

*The Thomas C. Woodson Family
Newsletter*



October 2008
Acting Newsletter Editor Connye Moore- Richardson



THE THOMAS WOODSON FAMILY 2008 REUNION

Washington, D. C.
July 11th through 13th 2008

The 2008 Woodson Family Reunion was held in Washington, D. C. The Mid-Atlantic Regional committee members were comprised of Lisa Cooley Hill (Lewis line); Elyce Robertson (Lewis line); Candace Woodson (Lewis line); Howard Greg Cooley (Lewis line); and Barbara Moore Jones (William line).

Barbara Moore Jones and Greg Cooley were appointed co-chairs of the committee and plans were made to hold the event at the Crystal City Hilton Hotel in Arlington, Virginia near the Reagan National Airport. The committee met once or twice a week from January 2008 until July 2008. A job well done by all and we deeply appreciate the dedication and efforts that the committee made in order for the family to finally hold a reunion in the Nation's Capital.

Greg Cooley and Barbara Jones visited the Smithsonian Museum's National Museum of African American History & Culture to personally introduce our family and invite Mr. John W. Franklin, Director of Partnerships and International Programs to come as our guest speaker at the banquet. Mr. Franklin is the son of the notable historian, Dr. John Hope Franklin of North Carolina.

The theme of Mr. Franklin's speech was on the importance of family unity and the importance of the recording and recognizing the history of all African American histories as a National Treasure. The new National Museum of African American History will be the repository for documents, photos and other important articles will be housed on a 5 acre tract of land on the National Mall, adjacent to the Washington Monument. The facility is scheduled for completion in 2015 and will be a part of the

(Woodson Family Reunion cont'd)

Smithsonian Institution. The Woodson Association is hopeful that we will be one family selected for our historical significance and contributions to the development of our country.

The weekend events included: FRIDAY NIGHT MEET AND GREET where each member registered picked up their gift bags, and viewed a slide show of family members. SATURDAY included: Executive Board Meeting in the morning; Family Business Meeting; a tour of the JEFFERSON MEMORIAL where the family posed for a group photo; a tour of the SMITHSONIAN; 3 hours of free time; and finally, the WOODSON FAMILY BANQUET during which awards were given to family members and instrumental friends of the Woodson Family, SUNDAY included a Worship Service followed by the announcement of the new officers and regional representatives and open discussion on any family concerns.

A good time was had by all and for those of you who were unable to attend, you were indeed sorely missed. We parted with hugs and kisses and promises to see each other again in 2010.

FAMILY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ninety seven (97) family members attended the reunion and traveled from: North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, California, Virginia, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, D. C., Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Florida.

Virginia “Prinny” Anderson (Jefferson/Randolph); Naomi and Allan Bailey; Tasha Bloden and daughter Sydney and sons Kyle and Kendal; Linda and Richard Carr; Howard “Greg” Cooley; Lisa Cooley Hill and son Jaxon; Rita Emmanuel; Susan and William Fields, Sr.; Frances Franklin; Sandra and Carl Herring; Melanie Herring; Mary Jefferson (Eston line); William, Angela, Noelle, an Drew Johnson; Alfreda, Mark, and Jade Johnson; Barbara Moore Jones; Colleen and James Jones, Sr.; James Jones, Jr.; Frank and Peggy Kearney; Nick Kearney; Mary Cassell Kearney; Marvin Kyle, Jr.; Yolanda Kyle; Joe and Christina Lee; Stacey Mathews; Carolyn Proctor Stevenson Moore; Jessica Kearney Pierce; Michelle Cooley Strickland and daughters Alicia and Alexis; Teresa and Winston Murray, Jr.; Winston Murray, III; Ronda Quillen; Connye Moore-Richardson; Kelly and Karen Richardson; Elyce Robertson; David and Jenora Woodson-Rosbury and daughter Armani; Joy and David K. Smith, Sr; Elizabeth Smith; Robert and Betty Smith; Ronald and Ida Smith; Elva Stephens; Virgil “Tom” Tucker (Leach line); Dayna Wilkinson; Aleesha Woodson; Byron Woodson, Sr.; Byron Woodson, II; Candace Woodson; Desmond Woodson (new attendee); George Frederick and Judy Woodson; Fred Woodson; Granville L. Woodson; Granville M. Woodson; John Stanton Woodson; John Woodson, II; Sonja and Alexis Woodson and Trey J. Woodson (new attendee).

