

OUR STORY  
The Newsletter That  
Blends the Past and the Present

Vol. 1, No. 8

November 1992

FROM A to Z

"D" is for the Dedication, Diligence, and Devotion of  
Mrs. Cassie Swarn of Plainfield, Indiana.

With the hectic pace of the holidays fast approaching it might behoove us all to take some time out and indulge in a little daydreaming of times past. Mrs. Swarn can be our guide.

While the Twenties roared in the big cities, little Cassie enjoyed her childhood growing up amid the slower pace in the hamlet of Mitchell, Indiana. For sure there were chores to do around the house and helping in the garden some but there was also lots of fun with family and friends and yummy tasting surprises from mama's old wood stove to enjoy. Those luscious smells wafting through the air almost made it seem like Thanksgiving every day.

Even though they attended a one-room schoolhouse, Cassie's and the other children's minds were opened and their love for learning blossomed under the capable tutelage of their teacher, Mrs. Hughes, who taught all eight grades. In those gentler times the older children helped the younger ones and parents helped each other and kept a watchful eye out for their neighbors' tykes as well as their own.

Her love of poetry brought celebrity status to young Cassie as the local churches and club groups thought it was just the cutest thing that she could recite so many poems. She knew every one that Paul Lawrence Dunbar had written. Cassie's interest in poetry at a young age was a precursor of the gifted capabilities she would display at a more mature age. The artistic talent that bursts forth from Mrs. Swarn may come from her mother's side of the family (the Terrells) for they were artisans--brickmakers by trade--who owned their own brickyard in Mitchell. Attesting to the fact that they were truly craftsmen is that some of the buildings erected long ago with their bricks have only recently been torn down in Mitchell, Indiana. Mrs. Swarn's green thumb comes from her father's side (the Clemons) as they had been farmers for many generations. Pleasantly, childhood and adolescence drifted by and she was on the threshold of adulthood.

As young adults Cassie Marie Clemons and Edgar Lemuel Swarn pledged their troth to each other forever. They shared the  
see CASSIE SWARN, page 2

Glorify the Lord with me, let us together extol his name.

Psalm 34:4

CASSIE SWARN (con't.)

trials, triumphs, and joys of over fifty loving years of marriage.

As newlyweds they settled down on the Swarn homestead in Plainfield, Indiana, and eventually the children came along; four in all. The Great Depression had a tight grip on everyone and Mrs. Swarn worked at various jobs outside the home in order to help her husband make ends meet.

Back in those good old days (which she helped to make better) Cassie Swarn was also an activist for the right of all of Plainfield's citizens to be able to patronize all of the town's business, cultural, and entertainment establishments. Her straight forward approach met with success and service at the local drugstore and entry into the movie theater were accomplished.

Cassie Swarn set many precedents in dealing effectively with those in the majority culture. At a time when those in the majority had little concern for anyone not like themselves, she nobly led the way in showing the townspeople how to rise above the divisiveness of factions and pursue a higher road built on harmonious relations. Her accomplishments are numerous. She has held membership in Plainfield's Women's Club, the Friday Club and as an artist whose medium is oil, Mrs. Swarn has belonged to the Hendricks County Art League and the Plainfield Art League. She has belonged to two historical societies, delivered Meals on Wheels, been Director of Activities at the Plainfield Retirees Home, and a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church of Plainfield for over fifty years. She has been recognized for outstanding service to the community and received awards from the Plainfield Jaycees, the A.M.E. Churches of Indiana, and the Hendricks County Council on Aging. Her motto aptly has been "love and service to others." Mrs. Swarn has always been proud of the fact that she married into the Swarn family and her in-laws have been just as proud to have her be a part of their family. She personifies the ideal wife depicted in Proverbs 31:10-31.

Cassie Swarn has deservedly received many honors and awards during her most fascinating careers as wife, mother, and community leader. This wonderful lady has always been a go-getter. She and uncounted others like her who took a public stand and stuck by their convictions when it wasn't popular to do so lightened the burden and defined a clearer vision for all of society. Mrs. Swarn, we love you! For more about the Swarn Family heritage, please see the companion article that follows.

## BEGINNINGS

In the latter half of the 19th Century young Lemuel Swarn left the place of his birth, North Carolina, and set out on a journey that had Hendricks County, Indiana as his destination. Accompanying him were his young wife, Cidy, and their small son, Carey. There would eventually be six more bundles of joy to care for. The trek north was made with the families of Lemuel's uncle and sister. Once again displaying the compassion they had shown many times before, Quakers aided in transportation arrangements for the travellers.

