

# *The Thomas Woodson Family Newsletter*



Volume 26 No 1 July 2004

2004 Woodson Family Reunion - July 9-11 in Columbus Ohio



Congratulations and thanks to the Ohio Woodsons for providing a most pleasant environment and such a well organized platform for the 2004 Family Reunion. From the cordial and warm greetings on Friday to the reluctant farewell hugs on Sunday it was one big family fête. The reunion was held in the Easton Town Center Hilton Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. The Hotel and the surrounding Town Center was an excellent choice for our gathering, and provided a good environment to renew cherished relationships.

Advance information promised us a weekend of kinship, informative talks, picnic, a family religious service and a banquet luncheon. But it turned out to be so much more than that and much more than can be described in several paragraphs, but the Newsletter will, nonetheless, give you its observations. It was a weekend to be remembered. Kinship predominated and from the first few minutes of the Friday evening Meet and Greet till you were wheels up or wheels on the road on Sunday, you knew you were at home with family.

On Saturday we enjoyed and were well informed by a series of lectures. Lucille Armstrong, Ada Adams and Mary Kearny shared the results of their research and provided a glimpse of some rare and little known family photos. It was a real treat though the Cemetery bears revisiting. An insight on how a slave must have felt and the after effects of slavery by Shay Banks-Young and Julie Westerinen was thought provoking. I thought I was sophisticated, but there were many lessons learned from that presentation.

At the family picnic pork took on a new and most wonderful meaning as it was served freshly sliced from a whole roasted pig and eaten among a roomful of over a hundred of your cousins, Hemmings All.

After the picnic, Beverly Gray moderated a discussion of the lesser-known or unanswered questions in our *legacy*. The discussions revealed the weaker spots in our knowledge of the Hemmings history. To top off the day we convened our General Membership meeting.

Sunday brought us an enriching church service. The service was conducted principally by the family. That goes to show that the cement that binds the family is more than blood but also a strong belief in a greater power.

Prinny Anderson (Jefferson) and Diane Redmond (Madison) were a part of the triad of banquet speakers. The third, our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Frank Hale, also turned out to be either a Hemmings or a close connection to the family's Francis line. Dr Hale (or Cousin Frank) underlined the Africans contribution to the world through discovery and accomplishments. He talked of the strength of our inner spirit and how that strength helped us to overcome the handicaps of the slavery period. He provided persuasive arguments for the need to note and document the accomplishments and contributions of the African-Americans to the building of our great nation despite the liabilities of slavery. Dr Hale's presentation was powerful and inspiring.

The Ohio Woodsons 2004 Planning Committee was composed of Linda and Richard Carr, George Faithful, Mary Kearny, Betty and Robert Smith, Joy and David Smith, Ida and Ronald Smith, Mary Ella Thomas, Charm Wilkerson, and Clemmie and Logan Wiley. The law of averages and this writers age dictate that we have missed someone. To you unnamed participants, the speakers and the committee from all of us a heartfelt thanks for your efforts and a job so well done. For those who missed this Reunion, plan now for 2006.

### **The General Membership Meeting**

Byron Woodson, President, chaired the Meeting. (The Official Minutes of the Executive Committee, The General Membership Meeting and the Regional Representatives will be published in the future editions of the Newsletter.) The membership discussed:

1. The status of the website "<http://www.woodson.org>."

It was resolved that the Association would adopt it as the Official Woodson website and the administration was instructed to make necessary administration for the site and make budget provisions for the expense. The Columbus Smiths were thanked for the initiative of putting it together and invited to continue the technical operation of the site.

2. The difficulty of members to contact one another.

It was resolved that a register of contact for contemporary Association members be maintained and distributed to members.

3. The inconsistency between the Association's conception of family and the by laws and constitution membership requirements.

It was resolved that part of paragraph A of Article IV. MEMBERSHIP that reads, "Membership in the Association shall be open to the direct descendants of Thomas and Jemima Woodson, their spouses and children." be changed to read, "Membership in the Association shall be open to the direct descendants of Sally Hemmings, their spouses and children."

