

LIBRARIES IN HEAVEN



DEDICATION TO OUR PARENTS

Libraries in Heaven is dedicated to the people who maintained our family and made sure we all received an excellent education in the Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Washington, the Public Schools of the District of Columbia, Prince Georges County and Montgomery County. They encouraged us to pursue their dreams of Higher Education that was not available to them. They provided us the discipline, encouragement and the necessary resources to be successful. We all stand on the shoulders of Mollie C. Smoot Robinson and John E. Robinson Sr. Thank you and may God continue to Bless your dream and vision for our family.



Kayla

BERNICE L. McFADDEN is the author of nine critically acclaimed novels including *Sugar*, *Loving Donovan*, *Nowhere Is a Place*, *The Warmest December*, *Gathering of Waters* (a *New York Times* Editors' Choice and one of the 100 Notable Books of 2012), and *Glorious*, which was featured in *O, The Oprah Magazine* and was a finalist for the NAACP Image Award. She is a three-time Hurston/Wright Legacy Award finalist, as well as the recipient of three awards from the BCALA. McFadden lives in Brooklyn, New York.

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR LOVE AND PATIENCE

My family would like to thank our cousin Bernice McFadden who is an outstanding author and teacher. She identified our great grandfather Rev. Tenant Mack Robinson and provided us with a summary of his accomplishments. She challenged me to investigate his history and our family's relationships. I would be unaware of my family's history had it not been for her persistence. May God continue to bless you and our family.

Discovering my Family's History on a Trip to Macon Georgia the Birthplace of my Father. John E. Robinson

I have always wanted to understand and know my family's history. How did our family survive from Africa to slavery in this country and beyond. My research led me to send a sample of my DNA to ancestry.com. The results identified ethnicity estimates of my ancestors who originated in these countries.

These countries of my family's origin are: Cameron, Congo, & Southern Bantu Peoples 40%; Benin/Togo 20%; England, Wales & Northwestern Europe 19%; Ivory Coast/Ghana 9%; Sweden 4%; Africa South-Central Hunter-Gatherers 2%; Mali 2%; Norway 1%; Eastern Europe & Russia 1%; Nigeria 1%; Native American-North, Central, South 1%;

Additional Communities: Early Virginia African Americans, Carolinas, Maryland & Virginia African Americans, Northern Virginia African Americans.

One year after this report arrived, I received a report from a Bernice McFadden (my cousin) who stated that Our DNA matched on Ancestry .com. She indicated that my great grandfather Tenant Mack Robinson was a minister who helped in the founding and building a Church in Macon, Georgia. The First Baptist Church of Macon. One of his children was John E. Robinson Sr. my grand-father who moved to New Jersey and also became a minister.

My sister Joan Robinson- Greene and niece Precious Robinson took a trip to Macon to visit the First Baptist Church of Macon, Georgia. Tenant Robinson and his mother was sold several times in South Carolina in 1839. His mother ran away and he was taken to Augusta, Georgia where he was freed during the civil war. He attended the American Baptist Home Ministry. It moved to Atlanta and was known as the Atlanta Baptist Seminary. It later became Morehouse College. He was pastor of Columbia, Georgia for 17 years; Antioch, Alabama pastor for 3 years; lastly First Baptist Church of Macon, Georgia 1887-1895 pastor. Tenant Mack Robinson, Educated in 1867 Augusta Institute (became Morehouse College), laid the corner stone of First Baptist of Macon, Georgia in 1889.

This page was sent to me by my cousin Bernice McFadden. She is an author of several books. Her books include: Praise Song, Book of Harlan, The Housemaid, Gathering of Waters, Sugar, and the Bitter Earth. This information and picture describes my great grandfather Reverend Tenant Mack Robinson.