Submitted by: Barbara Moore Jones (Co-Chair, 2008 Woodson Reunion Committee) and Connye Moore Richardson

WOODSON FAMILY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Awards were presented to family members and others who were recognized for their contributions on behalf of the Hemings/Woodson/Jefferson Families. The awardees were: Carolyn Moore; Beverly Gray, Southeastern Ohio Historian; Mary Cassels Kearney; Colonel Alan Jones; General John Q. Taylor King; Norma Woodson Moore McDaniel; Logan and Clemmie Wiley; John S. Woodson; Minnie Shumate Woodson; Robert Golden; Robert Smith; Connye Moore-Richardson; David Works and Stephanie Works, and Rachel Works (Jefferson cousins who were killed at the New Life Church in Colorado. Their father David Works survived); Karen E. Richardson; Allan Bailey; Robert Bailey; Robert Cooley, Jr.; Ruth Cooley; John Cassels and Byron Woodson, Sr.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Minnie Shumate Scholarship has been reactivated and will be presented at our 2010 Reunion. We have thus far received \$285.00 in financial gifts from family members as seed money. We are hopeful that all of our family members will continue to send in contributions to the fund. Please designate your donation to the Scholarship Fund as to distinguish from the Family Dues payment.

Those who have made contributions are: Prinny Anderson (Jefferson/Randolph); Naomi and Allan Bailey; Richard and Linda Carr; Frances Franklin; Mary Jefferson (Eston line); Barbara Jones; Joe and Christine Lee; Davis Morris; Connye Moore Richardson; Elva Stephens; Virgil "Tom" Tucker (Leach line); Fred and Judy Woodson and John Woodson, Sr.

MINUTES OF 2008 MEETING

PRESIDENT: Connye Moore-Richardson (William line); **VICE PRESIDENT:** William Johnson; **TREASURER:** Barbara Moore Jones (William line); **SECRETARY:** Byron Woodson II; **Membership Chairman:** John Stephens; **ACTING NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Connye Moore-Richardson; **NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER:** Robert A. Smith; **MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:** John Stephens (Frances line); **RESEARCH CHAIR:** Connye Moore-Richardson (William line); **RESEARCH CO- CHAIR SPECIAL PROJECTS:** Ronald B. Woodson (William line); **RESEARCH CONSULTANT:** Beverly Gray, Renowned Ohio Historian; **FAMILY SENIOR ADVISORS:** Clemmie Wiley (Lewis line) and Dr. Edgar Love (Frances line).

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES: **NORTHEAST:** Tasha Bolden (Lewis line) Byron Woodson, II (Lewis line); **MID-ATLANTIC:** Elyce Robertson (Lewis line), Candace Woodson (Lewis line), Richard Carr (Delilah line); Naomi Bailey (Frances line); **MIDWEST:** Trey Woodson; **WEST COAST:** Tom Tucker (Leach line); Kelly Richardson (William line); Dr. Edgar Love (Frances line).

ITEM 1: FAMILY HISTORY:

The committee posed some initial discussion about who would be the family historian in charge of updates about the family and original research.

Note: At present, that responsibility is under the realm of the Research Committee members. Colonel Alan Jones (Lewis line) is presently the holder of the family database. In the near future, the family will need someone to be the caretaker of the database. Also, the family will need volunteers from the younger generations to study the history and be prepared to fill the shoes of the elders. In the meantime, Ronald B. Woodson (William line), researcher, is well versed on all of the families and the history of Thomas Woodson, through his many years of research and would be the logical person at this point in time to fill that position.

