

IN
LOVING
MEMORY
of



THE IDA G'

DEACON
Thomas
ALEXANDER
GARDINER

1920 - 2014



Thomas
ALEXANDER
GARDINER

SUNRISE: 9TH APRIL 1920

SUNSET: 22ND JULY 2014

AGE: 94 YEARS

SERVICE HELD AT:

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

KEW, NORTH CAICOS

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

SATURDAY, 16TH AUGUST 2014

AT 10:00 A.M.

OFFICIATING:

DEACON LEWIS WALKIN

REV. CALVERT HAMILTON

DEACON LEWELLYN HANDFIELD

INTERMENT:

KEW PUBLIC CEMETERY

KEW, NORTH CAICOS





OBITUARY

REFLECTING ON THE LIFE OF

Thomas ALEXANDER GARDINER

1920 - 2014

A Time To Be Born:

It was on April 9th 1920 that a handsome baby boy was born to the blushing parentage of Alexander and Victoria Gardiner in the peaceful settlement of Kew, North Caicos in the Turks & Caicos Islands. The proud parents named him Thomas Alexander and cherished their last of three sons and the sixth of seven children to this union. Thomas was also called Capt, Captain Thomas, TG and Old Tom.

Thomas was raised in a loving Christian home and was taught the basic principles of living early in life, exemplified by love and the essence of God, to respect himself and others. Thomas was the proud father of eleven children. The sacred bond between him and his children was far beyond defining.

A Time for Education and Employment:

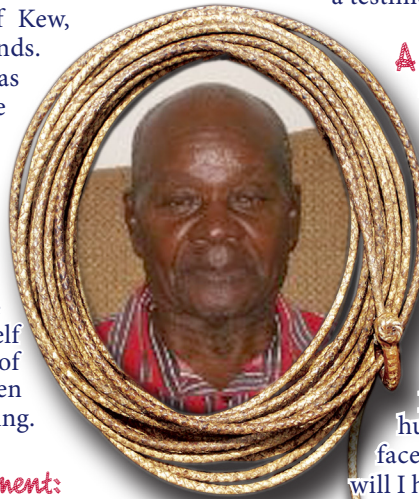
Thomas obtained his education at the Kew All Age School during the 1920's. 1920s he gained his vocational education in farming and boating. Thomas was affable, industrious and ambitious. As a young man he learned the boating trade from older relatives and friends - including his father (*Alexander*) and two older brothers Robert & Ossie (*deceased*). He was self-taught to a large degree and practiced meticulously, conscientiously and with great pride and discipline through all the various steps. This

afforded him great opportunities. With such knowledge and experience he decided to build his own boat and substantially ventured into the boating business. His talent in boating was a testimony of his success.

A Time to Serve the Lord:

Thomas was a Deacon in the Bethel Baptist Church located in Kew, North Caicos. Following the principle that if a child is trained in the way that he should go then when he is old he will not depart from it, Thomas accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. He was arrested by the Holy Spirit and realized that the call of God was on his life. He believed in II Chronicles 7:14 which states: "If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land."

Thomas attended Church service regularly and was an active member of his Church. On the fourth Sunday in every month when he served as a deacon, he ministered to Bethel congregation on passages of scriptures including Matthew 25: 1-13 (*Five Wise Men and Five Foolish Men*); Luke 15: 19-31. . . Lazarus and the Richman. His many inspirational services with the assistance of his beloved wife Annie (*deceased* 2012) - especially Sunday night services-



were memorable. His favourite choruses were ‘*Will You Be Ready When Jesus Comes?*’, ‘*When He Calls Me I Will Answer*’ and ‘*I’m Going Home On The Morning Train.*’ He remained faithful to his church until he was challenged with health issues (*leg problems*) in the early 2000s. He loved the Lord Jesus Christ and he dedicated his life; gifts; talents and service to the promotion and proclamation of the Gospel.

A Time For Love:

In 1947 the charming, handsome entrepreneur and boat captain met the magnificent late Annie Gardiner (*Nee Robinson*) from Wynns Street. She became the love of his life on 8th March 1948 until her death (2012). Thomas and Annie were joined in holy matrimony and from then onward their union blossomed and he became the father of 12 children - three of whom pre-deceased him. He seized fatherhood as a gift from God, a gift that he cherished and he became a fully invested parent. Fatherhood was a gigantic bonus to his life.

