

Bessie F. Smith

Bessie F. "Ma Bessie" Smith, 102, of Palatka, formerly of Green Cove Springs, passed Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at Shands at University of Florida in Gainesville following a brief illness.

She was a native of Grandin, born Feb. 12, 1907, to the late William Flowers and Joanna Cue, but resided in Palatka for the past two and a half years, coming from Green Cove Springs, where she resided since 1942. She was a member of Greater Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, where she served on the deaconess board, usher board, and Mission Society. She was also a member of Martha Chapter 22, Order of Eastern Star. She loved to bake cakes and other pastries, crocheting, knitting, fishing, planting flowers and vegetable gardens and spending time with her family and friends.

Ma Bessie was the widower of Antonio Maceo Smith.

Preceding her in death other than her husband are son, Oscar Smith and daughter, Mazerene Whitfield.

Survivors are a son, Calvin Sr. and wife, Jannett Smith, Palatka; daughter, Marion Willis, Waterford, Conn.; son-in-law, Mathew Whitfield, Orange Park; 18 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, 23 great-great-grandchildren, and one great-great-great-grandchild and other relatives and loving friends.

Visitation hours will be from 5-7 p.m. Friday, April 24, at Greater Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, Martin Luther King Boulevard, Green Cove Springs and from 8-9:30 p.m. Friday, at D.A. Boyd & Sons Funeral Home, Palatka. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 25, at Congregational Holiness church, 2079 West State Road 16, Green Cove Springs, with the Rev. Robert Wright, pastor of Greater Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist church, officiating. Interment will follow in the Abilene Baptist Cemetery, Putnam Hall.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the care of D.A. Boyd & Sons Funeral Home, 924 Reid Street, Palatka.