ITEM 2: FUTURE COMMUNICATION:

The committee fielded suggestions about future methods, opportunities and schedules of communicating with one another. The option of creating a quarterly conference call, with the possibility of video-conferencing, was overwhelmingly accepted, but no plans were made to identify a number and date of the next call. Representatives Byron Woodson, II (NE) and Trey Woodson (Midwest) said they would communicate with one another to acquire a number for the telephone conference. The rest of the committee also accepted the possibility of doing a video-conference but fielded some concerns in accommodating the less technically inclined.

ITEM 3: MEMBERSHIP AND ONLINE PRESENCE:

The committee also began talking about how to re-connect with different strands of the family. The elders in the committee noted that the core membership of the family association has been the elders in the family. They expressed excitement of the prospect of having a few younger members on the new roster of family association staff. The group then engaged in a discussion about the concern of contacting, connecting with and mobilizing the out-of-touch members of the association.

This especially concerns the younger generations whose parents are involved in the association and perhaps attended reunions but never were actively involved themselves., Mixed with this discussion was how integral an online strategy was to connect (via email, website, discussion, etc.) as it important to contact the members of the family who were not on the internet. This conversation was then tabled until John Stephens, returning membership chair, could be reached.

ITEM 4: 2010 REUNION PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

It was decided that the Northeast region would host the next reunion in the Summer of 2010. Byron Woodson, II and Tasha Woodson Bolden, the Northeast Representatives announced that the reunion has never been held in PHILADELPHIA and are delighted at the opportunity of having the next family picture taken at the site of the newly re-built Constitution Center in nearby downtown PHILADELPHIA. The previous reunions hosted by the Northeast Region have traditionally been held in Pittsburgh, Penna.

Submitted by: Byron Woodson, II (Secretary)

WOODSON FAMILY NEWS UPDATE

LEWIS LINE:

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY to John Stanton Woodson, Sr., who celebrated on October 12, 2008. John Woodson is the husband of Minnie Shumate Woodson and the father of Byron Woodson, Sr. and Jon Woodson and the grandfather of Byron Woodson, II and John Woodson, II. (Submitted by: Trena Woodson)

2009 WOODSON MARRIAGE: Byron Woodson, II and Stacy Lynn Matthews have announced their engagement and plans for their August 3, 2009 marriage. The wedding will take place in Bermuda. The wedding party will arrive and leave the island on a cruise ship., Stacy is a daughter of Joyce K. Howard and stepfather is Ricardo Howard. She is a graduate of Hampton University, LaSalle University and New York University. She is a dietician. Byron Woodson, II is a son of Byron Woodson, Sr. and Lauren Trena Woodson. Byron graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1999, precisely 100 years after his great grandfather, Howard D. Woodson. The couple resides in Philadelphia. Byron II was recently appointed Secretary of the Family Association and is also a Northeast Regional Representative. (Submitted by: Byron Woodson)

CINCINATTI NEWS: Brian Wiley Sr. (Lewis line 7) son of Logan Wiley Sr. (Lewis line 6) announces that Brian Wiley II (Lewis line 8) has been admitted to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's College of Engineering to major in Architecture. He graduated from Hampton High School (Hampton, Va.) with A/B Honor Roll.

His younger sister, Brandi K. Wiley (Lewis line 8) was recently filmed in a leading role on TBN's 700 CIUB in the "Jada Collins Story" which premiered 4/12/08. She played Jada Collins as a teenager. Jada is currently commentator for the Ebony Fashion Fair shows. (Submitted by: Clemmie (Logan) Wiley)

GEORGE LINE:

CONGRATULATIONS and Best Wishes to Lauren Elizabeth Kaiser who was married to David J. Andrews of Amsterdam, New York on September 30, 2007 in Colorado. Lauren is the 7th generation great granddaughter of Thomas Woodson; granddaughter of Jane Aileen Gordon Kaiser Floyd; and daughter of James and Kathryn Kaiser of Colorado. (Submitted by: Kathryn Kaiser)

FRANCES LINE:

FROM OUR NEW ZEALAND COUSINS: Glenn Compain, 8th generation descendent and grandson of Elisabeth Cabell Compain, daughter of John Cabell, contacted Connye with the news that he has just completed a book on parenting. The title of the book is Streetwise Parenting. The book draws on 10 years experience as a police officer in New Zealand working mainly with youth gangs and also drawing on his work in Uganda East Africa as a teenager.