Tenant Mack Robinson

Reverend Tenant Mack Robinson was lovingly known as TM. He was one of several black preachers profiled in: *Our Baptist Ministers and Schools*, written by A.W. Pegues, published by Wiley & Co. in 1892. You'll meet him in my new novel: "The Book of Harlan". In the meantime, here's his full profile from the Pegues' book: Rev. Tenant M. Robinson, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Macon, Georgia, was born on the Edisto river, near Charleston, South Carolina, in 1839. His mother was sold when he was five years old and carried to Aiken, South Carolina. She was again sold to a man by the name of Nat Black and carried to Graniteville, South Carolina. There' little Tenant lived with his mother a short time, when they again moved to Edgefield County. He was not here long before his mother ran away and left him alone in the world.

Tenant was now a good sized lad, and drifted back again to the neighborhood of Charleston, where he had several sisters. His mother had four children, two boys and two girls. He never saw his mother after she left him in Edgefield County until after the emancipation. Little tenant was carried to Aiken, South Carolina,

again. His master, who kept a sharp eye on his growing "nigger" now went to Louisiana and left the lad with his brother James, who hired Tenant to a man in a place then known as Kolan, South Carolina.

But tenant was not here long before he found himself in Augusta, Georgia, where he remained until the beginning of the war of the rebellion. He was then taken again to Kolan and remained there until he was set free.

He returned to August, Georgia, embraced the religion of Christ, was baptized by Rev. Henry Johnson and united with the Thankful Baptist Church. Soon after becoming a member, he was united in marriage with Miss Louisa White of Hamburg, South Carolina in 1866.

Mr. Robinson began his ministerial work the first year after becoming a member of the church. He attended the institution planted in Augusta, Georgia, by the Atlanta Baptist Seminary. His advancement in knowledge and ministerial proficiency was rapid.

In 1870 he was called to a church in Columbia County Georgia, which he served seventeen successive years. At the expiration of that time, he was called to Antioch, Alabama; with that church, he remained three years, at the end* of which time, he accepted the call to his present field of labor.

As a preacher Rev. Robinson is full of force and eloquence. He is a fisher of men and many souls are brought to Christ through his efforts. As a rule, he preaches to crowded houses. Out of the pulpit he spends most of his time in studying the Bible and visiting the sick.

He is a member of the executive board of Ebenezer Association, The Middle Georgia Association, and the State Baptist Convention, and is president of Ministers' Union of Macon, Georgia. In June, 1890, he was elected president of Central City Times Publishing Company.

Rev. Robinson has a good wife and three children, two boys and one girl. He is now erecting a fine brick church edifice at a cost of \$30,000 in place of the old building now used by the First Baptist Church of Macon Georgia. He lives in his own comfortable home on Pleasant Hill, one of the popular suburbs of the city.



1879

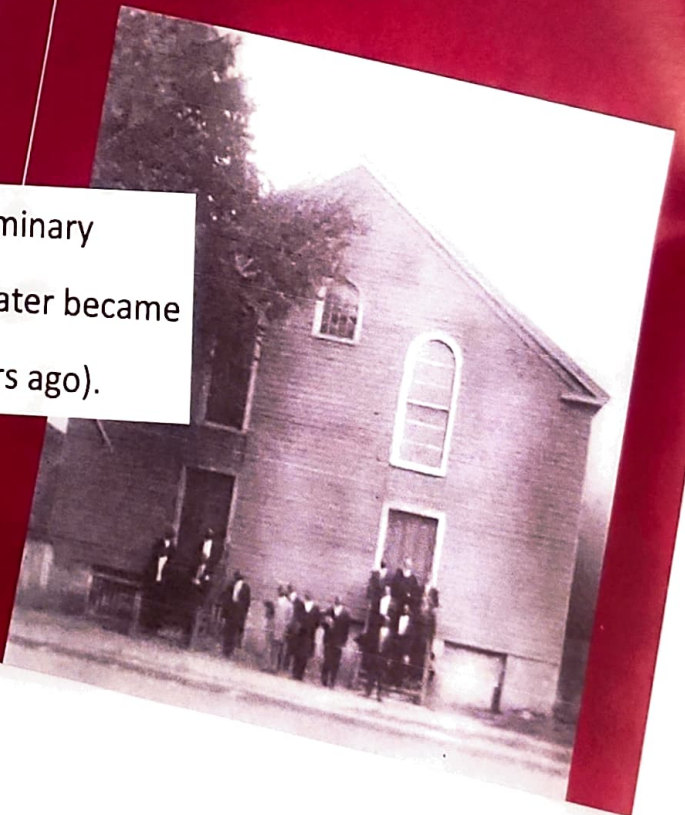
Institute moves to Atlanta's Friendship Baptist Church. Becomes Atlanta Baptist Seminary.