Reflection of Thomas as a Father and Grandfather:

During Thomas’ prime years of parentage, survival was a challenge for many families in those days. Farming, fishing and transporting passengers and cargo to and from the islands of Grand Turk, South Caicos and The Bahamas were what kept food on the table. Realizing that having a trade was beneficial, Thomas trained his sons and grandsons to operate and manage farming and boating. To make life and living better for the family the older children had to make sacrifices to help provide care for the younger siblings on many occasions.

In 1973, Captain Thomas’ boat, “The Ida G,” - which was named after his second daughter - encountered weather challenges returning from a Haiti voyage. Capt. Thomas was accompanied by his three eldest sons Harry, Ferdinand & Thomas (*deceased*). His wife Annie and family were faced with this devastating news for more than a week - but prayers, trust and faith in God calmed the sea and Capt. Thomas and sons sailed the “Ida G” home to Bellfield landing which was Thomas’ favourite hangout. It was a glorious welcome home with everyone in attendance and the community not only celebrated Thomas and his sons return but also the delicious yellow mangoes.

Thomas was loyal to his Church and family. His faithfulness

to the important people in his life could be seen in the way he steadfastly maintained ties with his families - particularly in the settlement of Kew, where he grew up. Thomas greatly admired his relatives and friends. He always talked about them to visitors and about how much they meant to him. The Gardiner, Forbes and Robinson families had a special place in his heart. This love was reciprocal - especially from his cousins, nieces and nephews who became his close friends after his brothers died. His lovable nephews stayed by his side until his death. For many years, Robert (G) visited him every morning before the sun rose, Fuller visited every Sunday afternoon, Maclean and brother-in-law Franklyn visited regularly. His nieces Annarine and Flexie, his brother Ossie’s sons visited on every possible occasion and his other siblings and children from abroad frequently enquired about him. He was extremely well-loved by so many people from so many walks of life. His wife Annie (*deceased*) was his pillar-stone, his children were his gems and he honoured his mother and father even after their deaths. He always talked about his deceased siblings and other relatives. Thomas’ heart was full of love for everyone.

Recreational Activities:

Thomas loved farming, fishing and boating – he loved his boats. Every piece of hard work and innovation in his home, farm or boat came at his own hands and he shared remedies with his children. It was his way of continuing to contribute to the lives and well-being of his children and grandchildren. Building boats and sewing sails was done in his leisure time. Thomas was strong in body, spirit and in commitment. He was self-made and self-reliant. From his education to his career; from his skill with every tool that could fashion wood or metal, brick or cement.

Thomas was disciplined, meticulous and carried an air of humility in all that he did. His younger children loved hiding his sewing needles and twine, as well as hiding in the sail cloth while he sewed the boat sails. His favourite place to rest was in the net-swing under the dilly tree.

A Time To Die:

In 2007, Thomas experienced his first hospitalization at Miami Kendal Hospital in Miami, Florida. He returned home feeling better but, due to a fall from his donkey (seven months prior

to being hospitalized), movements around his home were limited. In September 2013, Thomas was air-lifted and hospitalized at Cheshire Hall Medical Centre in Providenciales for a minor surgery and after three days he returned home fully recovered. Again, in December 2013, he was admitted at the Cheshire Hall Medical Centre for almost a week and then returned home for recovery under the care of his reliable daughter Hazel who patiently cared for him along with his caregivers Bridgette and Janet. In early 2014, Thomas spent less time sitting in his favourite chair by the window and more time in his bed - but he had the pleasure of having his family members and friends at his bedside.

On April 9th, 2014, Capt. Thomas celebrated his 94th birthday. It was a very happy and joyful day for his family and friends. Capt. did not boastfully announce his age as he usually did and it was noticeable that his strength was weakening. On Monday, July 21st he was not feeling well. He was given medical attention and he felt better. Thomas later told Janet, the care taker, "I am leaving you. Thanks very much for everything. I will pray for you." To our dismay on Tuesday morning, 22nd July, 2012 at 7:30 am he accepted his higher call and quietly said "goodbye" to be at home forever in heaven with his loving heavenly father where there is no more sickness and pain.

Left To Cherish His Memories:

CHILDREN: Edna Ferguson, Ida Williams, Elaine Bowe, Asseneth Gardiner (*Unettie*), Anniemae (*Nancy*) and Keno Handfield, Hazel, Vernita, Harry Ferdinard (*Fuddy*) and Addison (*Ellie*) Gardiner; adopted daughter Goldie Forbes-Gardiner.

GRANDCHILDREN: Dale Taylor, Recina Scully, Sonia Lewis, Lamond, Dwayne, Lydia and Dwight Ferguson, Quinton, Stephanie, Benson and Tamara (*Erica*) Williams, Christann Palmer, Cecil and Craig Bowe, Remardo Gariner, Alvin Hegner, Lorniqua, Tyree, Jonathan, Jamard and Sonovia Gardiner, Rayshell Campbell and Keno Hendfield Jr.

