

Samuel Medoe Danzy, MD

Samuel Danzy was the first of eleven children born to George and Sylvia Danzy. When his father offered him a plot of land to farm, Samuel declined and shortly afterwards, left the comforts of what was then a small town, Deepstep, and arrived in Nashville, Tennessee where he enrolled in medical school at Meharry Medical College. While there, he met his future wife and in 1912, Samuel, affectionately called "Uncle Bud" by his nephews and nieces, received his medical degree.

On January 1, 1914, he married Almera Williams, a student at Fisk University and from a well-known family in Williamson County. Shortly afterwards, the couple returned to Deepstep where Dr. Danzy served as president of a newly created school, the Washington Institute, known as "The College" of the Second Washington Baptist Association. This institution was recognized for the education of blacks in language arts, math and science from the areas. They welcomed their only child, Malissa, on September 26, 1914 in Deepstep.

The first migration of family from Georgia may be attributed to Samuel leaving his home town when in 1915, he moved his family to Chicago. It is not known if living in Washington County, Georgia dampened their outlook for a better life or they decided to escape the racism and lack of opportunities of the deep south . Upon arrival in Chicago, it is reported that one job he applied for was at the US Postal Service. His test scoring was the highest among other applicants for the position. However, he declined the offer as he realized the working environment was extremely dirty and unhealthy. He would later find a position with Argo Factory in Summit, Illinois where undoubtedly, his medical education would prove to be valuable.

Throughout his life, Samuel, was an integral part of the family. He often returned to his home for visits and to stay in touch with family members. Uncle Bud was a staunch promoter in educating family as it would allow individuals to prosper. On October 26, 1959, Samuel passed away in Chicago and is buried at Burr Oak Cemetery.