Glenn's line of descent is: *Thomas and Jemima Woodson(1); Frances Woodson and James Cassels (2); Jemima Cassels and Jackson Wiley(3); Halley Wiley and William Cabell(4); John Edward Cabell and Lura Joseph(5); Elisabeth Cabell and Charles Compain(6); and parents, Frederick Charles Compain and Mabel Rawiri.(7)*

(Frances Line cont.)

Glenn and Lana Crawley Campain have three sons: Sheaziah, 11 years old, Juwan, 7 years old, and Tobias, 2 years old. Lana is four months pregnant with their fourth child, but they don't know if it is a boy or girl. Their children are 8th generation descendants of Thomas and Jemima Woodson. Grandmother, Elisabeth, born in the Fiji Islands, is in her mid eighties and doing well.

THE CABELL FAMILY 25TH ANNUAL REUNION

Rocklin, California August 23 & 24 2008

Submitted by Ben Gonzales

The Cabell Family 25th Annual Family Reunion was held in Rocklin, California. This special reunion was in memory and in honor of Arthur & Mary Cabell. On Saturday evening, a gala dinner was held at the Finnish Hall n Rocklin Road. Following the dinner, there were presentations & family photos; interviews; music was provided by the FullSound Cuaresma Brothers as entertainment and dancing. Also during the evening, there were awards and prizes given and "Cabell Mingo Bingo" was played. At 11:00, the group had the option of going to the Thunder Valley Casino.

On Sunday, August 24, a gala picnic was held at Johnson-Springview Park Pavillion where the group could feast on barbeque, hotdogs, burgers, beans and drinks. There were games for the children and also the game "Cabell Bachi 21".

The Mark Cabell family tree is as follows:

1. Thomas and Jemima Price Woodson
2. Frances Woodson and James T. Cassels
3. Jemima Cassels and Jackson Wiley
4. Halley May Wiley and William Henry Cabell
5. Arthur Cabell and Marie Cunningham

Children: Marjorie 1916 to

Gloria 1918 to 2003

Arthur 1921 to 1976

Clarence 1922 to 1997

Harold 1924 to 1993

Nettie 1926 to 1965

Robert 1927 to 1943

Richard 1931 to 1988

Gerald 1935 to 1975

Submitted by: Ben Gonzales Jr. who is a 7th generation Frances line.

Thomas Woodson 1; Frances Woodson Cassels 2; Jemima Cassels Wiley 3; Halley Wiley Cabell 4; Arthur Cabell 5; Gloria Cabell Gonzales 6.

IN LOVING MEMORY

LEWIS LINE:

THE LIFE OF RUBY WILEY February 19, 1919 to August 6, 2008

Ruby Ethlynn Morris was born February 6, 1919 in White Pine, Tennessee. She was the second of six surviving children of Lavossor and Wilma Morris. Lavossor was a coal miner and part time farmer while Wilma Worked full time taking care of her four girls and two boys.

The Morris Family moved from Tennessee to Apollo, Pennsylvania in 1926, in part to avail the Morris children to better schools and greater opportunities. Ruby showed great promise and was always a hard worker and good student. Ruby graduated from high school as Valedictorian of her class in 1937. She then went to Knoxville College and then t the University of Pittsburgh where she met the love of her life, James Wiley. James often times said that Ruby was “the prettiest girl on campus”. Ruby graduated from the Univ. of Pittsburgh Magna Cum Laude in June of 1941 with a degree in English and Education. She was also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Ruby taught school in Washington, D. C. after college as James went off to was a a fighter pilot in the famed Tuskegee Airmen Fighter Squadron in 1942. He promised Ruby hat he would return from war to marry her. James and Ruby were married on August 19, 1944 and stayed married until James’ death in 2000. Ruby gave birth to three children: Mary was born in 1945, James Jr. in 1947 and William in 1950.

