

OBITUARIES

Wilson Hall, Rosewood Massacre Survivor

March 20, 1998

HILLIARD - — Wilson Hall, one of fewer than 10 survivors of the 1923 massacre that wiped out the town of Rosewood, has died. He was 82.

Mr. Hall, who lived in the town of Hilliard north of Jacksonville, died early Saturday from complications of a stroke he had in August, his wife, Stephanie Hall, said on Tuesday.

Mrs. Hall said there are now seven survivors of the massacre that erased the all-black settlement near the Gulf coast from the map.

Mr. Hall was one of nine survivors who won a \$2 million settlement from the state in 1995. He received \$150,000.

The money wasn't that important to her husband, said Mrs. Hall. He wanted the truth known about Rosewood, she said. "He was robbed of his heritage."

The attack happened when an angry mob descended on the town on New Year's Day 1923, looking for a man accused of assaulting a white woman from a neighboring town. An investigation later determined she had in fact been beaten by her white lover.

The mob murdered residents and burned nearly every building to the ground.

"He was a little boy, and he was run from his home, he was run into the swamps," Mrs. Hall said of her husband, who was 8 when the attack occurred. "He had to leave at night all of a sudden."

Mr. Hall was retired from operating a Hilliard night club. He also worked 37 years for a television production company. He never returned to the little town north of Tampa.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Hall is survived by two sisters, Margie Hall Johnson of Hilliard and Mary Hall Daniels of Jacksonville, and a son, Reginald Hall, Sr. of Hilliard.