GREAT GRANDS: Kaitlyn Meadows, Shaquant & Quinton Williams Jr. , Alexander & Justice Williams, Sway and Fox Wellington Hegner, Aaron Williams, Imani Francis, Ilanna Williams, Cecil Jr., Caleb & Chase Bowe; Jannah, Jermard Jr. & Jermya Gardiner.

NIECES & NEPHEWS: Annarine and Christopher Missick, Esther Hall, Flexie and Reggie Forbes, Oslee Campbell, Christina Williams, Clainda Johnson, Mildred Outten, Ann (*Tit*) Parker, Eva (*Fannie*) Williams, Victoria Forbes, Clarabell Thompson, Lorraine, Dorinda Bain, Judy Missick, and Pollyanna Jones, Louise (*Pat*), Evelyn (*Joy*), Robert (*G*) and Clothilda, Fuller and Velma, Chesterfield, Ossie (*Dock*), McLean and Rachel, Lawson (*Dee*), Howard and Shirley, George, Floyd and Betty, Trevor and Ronald Gardiner, Glenford Outten, George, King, Daniel, Linuely and Dino Missick, Lewellyn Gardiner.

SISTERS AND BROTHERS-IN-LAW: Hazel McIntosh, Sarah and Paul Kennedy, Marilyn and Paul (*Cheese*) Beresford, Nathaniel, Franklyn, James, Wellington (*Robbie*) and Faye Robinson.

FRIENDS INCLUDE: Williams Simmons, Pastor Oleta Missick, Mrs. Jennifer and Trevor Lightbourne, Walter Simmons, Cornelius Hall, Hemaneus Outten, Mrs Alvera Taylor, Mrs Alveria Duncombe, Mrs Alvara Missick, Mrs Dorothy Gardiner (Dorry), Deacon Winston Gardiner, Deacon Llewellyn Handfield, Bro. Hudson Gardiner, Deacon Emmanuel and Annis Campbell, Deacon Alexander and Vionell Grant, Bishop Arthur Gardiner, Bro. Oneal Gardiner, Mac and Raymond Campbell, Mrs. Gwendolyn Williams. Lots of cousins, grand nieces and nephews too numerous to mention.



Order of Service

9:45 A.M.

FAMILY PROCESSION North Caicos Baptist Association Choir
“Will You Be Ready When Jesus Comes”
“When He Calls Me I Will Answer”

OPENING SENTENCES Deacon Lewis Walkin

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN “I’ll Fly Away”

Some glad morning when this life is o’er; I’ll fly away;
To a home on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away,

Chorus:

*I’ll fly away, O glory, I’ll fly away,
When I die, hallelujah by and by, I’ll fly away*

When the shadows of this life have gone, I’ll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I’ll fly away,

Just a few more weary days and then, I’ll fly away;
To a land where joys shall never end, I’ll fly away,

OPENING PRAYER Deacon Winston Gardiner

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE Psalms 91: 1- 16 Bro. James Cox

SELECTION Lewellyn Gardiner (*Nephew*)

TRIBUTE TCI Baptist Union

TRIBUTE IN SONGNicole & Fuller Gardiner Jr.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE.....I Corinthians 15: 50 – 58.....Pastor Oleta Missick

SELECTION..... Bro. Hudson Gardiner

AS THEY KNEW HIM Pastor Fuller Gardiner
McLean Gardiner (*Nephews*)

OBITUARY To Be Read In Silence

SELECTIONS..... North Caicos Baptist Association Choir
‘Too Near Home’
‘I’m Going Home On The Morning Train’

EULOGY..... Rev. Calvert Hamilton

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY.....Deacon Lewellyn Handfield

