

WWI Snapshot: Cpl. Doctor Pearson Murphy, 1894-1967

BY AMY ECKARD
AND NORMA ECKARD
GUEST COLUMNISTS

Doctor Pearson Murphy's son gained fame as one of the founders of the Black Voters League in Red Bank, N.J. His daughter-in-law was also a leader in the community. In addition, his son served in WWII.

Doctor Pearson Murphy was a resident of Bolivia when he was called to duty in WWI. He had recently married Maggie Galloway on May 20, 1918.

Cpl. Murphy served from Aug. 2, 1918, until Dec. 19, 1918, in the 349th Labor Battalion.

After the war, he returned home to Brunswick County. At least two sons were born there. The family eventually moved to Kings, New York City.

His son, Curtis, achieved fame as one of the founders of the Black Voters League of Red Bank, N.J., among other accomplishments.

Curtis' wife, Ernestine Elois Norris Murphy, was also a community leader. Their obituaries are shown below. Burial information and the obituaries were copied into findagrave: Curtis and Ernestine.

Doctor Murphy passed away on Jan. 4, 1967. He was buried in Long Island National Cemetery, presumably with military honors. No photo of his grave site is available.

[Source: *Asbury Park Press (Asbury, N.J.), July 11, 1995, p16.*]

Curtis Murphy obituary

Curtis Q. Murphy, 75, a resident here and former Red Bank resident, died Saturday at Riverview Medical Center, Red Bank. Mr. Murphy was a senior electronics engineer at Fort Monmouth until his retirement, and he was an Army veteran of World War II. He

was a graduate of Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn, and received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from City College of New York, and his master's degree in electrical engineering from Rutgers University.

Mr. Murphy was one of several founders of the Black Voters League, Red Bank. The league's goals were to acquaint local politicians with the needs of the black community and to elect favorable candidates, he said in a 1983 interview in *Asbury Park Press*. The league conducts door-to-door voter registration campaigns and uses the churches as forums for voter education, he said.

Mr. Murphy was a member of the Red Bank Board of Education for 14 years, the Red Bank Parks and Recreation Commission, the Greater Red Bank National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Tinton Falls Board of Adjustment, the Eatontown Parents Teachers Association, and the Bates Lodge 220 of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World. He was born in Bolivia, lived in Red Bank for more than 30 years and moved to Tinton Falls in 1979.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Ernestine; two daughters, Rita Johnson, New York, and Marsha Longino, Ohio; and three grandsons. Childs Funeral Home, Red Bank, is in charge of arrangements.

Ernestine Elois Norris Murphy

Ernestine Elois Norris Murphy of Tinton Falls died Friday, April 13. She was the daughter of Eva and Riddick Norris and grew up and attended school in Brooklyn, N.Y. Ernestine was married to Curtis Q. Murphy. To this union, two daughters were born. In the 1950s, Ernestine moved

to Eatontown and later to Red Bank. At an early age, Ernestine was baptized at the Brown Memorial Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. When she moved to New Jersey, she became a Watch Care member of the Shrewsbury Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church under the ministry of the Rev. Charles Bourne. She sang with the A.M.E. Choir and served as a Girl Scout leader, sponsored by the church. Ernestine helped to organize and served with the Asbury Park Cotillion for many years. She worked as a volunteer librarian on a book mobile that served migrant workers. Dr. King, superintendent of the Red Bank School System, appointed her as a social worker for the Red Bank schools. Ernestine also served as a Head Start assistant in the Red Bank school, a nurse's aide at the Red Bank Convalescent Nursing Home, and was a member of the PTA and the Greater Red Bank NAACP.

She is survived by her two daughters, Rita and Marsha; her brother, William Norris; three grandchildren, Julian, John, and Quentin; a great-grandchild, Erin; and a host of relatives and friends.

