

*The Thomas Woodson Family Association*  
*Newsletter* *September 2006*



**2006 Woodson Family Reunion** – June 30, 2006-July 2, 2006  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Congratulations and gratitude goes out to the Minnesota Woodsons for keeping the tradition alive, as we gathered again in a family way. Cousins came from far away as Los Angeles (CA), Alexandria (VA), and Seattle (WA) to **socialize, learn more family history and conduct association business**. Le Bourget Aero Suites Hotel provided a fine setting for our successful assemblage. The updated décor of the rooms and lobby provided an interesting backdrop.

On Saturday morning the family first heard a presentation from Connye Richardson regarding a mediation session, which was held in Harrisonburg, Virginia about a year ago. The Community Mediation Center, an outgrowth of Eastern Mennonite University sponsored the session. In this situation the Center's objective is to bring resolution to the divide in the Jefferson-Hemings family. Connye then announced a **gathering of Hemings descendents at Monticello in July of 2007**.

**Mary Kearney** of Columbus, Ohio delivered a delightful presentation which, included her description of the way in which she first head the oral history of the Woodson connection to Thomas Jefferson and she read a poem that she had entered into a contest. The poem, entitled, "*We Couldn't Tell*" pertains also to the family oral history. The poem is to be published soon in a book of poetry and will be printed in our newsletter in the next issue. We congratulate Mary for her award winning poetry. Mary shared family pictures as she has in the past. She has the family's oldest repository of pictures.

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**Message from, Connye Moore Richardson, the President**

Dear Hemings/ Woodson Family Members and Extended Families

For those who are not familiar with me, I would like to introduce myself. I am **Connye Moore- Richardson** (William 6), the daughter of Norma Yvonne Woodson (William 5). My mother and Minnie Shumate Woodson met in the early 1970s while teaching in Washington, D.C. It was with that encounter that the Thomas Woodson Family Association began to form and grow. For their early efforts and the contributions made by Edgar Love (Frances line) , John S. Woodson (Lewis line), General John Q.T. Taylor- King (William line), Alan Jones (Lewis line) and Robert Golden (Lewis line) we are eternally grateful.

The first item on my agenda is to start the publication of the family newsletter, which is to date the best form of communication between us all. For those who have e-mail addresses, you can submit them to [www.woodson.org](http://www.woodson.org).

In order to have a successful and informative newsletter, it will be necessary for family members to send copies of any news that you think worthy to the editor, Byron Woodson (Lewis line). For example, the items of interest are: birth and death notices, graduations, marriages, obituaries, relevant news articles, marriages certificates and other genealogical information you may have uncovered regarding your line of the family.

Second on the agenda is the provision of names and addresses by region to respective regional representatives. Those who have recently moved should send new information to Robert Smith (Jemima line) at 180 Sherbourne Street, Columbus, Ohio 43219.

Thirdly, my objective is to increase the number of family members in the Research Committee. For those of you who are interested and have the time to explore the internet and use your local Morman Library, please contact me at [cmodiva@aol.com](mailto:cmodiva@aol.com) or 323-935-2703.

I hope that the Woodson family will continue to preserve the rich heritage and legacy of Thomas Woodson by having the full participation of his descendents. We must continue to pass on our oral history and encourage our youth to take active roles in the association. That, also will include our knowledge of our Madison and Eston Hemings cousins.

In the future, I will announce other items in subsequent newsletters. I am looking forward to a productive future.

Sincerely,

Connye Moore Richardson, President

1<sup>st</sup>  
generation

Thomas  
Jemima

2<sup>nd</sup>  
generation

Lewis  
George  
Delilah  
Thomas  
Jemima  
Frances  
James  
John  
William  
Hannah  
Sarah Jane

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(from page 1) Mary’s son-in-law, **Richard Carr** told of his research into his **deep Ohio roots**. He explained the connections by marriage between the Woodson, Brown, Carr and Lucas families. Many of his ancestors lived in Pike County Ohio. He revealed his childhood memories of the Straight Creek Cemetery and his recent return to the area. Richard told of one ancestor who was tricked into going on a trip by a man, who tried to enslave him.



