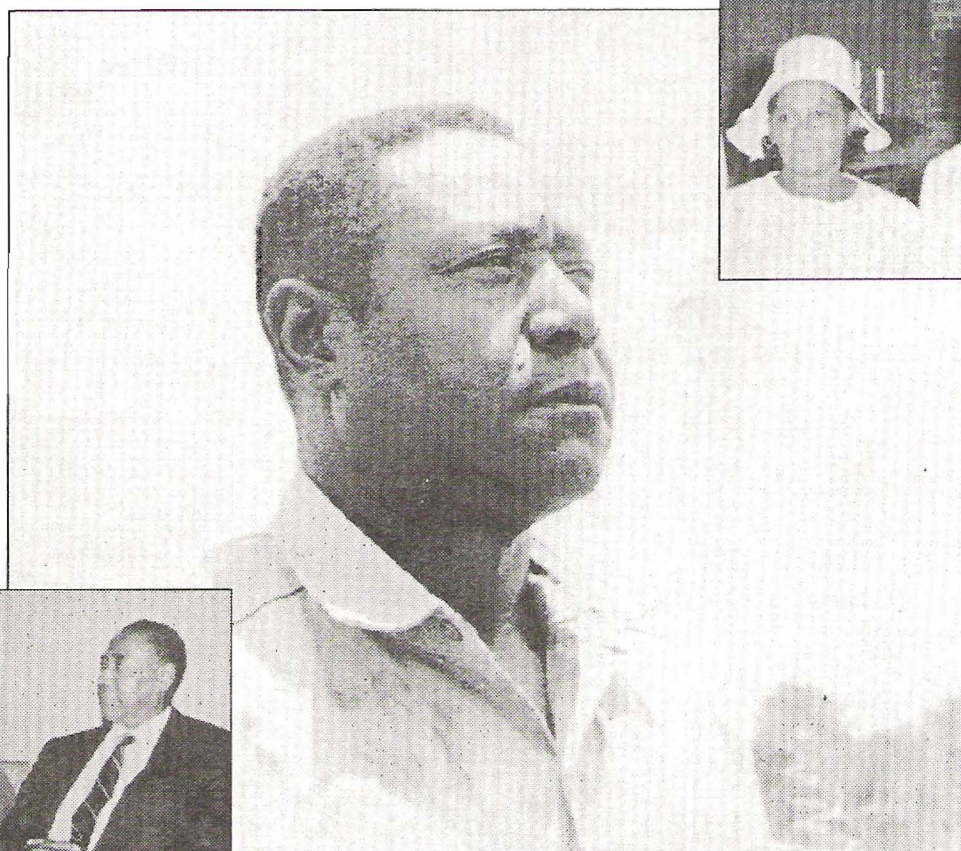


**Homegoing Services
for
Reverend Francis Joseph Atlas, Sr.**



Lake Providence Senior High School Auditorium

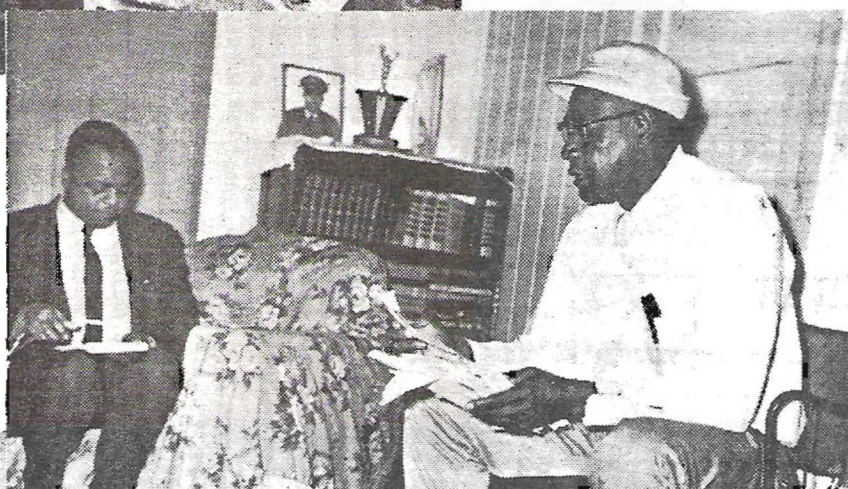
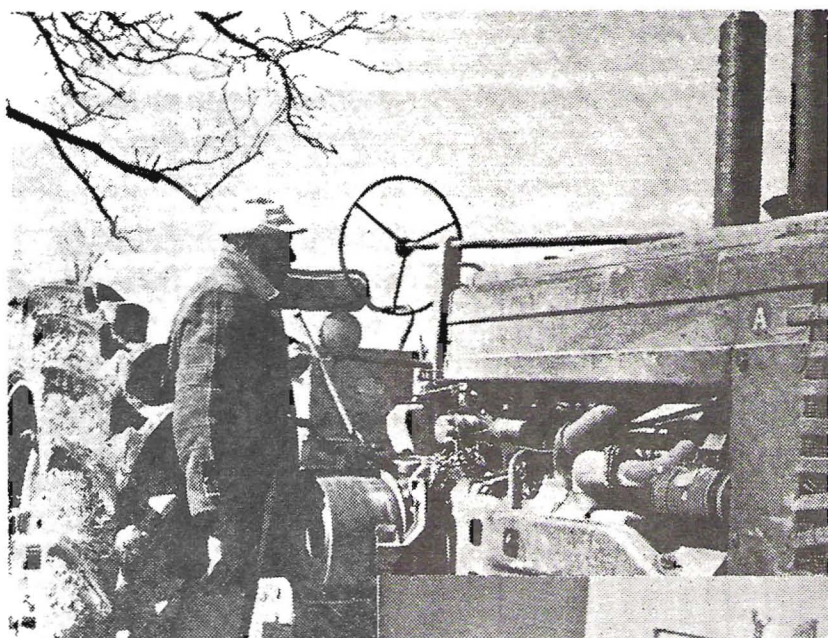
Martin Luther King Drive
Lake Providence, Louisiana