Though Lemuel Swarn had been born of slave parents in Raleigh, North Carolina, he was privileged to receive a good education and his dealings and land acquisitions after settling in Plainfield, Indiana attest to his business acumen.

As patriarch, Mr. Lemuel Swarn set the standard of excellence and his progeny have proudly upheld the family name and offered their talents in service to others. His descendants have made their mark in such varied professions as the ministry, music, postal service, business, dietetics, the military, public service, engineering, finance, and sales. The elder Swarn's offspring also inherited his strong religious faith and the dedicated and loving service they have given to Bethel A.M.E. Church of Plainfield has benefited all.

Following in the footsteps of their illustrious ancestor, the Swarn children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as spouses and extended family members have successfully carried the banner of excellence forward.

WE GIVE THANKS

For the fun and love of family companionship

For the caring and sharing of friendships

WE GIVE THANKS

For food, health, and education

For honesty, goodness and inspiration

WE GIVE THANKS

For babies so precious and elders who guide us

For God's blessings showered down upon us

WE GIVE THANKS!

JH

Husband's Name Lemuel Susan  
 Military None  
 Born N Carolina Place Raleigh  
 Married \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Married \_\_\_\_\_ times Other Wife's Name Nanny  
 Died 1937 Place Plainfield  
 Where Buried Sugar Grove, Plainfield  
 His Father's Name unknown  
 His Mother's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name Lidy  
 Residences \_\_\_\_\_  
 Born \_\_\_\_\_ Place N. Carolina  
 Please make a new chart for other marriages.  
 Other husband's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Married \_\_\_\_\_ times Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Where Buried \_\_\_\_\_  
 Her Father's Name unknown  
 Her Mother's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please include Middle Names if known. Write Day, Month, Year on Dates.

M F	CHILDREN	BORN		MARRIED			DIED	
		When	Where	When	Where	Whom	When	Where
1	M Carey	1880	N. Car.	1910	Plainfield		1953	Plainfield
2	F Laura	1890	N. Car.			Eva Keller	1957	Plainfield
3	F Pearl	unknown	N. Car.	NO				Plainfield
4	M James	unknown	N. Car.	NO				Plainfield
5	Roy	unknown						Plainfield
6	Myrtle	unknown						Plainfield
7	Arthur	unknown						Plainfield
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Husband's Name Caray Swam  
 Military NO  
 Born 1880 Place N. Carolina  
 Married 1910 Place Plainfield  
 Married 1 times Other Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died 1955 Place Plainfield  
 Where Buried Maple Hill, Plainfield  
 His Father's Name Lemuel Swam  
 His Mother's \_\_\_\_\_  
 Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name Eva Keller Swam  
 Residences Plainfield  
 Born 1890 Place Plainfield  
 Please make a new chart for other marriages.  
 Married 1 times Other husband's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died 1962 Place Plainfield  
 Where Buried Maple Hill, Plainfield  
 Her Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Her Mother's \_\_\_\_\_  
 Maiden Name unknown

Please include Middle Names if known. Write Day, Month, Year on Dates.

M F	CHILDREN	BORN		MARRIED			DIED	
		When	Where	When	Where	Whom	When	Where
M <sup>1</sup>	Edgar	1911	Plainfield	1939	Plainfield	Cecilia Demps		
F <sup>2</sup>	Christina	1912	Plainfield	1937		Sam Jones		
M <sup>3</sup>	Phuchel	1916	Plainfield	1941		Nancy Mitcham		
F <sup>4</sup>	Herbert	1918	Plainfield	1944		Rose Brown		
F <sup>5</sup>	Marie	1927	Plainfield	1952		Bette Surks		

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Husband's Name Edgar L. Swann  
 Military No  
 Born 1911 Place Mainfield  
 Married 1935 Place Mainfield  
 Married 1 times Other Wife's Name Cassie Clemens  
 Died \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name Cassie Clemens Swann  
 Residences Mitchell + Plainfield Ind  
 Born 1917 Place Mitchell  
 Please make a new chart for other marriages.  
 Married 1 times Other husband's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Where Buried \_\_\_\_\_  
 His Father's Name Cary  
 His Mother's Maiden Name Eva Keller

Where Buried \_\_\_\_\_  
 Her Father's Name Harry Clemens  
 Her Mother's Maiden Name Leah Henson

Please include Middle Names if known. Write Day, Month, Year on Dates.

