

**Elbert J. Black**  
*(Glendale Trolley/Bus Driver)*  
[By Clarence Crocker](#)

Elbert J. Black, born and reared in [Glendale](#), was the son of Henry and Sallie Smith Black. Elbert married Ila Brown, also a [Glendale](#) native, the daughter of Albert and Maggie Brown. Albert Brown was a long time [Glendale Mills](#) Card Room Supervisor. For family story click on [Albert Brown Family](#).

Elbert was a Duke Power [trolley](#) conductor before becoming a Duke bus driver which he drove until his death. ([More about the trolley.](#))

The Federal Census was recorded by the Enumerator as he understood the registrant who oft times could not read or write which lead to many errors in ages, dates and names. I have tried to copy as recorded, where errors occur, I apologize. To read markers of [Glendale](#) graves click [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).

The 1920 Spartanburg/Glendale census shows that Elbert and Ila were living with her father and mother. Both were listed at 22 years of age and Elbert was shown as a Transfer Truck driver. No children.

The 1940 Spartanburg/Glendale Census listed the household as;

Elbert J. Black 46, husband/bus driver	Wife; Ila 42
Children; Elmer 24, cafe waiter	Margaret 11

Excerpts from the obituary of Elbert J. Black published July 8, 1948;

“Elbert J. Black, 54, died at the Spartanburg General Hospital early Wednesday morning following a brief illness. He had been connected with the Duke Power bus division for the past 23 years.

Survivors were; his wife, Ila Black; one son, James E. Black; one daughter, Miss Margaret Black; one sister, Mrs. Mary Ellen Royal of Smithfield, N. C. Funeral services to be held at the [Glendale Baptist Church](#) with interment following in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).”

Ila Dean Brown Black died at the age of 58, November 19, 1953 and was buried in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#);

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James Elmer Black married Alice Shropshire and was a Duke Power Bus Driver for many years.

No knowledge of any children.

James E. Black died at the age of 81, December, 1996

Alice Shropshire Black remarried.

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Margaret Black married Calvin Dupree Seals who owned and operated an electrical/air and heating service. Margaret was a telephone operator at Spartanburg General Hospital for a number of years.

They had no children.

Margaret Black Seals died at the age of 61, December, 1990

Calvin Dupree Seals married Lexie Jackson.

Lexie Jackson Seals died at age of 74, August, 2001

Calvin Dupree Seals died at the age of 75, December, 2006

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**The Family of James Henry and Sallie Smith Black, parents of Elbert J. Black;**

**The 1880** Spartanburg/Glendale census shows Henry Black, 18 years of age, single and a wagon driver for [Glendale Mills](#). All materials to and from the mill was moved by wagons until about 1900.

**The 1900** Spartanburg/Glendale census listed the household as;

Sallie Black 30, born January, 1870/head of household, divorced, weaver in [Glendale mills](#).

Children; Mary 13, born April, 1887/spinner Oscar 2, born July, 1897

Excerpts from the brief obituary of Sallie Smith Black published August 1, 1919;

“Sallie Black, 54, died at her home in [Glendale](#) Wednesday, July 30, 1919. She was the daughter of Ella Smith. Interment will be in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#)”

Excerpts from the obituary of James Henry Black published Thursday, October 26, 1922;

“James Henry Black, former resident of [Glendale](#) of this county who died Tuesday in Columbia following a long illness, will be buried this afternoon at 4 PM in the [Glendale Cemetery](#). Mr. Black is survived by three children, Mrs. Mary Black, H.O. Black and J. E. Black, all of Spartanburg.”

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**H. Oscar Black.**

No records other than obituary found.

Excerpts from the obituary of H. Oscar Black published December 17, 1946;

“H. Oscar Black, son of James Henry and Sallie Smith Black, born July 5, 1896, died Sunday night at the age of 50, at the home of his nephew W.R. Black, Chesnee. He was a

S.C. PVC 15 Depot. Brig. veteran of WW1, serving with the Infantry overseas for nine months.

Services to be held at the [Glendale Wesleyan Methodist Church](#) with interment following in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#).

Survivors were; one sister, Mrs. Mary Ellen Black; one brother, J. E. Black; several nieces and nephews.”

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Mary Ellen Black first married Horace V, Black;

They became the parents of three or more children, Sara, W. Rufus and Henry Eugene Black.

Horace V. Black died at the age of 30, September 17, 1917.

No obituary found.

Excerpts from the obituary of Mary Ellen Black Royal published Sunday, April 20, 1969;

“Mrs. Mary Black Royal, 81, wife of L. T. Royal, died in the Spartanburg Convalescent Center Saturday after a long illness. Retired matron of Creech Orphanage, member of Duncan Memorial Methodist Church, daughter of the late George and Sallie Smith McKinney. First married to the late Horace Vernon Black.

Survivors were; daughter, Mrs. Sara Lambert, Spartanburg; step-daughter, Mrs. Rebecca Gibbons of Texas; step-son, C. R. Royall, Garner, N. C.; six grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Interment in the [Glendale Community Cemetery](#)”

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Sarah Emma Black married Delman Lambert.

No records other than obituary were found.

Excerpts from the obituary of Sarah Lambert published Wednesday, November 17, 1976;

“Sarah Emma Black Lambert, 64, wife of Delman Lambert, died Tuesday in the General Hospital. Native of [Glendale](#), she was the daughter of the late Horace V. and Mary Ellen McKinney Black. She was retired from Beaumont Mills and was a member of Duncan Memorial M.E. Church.

Also surviving; daughter Mrs. Betty Harbison of Spartanburg; four grandchildren.

Funeral Services at Floyds with interment following in the Sunset Memorial Park”.

Delman Lambert died March 12, 1988. He was an Air Force Veteran of WW2.

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W. Rufus Black married Lula Howard.

No records other than obituary were found.

Excerpts from the obituary of William R. Black published Monday, February 18, 1957;  
“William Rufus Black died at the Spartanburg General Hospital Sunday after a long illness.

He was the son of Mrs. Mary Ellen Black and the late Horace Black. He was born in [Glendale](#) and was an employee of Chesnee Mill for 11 years. He was a member of the Cudd Memorial Baptist Church.

Survivors in addition to his mother are; his wife, Lula Howard Black; a son, James Franklin Black; a sister, Mrs. Sara Lambert and a brother, Eugene Black.

Funeral services at Cudd Memorial with interment following in the [Glendale Community Cemetery.](#)”

Lula H. Black died at the age of 89, April 23, 1995 and was buried in the [Glendale Community Cemetery.](#)

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H. Eugene Black.

No records other than obituary were found.

Excerpts from the obituary of Henry E. Black published Tuesday, July 30, 1968;  
“Henry Eugene Black, 57, son of Mary Royal Black, died Monday at his home. He was a member of the Saxon Methodist Church.

Survivors were; his mother; daughters (names illegible); sons, Henry Eugene Jr., Jack and Terry Paul Black; sister, Mrs. Sara Lambert.

Services at Floyds with interment following in the [Glendale Community Cemetery.](#)

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The following two persons, apparently relatives of the above named Blacks, are buried in the Cemetery plot but relationship was not established.

Erwin E. Black, March 27, 1902= January 31, 1932

Robert Edward Black, January 28, 1909=December 7, 1934

All Census and Obituaries courtesy of Spartanburg County Library.

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[Clarence E. Crocker](#)