Sunday, October 17, 1999

Family Hour – 1:00 P.M.

Services – 2:00 P.M.

Reverend Emanuel Jones, Officiating



His Lord said unto him
well done, thou good and faithful
servant . . .

Matthew 25:21



Order of Services

Processional

Musical Selection.....*Progressive Baptist Church Choir*

Scripture:

Old Testament.....*Psalm 90:1-16*

New Testament.....*Second Timothy 4:1-7*

Prayer.....*Reverend Emanuel Jones*

Solo.....*Mr. G. T. Trass*

Acknowledgement.....*Mrs. E. B. Trass*

Tributes.....*Two (2) Minutes*.....*School Board,*
Mrs. Georjean Jackson
East Carroll Baptist Association,
Mrs. Laverne Walker
(Others)

Poem.....*Chakeitha Caldwell*
Reva Demar
Veltaki Newson

Obituary.....*Mrs. Amy Watson*

Musical Selection.....*Progressive Baptist Church Choir*

Eulogy.....*Bishop C. H. Murray*

Recessional



Usher Service.....*Progressive Baptist Church*



Obituary

Reverend Francis Joseph Atlas, Sr.

On January 2, 1905, Francis Joseph Atlas, Sr. was born to the late Louis Bareford and Susie Lee Atlas. He was the sixth of eleven children born to that union. Seven of his siblings preceded him in death. Three of his children preceded him in death. He departed this life Wednesday, October 13, 1999 at West Carroll Memorial Hospital, Oak Grove, Louisiana.

At an early age, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and joined Mount Lebanon Baptist Church. He later joined Progressive Missionary Baptist Church where he was a faithful and dedicated member for the rest of his life. At Progressive he served in a number of capacities including Sunday School Superintendent, Church Treasurer, and Deacon.

Reverend Atlas united in holy matrimony with Willie Mae Gibson. To this union twelve children were born.

A central belief of Reverend Atlas was that a good education forms the foundation for success and achievement in life. He received his basic education in the public school system of East Carroll Parish. He attended Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama, where he completed the course of study in Plastery and brick Masonry. Further studies were completed at United Theological Seminary of Monroe, Louisiana, where he received the Seminary Diploma.

After completion of the course of study at Tuskegee Institute, he returned to Lake Providence and began farming with his father. In 1942 he purchased a farm which he worked and operated until his retirement in 1992.

Reverend Atlas began his pastoral ministry at New Hope Baptist Church of Lake Providence, Louisiana. He later served as Pastor of Oakland Ridge Baptist Church.

Community Service and Civil Rights callings dawned his calender for more than fifty years. He began as an active and contributing member of the Parent Teacher Association of East Carroll Parish Training School. He was elected and served as President of the Parent Teacher Association for a number of years.

In 1948, he and several other Blacks organized the "Voters League" in Lake Providence, Louisiana. This represented an organized attempt to exercise their right to vote. It was only the beginning of what was to be a struggle that lasted for nearly two decades.

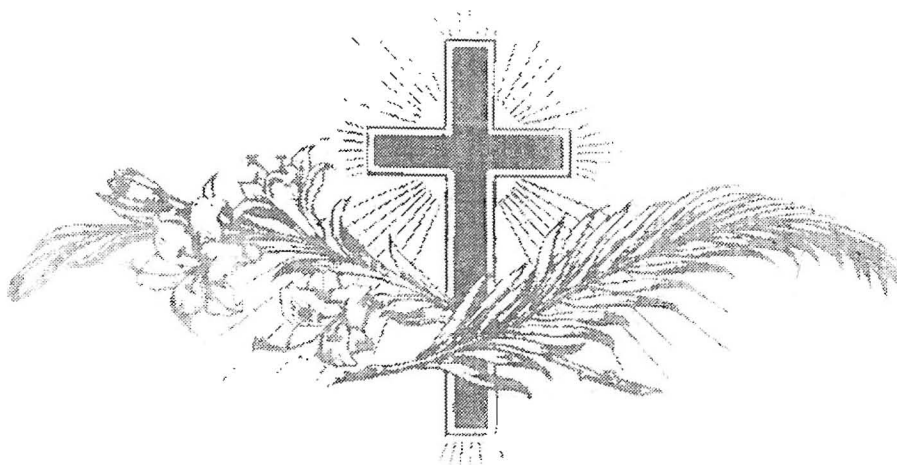
After years of repeated and unsuccessful attempts to register and vote, Reverend Atlas was subpoenaed to appear and testify at a hearing of the United States Commission on Civil Rights regarding his efforts to register and vote. This testimony was given on September 27, 1960.