The **North Mississippi Regional Park** is situated along the Mississippi River. It is a relatively new park and provides a variety of facilities. The park accommodated the **family picnic** on Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup>. The weather was July warm, but the breeze and the shade soothed and relaxed everyone.

We specifically thank Kathy Stephens, Charlene James, Christina James, Ronald Freeman, Luella Williams, John Stephens, Nancy Alderson and Carson Alderson and those not mentioned here by error for their work and dedication in behalf of the family. Their efforts ensured the Reunion’s success.

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## MINUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

July 2, 2006 11:30 CST

### **President Robert smith called the meeting to order.**

Robert stated how pleased he was with the attendance at this year’s reunion. “**Thank you Minneapolis for hosting the reunion.**” He also mentioned that John King, Bob Golden, and John Woodson, three of our elders, were unable to attend.

First order of business was the Treasurer’s report given by Ronald Smith, Treasurer. Ronald reported the ending balance for the past five years:

2001 - \$5,261.39  
2002 - \$5,259.02  
2003 - \$7,012.10  
2004 - \$ 9,754.67  
2005 - \$4,756.05  
2006 - \$5,367.84



Most of the expenditures have been allocated to supporting our family reunions, the newsletter and postage. Most of the revenue and expenditures can be furnished to nay member who makes the request of the Treasurer.

Ronald Smith, Treasurer, also reported on the balance of the Minnie Woodson Scholarship Fund. There is currently \$2,338.01 in the scholarship fund. We have not given out a scholarship for more than five years. Hopefully, the next administration can do some research on the fund and make recommendations and make a decision regarding

the intent and future direction of the scholarship fund. Certain questions need to be considered. Since the association has a 501c(3) federal tax exemption does the association have to consider scholarship candidates from outside the family? Should the fund be replenished and how?

Christine Lee made a motion that we form a **scholarship committee**. Ronald Smith, Jemima line, seconded the motion. The following members volunteered to work on the scholarship committee: Charlene James, Frances line; Christine and Joe Lee, Frances line; and Byron Woodson, Lewis line and son of Minnie Shumate Woodson. Some suggestions were thrown out with respect to raising funds e.g., pass the hat at reunions, add another \$5.00 to the annual dues; transfer some funds from the general fund. All of these recommendations will be taken under advisement with the new committee.

The next order of business was the status of the **Woodson Cemetery and the Cassell Community Center** in Milton Township, Jackson County, Ohio. Robert Smith reported that both facilities are in good condition. Both Robert and Ronald Smith, Jemima line, visited the facilities recently and had an opportunity to visit with the trustees of the cemetery and the community center. The cemetery is maintained by Milton Township, which has passed a law whereby the township is responsible for the upkeep of the cemeteries. There is approximately \$800.00 in the community center account. Annual expenditures are approximately \$400.00 so there is enough money for two years for the upkeep of the community center. Rachel Cassell started the community center to educate our family members. We need to keep it healthy and strong. There are three trustees overseeing both the community center and cemetery, headed by Norma Mc Daniels of Berlin Crossroads/Roads. It does not appear that there will be any interested relatives in the area, willing to become trustees. Therefore, we need to keep the cemetery and facility in the family. So, it is very important that the Thomas Woodson Family Association establishes a relationship and **communication with the Township** to express that we are interested in and care about our ancestral cemetery.

