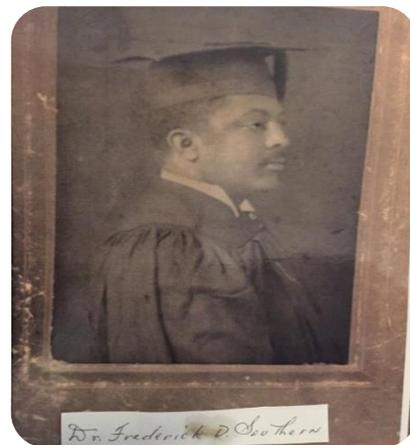


Ancestral Heritage Essay

By Turquoise Johnson, 2014

My Great Grandparents

Dr. Frederick D. Southern Sr. and Docia E. Wall married in Jackson, Tennessee, on August 21, 1918. Frederick was born in Dyersburg, Tennessee, on January 25, 1883, to Julia and Millard Southern. Docia was born in Tennessee on October 14, 1895, to Samuel and Kamely Wall. Frederick was a medical doctor, and Docia was a school teacher. They purchased a home in Jackson, Tennessee, and raised four children: Frederick Jr., Samuel, Millard, and Ramson. Frederick passed away in April 1932 at age 49 in Jackson, Tennessee. Docia passed in July 1975 at age 80 in Jackson, Tennessee. The family cemetery named for Ransom, located in Huntingdon, Tennessee, is the final resting place for both Frederick and Docia. Frederick and Docia's house remains in the family after almost a century. Their granddaughter and grandson, Julia and Samuel, currently take care of the property. All four of my great grandparent's sons have passed away.



My Grandparents



Frederick and Docia's son, Millard, was born in Jackson, Tennessee, in 1924. Millard accepted his call into Christian ministry as a teenager and pastored in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He migrated to Illinois area and married my maternal grandmother, Johnetta, in 1950. Johnetta was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. The couple lived in a church parsonage, and Frederick remained active in the church for many years until his health declined. My maternal grandmother was a graduate of Freeman's Nursing School, which is now part of Howard University. Millard and Johnetta had eight children, among whom was my mother. They

reared their children in Chicago. My grandfather, Millard, died in 1996 at the age of 72. He is buried in Lincoln Cemetery in Chicago, IL. My grandmother remained in the Chicago area after his death.

My Parents

My father was born to Walter Johnson, Sr. and Emily Smith in Chicago, Illinois, during the mid-1950s. My mother was born during the mid-1950s in Rockford, Illinois. My father attended Lindbloom Technical High School, and my mother attended Calumet High School, both in Chicago. My parents married during the 1980s. I am their only daughter. My father has served as a pastor over 30 years in the Chicago land area. My mother is a chaplain and an educator.