Atlanta Baptist Seminary (1867) the Seminary where Tenant Mack Robinson studied later became Morehouse College of Atlanta (150 years ago).

FOR OVER 150 YEARS,

Morehouse College has been producing extraordinary leaders, visionaries and pillars of the community. Since our humble beginnings in a church basement in 1867, we've established a legacy of excellence that continues to strengthen with each passing year. Famous graduates like Martin Luther King Jr. and Spike Lee are joined by five Rhodes scholars as well as congressmen, business titans, college presidents, and many more who proudly represent the Morehouse ideals. Explore our interactive timeline to discover the Morehouse story.



Our Pulpit Illustrated by E R Carter

REV. LIEUTENANT M. ROBERSON.

The subject of this sketch is of low but robust stature, and possessed of a very rich, strong voice. Whenever it is mentioned that "Tenner," as he is commonly called, is to preach at a certain place the people flock out in great crowds to hear him. His manner of preaching is truly amazing when we consider his opportunities for acquiring knowledge. His language abounds in the most peculiar figures ever known to be used in illustrating the great truths of the Bible.

It might be of interest to the reader for us to give a few of his figures. He represents the sinner as appearing before the bar of God, without salvation, as having no



Reverend Tenant (Lieutenant) M. Roberson worked during the Civil War as a person caring for the wounded and deceased soldiers.

I found these original pictures in my father's trunk who died in 1975. After the death of my mother Mollie C. Roberson in 1993, I put the picture in a family album.

The picture of Reverend Tenant M. Roberson was taken in Macon, Georgia. Tenant died in 1895. This picture is 127 years old.

Louisville; A. D. Johnson, Atlanta; H. Bonnel, Augusta, A. S. Davis, Lexington.

A New Colored Church.

The congregation of the First Baptist Church, colored, Rev. T. M. Roberson pastor, will build a brick edifice, and quite rivalry has existed between some twelve or thirteen societies connected with the church as to which would be first to do some work for it. Metropolitan Club No. 1, won the feather by laying some brick on the foundation on Memorial Day.

This society is officered as follows: C. W. P. Stevens, president; Anthony Holliday, vice-president; Ella James, secretary and Jesse Duncan, treasurer.

Satteens !! Satteens !!

This page describes the funeral of Reverend Tenant Mack Robinson. It was previously called the Cotton Ave Baptist Church that became the First Baptist Church of Macon, Georgia.

One of the largest and most imposing colored funerals ever held in Macon was that of Rev. T. M. Robinson, pastor of the Cotton Avenue Baptist church. The services commenced this morning at 10 o'clock and continued until after 3 o'clock this afternoon.

In the superior court today, W. L. Street

T. M. Robinson pastor of the Cotton Ave. Baptist Church

Suit on a Policy.

Today in the United States court Louisa A. Robinson filed a suit against the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for \$2,500 principal and interest and \$625 for damages and \$1,000* for counsel fees on the life of her husband, Tennant M Robinson. Robinson took out a policy for \$2,500 on November 14, 1895, and Died December 12, 1905 The suit alleges that the company has refused payment Plaintiff is represented by Alexander Prouditt

The City Won.

