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### Coleman Pearson

LISMAN, Ala. -- Services for Coleman Pearson, 112, of Alabama were held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 9, 2004, in the Mt. Mariah Baptist Church in Alabama with the Rev. Cleo McGraw and the Rev. Charles Daily officiating.

Mr. Coleman died Saturday, April 3, at the Willow Trace Nursing Center.

Born July 16, 1891, in Melvin, Ala., at an early age he joined the Mt. Mariah Baptist Church where he served as "second coaster" of the choir. Family members recalled how his voice would resonate throughout the church on such classic Christian hymns as "Have You Got Good Religion?"

At the age of 14, he began carrying the U.S. mail by horseback between post offices at Melvin and West Butler, Ala. He joked that his job with the "Pony Express" ended when automobiles came into that part of the country.

Mr. Coleman was preceded in death by his wife, Verma Pearson; three children, Annette Reed of Flint, Mich., Raymond "Bill" Pearson of Milwaukee, Wis. and Lorin Reed of Melvin, Ala., and two sisters, Mattie J. Pearson and Eula Mae Pearson.

Survivors include a number of children and their spouses, including Abbie Harbin of Trinity, Thomas "T.C." Pearson, Jeanette and C.J. Harris, Woodrow Pearson of Commerce, Mo., Samuel and Debbie Pearson of Humington, Mass., Annie Ruth Hunter of Cleveland, Ohio, Polly Pearson of Miami, Fla., Louise and Vert McGrew of Mobile, Ala., Claras and Essie Pearson, Maxie and Catherine Pearson, James Pearson and Elmer Pearson; one brother, Tolman Pearson; and 280 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, including grandson the Rev. Cornelius Harbin

of Trinity; and a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Pallbearers were his grandsons.

Hayden and Butler Funeral Home of Lisman, Ala. directed the arrangements.