

# Dr. King's Brother Drowns in Atlanta Home Pool

**Rev. A. D. Williams King 38,  
Was Also Rights Leader**

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ATLANTA, July 21 — The Rev. A. D. Williams King, younger brother of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., drowned today in a recently installed swimming pool. He was 38 years old.

The body was discovered in the pool about 10 A.M. by Mr. King's oldest son; A. D. Williams King Jr., 16. After performing an autopsy, B. L. Neikirk, medical examiner, said there was no evidence of a crime. The exact cause of death will not be announced until laboratory reports are completed in six or seven days.

"I just looks like on of those freak things," said the Rev. Andrew J. Young, executive vice president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the civil rights organization of which Mr. King was a board member and which his brother had founded.

The minister was last seen alive at 1 A.M. by his recently married 18-year-old daughter, Mrs. Alveda Ellis, and her husband.

He then left them, presumably to retire for the evening, the police reported, but an hour and a half later a next door neighbor's son, David Broome, 16, reported hearing some splashing followed by the sound of coughing coming from the almost square, rubber-lined pool that was installed behind the King home two weeks ago. Then it stopped.

Mr. King is survived by his widow, Naomi; five children—Alveta, 18; A. D. Williams Jr.; Garrick, 15; Darlene, 13, and Vernon, 9—his father, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Sr., his mother, Alberta Williams, and a sister, Mrs. Isaac N. Farris of Atlanta.

The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, will lead a memorial service for Mr. King at 3:30 P.M. tomorrow at Plaza Park in downtown Atlanta. Mr. King had planned to meet in the park with poor people living in Atlanta housing projects.

The body was released by the medical examiner's office to Hanley's Funeral Home on Bell Street in Atlanta. The funeral arrangements were incomplete.

## A Rights Activist

By THOMAS A. JOHNSON

Although Alfred Daniel Williams King lived in the shadow of his older brother, he was an



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The Rev. A. D. Williams King

activist in his own right, a leader of men and a movement.

Like his brother, he had been jailed and threatened and his house had been bombed by whites. He had been ridiculed by some young Negroes for his strong advocacy of nonviolence.

Mr. King turned to Atlanta, his birthplace, 14 months ago after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to serve co-pastor of the 4,500-member Ebenezer Baptist Church with his aging father. This was a co-pastorate his brother had held.

Mr. King gained national prominence during the civil rights demonstrations in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963 during a series of bombings of Negro homes and churches. He often called that city "Bombingham." His own home was blasted by a dynamite charge in May, 1963.

Weeks later, after a blast at the home of a Negro lawyer,

Arthur Shores, Mr. King stood on top of a parked car and tried to keep 2,000 Negroes from charging a line of armed white policemen.

### 'Then Kill me'

A news report quoted Mr. King as shouting:

"My friends, we have had enough problems tonight. If you're going to kill someone, then kill me. The [the police] are standing here with their pistols and other magic power. We cannot beat them, but we are going to win this town regardless of what they do. Stand up for your rights, but with nonviolence."

A good-humored, personable man, Mr. King was one of several youthful Negroes—some of them clergymen—who worked in the background of the Southern Christian Leadership Con-

## Medical Examiner Reports No Evidence of a Crime

ference's demonstrations.

Associates described him yesterday as "a detail man," "a guy you always depended on" and "the man you knew would do anything to help his brother and the cause."

Said one associate, "Not being in the limelight never seemed to affect him but because he stayed in the background, many people never knew that he was deeply involved, too."

### Wounded by Stones

He moved from Birmingham in 1965 to Louisville, Ky., where he was pastor of the Zion Baptist Church, and continued his activist role. He was the main force behind a successful fight by Negroes in Louisville for an open-housing ordinance last year.

During demonstrations in support of the ordinance in

April of 1967, Mr. King was wounded by stones thrown by jeering whites who yelled, "Nigger, nigger, nigger."

Seven months later, Mr. King served four days in jail in Birmingham with Dr. King, Mr. Abernathy and the Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker after the Supreme Court upheld their conviction for contempt of a court injunction against the rights demonstrations in that city in 1963.

There was much speculation last year that Mr. King would take over S.C.L.C. leadership after the death of his brother. He made no attempt to do so.

The future minister was born in Atlanta on July 30, 1930. He was a graduate of the Palmer Institute in Fedalia, N. C., and gained a bachelor's degree at Morehouse College in Atlanta. He took seminary courses at the Interdenominational Theological Center at Atlanta University.

Mr. King was active in the Poor People's Campaign at Resurrection City in Washington, D. C., in 1968 and he had marched with demonstrating hospital workers recently in Charleston, S. C. In both he remained largely in the background.

Said Mr. Abernathy: "He kept the enemies off my tail. He kept everyone in line."