



## Ms Essie Mizelle Blair

June 9, 1916 - December 24, 2013

Essie Lee Robena Cleopatra Mizelle Blair, the eldest sibling of Walter Benjamin and Mary Slade Mizelle of Williamston, NC was born on June 9, 1916; the other siblings were Leroy David Mizelle, James Daniel Mizelle, Mary E. Mizelle, and an adopted sister, Rosanna Basnight. All are now deceased and the circle is complete.

Mrs. Blair graduated from the Williamston Colored School in 1933. She was the Salutatorian of her graduating class. After graduating from public school, she was influenced and financially supported by her beloved "Aunt Sabra" to attend Shaw University in Raleigh, NC. Upon graduating from Shaw University in 1937, she taught school in the small communities around Williamston until she could get a position at the school. Finally she was awarded a position at Williamston Colored School and taught there for a few years. Eventually, the renowned Mrs. Alma Duar Gaither stated to her that the school needed a good librarian and asked her to pursue a degree in Library Science. Mrs. Blair attended the School of Library Science at North Carolina College at Durham, graduated and then became the librarian of Williamston Colored School which eventually became E.J. Hayes School--she was the only librarian of the school for over 30 years. She was able to influence, in a positive way the lives of many students who matriculated through the school.

In 1970, E.J. Hayes School closed due to Integration. Mrs. Blair then proceeded to work as a Librarian at Elizabeth City State University for ten additional years. After her retirement. she continued lifelong habits of traveling

and reading and was an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She delighted in hearing from former students and how their lives were progressing.

Mrs. Blair was wed to Oscar F. Blair and they were the proud parents of one son, Wayne K. Blair. She leaves to mourn her passing her son, Wayne and his wife Joan; two granddaughters, Tonya Blair, Asia Dawn Blair; one grandson, Derrick Blair preceded her in death ; stepdaughter, Janice Blair White of Ashland, MO and a special nephew, Richard M. Mizelle, Sr.; numerous relatives that she thought the world of and an extraordinary number of her students who "loved her so". Her legacy will continue as long as relatives remember her fondly and former students continue to speak in glowing terms of her impact on their lives.

# Cemetery Details

## Beaver Hill Cemetery

Edenton, NC 27932

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pleasant Grove A.M.E. Zion Church  
121 E Carteret St  
Edenton, NC 27932

## Service

DEC 28. 1:00 PM (ET)

Pleasant Grove A.M.E. Zion Church  
121 E Carteret St  
Edenton, NC 27932

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ms Essie Mizelle Blair*

October 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM



“ *My condolences to Mrs. Blair's family. She touched my life early in my 9th grade year at Hayes High school. She let me spend my lunch hour in the library with her, where she taught me the dewey decimal system for filing her library books. Little did I know then, how invaluable this skill would be for me when I needed to find reference material later in my English and Honors classes at NCCU. She also started me reading Boys Life and the National Geographic Magazines. Fifty-four years later, I still subscribe to National Geographic! She showed me how a boy in Williamston, NC could travel the world through books. As I traveled the world's oceans doing deep ocean surveys as an oceanographer, I never forgot that she stirred my thirst for exploration through her many books! I have tried to pass what she taught me to my children. I will be forever indebted to her for her kindness and for the interest she showed in me.*

*.....Otis Smith, E.J. Hayes High Class of '63, NCCU Class of '67*

**Otis Smith** - December 28, 2013 at 11:17 PM

IC

“ To the dear Mizelle Family;  
I am truly sorry for the loss of your relative. I  
didn't know Ms. Essie but my mother said Ms.  
Essie was one of her former teachers. That  
told me this wonderful woman has had a long  
and full life because mom is now 80 years old!

From Anna Williams, Naomi Wilkerson. Irene Clifford, Francisco  
Clifford and family, Christine Gardner and family, and other  
members of the Cutler family, our sincere condolences and love.  
Cousin Irene Clifford, Williamston.



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**Irene Clifford** - December 28, 2013 at 03:32 PM

PA

“ Our prayers for comfort go out to Wayne and the Blair family. We  
love you. Paulette Wallace Matthewson

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**Paulette** - December 28, 2013 at 12:17 PM

RO

“ My condolences to the Blair family. I pray that you all are able to feel  
the comfort from God, that only He can provide during this difficult  
time. -Psalm 34:18

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**Robyn** - December 28, 2013 at 08:22 AM

DA

“ Donnie Andrews lit a candle in memory of Ms  
Essie Mizelle Blair



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**Donnie Andrews** - December 27, 2013 at 03:27 PM