



Celebrating the Life of Cleata Morris

March 26, 1924 - September 24, 2022

Obituary

Cleata Morris was born on March 26th 1924 in Raleigh Township to the union of the late Gordon Morris and Ida (Louise) Travis- Morris and she is predeceased by her brother Hilliard (Jacqueline) Morris, sister Ruby Lucille Morris (Robert) Griffith, brother-in-law Alfonso Allen and nephew Paul Allen.

Cleata attended a normal school in Chatham Ontario and began her teaching career at the age of 21 at the SS#10 Green Valley School in Chatham Township from 1945 to 1957. During that time, her parents would drive her to Green Valley School from their home in Raleigh Township until she received the privilege of a driver's license. Then, in 1957 she taught at the French School on the Caledonia Side Road in Chatham Township from 1957 to 1958. In 1958, Cleata began teaching first and second grade in Windsor for the Windsor School Board for 28 years before retiring in 1986 after a total of 41 years of teaching.

Cleata returned to North Buxton where she remained heavily involved in her community as a member of the BME Church (now the Buxton Community Church). She continued to promote the black history in the community. Everyone referred to her as "Aunt Cleata". Due to her involvement with different churches in the community, she decided to start a male choir, consisting of members from different churches and different denominations in 2001. One of her first phone calls was to Lois Pratt, a long-time pianist and organist of the St Andrews United Church in South Buxton. Lois immediately jumped on board. The first meeting of the choir was held in January 2001 with 15 men in attendance. At that time the choir didn't have a name. One of the original members, Don Jenner, suggested the name, "Friends of Buxton Male Choir", and it stuck. As time progressed, the choir had over 20 male vocalists. In 2007, Lois Pratt had some health concerns and decided to step down as pianist for the choir. Cleata then recruited Deb Guy as the pianist and she remains with the choir to this day. The Friends of Buxton Male Choir has performed throughout Chatham-Kent and Windsor and many other places. Cleata also had a great love for children and she decided to start a children's choir which became known as, "Buxton's Children's Choir".

Cleata was also involved in many other activities in and around Chatham and Windsor. She was a long-time member of the Hour-Day Study Club in Windsor. In 2019, she was named Co-Chatham Kent Senior of the Year along with many-many other Awards and Accolades. She even had lunch with the Queen. Up until 2019 with Cleata's failed health due to a stroke (which was only physical because she was still sharp as a tack) she was still active in driving daily in and out of Chatham, continued phone conversations into the wee hours of the night, and always planning or working on some other project. In the spring of this year a production company from London Ontario wanted to interview Cleata for an upcoming documentary which was done at the North Buxton Community Church.

Doing this interview, Cleata was filmed playing at the piano which she loved to do all the time. While residing at the Eaton Villa Assisted Living Facility, she would have staff bring her to the activity room so she could play on the piano even though she was only able to use one hand to do it, she still did it with grace.

Cleata leaves to mourn one sister, Ona Allen of Burlington, Ontario, one niece Trena Griffith (Mark) Williams of Wisconsin, two nephews Stacy (Terry) Griffith of Amherstburg, Ontario, Curtis Griffith of Detroit, Michigan and a host of great and great-great nieces and nephews and many friends and relatives. Cleata will be *dearly missed*.

"And we know that all things work together for the good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose" Romans 8:28 KJV

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Buxton Next Generation BNG or a charity of your choice.

ORDER OF SERVICE
CLEATA MORRIS
SATURDAY OCTOBER 1, 2022

Musical Prelude - North Buxton Children's Choir

The Men's Choir -Precious Lord

Pastor Eric Skillings - Opening Remarks

Stephanie Vasi - Amazing Grace

Shannon Prince - Reading of Obituary

Pastor Tracey Thomas - Eulogy

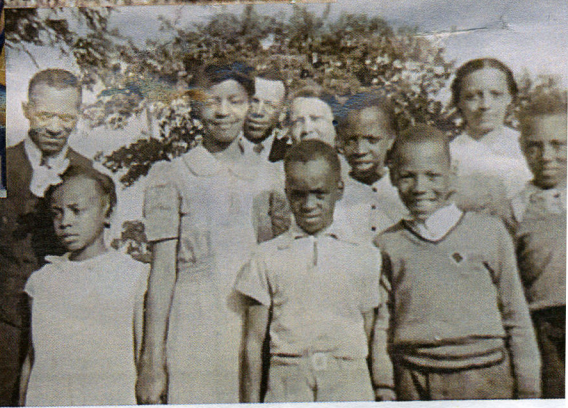
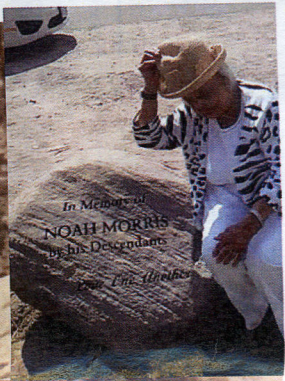
Cameron Dudley - Hallelujah