4. The legal status of the Minnie Shumate Woodson Scholarship Fund.  
It was resolved that the Scholarships heretofore limited to Association members would be extended to all students.
5. The C for Corbin part of the Association name is not supported by research. It was resolved that the name of the Association will be The Thomas Woodson Family Association and all by law and constitution entries referring to the name will be changed accordingly.
6. The Regions their Regional Representatives (Board of Directors). Those selected were:  
Pennsylvania, Rhodora Woodson and John S Woodson, II; Washington, D.C., Alan R Jones and John S Woodson; Texas, Anna Young; Ohio, Mary Ella Thomas and Richard Carr (replacing Robert A Smith); Minnesota, John Stephens and Kathlyn Stephens; West Coast, Frances Franklin and Connye Richardson.
7. In accordance with the Association Resolution of 1992 concerning the rotation of reunions, the General Membership accepted the invitation of the Minnesota Woodsons to hold the 2006 Reunion in the Minnesota Region. The dates and specific location are to be coordinated with the Administration.  
(Newsletter note: Start your personal planning now, perhaps joining some regional reunion club to take advantage of the economies of mass transportation and prepayment on a monthly basis)

### **Meeting of Regional Representatives**

The Regional Representatives (Class of 2004-2006) met to elect officers. Those elected were:

President:	Robert A Smith	Treasurer:	Mary E Thomas
Vice President:	Frances Franklin	Secretary:	Rhodora M S Woodson

The following appointments were made: Advisor, Clemmie Wiley; Chair Research Committee, Connye Richardson; Chair Membership, Ronald Smith; and Newsletter, Alan Jones.

**Our New President Robert Allen Smith** 5<sup>th</sup> generation of the Jemima line (Thomas<sup>1</sup>, Jemima<sup>2</sup>, Mary Silvia Nukes<sup>3</sup>, Karl Franklin Smith<sup>4</sup>).



He was born on 31 March 1938 the next to the last of nine children of Josephine Anna née Jackson and Karl Franklin Smith. The youngest child was his twin brother Ronald Alvin born on the same date. Robert received his primary education in the Columbus, Ohio Public Schools. He earned both a Bachelor (Civil Engineering) and Master (Structural Engineering) of Science from Ohio State University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Ohio. Robert was a Marketing Representative for International Business Machines for 23 years and the Owner Operator of A Printing Company for 10 years.

At the present time He is a commercial Realtor® and does some residential transactions.

Robert married Betty Jean Brown in March 1958. From this union four children were born, Robin Lynn, Robert Douglas, Darin Allen and Karl Franklin IV. The Smiths are blessed with seven grandchildren.

### **Family News**

Errata: The birth date of James Avery Howard Washington son of Dawn Woodson (Lewis 7) and Victor Washington was incorrect in that the birth year was listed as 2004, the correct year was 2003. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused the Washington family. *arj*

The Allegheny Conference named Pam Golden (Lewis 7) as Senior Vice President of Communications. The Conference is a non-profit organization that convenes corporate, civic and government leaders to discuss and implement civic initiatives. Congratulations Pam. The family wishes you success in the challenges of your new position.

Leah Woodson retired from Xerox Corporation on July 31, 2004. Leah plans to enter the Real Estate business. The family wishes Leah all the best in her retirement.

The Newsletter is saddened to report the deaths of the following family members:

**Charlene Marie Brown Randolph**, wife of Clinton Clifford Randolph (Frances 6). Charlene was the daughter of Eva Lewis and Charlie Brown, born in Muscogee, Oklahoma on 21 April 1931. Charlene was a Nurse and practiced her profession in The Seattle Children Hospital. With the arrival of her children she became a full time “mom” and an active participant in civic affairs. She leaves to mourn her husband Clinton, children Gregory, Patricia and Cynthia, five grandchildren and numerous other relatives and friends.

**Alvin Clay Adams, Jr.** husband of Ada Woodson Adams (Thomas 6), died peacefully at home on April 24, 2004. He was born on April 30, 1937 at the foot of Carr Hill in Morgan County Ohio the son of Alvin Clay Adams and Ada Blanche Holbert and was the founder of the Multicultural Genealogical Center in Chesterhill, Ohio. He graduated from Ohio University in 1959, and spent a career in journalism, communications and public relations. Alvin is survived by his wife Ada; daughter Amelia Marie Adams of Norman, OK; son, A. Clay Adams, III of Urbana, IL; one sister, Dessie Nichols Butcher Workman of Stewart, OH; and a host of other relatives and friends.

**Rosalind Ida Marie née Gordon Robinson** (George 5) passed away in her ninety third year on 6 July 2004. Born 18 June 1911 in St Louis, Missouri. Her husband Sanford William and her two sons, Gordon Sanford and Roy William, predeceased her. The immediate family had only recently suffered the loss of her sister Jane Aileen. Her daughter in law Mary Ann and five grandchildren Anne Marie, Sanford Joseph, Judith Frances, William Gordon and Leah Elizabeth survive her. Also left to mourn are two nephews, Samuel A and James G Kaiser, their families and a host of other relatives and friends.