James was a career Air Force Officer and Ruby was the perfect wife. She followed James across the country for the next 20 years. They lived in Arizona, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Ohio and then finally to Seattle in 1962. All along the way, Ruby was tireless in caring for the family. While being a fulltime homemaker, she was also a substitute teacher, a real estate agent, and a Seattle City employee at one time or another. Ruby still found time to volunteer in the community. She was a Girl Scout leader and a tutor, among other things. She was also very active in the life of the University Unitarian church her in Seattle. Some of her very best friends were church members and she truly loved the church and everything it stood for.

James retired in 1980 after 24 years in the Air Force and 15 more years at the Boeing Company. He and Ruby spent the next 20 years traveling the world and enjoying their well-earned retirement. They visited every continent in the world except Antartica. They went to Cairo, Athens, Jerusalem, Moscow, Paris, Rome, London, Tokyo, Beijing, Singapore, Manila, Mexico City, Santiago and hundreds of other cities. They enjoyed cruise ships and took at least 10 cruises.

Ruby was a devoted grandmother to her 8 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She showed the same loving care for them that she showed for her own three children.

Ruby Wiley was truly a beautiful person. She had grace and poise that was most unusual. She was intelligent and talented. She loved her family, her country, and the people in her community. She was a true lady in every sense of the word and had no vices. She was also a Christian.

We are all blessed to have known her.
(Submitted by: William Wiley)

FRANCES LINE:

**HOME GOING CELEBRATION OF
ALCYNETTA CARMEN LOUISE FREEMAN
September 25, 1923 - May 19, 2008**

Alice Alcynetta Carmen Louise Cassell was born September 25, 1923 in Des Moines, Iowa to Mark and Luella Cassell. The family raised flowers, vegetables and fruit gardens and had chickens and ducks.

During her childhood years, Alcynetta set an unbeatable record in baseball throw that stood for over twenty years., She was also on the swim team at Callahan Junior High and Roosevelt High School. Alcynetta worked as a secretary for the State of Iowa before moving to Taunton, Massachusetts where she worked on the military base., She also worked at Wright Patterson base in Dayton, Ohio. Alcynetta held several positions over 20 years at the University of Minnesota bookstore before retiring. After retirement, she worked with the senior program in the North Commons Senior Ceramics Program and the Minneapolis Urban League.

She was baptized at Corinthian Baptist Church in Des Moines, Iowa and after moving to Minneapolis, joined Zion Baptist Church an the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church where she enjoyed the music, celebrations and the friendship of her church family. She was a member of the Sabathani Bowling League for many years.

Alcynetta was preceded in death by her parents and eleven siblings and husbands Edward (Buss) King, Charles Ballard and William Freeman. She leaves to cherish her memory, one brother John Cassell of San Francisco, brother-in-law Wilver Lee; three daughters; Regina Tarver, Charlene James and Rosalind (Jim) Fuller; two sons, Edward Ronald Freeman and Britt (Cyndy) Freeman; 16 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren and a host of loving family members.

We will miss her lovingness, caring and cherish her memory. We wish her love on her journey to join the Lord and our other loved ones.
(Submitted by: Louella Williams)

**WOODSON FAMILY CONNECTIONS TO
WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY
XENIA, GREENE COUNTY, OHIO**

Wilberforce University was founded in 1856 as the Ohio African University. The original board of directors was composed mostly of clergy. Most of the members were white, but four African American joined the board, as well. Among them were *Lewis Woodson* (oldest child of Thomas and Jemima Price Woodson) and Daniel Payne. During the Civil War, the school closed. It was later reopened under the auspices of the A.M.E. Church. Taking the responsibility as president, Daniel Payne became the first African American to lead a university.

Sarah Jane Woodson (Early), (youngest child of Thomas and Jemima Woodson) after graduating from Oberlin University, Ohio, became an instructor at Wilberforce in 1858. She left after two years, but returned to add strength to the endeavor, when the A.M.E. took control of the university. She was also the first woman to be hired as an instructor in any university.