The next order of business was a report by the Research Committee. Connye Richardson, Research chairwoman, gave an update on Thomas Woodson and an upcoming trip to Greenbrier County, West Virginia to conduct further research into Thomas Woodson's whereabouts between 1805 and 1819, specifically. In addition, there was a substantial amount of inquiries to the **Research Committee** over the past two years. Some were fruitful and some were not. The widow of the William line descendent, not known before, will be added to the website and the mailing list. Research is ongoing regarding Woodson's connection to the Lett Settlement other than to Hannah G. Woodson, 10<sup>th</sup> child of Thomas Woodson. Further findings are also being researched with respect to William Woodson Jr. and Thomas Frank Cassels, two grandsons of Thomas Woodson. The committee was able to also assist a Madison line descendent in research of her line.

An announcement was made by Connye regarding the upcoming All Monticello Community Gathering, which will be held in Charlottesville from July 13 to 15, 2007. The committee is comprised of descendents from Martha Jefferson Randolph, Dabney Carr and Sally Hemings. They are Prinny Anderson, Connye Richardson, Julia Jefferson

Westerinen, David Works, Linda Carr-Kraft, and Debbie Truscott. This is the first of its kind and they anticipate the Thomas line to be well represented at this event.

Special mention was made of our dear relative, **Edgar Love**, Frances line, for the many contributions he has made over the past 35 years toward documenting our family. A letter of appreciation from the family will be forthcoming.

Due to Alan Jones', Lewis line, commitment to the diplomatic arena, the newsletter has not been published on a regular basis for a couple of years. We need to start publishing and distributing the newsletter again on a quarterly basis. Byron Woodson, Lewis line, volunteered to be in charge of the newsletter.

The next order of business was a resolution regarding the method of election of officers. Robert Smith, incumbent President stated that the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer each are to be nominated and elected from the current officers and regional representatives. Since there were only 6 representatives present, Robert asked that we strike from the by-laws the words, "from their own number" so the a new slate could be elected. Ronald Smith, Jemima line made a motion and Byron Woodson, Lewis line, seconded the motion. By unanimous vote in favor, the motion was adopted.



Ralph Franklin and Joe Lee

The question of the location of the **next reunion** was placed on the floor for discussion. The sequencing of the locations of reunions indicates that the next reunion should be held on the West Coast. Conney Richardson said that she had spoken with William Wood, Frances line, who lives in Los Angeles about the possibility that he may chair a reunion committee. Also Mary Frank, Lewis line, of Seattle indicated that she would assist if the decision is to have the reunion on the West Coast. A definitive decision will be made within the next few months as to the location of the next reunion and will be communicated to the members.

Robert Smith asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ronald Smith made the motion and Byron Woodson seconded the motion. The Aye's ruled. The meeting was **adjourned** at 2:25 CST, Minneapolis.

Barbara Moore-Jones, William line  
Acting Secretary

## ELECTIONS

Regional caucuses then convened to elect regional representatives and then to make choices on nominations for new officers.

The newly elected slate of **regional representatives** for 2006-8 is:

Minnesota – Kathy Stephens , John Stephens

Ohio- Robert Smith, Richard Carr

Pennsylvania – Byron Woodson Sr. , John Woodson II

West Coast – Bill Wood, Kellie Richardson

D.C. – Barbara Jones, Candice Woodson

Texas – to be determined

The regional representatives then elected **new officers** and other positions were filled by appointment as follows:

**President, Connye Richardson**

Vice President, Robert Smith

Newsletter Publisher, Robert Smith

Treasurer, Kathy Stephens

Secretary, Rhodora Woodson

Newsletter Editor , Byron Woodson

Membership Chairman, John Stephens

### Thomas Woodson Family Association regions



- Northeast - Pennsylvania, Delaware and all of New England
- Homeland – Ohio, West Virginia, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan
- Southeast – Maryland and all states to the south to Florida and Mississippi
- Middle North - Missouri and Kansas, to Wisconsin and North Dakota
- South Middle – Texas, Louisiana, Colorado, Oklahoma, AK, and NM
- Far West – Arizona north to Montana, west to Washington and California

PLEASE PAY YOUR 2006 THOMAS WOODSON FAMILY ASSOCIATION DUES

Send to: The Thomas Woodson Family Association  
Treasurer

C/O Kathleen Stephens  
3117 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

### Newsletter material to:

Byron W. Woodson, Editor  
Thomas Woodson Fam. Assoc.  
227 South 46th Street  
Philadelphia PA 19139

## History

Family members should view the **Wikipedia.com** page explaining Lewis Woodson's important contributions by typing his name into the "Go" line on Wikipedia.com. That page is linked to Sarah Jane Woodson's page and Woodson.org.