My great grandmother Louisa A. Robinson filed a Law Suit against Metropolitan Life Insurance Company because they refused to pay on her husband Reverend Tenant Mack Robinson's life insurance policy of \$2,500. He died a month after the policy was taken out. It is amazing to realize that there are several descendants of my great grandparents who are today insured by Metropolitan Life Insurance: Sharon L. Robinson and John E. Robinson III. My Mother Mollie C. Robinson was covered by Metropolitan Life when she died 1993 (100 years after Reverend Tenant Mack Robinson's death 1895). This policy was paid in full.





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MACON GEORGIA

VISITING THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
MACON ON MAY 21, 2022
WE WERE HONORED TO TOUCH THE CORNER STONE
OUR GREAT GRANDFATHER LAID IN 1889

John E. Robinson Jr., great grandson

Joan Robinson- Greene, great granddaughter

Precious Robinson, great-great granddaughter



FRONT STEPS AND FRONT DOOR OF THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MACON GEORGIA

FOUNDED 1835

STILL SERVING MACON 187 YEARS LATER

PROFILES IN COURAGE

PRECIOUS ROBINSON

JOAN ROBINSON GREENE

JOHN ROBINSON



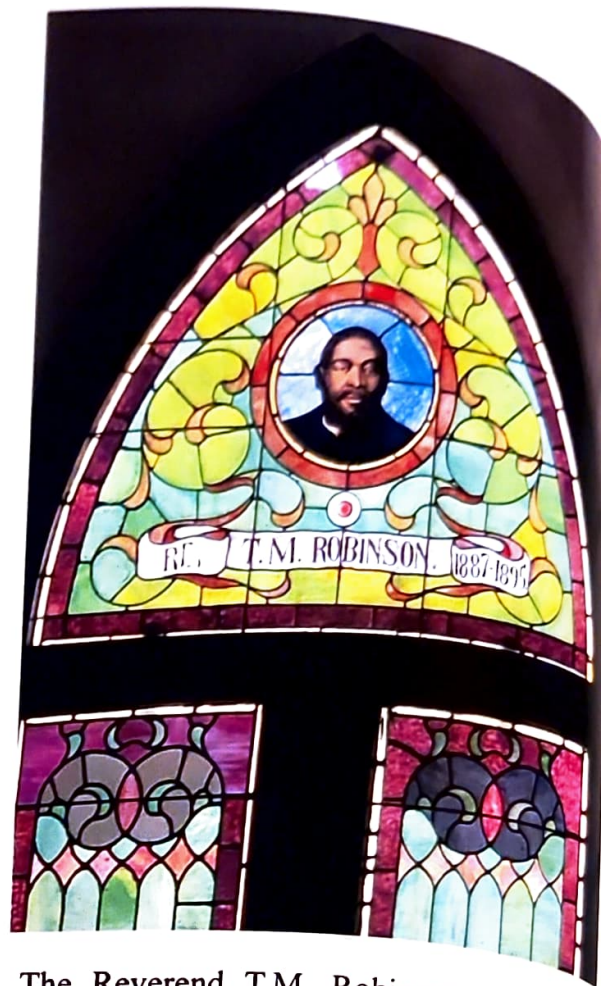
HISTORICAL BEGINNING OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MACON
WHITES AND BLACKS WORSHIPED IN SAME CHURCH
BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

The First Baptist Church of Macon was established by African Americans 25 years before the Emancipation Proclamation. Whites and African Americans worshiped in the same building. Two hundred eighty-three (283) African Americans and one hundred eighty-nine Whites. In 1835 a majority of the church were slaves. According to historian E.G. Cabiness, "Its thus seen that a majority of the church are slaves". Alternate services were led under the direction of licensed ministers and deacons of their own color.

On March 1, 1845, the land and building were deeded to the colored portion of the Baptist Church at Macon, "For religious services and moral cultivation forever".

