

**In Memory of
Muriel Braxton Wilson
AAGHSC Co-Founder and Former President**

Born in Chicago, February 26, 1922, the child of Dr. Fred Braxton and Mrs. Hattie Henley Braxton, Muriel attended Forrestville and Willard Elementary Schools and Parker High School. Following, she graduated from the School of the Art Institute. She received a Master's Degree in Visual Education from the Institute of Technology and a second Master's in U.S. History from Roosevelt University. Muriel's Chicago Public School teaching career ranged from Altgeld Gardens, Englewood High, South Shore and Senn High.

Because of her love for family and her passion for heritage, in 1979, Muriel and Dr. Adeline Harris founded the Afro-American Genealogical Society of Chicago (AAGHSC). The DuSable Museum of African American History hosted the initial meetings. Eventually outgrowing this meeting space, the Society moved several times and has met for the past several years at the City of Chicago's Atlas Senior Center.

Married to Lt. Col. Hugh Floyd Wilson, (deceased), she and her husband are the parents of three sons, Hugh Floyd Wilson, Jr., PhD., Chair of the English Department at Grambling University, Louisiana, Frederic Henley Wilson, PhD., Associate Director, United States Geological Survey Department, Anchorage, Alaska and Arthur Jewell Wilson, PhD., Economics Department George Washington University, Washington, D.C. An active member of St Paul and the Redeemer Church, Muriel is grandmother to Nathaniel, Matthew, Sarah, Jessica, James and Benjamin. She considered herself blessed indeed.

Muriel chaired the Church Project whose mission is to identify early Illinois African American churches. Throughout the years, Muriel led, supported and participated in AAGHSC's many endeavors.

Genealogical research remained her passion. Muriel's latest adventure was to find out how her great-grandfather, identified on the 1850 Hannibal Missouri Census as a "free man of color," acquired his freedom. Perhaps one of her descendents will continue her quest.

Muriel Braxton Wilson passed away on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 in Chicago, Illinois. We will all miss her.

