daughters of the Browns. “My mother, took charge and stressed biblical principles, she was very religious.”

“My father on the other hand was the fun outgoing person of the family, but he didn’t embrace everyone he met,” said Jarrett. Buster, as Mrs. Callie Sue referred to him, was always in a hurry to leave places and I would tell him “Buster, sit your meat down, til’ I get ready to go.”

“Prayer is the key to success,” says Mrs. Callie Sue. “With God everything is possible.”

As a family man he spent what little time he had with his children. “We had family prayer at night following supper. A family that prays together stays together.”

As a family of sharecroppers, the Browns lived their life the best way they could. Like other sharecropper families, all of the members of the family worked in the cotton field. Buster, being a jack all trades did some of everything. He repaired clock, shoes and whatever else needed fixing.

“Everybody had to chop and pick cotton,” said Jarrett as she reflected on her life in Haywood County. “I knew then that was not the life I wanted to live.”

Like others who lived before and during the Civil Rights Era, the Browns faced adversity through segregation. When it came to the era when blacks could register to vote, Buster and Callie Sue both stood in line all day until they could register. When they did register, they were still segregated; they had to vote at a little country store.

Life in Haywood County was not easy. Buster did whatever it took to survive. “He worked so much, yet he took the children to school when it rained,” said Mrs. Callie Sue. “He’d load them up in the tarp’ covered wagon and take them to school since the white kids rode the bus. He would even take the other neighborhood children.”

“He was a good man,” said Mrs. Callie Sue. “He always provided for the children and me. He shared what little he had.”

“He was willing to share to show his love,” said Jarrett.

“I remember as a child him giving us a dime or quarter, whatever he had to give,” she continued.

Though David Buster Brown, Sr. passed in 2001 his legacy of hard work still lives on. When asked how her father should be remembered Dorothy Jarrett said “I want my father to be remembered as a Christian, father and friend.”