Reverend Tenant Mack Robinson served as pastor from 1887-1895. Revered Robinson led the First Baptist congregation into the building of the first unit and the laying of the corner stone.

We were very pleased to find a stained-glass window on the west side of the church with the picture of Reverend Tenant Mack Robinson, pastor 1887-1895.



The Reverend T.M. Robinson, who served 1887-1895, led the First Baptist Congregation into the building of the first unit and the laying of the corner stone. Following Reverend Robinson's death, a dispute emerged among the congregation regarding the selection of a pastor. The dispute resulted in the church being closed by court action in November, 1896. A settlement was reached with a split of membership. The split gave rise to the birth of another church, Tremont Temple Baptist Church.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW HONORING
REVEREND TENANT MACK ROBINSON

PASTOR 1887-1895

PICTURED BELOW HIS PICTURE

DEACON

PRECIOUS ROBINSON

JOAN ROBINSON GREENE

JOHN ROBINSON

REVEREND JAMES W. GOOLBSY, PASTOR

MRS. GOOLBSY

595 NEW STREET

MACON, GEORGIA





Rev. John E. Robinson

Funeral services for the Rev. John E. Robinson, 69, of 17 Fountain Avenue, who died Friday, will be held tomorrow at 2 p. m. at the Newsome Funeral Home, 131 Spring Street. The Rev. A. S. Grayson of Union Baptist Church will officiate. Interment will be in Ewing Cemetery.

The Rev. Mr. Robinson was a retired postal clerk and a former resident of Brooklyn. He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Chappo Elliott, and a nephew, Harold MacFadden.

John E. Robinson

and

Mary Whipple Robinson



Passing the Rose



The Biography of Mr. John Emanuel and Mrs. Mollie Catherine Robinson



John E. Robinson and Mollie C. Smoot were married at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church on August 20, 1947 by Father J. F. Hennessey. The blessing of this union in marriage was graced with seven children: Mary Catherine, John E. Jr., Peter B., Joan E., Michael J. Sr., Carl V., and Francis Timothy. (They were also privileged to adopt children from Atlantic City, New Jersey: Wilbur, Lillian and Delores Haddock.)

HONOR AND PRAISE GOD AND FAMILY

Our family gives honor and praise to God and our ancestors for their determination in their journey from our origin in Cameron, Congo, Benin/Togo, England, Wales, North Western Europe, Sweden, and Norway. God provided our people with courage, fortitude, faith, hope and love to survive slavery in South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and Virginia.

We are so proud of all their accomplishments in education, vocations and ministry. They safely provided our family with the opportunities for our growth and success. We were able to accomplish the building of homes, businesses and churches. Our God, Church and faith maintained us through our courageous journey to follow God's mission and purpose. The Bible reminds us "God declaring the end from the beginning" Isaiah 45:10

WRITE YOUR OWN HISTORY THROUGH RESEARCH OF OUR ELDERS

There is an African Proverb that reminds us all of the importance of our ancestors. When our parents, grandparents, great grandparents go to God in heaven, we are losing libraries of our history.

We must therefore, honor their knowledge and resources. We must record their oral history and stories about past generations. This becomes our record of our accomplishments, and victories over challenges of our past that can motive us to reach for our future with confidence, courage, faith, hope and love of God our father who provides for us.

We must document our past, and we must write our own stories to tell everyone in our family and community of who we are and where we are from and what we have overcome. Take the time to identify the grandparents, great-grandparents, great aunts and uncles who are so important to our present station in life. This should be available to our brothers, sisters, children, niece, nephews, grandchildren and great grand-children.