M F	CHILDREN	BORN		MARRIED			DIED	
		When	Where	When	Where	Whom	When	Where
1	Harry Edgar	1941	Mainfield	No			1987	NYC
2	Richard Carey	1942	Mainfield	1967	Ind	Patricia		
3	Milletta Rae	1945	Mainfield	No			1965	Mainfield
4	Lawetta Kay	1945	Mainfield	1965	Mainfield	Howard Robinson		
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Form A-4  
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Husband's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Military \_\_\_\_\_

Born \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Married \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Married \_\_\_\_\_ times Other Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Died \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Where Buried \_\_\_\_\_

His Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

His Mother's \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name Marie Burks

Residences 278 N. East St. Plainfield, IN

Born Aug 13, 1927 Place Plainfield, IN

Please make a new chart for other marriages.

Other husband's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Married \_\_\_\_\_ times Name \_\_\_\_\_

Died \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Where Buried \_\_\_\_\_

Her Father's Name Carey Patterson, Jr.

Her Mother's Ernestine Swann

Maiden Name Gellan

Please include Middle Names if known. Write Day, Month, Year on Dates.

M F	CHILDREN	BORN		MARRIED			DIED	
		When	Where	When	Where	Whom	When	Where
	<u>Carey Patterson Burks</u>	<u>12-15-1953</u>	<u>Indpls, IN</u>	<u>10-4-80</u>	<u>Indpls</u>	<u>Sherry R. Coif</u>		
<u>2</u>	<u>Phillip Owen Burks</u>	<u>5-15-55</u>	<u>Indpls, IN</u>	<u>3-2-88</u>	<u>Chicgo, Ill</u>	<u>Marsha Bello</u>		
<u>3</u>	<u>Eric Bee Burks</u>	<u>6-11-57</u>	<u>Indpls, IN</u>	<u>6-11-88</u>	<u>Plainfield, IN</u>	<u>Deborah Kennedy</u>		
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Husband's Name Isom Jones  
 Military Army  
 Born 12-18-1909 Place Franklin, Ky  
 Married 10-17-1949 Place Indpls  
 Married 1 times Other Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Died 3-21-89 Place Indpls, Ind  
 Where Buried Crown Hill  
 His Father's Name Jim Jones  
 His Mother's Maiden Name Winnie Jones Jaylor

Wife's Name Lorence Christine Jones  
 Residences 2705 N Keystone  
 Born 12-25-19 Place Plainfield Ind  
 Please make a new chart for other marriages.  
 Other husband's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Married 0 times  
 Died \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Where Buried \_\_\_\_\_  
 Her Father's Name Carey Patterson Swain  
 Her Mother's Maiden Name Eva May Swain  
Eva May Kellar

Please include Middle Names if known. Write Day, Month, Year on Dates.

M F	CHILDREN	BORN		MARRIED			DIED	
		When	Where	When	Where	Whom	When	Where
1	<u>Karen Denise Garrett</u>	<u>3-18-51</u>	<u>Indpls Ind</u>	<u>9-16-83</u>	<u>Indpls</u>	<u>Thomas Garrett Jr</u>		
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Husband's Name Herbert S. Swann  
 Military ARMY 1941 - 1945  
 Born 6/4/18 Place Plainfield  
 Married 7/3/44 Place Baltimore, Md.  
 Married — times Other Wife's —  
 Married — times Name —  
 Died — Place —

Wife's Name Rose M. Swann  
 Residences 269 N. Vine St. Plfd. In.  
 Born 12/11/25 Place Penna  
 Please make a new chart for other marriages.  
 Other husband's  
 Married — times Name —  
 Died — Place —

Where Buried —  
 His Father's Name Carey Pattensen Swann  
 His Mother's  
 Maiden Name Eva Mae Keller

Where Buried —  
 Her Father's Name Eddings Brown  
 Her Mother's  
 Maiden Name Sallie L. Johnson

Please include Middle Names if known. Write Day, Month, Year on Dates.

M F	CHILDREN	BORN		MARRIED			DIED	
		When	Where	When	Where	Whom	When	Where
1	Richard Spencer	3/16/45	Pittsburg Penna.	12/3/78	Washington In.	Cecilia Johnson Hyde		
2	Stephen LaRoy	6/27/52	Indpls Ind.					
3	Rosalind Jean	5/22/54	Indpls Ind.	6/30/79	Plainfield	David Cox		
4	Norman Allen	11/30/55	Indpls Ind.					
5	David Wayne	2/14/58	Indpls Ind.	3/3/77	Coatesville	Renee		
6	William Herbert	12/4/61	Indpls Ind.					
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