Her viewing will be from 10 a.m. Saturday until her service at noon at Shrewsbury A.M.E. Zion Church, 285 Shrewsbury Ave., Red Bank. Interment will be at Monmouth Memorial Park, Tinton Falls. Childs Funeral Home, Red Bank, is in charge of arrangement.

[Source: *Asbury Park Press (Asbury, N.J.), April 19, 2007, p 22.*]

If you would like to help honor Murphy or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email the Friends of Ft. Caswell Rifle Range at ftcaswellriferange@gmail.com or go to caswellriferange.com.

We have been hard at work with Daniel Norris

Curtis Murphy, led Black Voters League

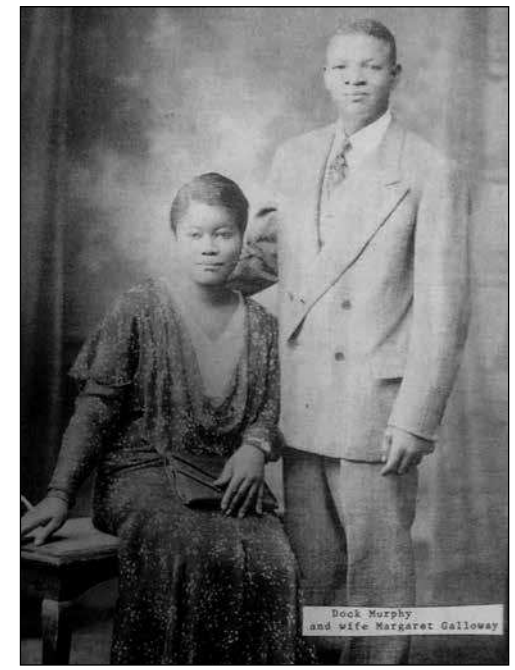
TINTON FALLS — Curtis Q. Murphy, 75, a resident here and former Red Bank resident, died Saturday at Riverview Medical Center, Red Bank. Mr. Murphy was a senior electronics engineer at Fort Monmouth until his retirement, and he was an Army veteran of World War II. He was a graduate of Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn, and received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from City College of New York, and his master's degree in electrical engineering from Rutgers University.

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Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Ernestine; two daughters, Rita Johnson, New York, and Marsha Longino, Ohio; and three grandsons. Childs Funeral Home, Red Bank, is in charge of arrangements.

Obit for son Curtis Murphy.



Doctor Murphy and wife Maggie.

Murphy, Doctor P	4,235,114	*White *Colored, 1
(Surname)	(Christian name)	(Army serial number)
R 1	Bolivia	NORTH CAROLINA
(Street and house number)	(Town or city)	(County) (State)
*Inducted at	Brunswick Co N C	Aug 2/18
Place of birth:	Hallsboro N C	Age or date of birth: Aug 12-1894
Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers:	Co D 349 Labor Bn to dish	
Grades, with date of appointment:	Corp Nov 1/18	
Engagements:		
Wounds or other injuries received in action:	None.	
Served overseas from †	None	to †
Honorably discharged on demobilization	Dec 19/18	19
In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported	0	per cent disabled.
Remarks:		
Form No. 724-1, A. G. O.	* Strike out words not applicable. † Dates of departure from and arrival in the U. S.	

Photos contributed

NC Service Card for Cpl. Doctor Pearson Murphy.

from SlapDash Publishing on the book we plan to offer this year, September 2020, "Brunswick County in the Great War: Preserving the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the Legacies of the Men and Women Who Served."

The book covers the history and future preservation of the rifle range, and in-

cludes profiles and snapshots of all of the courageous men and women from Brunswick County who served in WWI and have been featured on the website and in the Beacon for nearly three years. If you can, please help.

Included in the book is the list of Brunswick County WWI veterans. Alongside each name is the name of

the generous supporter who honored the veteran with a donation of any amount.

As the thermometer on the right side of the website shows, 574 veterans have been honored, which leaves 44 with no recognition.

Please consider donating any amount to honor the remaining 144 Brunswick County WWI veterans.