**Geraldine Evelyn née Cassell Lee** (Frances 5) departed this life on 14 April 2004 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Geraldine was born on 20 March 1915 in Des Moines, Iowa, one of thirteen children of Mark and Louella Cassell. As a young lady she moved to the Minneapolis area and joined the Bethesda Baptist Church in which she was a very active member working in the churches Junior Choir, Senior Ushers and BYPU Ministries. In 1941 she married Wilver Alonzo Lee. From this union were born two children, Cassandra Evelyn and Steven Alonzo. We take some solace in Geraldine’s death in knowing that her last months were spent in an at home hospice surrounded by and cared for by a loving family. Geraldine is survived by her husband Wilver, her children Cassandra and husband Daniel her son Steve and Dollie, three grandchildren, Jovonné, Daniel and Michelle, 8 Great grandchildren, a sister Alcynetta Freeman, a brother John Cassell and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family will miss them all and we extend our condolences to the immediate families of our departed members.

## Membership Directory

In compliance with the General Membership resolution an Association Directory will be published within the next ninety days. The Directory will contain members names, addresses phone numbers and if available e-mail addresses. Those members who do not want their names published in the Directory are requested to notify the Newsletter prior to 15 September 2004.

## Dues

??Have you paid your 2004 dues?? This is quite simply an appeal for money. The Association needs more money. Only 42 members, or about 10% of the membership, paid dues during the period 1 July 2003 to 31 June 2004. These dues provided revenue of \$1060.00. The postage and printing of the newsletter alone during this period was over \$1100.00.

We can do better, we should do better – no – we must do better and *if* we do better the

Association will be in a more favorable position to vigorously pursue its goals and objectives. As an example we can make the Association's Minnie Shumate Woodson Scholarship Fund a more effective research tool. The balance of that fund is now \$1823.96. With \$500.00 awarded for each scholarship, that wont last long. *If* the Association would make a more substantial investment in the fund we could probably get other philanthropically minded donors to assist. *If* the Association collected its just dues the Executive Committee would be able to provide proposals to make the scholarship even more meaningful.

A lot of *if* s but we can resolve those *if* s. To begin, each of us should make being a paid up Association member in good standing our personal goal.

## Let's go for it

A good start may be, using the form on the next page to send in your dues to the Treasurer today with a note about your news, most up to date address, telephone number and email address. Please take a minute to help make the Newsletter a more valuable source of news for your cousins. Fill out the form on the next page and while paying your dues, tell us what is new with you and yours lives, births, illnesses, graduations, career changes, deaths or any other event that may be of interest to your cousins.

## 2004 Reunion items still available

(1) A CD set of all Reunion Photos and (2) The Thomas Woodson Family Register.

1. Photos Available on CD: (limited quantity available) Obtain over 700 high-res photos from The 2004 Woodson Family Reunion available on a 2 CD set. Please remit \$35 (including shipping and handling)

2. Thomas Woodson Family Registers: This is the sixth publication of the Thomas Woodson Family Register. The Late Minnie S Woodson, Dr. Edgar F Love, Alan Jones, Ronald Woodson, and Ronald Smith have been the major contributors.

It contains the names of 1,692 individuals and a pedigree chart for Thomas Woodson and Jemima Price. You can develop your ancestral relationship to Thomas Woodson. The Register Report is a Register-style report where a narrative paragraph is created for each person, beginning with a selected couple and including all descendants up to a specified number of generations. The cost for this register is \$20 (\$15 register plus \$5 postage and handling) Use the form overleaf to order and tell us more about yourself..

Mail to:

The Thomas Woodson Family Association, 180 Sherborne Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219

Hemmings Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hemmings Affiliation, Thomas \_\_ Madison \_\_ Eston \_\_

If Thomas please indicate line and generation if known? Line \_\_\_\_\_ Generation \_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

Parents \_\_\_\_\_ Hemmings Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_

Association dues for 2004-2005.	\$25.00	___
CD set of Photos	\$35.00	___
Thomas Woodson Family Register	\$20.00	___

Enclosed please find my Check for the total: \_\_\_\_\_

My Address is: Mr \_ Mrs \_ Miss \_ Miss \_ Mr and Mrs \_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward the following to the Association Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Thomas Woodson*  
*Family Association Newsletter*  
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Columbus, Ohio 43219