



May Rosaline Smith, who was better known by everyone as Momma May, was born in Tucker's Town, Bermuda, the daughter of Geneva and Walter Smith and younger sister to Evelyn. She was among the last original residents of Tucker's Town to leave when the community was infamously relocated to the Devil's Hole area. She said she remembered playing by herself because everyone else had moved already. She also remembered when the soldiers came and they had to move. Unlike the rest of the community however, she moved back to Tucker's Town to 'Casa del Cerro' where she was employed and lived for almost thirty more years certainly making her the last member of the original community to leave when she moved to Cottage Hill, Crawl in 1981.

The community was close-knit and like the other young children Momma May received her education at Talbot's School. She had a good relationship with her mother and from her learned how to cook, sew and knit. She in turn was the mother of two sons and five daughters: Hilgrove, Phillip, Janice, Marion, Fay, Burnette and Mavis. She had an especially close relationship with her niece Pearl Taylor who was not much younger than she was. The family remembers that she rode a bicycle and at times would put a stick across the front and tow either Pearl or Fay either to or from Tucker's Town and their home at Oleander Circle, Devil's Hole.

Momma May married Thomas Smith and they lived at Oleander Circle and for a time on Somersall Road. Both were employed, as were most of the Devil's Hole residents, in the hotel, golf club or homes in Tucker's Town. Momma May began her employment at Harrington House but soon accepted employment by the Bertles family at 'Casa del Cerro' in Tucker's Town, not far from her actual birthplace. She was their Housekeeper and Cook and was organized and efficient. As a cook, she often planned menus for up to a month and with the budget she was given was able to determine the quantities and supplies needed to have the



home fully stocked, and all meals prepared and served with the efficiency of a first-class restaurant. As the housekeeper, the rooms were serviced and laundry was always done in a timely manner. Her scheduling of the home maintenance and groundskeepers ensured that the building and grounds were well maintained and manicured. She set high standards and expected others around her to do the same.

Momma May was a strong maternal presence and her name will live on as three of her granddaughters and a grandson have May as part of their names. When she spoke to her grandchildren she did not often have to speak twice. When she did, she also knew how to use her shoe! Each new grandchild had their turn sleeping in the junior bed in her bedroom and all begged to lick the mixing spoon after she made anything! She taught her grandchildren the importance of spirituality in their lives and she made sure they were in Marsden Methodist Church Sunday School every Sunday morning and worshipping in St. Phillips every Sunday afternoon. In 1966 Momma May took Bible Studies with Aunt Joan Page. She was eventually baptized and joined and became a faithful member of the St. George Seventh-day Adventist Church. 'Until Then' was her favorite hymn and John 3:16 was her favorite text. Blue was her favorite color. Many of her grandchildren still hold her spiritual values and continue looking forward to the coming of their Saviour.

When 'Casa del Cerro' was sold in 1981, Momma May moved to Cottage Hill, Crawl with her daughter Burnette and her family and she transferred her church membership to the Midland Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was very active in the Community Services department and as an Usher and Deaconess and she worked tirelessly cleaning the church and tending the church garden. She was even in the Church Choir. Sending cards became her personal ministry. She remembered everyone's birthdays and anniversaries and you could depend on receiving a card from her.

Momma May loved life. Among the lessons that she said she learned in



life was to be obedient, and listen to parents and teachers. She had a good laugh and a sense of humor and this was seen even into her senior years. The family remembers that she enjoyed listening to Del Delker albums, cutting clippings from the newspaper, knitting, reading, and gardening. She ate bread with jam after her dinner and many of her grandchildren still like marmalade because of her.

For the last few years Momma May was lovingly looked after by her daughter Fay and son-in-law Michael and she became a resident at Lorraine's Rest Home in Warwick. Her granddaughter Pauline, while working during the evening shift, was the last family member to see her alive on Sunday night September 11. She fed, bathed and dressed her and Momma May called her for her kiss before she left the room. Momma May was found the next morning in a non-responsive state and did not regain consciousness.

In our conversations we realized that no one had a bad experience or a negative thing to say about Momma May. She was a loving woman, a spiritual giant, and the link that held our family together. We will always miss her and will always treasure our many memories that we have of her in our lives. Her nephew Bernard Smith gave her a quote that she really liked and that she shared with some family members, "Other things may change us but we start and end with family".

Momma May is survived by her son: Hilgrove Smith and daughter: Fay Whalley; daughter-in-law: Thelma Joell; sons-in-law: Michael Whalley and Burland Hill; grandchildren: Shirley Nosakhere-Fountain, Natalie Talbot, Alex Smith, Clement Smith, Monroe Smith, Roslyn Amory, Pauline DeShield, Edwin Smith, Charles Watson, Ronald Smith, Eric Smith, Isabell Jervis, Shawn Smith, Kim Williams, Paul Douglas, Anthony Fowler; 20 great-grandchildren; nieces: Pearl Taylor, Rowena Riley, Audrey Hayward, Roseclaire McGowan, Verna Perinchief; nephews: Cyril 'Humphrey' Smith and Hughie Smith; special friends: Willa Tucker, Alfred Smith, John Thompson, the Midland Heights SDA Church family and numerous other relatives and friends.

