

From the Cradle to the Grave
Our Legacy of Love and Hope
Volume 2

Dudley L. Baskerville was an “honest, God-rearing man,” said Ernestine Watkins, his niece. He was born Dec. 3, 1913 and died April 8, 2000.

He always tried to help others by giving people the best advice he had to offer. People felt that he was very easy to talk to and easy to trust.

At a time when many married couples were having dozens of children, Baskerville and his wife, Odessa Peete, had none. However, Baskerville did have many siblings including three sisters and two brothers.

Baskerville was a teacher who began teaching elementary school in Fayette County followed by teaching in World War II. When new recruits arrived for war, Baskerville made sure their skills were up to date. He taught the recruits reading and writing. Baskerville never went overseas, but he served state side. Whether he went and fought in battle or taught educational skills, Baskerville was a man that helped in any way that he could.

While he served in the war, a young man walked up to Baskerville and told him that another man in the war had the same last name. Baskerville thought it was rare for anyone else to share his last name, so he wanted to meet the man. When Baskerville finally met the man with the same last name, he realized it was his first cousin. William and Dudley, first cousins, had never met before this day.

Once Baskerville was discharged from WWII, he went to Tennessee State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science. Then, he earned his master's

degree in teaching. After he earned his master's, Baskerville taught in Tipton County in Covington, Tenn. He taught there for many years, and one day became a principal.

Baskerville was an organized and well-managed man. He loved his family very much. He also found comfort in meeting new people. It seems that Baskerville inspired everyone he met.

For instance, a young man in Baskerville's Sunday school class always liked listening to him speak. This young man was so inspired that he became a minister.

Baskerville was also involved in many community service groups such as T.R.T.A. Association, American Legion, Popular Spring Lodge of Mason, N.A.A.C.P. and Red Cross Chapter and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Baskerville may be gone but his spirit remains with many people everyday. For the rest of us who never got the chance to know Baskerville, hopefully we will meet someone who will have the impact on our lives the way he did for others.

Prepared By Jennifer Halman