

**REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST THAT ESTABLISHED THE PRESENT AND EXEMPLIFIES
THE FUTURE**

.....LEGACY OF LOVE (CHARITY).....

Our Father, which art in Heaven.....the Lord's prayer was the daily beginning of the late Robert (Pa) and Lillie Parker (Ma) Gay that established the wholesomeness of their total character. They were indeed an extraordinary couple who believed in family unity that spread abroad. Their lives did not entail a lot of earthly, materialistic gains through their endeavors; however, inwardly, they possessed rare qualities that sparkled radiantly. As they labored diligently on the farm, in the church, and neighborhood/community with the love of God (mighty weapon) in their hearts, one could conclude they obtained the greater treasure.

Robert and Lillie's personal relationship originated during their childhood years when death claimed both of their parents. They learned to play and grow up together as young children and later were joined as husband and wife and during their 63-year union they saw the reality of one of their dreams unfold: to own a home. Pa and Ma's home was built in the community of Midgette-Anderson Field subdivision, 119 Anderson Drive, Greenville, North Carolina. The remainder of their earthly years were rooted and flourished at this homestead.

After their death, David C. Gay, Sr., (youngest son), and family moved into this home. There are many happy, wonderful memories that still live on within the hearts of their descendants as the pages of times are turned back when Robert and Lillie's voices echoed in the land.

We [family and friends] assembled on the weekend of July 4th at the homestead of Pa and Ma to fellowship together and ruminate with sincere mediation

on the legacy they left their family. We joyfully proclaim "It's Still Alive.~ Their hearts were filled with love, care, and concern that overflowed and never emptied as they touched the lives of family, neighbors, and friends. Hearts that were readily available (like a storehouse) to be broken, mended, and made gold in a time of need.

Many stories have been told through the years about how neighbors, family members, and friends would travel (on foot) many miles to Robert and Lillie's farmhouse to re-stock on supplies. Their deep compassion of humility for others did in no way interfere with their parental responsibilities. All ten children's needs were met as they began and ended each day with prayer, giving thanksgiving for all blessings.

Robert and Lillie's productive and skillful traits taught them the value of mastering daily survival strategies. They planted and reaped their food nutrients, made their clothes (without patterns) prepared nourishing dishes and labored diligently to exemplify values in their family that would establish the foundations of the importance of faith, hope, and charity.

Reflections of the past echo the voices of Robert (Pa) and Lillie (Ma) in the land..... OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN.....AMEN.

Submitted by Eunice M. Gay
Granddaughter of the Late Robert & Lillie Gay