She was predeceased by her children: Philip Smith, Janice Smith, Marion Smith, Burnette Hill and Mavis Douglas.



A FALLEN LIMB

A limb has fallen from the family tree.
I keep hearing a voice that says
"Grieve not for me, Remember the best times,
the laughter, the songs
the good life I lived while I was still strong.

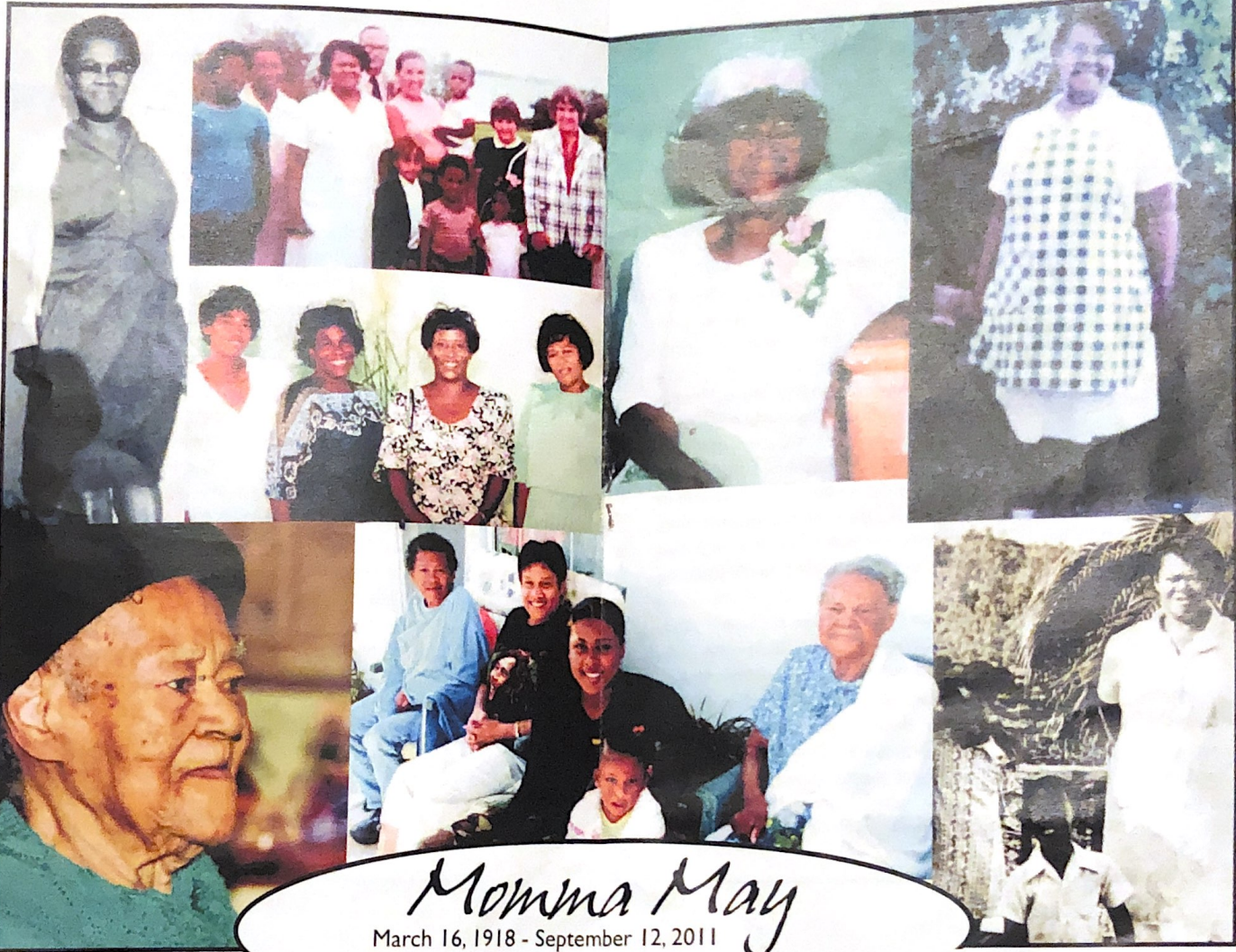
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.

My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest,
remembering all how I truly was blessed.

Continue traditions, no matter how small.
Go on with your life,
don't just stare at the wall.

I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin,
until the day comes we're ...
TOGETHER AGAIN!"





Momma May

March 16, 1918 - September 12, 2011