(Wilberforce cont.)

Members of the Woodson family played a prominent role in the establishment of *Wilberforce University*. Connections with the university and with the schools that grew from the historical core continued for many years and have not entirely dissipated. This article will present some of those connections, most likely there are connections that have been lost to history or require further research.

The most recently found connection to Wilberforce that we are aware of is the enrollment of *Leslie Jeter Wass* at Wilberforce. She is a niece of Sandra Herring, who attended the 2008 Woodson Family Reunion. Ms. Wass graduated from Wilberforce approximately 10 years ago. While there, she was called upon to speak about the Woodson family.

Douglas Robertson (Lewis line) works for Central State University, which is an outgrowth of Wilberforce, and lives in the Wilberforce community. Mr. Robertson is a grandson of *George Frederick Jr.*, who taught mathematics at Central State for many years. *Elyce Robertson*, sister of Douglas, was recently appointed a Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative.

Harry Payne Woodson, Sr. (William line), graduated from Wilberforce University and Payne Theological Seminary in 1912. A native of Findlay, Ohio, he married a Wilberforce graduate, *Fannie Barbara Davis*, of Charleston, West. Va. Harry was a minister, teacher and businessman in Charleston, West Virginia where they raised two daughters, and four sons. Harry and Fannie Woodson are the maternal grandparents of our current association president, *Connye Moore Richardson*.

Karl F. Smith (Jemima line) enrolled in Payne Theological Seminary in 1913. The Seminary is an outgrowth of Wilberforce University and remains in the Wilberforce Community. He joined the school's choir and played on the basketball team. Smith was drawn away from the African Methodist Episcopal Church after two years of study at the seminary when he joined The Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith in Columbus, Ohio. *Robert and Ronald Smith*, our indispensable cousins from Columbus, are sons of Karl F. Smith and also products of Karl's successful ministry.

Carl C. Fields, husband of *Anna Louise White*, daughter of Thomas C. White (Frances line), also graduated from Wilberforce University.

George Frederick Woodson, 1861-1941, (Lewis line), was a grandson of Lewis and Caroline Robinson Woodson. He attended and/or graduated from Central High School in Pittsburgh, Pa., Wilberforce University, Drew University, Payne Theological Seminary and Morris Brown University. He served as Dean of Payne Seminary from 1902 to 1935. His mother, Nancy Tanner Woodson was the sister of A.M.E. Bishop Benjamin Tanner. He married Laura Edna Smith and produced three children; Lewis Payne, George Frederick Jr., and Grace Isabel. The current association regional representatives, *Elyce Robertson, Trey Woodson, Tasha Woodson Bolden, and Candace Woodson* are all descendents of George Frederick and Edna Woodson.

This History links Wilberforce University and its' spin-off institutions to five lines of the Woodson Family. They are: Lewis, Frances, Jemima, William and Sarah Jane. There were no offspring from Sarah Jane Woodson Early.

Submitted by: Byron Woodson, Sr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Cousins,

In the absence of a newsletter editor and until a cousin volunteers, I am the acting newsletter editor. For those of you have any news to report to the family from your line or any information that you have received through others about other cousins, please send those items for publication via email or my home address at:

Connie Moore-Richardson
814 South Hudson Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90005
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The objective is to publish three to four newsletters per year. So, in order to have a newsletter, we must all contribute. I am looking forward to hearing from all of you.

Warmest regards to all cousins and hope all is well.

Connie

WOODSON REUNION PHOTOS NOW AVAILABLE

Cousin George "Fred" Woodson, (Lewis line) graciously acted as our reunion photographer. There is a link on www.woodson.org to order on line. The 2008 Reunion group photo was also donated to the Woodson Family website, courtesy of Fred Woodson. For those who do not have access to a computer, you may order a CD from Fred at the following address: George Frederick Woodson, 4311 River Birch Drive, Spring Hill, Florida, 34607.

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