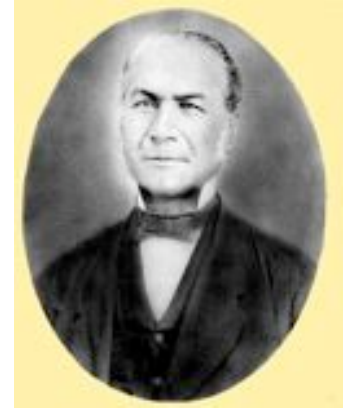
**Lewis Woodson** was the oldest child of Thomas and Jemima Woodson. He became a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, after helping, along with his parents, to establish the AME congregation in Chillicothe, Ohio in 1821. Lewis served as Secretary for the AME Conference held in Hillsborough, Ohio, near Cincinnati, in August of 1830. The location of the conference might have been important, as a riot in Cincinnati the previous year had driven over 1,000 African Americans out of that city. Bishop Morris Brown presided at the Hillsborough conference.

Just one month later Reverend Lewis Woodson attended the first Negro Conference, the **first national assembly**

### **of African American leaders.**

It was held at the Bethel AME Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Bishop Richard Allen, the founder of the AME denomination, presided. It must have been quite an arduous trip over the Allegheny Mountains before the railroads had been built in a matter of a few weeks. The Cincinnati displacement was an important topic at the conference. Many of those displaced from Cincinnati moved to Canada into settlements which received support from sympathizers.

Later in 1830 Lewis Woodson and his wife Caroline moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he ministered to the Bethel Church there and with John B. Vashon formed the African Education Society. Lewis Woodson attended one other Negro Convention when the leaders met in Buffalo, New York in 1853.



## **UPCOMING EVENT**



The Monticello Community Gathering in Charlottesville, Virginia will be held July 13-15, 2007. This first of its kind event will include descendents of Hemings and Jefferson families and descendents of other families and workers, whom toiled and lived at Monticello when it served as the home of Thomas Jefferson. More information about the event will be made available.



Byron Woodson and Mary Frank  
at the Family Association picnic

Karen Elizabeth Richardson, daughter of Connye (William 6) and Madison F. Richardson received her Bachelor's degree from Howard University in 1999 and a law degree from Howard, as well, in 2002. Karen then earned a Masters in International Relations with a specialization in U.S. Foreign policy and African Affairs. In 2005 Karen worked at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at the Innocenti Research Center in Florence, Italy. Karen is presently the Policy Coordinator for U.S. Senator Barrack Obama, the junior senator from Illinois.



## Teaching Journey

**Dr. Jon S. Woodson**, Lewis line, Graduate Professor of English at Howard University has recently returned from Hungary. He taught there under the **Fulbright Teaching Fellowship** program. Fulbright Fellowships are sponsored by the U. S. Department of State. Jon taught at the University of Pecs in the city of Pecs and at Eotvos Lorand University in Budapest. He reportedly, "had a fantastic time" and plans on "going back." Jon and his wife, Lynn, lived in Hungary for seven months. His classes were taught in English. Jon presented a special lecture in Pecs entitled *Cultural Power of American Blues Music*. Jon has now returned to Howard University, where he teaches American Literature. Jon is the author of two published books, one of which provides a deeper understanding of some of the literature of the Harlem Renaissance.

Jon lives in Baltimore, Maryland. His two children are grown. He is the grandfather of a boy and a girl.