Almost immediately there was a backlash of unprecedented proportions. This organized conspiracy was designed to threaten, intimidate and coerce Reverend Atlas and other Blacks in East Carroll Parish, for the purpose of discouraging them from registering to vote. Various threatening, intimidating and coercive acts were recorded and reported. A lawsuit was filed by the United States Department of Justice, Commission on Civil Rights, on behalf of Reverend Atlas and other Black citizens. After several days of litigation, the Court issued an injunction enjoining the defendants, their agents, employees and representatives from any further engagement in this organized conspiracy.

In 1962 Reverend Atlas along with twenty one other Black citizens of East Carroll Parish was escorted by Federal Marshals to Federal District Offices in Monroe, Louisiana. There they were registered as voters. That same year, those 22 citizens became the first Black voters in East Carroll Parish.

In 1967, Reverend Atlas went to the polls not only as a voter, but as a candidate for the East Carroll Parish School Board. He was elected and re-elected several times, resulting in a total of thirteen years as an elected official. He was the first Black elected to the East Carroll Parish School board. For his relentless dedication, commitment and mentorship to his fellow citizens, community and country, he received awards and citations too numerous to mention.

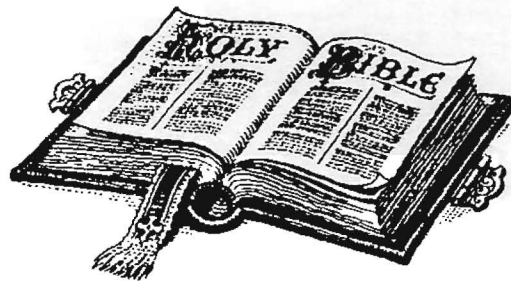
Reverend Atlas leaves to cherish his legacy and memory, his loving wife of seventy three years, Willie Mae Gibson Atlas; three daughters: Susie Lee Ammons, Chicago, Illinois; Florence Marie Atlas, Lake Providence, Louisiana; Annie Elizabeth Chatman, Detroit Michigan; six sons: Philip King Atlas, Bastrop, Louisiana; Lawrence Atlas, Oakland, California; Edward Delano Atlas, Austin, Texas; Charles Atlas, Merriville, Indiana; John Wesley Atlas, Detroit, Michigan; and Willie James Atlas, Southfield, Michigan; two sisters: Ethel Edna Atlas, Detroit Michigan; Annie Ruth Atlas, Chicago, Illinois, and one brother: Lawrence Atlas, Los Angeles, California. He is also remembered by eighteen grandchildren, seventeen great grandchildren, and five great great grandchildren. In addition, Reverend Atlas leaves a host of relatives, friends and associates who will cherish his legacy and memory.





No man, when he hath lighted a candle,
covereth it with a vessel,
or putteth it under a bed;
but setteth it on a candlestick,
that they which enter in may see the light.

Luke 8:16



Acknowledgements

We wish to thank our many friends and neighbors for their expressions of sympathy through their prayers, visits, calls and other acts of kindness extended to us during the death of our loved one. Special thanks to the doctors and medical staff of the West Carroll Memorial Hospital of Oak Grove, Louisiana, and to Mr. Don Temple and his staff of caregivers at Shady Lake Nursing Home of Lake Providence, Louisiana.

The Atlas Family



Active Pallbearers

Phillip King Atlas

Lawrence Atlas

Edward Delano Atlas

Charles Weldon Atlas

John Wesley Atlas

Willie James Atlas

Honorary Pallbearers

G. T. Trass

Grady Murphy

Marrage Facen

Allen Sparrow

Timothy Phillips

Derrek J. Atlas

Steve L. Atlas

Bobby Jefferson

Carl Rosby

Gene Rosby

Vincent Atlas

Nicholas Atlas

Interment

Gaither Memorial Cemetery

*Services entrusted to
Brannum's Funeral Home
Lake Providence, Louisiana*



Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

*Lift every voice and sing
Till Earth and heaven ring.
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.*

*Stoney the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod.
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat.
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears had been watered,
We have come treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out of the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*

*God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way,
Thou who has by thy might
Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we meet thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world we forget thee,
Shadowed beneath thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God
True to our Native Land.*