

NYTimes JUL 1 1974
Shy Mrs. King Was Devoted to Her Grandchildren

ATLANTA, June 30 (AP)—Mrs. Martin Luther King Sr., who was mortally wounded today in the same church where her son, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was mourned six years ago, was a quiet, devout woman who kept out of the limelight.

The 70-year-old Mrs. King, the former Alberta Christine Williams, never gave interviews during the years when her son preached his nonviolent doctrines and led civil rights marches.

A shy person, she simply bowed her head and nodded when Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia spoke to her after he had put a wreath on her son's tomb in 1969.

She was no stranger to tragedy. Less than 16 months after

Dr. King was slain, her second and last son, the Rev. A. D. Williams King, drowned in the swimming pool at his home in Atlanta.

Devoted to Grandchildren

Her sons left nine grandchildren and she and "Daddy King" devoted themselves to them. Mr. King, who often preaches at Ebenezer, did not deliver the sermon today. He was entering the church when his wife was shot.

"We live for the grandchildren," she and her husband often said. Dr. King left four children: Yolanda, who attends Smith College, Martin Luther King 3d, Dexter and Bernice. Dr. King's brother had five children, two of whom the elder Kings were putting through

college. There is one great-grandchild.

Mrs. King was the daughter of a Baptist minister, the late Rev. A. D. Williams. Her husband was the son of a sharecropper. They were married in Atlanta nearly 50 years ago, and their three children were born in a white frame house near Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Teaches Education

She had only one living child, Christine, who is married to Isaac Farris of Atlanta. Mrs. Farris is an assistant professor of education at Spelman College.

More than 1,000 persons gathered here in December, 1970, to honor the elder Kings at a dinner marking Mr. King's 70th birthday "Mama King"

often dabbed her eyes while the robust Mr. King vacillated between laughter and quiet moments of humility while friends and celebrities filed across the podium to pay tribute.

Mrs. King never made speeches, but her daughter-in-law, Coretta Scott King, spoke for her.

"Mama and Daddy King represent the best in manhood and womanhood, the best in a marriage, the kind of people we are trying to become," said the widow of the younger son.

"What we have achieved in the human struggle for freedom, we couldn't have done without the help of these two people who happen to be my parents also."