Kimberly Marie Richasrdson, daughter of Connye (William 6) and Madison F. Richardson received her Bachelor's Degree in biochemistry in 1996. She worked at the University of California at Los Angeles in the Bio Research Department from 1997 to 2000. She then entered the American University College of Medicine, receiving her M. D. in 2004. Kimberly completed an internship at St. Vincent Medical Center in Bridgeport, CT in June 2006 and is presently a first year resident in anesthesiology at Cedars Sinai and Martin Luther King hospitals in Los Angeles.

Our get well wishes go out to cousin Mildred Cassells Dickerson Rodriguez (Frances 5), who is recuperating at home in Downey, California. Mildred is the sister of Jane Cassels Faithful of Ohio, who served as President of the Thomas Woodson Family Association.

IN LOVING MEMORY

WILLIAM line

David F. Thomas  
December 18, 2000  
New York, NY  
Benjamin F. Woodson line

Harry P. Woodson Jr.  
September 16, 2002  
Charleston, WV  
William Woodson [Jr.]  
ine

William Davis Woodson  
October 3, 2004  
Atlanta, GA  
William Woodson [Jr.]  
ine

Zernona Stewart Thomas  
January 24, 2005  
Benjamin F. Woodson line

Florence Odessa Woodson  
September 14, 2005  
Detroit, MI  
William Woodson [Jr.]  
ine

FRANCES line

George L Cassells Jr.  
2004 North Carolina  
Cyrus C. Cassells line

Charlene Randolph  
April 9, 2004

Geraldine Lee  
April 14, 2004

Joyce Jackson  
2005 Ohio

Bertha Cassells  
February 9, 2006

Recent Woodson Family Research

Over the past two years, the Research Committee has discovered information, which updates findings presented in the Woodson Source Book Supplement of 1998.

1. Delilah Woodson

Richard Carr, husband of Linda Kearney Carr, Frances line, is a descendent of Daniel Lucas and Delilah Woodson Lucas. Richard submitted verifiable documentation to the Research Committee. Delilah was one of the daughters of Thomas and Jemima Woodson. She was born in Greenbrier County, which was at the time part in Virginia and is now located in West Virginia. Delilah Woodson Lucas' grave marker is located in the Straight Creek Cemetery in Pike County, Ohio.

2. Thomas Woodson [Jr.]

New research indicates Thomas Woodson [Jr.] was born in 1812 instead of 1815. The supporting documents are the 1820 and 1821 Personal Tax records of Greenbrier County, Virginia and the headstone of his grave, located in the Woodson Cemetery in Jackson County, Ohio.

The revised birth year for Thomas Woodson [Jr.] changes the birth order of the children of Thomas and Jemima Woodson. The new birth order is: Lewis (1806), George (1808), Delilah (1810), Thomas [Jr.] 1812, Jemima (1813), Frances L. (1814), James (1817), John (1819), William (1822), Hannah G. (1823), Sarah Jane (1825).

3. William Woodson [Sr.] 1822

New family members of Benjamin F. Woodson, a grandson of William Woodson [Sr.] contacted the Research Committee chair through the website in October of 2005.

We welcome Geralde Romain Thomas and her children, Deja Zernona, Kiara Romain, and Elijah Jarel Thomas, who was the son of Lydia and James Stewart; the grandson of James and Zernona Stewart Thomas; great grandson of James and Minnie Juanita Woodson Stewart and 2great grandson of Benjamin F. Woodson.

4. Jane Hawk Woodson, wife of William Woodson [Sr.] 1822

It was initially thought that Jane Hawk Woodson's maiden name was Clay. On various documents her maiden name did appear as Clay and then as Hawk. It has been determined, after careful review that Hawk was her maiden name. Clay was the surname of her mother's second husband.

Locations, which hosted the most reunions:

- ❖ Minneapolis - 3                    1986 , 1996 , 2006
- ❖ Pittsburgh     - 3                    1978, 1990, 2002
- ❖ Columbus      - 3                    1984, 1994, 2004

