

From The Cradle to the Grave
Our Legacy of Love and Hope

A Collection of African American Funeral Programs
1958-2005

Mrs. Zelma Archibald
1911-2000

She wears a hat in her picture with her shining eyes peeping out behind her glasses and her stringed necklace adds a certain touch of class. But the picture does no justice to the legacy left behind of Mrs. Zelma Archibald.

Archibald's family held her "Home Going Celebration" Jan. 16, 2000 and celebrated a woman that gave her life to her family.

Born in Fayette County, Tennessee Aug. 13, 1911 Archibald was one of nine children born to Sam Hunt and Eliza Taylor Hunt. She herself would go on to give birth to five of her own children, keeping the tradition of a big family.

Archibald married Levoy Archibald in June of 1930. Almost 21 years later Zelma moved with her husband to Cleveland, Ohio.

"We left Tennessee because my father thought he could make a better living for us," said Hazel Ingram, Zelma's oldest daughter.

Archibald became a successful church-going lady of Cleveland, as she was a dedicated member of St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church. She was also a member of the Sisterhood Club, which was just a group of "little old ladies who raised money," according to Ingram.

She also excelled as a homemaker and was active at the Murtis H. Taylor Multi Service Center.

Ingram said Archibald's passion for crafts was a great help to her in her life.

"She was a quite a homemaker," she said. "She liked sewing, cooking and canning and she taught all of us."

Archibald also taught Ingram one very important thing.

"She was very bossy," she said. "She bossed all of us, her children, her nieces and nephews. She helped me very cautious not to do it."

A cold winter's Wednesday was the day Archibald passed away on Jan. 12.

"She had cancer and she was 88 years old," said Ingram.

However, even though Archibald is gone her family, which includes 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, will always remember her.

"We were all very close," said Ingram. "We were a very close family."

Prepared by Christina Morgan