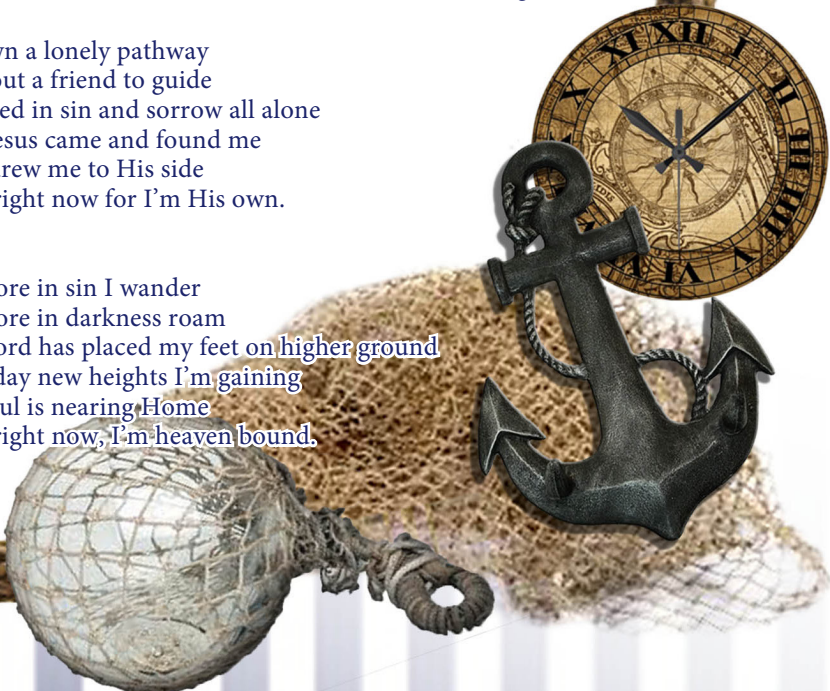
RECESSIONAL HYMN “It’s Alright Now!”

There was a time I travelled
A lonely sinful road,
Beneath a heavy burden bending low
But now all things are different,
For Jesus took my load,
It’s alright now, I’m His I know.

Chorus
It’s alright now
For I am in my Saviour’s care
It’s alright now
My Saviour hears and answers prayer
He’ll walk beside me
‘Till I climb the heavenly stair
And everything is alright now.

A down a lonely pathway
Without a friend to guide
I walked in sin and sorrow all alone
‘Till Jesus came and found me
And drew me to His side
It’s alright now for I’m His own.

No more in sin I wander
No more in darkness roam
The Lord has placed my feet on higher ground
Each day new heights I’m gaining
My soul is nearing Home
It’s alright now, I’m heaven bound.





Draveside Service

“WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN”

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace.
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.

Refrain

*When we all get to Heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!*

While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when travelling days are over,
Not a shadow, not a sigh.

Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving every day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay.

Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open;
We shall tread the streets of gold.

“SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER?”

Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will talk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day.

Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.

At the smiling of the river,
Mirror of the Savior's face,
Saints, whom death will never sever,
Lift their songs of saving grace.

Soon we'll reach the silver river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace

“GLAD REUNION DAY”

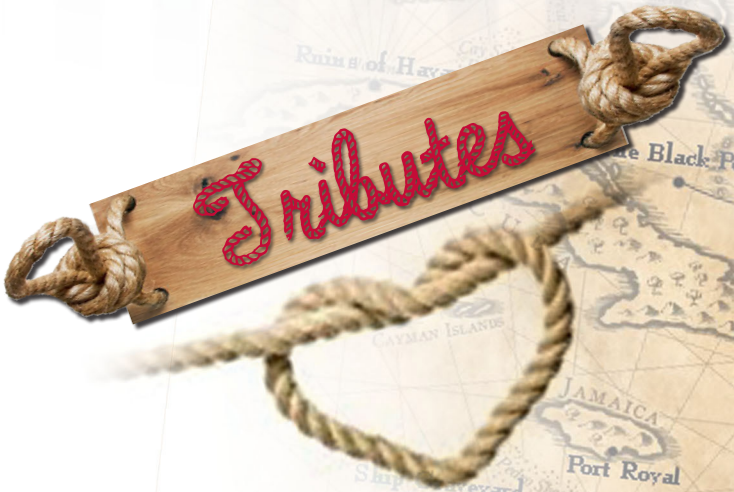
There will be a happy meeting in heaven I know,
When we see the many loved ones we've known here below,
Gather on the blessed hill-tops with hearts all aglow.
That will be a glad reunion day.

Chorus:

*Glad day, a wonderful day,
Glad day, a glorious day
There with all the holy angels and loved ones to stay,
That will be a glad reunion day.*

There within the holy city we'll sing and rejoice,
Praising Christ the blessed Saviour with heart and with voice
Tell him how we came to love Him and make Him our choice.
That will be a glad reunion day.

When we live a million years in that wonderful place,
Basking in the love of Jesus, beholding His face.
It will seem but just a moment of praising His grace.
That will be a glad reunion day.



Tributes



Throughout the years you've always been
A wonderful man to me
When I was small you took the time to
Bounce me on your knee
As I grew older, you were there
I only had to call
I knew that I could count on you
You'd never let me fall
So many hard times in my life
You've helped to get me through
I'm so glad God gave me
A Grandfather as special as you.