Our history must be documented and shared so when we are gone to God in Heaven, our history will remain for all to remember that there was a great group of people who lived here and worked following Jesus and accomplished much in serving God's people, our fellow man and women.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF JOHN AND MOLLIE ROBINSON

First Picture of the following:

Aunt Mollie Smoot of Warrenton , Virginia (Aunt of Mollie Smoot Robinson)

Jerry Butler of Chicago, Illinois (lived in Aroura , Illinois; just outside of Chicago)

Jerry Butler Child (cousins)

Second Picture of the following:

Charles Smoot is the great uncle of Mollie Smoot Robinson. The family was raised in the house on 45 Taylor Street in old Warrenton, Virginia. Mollie Smoot Robinson was raised by her grandmother in the house.

Charles Smoot one of the first African American Steeplechase jockeys. Rode for William DuPont Jr.

And Marion DuPont Scott. Mr. Smoot won the Beverwyck Steeplechase in 1916, 1926 and 1933

Third Picture of the following

Mary Whipple Robinson : Mother of John E. Robinson Sr.

Born in Bibs County Georgia around 1873. Macomb, Georgia

John E. Robinson was born in 1898 in Macomb, Georgia to Mary Whipple Robinson and John E. Robinson Sr.



THE MENTOR OF THE ROBINSON FAMILY AND SHAW NEIGHBORHOOD

Mollie Robinson was involved in all of her children's activities. She was attentive to details of her children. She walked us to school and church. She watched us play at the playgrounds. She supervised us when we carried people's groceries from the Safeway to their homes for tips. She made sure we opened savings accounts. She tutored us when we did homework assignments at the dinner table. She made sure we were home after the lamp post lights came on at night. She always met our friends and traveled to places where we hung out with the boys and girls. Mollie was even involved with the planning of our parties, weddings and receptions.

Mollie Robinson was an active member of The Church of the Immaculate Conception. She was the President of the Sodality. She assisted with the raising of funds for the church and school that her children and grandchildren attended. She was an active member of the Organized Community Youth that supervised boys carrying groceries home from the Safeway Food Store to members of the Shaw neighborhood.

She supervised her grandchildren and children of the neighborhood. When friends went away to college, she would make sure they had a donation to assist them.

She became an apprentice funeral director under the supervision of her husband John E. Robinson Sr. After the death of her husband John E. Robinson Sr., She became president of Robinson Funeral Home. She continued to mentor her children John E. Robinson Jr. , Mary C. Smith, Peter B. Robinson, Joan E. Robinson-Greene, Michael J. Robinson, Carl V. Robinson and Francis T. Robinson.

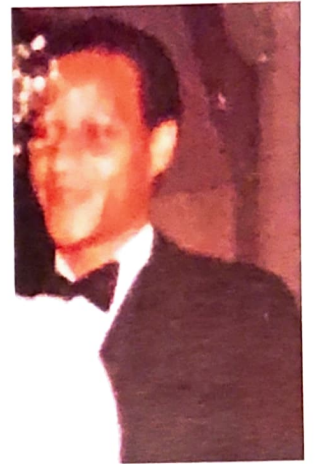
Monthly MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS OF WASHINGTON D.C. 1949



MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON DC IN 1949

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5. Bowman, <u>Princess</u> | Bowman Services |
| 4. Butler, Samuel | Samuel Butler |
| 6. Cornish, _____ | Cornish Funeral Home |
| 7. Edmonson, Mr and Mrs. | Edmonson Funeral Service |
| 8. Hall, Bob | Hall advertisements |
| 3. Horton, Rufus and Julia | Horton Funeral Home |
| 9. Latney, John and Lula | Latney Funeral Home |
| 2. Murray, L. E. and Helen | L.E. Murray Funeral Home |
| ¹⁰ Plummer, Robert L. Sr. | John T. Rhines Funeral Home |
| ¹¹ Pope, Alexander Sr. | Pope Funeral Home |
| ¹ Robinson, John E. Sr. | Robinson Funeral Home |
| Washington, Mr. and Mrs. | Henry S. Washington Funeral Home |

Deceased Children and Relatives of John and Mollie Robinson



Relatives in Heaven



