

# ABOUT GEORGE C. HARDY, SR.

excerpts from

## “MY FATHER’S WISDOM”

By Rev. Kaye Hardy Coates, Daughter

George C. Hardy, Sr., was born a proud Black-American in the early 1900’s---1912 to be exact. He came up in a time when family was valued and godly values kept the family. He was married to Minnie Louise Spriggs, his devoted wife of 58 years. Together they raised, trained, nurtured, and loved eight children.

He was inducted into the armed services in January of 1944, and served in the U.S. Army Air Corp during World War II as Crew Chief and Aerial Engineer and was honorably discharged in December of 1945. As a civilian, my father worked for the B&O Railroad and retired in 1984 from the Chessie System after 32 years of service.

Pop-Pop, a name bestowed upon him by his first granddaughter Pam, was a gifted man, multi-talented. He played the violin, piano, organ, harmonica, guitar, and accordion (all self-taught), and every now and then you would hear him sing or whistle a melodious tune. Many in the Tri-State area (Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia) knew him as the “Mountain Lion,” his CB handle.

He was an intelligent man, educated, and eloquent of speech. He was also a man of wisdom---not speaking of the knowledge he had, or of his intelligence, but of the gift he had for discerning and properly judging that which was right and true---he feared the Lord, which was the foundation of his wisdom.

In 1991, my father was honored at a special ceremony as one of Brunswick’s distinguished citizens. For this honor, he received certificates, awards, and letters of commendation from the American Red Cross, the Maryland State Police, Citizen’s Watch, and Herbert R. O’Conner (who was once a governor of Maryland and a Commanding General of World War II) all attesting to his years of dedicated service to the American people.

My father was a lifetime member of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Brunswick, Maryland. He, like Grandfather Bell loved Ebenezer and believed in her mission, which is to minister to the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of all people (the church family and the community at large) by spreading the liberating gospel through word and deed...feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting and encouraging the sick and imprisoned.

My father and the ancestors who preceded him were “doers” of the Word; rightly, I am destined to follow. The historical commitment to carry on the work of the church is evidenced by an appeal made on August 19, 1904, by Grandfather Bell and other Ebenezer members to the Brunswick Community. Through the local news media, Ebenezer appealed for help in erecting a church edifice. Because of past community support and the faith of a few, Ebenezer is now poised to support community.

As a community lighthouse, Ebenezer promotes victorious living by tending to the spiritual well-being of believers and non-believers alike and providing the necessary training to enhance and support a Christian walk. As a way station, Ebenezer promotes emotional restoration and reestablishment in the body of Christ by providing a safe-haven where people can seek support and basic needs (such as food, clothing, and shelter). This characterizes the hope my father had for a forthcoming Ebenezer.

On Sunday, March 28, 1993, as the sun burned away the haze of the morning, (it was the dawning of a beautiful day), my dad departed this life and gained his reward of eternal life. From Africa to America to eternal freedom in Heaven, the late George Carlton Hardy, Sr.---a child of God, and an honorable Black American---left his mark on the hearts of many and a rich legacy to the world by the life he lived.

Although my father did not see the fruition of his dream, he and others laid a solid foundation upon which we could build.