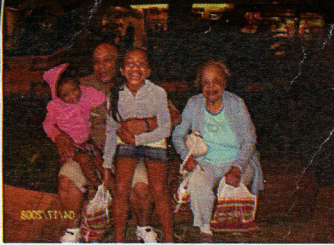
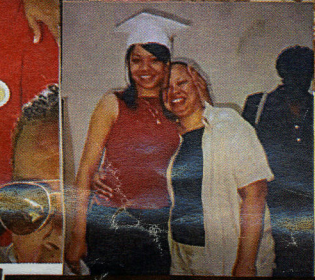
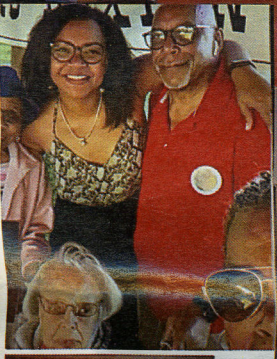
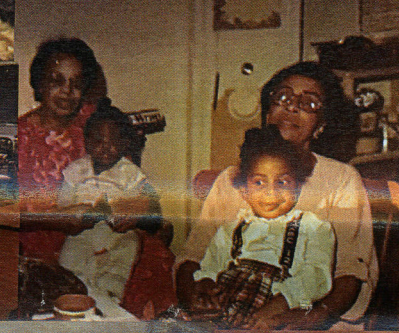
Pastor Roger Baylis - Prayer

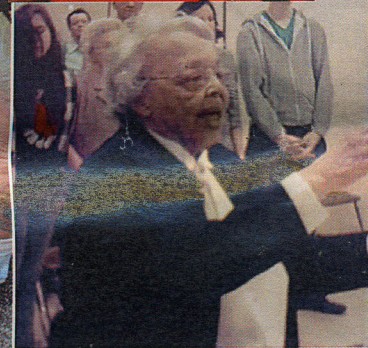
Recessional - Men's Choir – “Where Can We Go”

Interment - Pastor Thomas & Pastor Roger Baylis - The Lord's Prayer

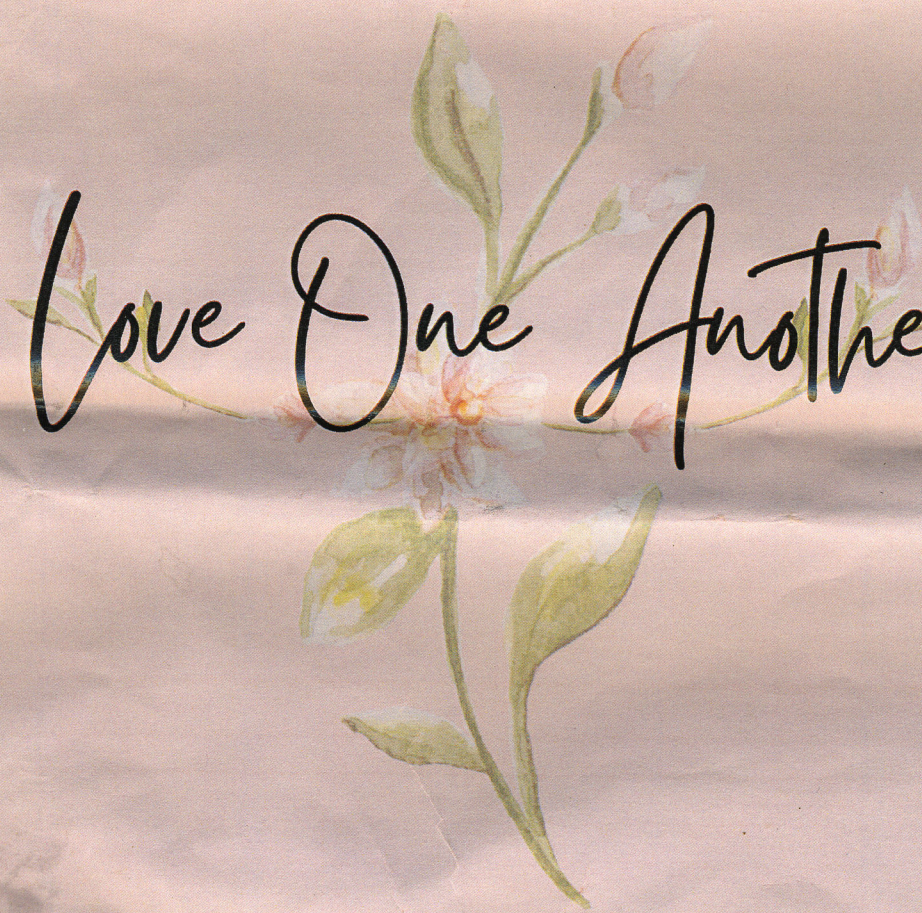
Reception to follow in the Church Hall







Love One Another



Pallbearers

Chris Prince
Craig Lumley
Andre Robbins
Curtis Roberts
Timothy Robbins
Tijuan Green

Honorary Pallbearers

Dennis Edmonds
Allen Steel
Michael Robbins
Kevin Drew
Spencer Alexander
Brian Prince

Interment

North Buxton Community Church Cemetery

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To

Blenheim Community Funeral Home