Your grandson Keno Jr.

.....

A special dad is hard to find,
You dad I'm keeping in my mind,
I wished you could have stayed forever,
But I will never forget you oh not ever.

If dreams weren't dreams and dreams came true,
I wouldn't be here I'd be with you.
Distance is one thing that keeps us apart,
But dad you will always remain in my heart.

A special smile, a special face, a special someone I can't replace,
I love you and I always will,
You filled a space that no one will ever replace.

Your Baby Daughter ~ Nita

When we think of our Uncle Thomas.
We think of a person very gracious and sweet!

He was always a pleasure to be around!
And brought laughter to his side of town!

From everyone that's had a chance to meet him.
He was special! We'll never forget him!

He was very humble, gracious and kind!
People like him are special! And hard to find!

The creations and many things he made.
Were wonderful works of his hands displayed!

His service to the country and fellow man.
Is a beautiful gift that few understand!

Over the years, he's brought joy to our hearts!
We've all loved him from the very start!

Thank you Lord! For blessing us from above.
For UNCLE and his heart filled with love.

We know now he's in a better place.
Filled with God's presence and his grace.

Our lives have been blessed to have him with us!
We'll miss him! He sure has blessed us!

To UNCLE we give our hearts filled with cheer!
We love you very much and wish you were here!

Your Loving Nieces & Nephews



What we would give if we could say
Hello Par, in the same old way
To hear your voice and see your smile
To sit with you and chat a while.

We do not need a special day to bring you to our minds.
The days we do not think of you are very hard to find.
Each morning when we awake we know that you are gone.
And no one knows the heartache as we try to carry on.

Our hearts still ache with sadness and secret tears still flow.
What it meant to lose you no one will ever know.
Our thoughts are always with you, your place no one can fill.
In life we loved you dearly; in death we love you still.
There will always be a heartache, and often a silent tear.
But always a precious memory of the days when you were here.

If tears would make a staircase, and heartaches make a lane,
We would walk the path to heaven and bring you home again.
We hold you close within our hearts; and there you will remain,
To walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again.

The rolling stream of life rolls on.
But still the vacant chair
Recalls the love, the voice, the smile
Of the one who once sat there.

Par dear, as long as life and memory last;
We shall remember thee.

REST IN PEACE DEAR PAR!

Your Loving Children
Edna, Ida, Elaine, Unettie, Harry, Fuddy,
Ellie, Nancy, Hazel & Vernita

DEACON
James
ALEXANDER
GARDINER
1920 - 2014



The Lord saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be,
So He put his arms around you
And whispered "Come with me,"
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,
Your beautiful smile at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove
He always takes the best.
It's lonesome here without you,
We miss you so each day.
Our lives just aren't the same
Ever since you went away.
When days are sad and lonely
And everything goes wrong,
We hear you gently whisper,
"Cheer up and carry on."

Each time we see your picture,
You seem to smile and say,
"Don't cry, I'm in God's keeping,
We'll meet again someday."

*Your Loving Grands, Great Grands
& Great-Great Grands*





Pall Bearers

Floyd Gardiner	Christopher Missick Jr.
Howard Gardiner	Davis Gardiner
Jermard Gardiner	Jonathan Gardiner
Valden Gardiner	Trevor Gardiner
Jonathon Gardiner	Robert Gardiner
Cornelius Hall	Franklyn Robinson

Honorary Pall Bearers

Harry Gardiner	Addison Gardiner
Dale Taylor	Ferdinand Gardiner
Alvin Hegner	Tyree Gardiner
Quinton Williams	Remardo Gardiner

Usherettes

Alveria Duncombe Melissa Cox

Message of Gratitude

The family of the late Deacon Thomas Gardiner, wishes to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and church families around the world for your love and support shown to us during the loss of our loved one.

Your thoughtful prayers; kind words of inspiration; telephone calls and for just being there for the children is much appreciated.

To the medical staff of the Kew Clinic, Dr. Adolphus Oguche, Nurses Sandra McIntosh, Doreen Williams and Shanigue Brown, his beloved nieces and nephews who visited him constantly, brothers and sisters from the Baptist churches, our neighbours-especially Little Allanna, we say thank you for the care that you have demonstrated to our father over the years - for this we are indeed grateful and pray that God will strengthen you daily.



SERVICE RENDERED BY:

A&S Funeral Services 

"Serving The Entire Turks & Caicos Islands"

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Printed by: Wazz Printing • (649)243-4306