



SUMMERALL SENTINEL



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Jacks,

I hope this letter reaches you all in the best of health and spirits. This is our last newsletter before the Gathering and the last newsletter of this administration. I want to thank everyone for their cooperation and support over the past two years. The Gathering is upon us and I am excited because we have a full slate of events planned for everyone that I hope you enjoy. The Gathering is scheduled from August 21 to August 24, 2008.



The family will be selling T-shirts this year. In the past other family members have sold shirts, but the officers thought it best to sell the shirts as a fundraiser. We are not prohibiting others from selling, however we would ask that you support and patronize our cause first because the money raised will be going back to the treasury to help defray costs.

We will be scheduling events this year for Friday morning and afternoon. Consideration has been given for all age groups and no one will be left out. We have a skating outing planned for the young and the young-at-heart on Friday evening. The bus will leave Thankful New Jersey Church at 6:00 p.m. The family is providing the transportation, but everyone going will be responsible for the \$8 admission fee into the skating rink. We will have "pampering and beauty" treatments for the women. We are also going golfing again this year. Please bring your clubs and be prepared to knock the dew off the grass early Friday.

We are accepting bids for catering. We need catering for Thursday, Friday and Sunday after service. For more details contact our Program Chair, Patricia Murray at 804-502-5706. We would like to have the catering decisions made and finalized no later than Friday, June 27, 2008.

The registration forms have been made available in this mailer. We have also made registration available on line. Go to www.Jacksummerall.com. The instructions are very explicit. It is very important that everyone register as quickly as possible.

The costs associated with running the gathering have increased. With the increased costs, we can no longer provide the quality programs and activities with "nonpaying" families participating. We need everyone's financial support.

Finally, this is an election year. I am urging everyone, especially the young people, to get involved and serve in any capacity your talents will allow you. Serving the family is an honor.

I have truly enjoyed being your president. Thank you for the opportunity. See you in August. God bless.

Yours Truly,

Herman Stevens, Jr., President
Jack and Mariah Summerall Family Gathering

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Greetings,

We, the scholarship committee are excited about our prospective 2008 graduates. Time is winding down and it will soon be transition time for our mighty SENIORS! You may contact Sharon Williams-Pace regarding your information at wpspcp@aol.com. If you will be graduating from high school this year, you may apply for the Jack Summerall Scholarship. The deadline for the scholarship is August 1, 2008.

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

High school graduates who have:

- Attended at least ONE SUMMERALL GATHERING in the last three (3) years as a REGISTERED MEMBER.
- Rendered service to the SUMMERALL GATHERING, such as ushering, assisting in youth projects, participating on programs, singing in the choir, assisting in food preparation and serving, cleaning up and setting up picnic areas, etc.
- Successfully completed high school or technical/vocational training and have included an official transcript.
- Obtained a GPA (grade point average) of 2.5 or above.
- Submitted an essay (no less than 150 words) explaining why you deserve to receive this scholarship. (Optional: You may include a 3-5 minute power point presentation on your connection to Jack and Maria Summerall).
- Included proof that you have been accepted into an accredited college/university, vocational or technical school.
- Rendered service to your community (documentation required).
- Filled out the application form thoroughly and completely.
- Met the August 1st deadline of the current year.
- Included three letters of recommendation from someone who is NOT related to the applicant: school personnel, minister (spiritual leader), community service organization, etc.

Also, if there are individuals who are also enrolled in an institution of higher learning working toward an A.A., B.S., Masters, Ed.S./Ed.D., Ph. D., Degree, we would like to include this information.

If you have additional scholarship information that you would like to share with others, you may post it on the message board for the Summerall website at www.jacksummerall.com. We also need donations for scholarships, these are our OUR children, let's support them. You can make a donation when you register for the Gathering.

JACK SUMMERALL COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

The Board of the Corporation expresses our thanks to the donors for the pledges we've received to date. In order for us to reach our goal, we need ALL donors to submit their pledges. We will be sending out individual letters within the next month with an accounting to each donor. Our goal to have a building in our family's name has not changed. Owning our own building is more imperative now than ever. The costs of renting the facilities in Baxley to host events have more than doubled since last year. Your money pledged to date totals \$20,000.00 plus and is deposited in an interest bearing account. We have enough people in our family to make this dream a reality. For those that have not made a pledge, we implore you to make this commitment. In order for this dream to become a reality, we need everyone to step up to the plate and do his or her part.

We are in the process of planning a fundraiser for the building fund. Various family members will be contacted asking them to do a fundraiser for the Summerall building before this years Gathering. More information to follow very soon.

The Board of Directors of the JACK SUMMERALL COMMUNITY CENTER, INC. presented our first Jack and Mariah Summerall Legacy Lecture Series on April 24, 2008 at Thankful New Jersey Baptist Church. It was well attended. The focus was on Estate Planning matters. Topics included, creating wills, health care proxy, power of attorney and protecting yourself from identity theft. Ms. Verna Smith, Esq., of Dublin, Georgia who grew up in Baxley, provided this valuable information for free.

SUMMERALL FAMILY NEWS

Viola McMillan

Layla McCall, daughter of Annette McCall and granddaughter of Ardella McMillan and the late David McCall, purchased her first home in Charlotte, NC in Dec. 2007. In February 2008, she obtained her license to practice as a physical therapist in the state of NC.

David McCall, the son of Ardella and the late David McCall, celebrated his 13th year anniversary as pastor of St. Phillips Missionary Baptist Church in Ludowici, GA.. **Durretha McCall**, daughter of Durrell and Coretha McCall and granddaughter of David and Ella McCall was christened at World Changes Church on Feb. 3, 2008.

ISABELL GORDON

Nikasha Gross and Pastor Marion Wise were united in holy matrimony on Sat. May 17, 2008 in Jacksonville, FL. Nikasha is the daughter of Arlisha Holmes, granddaughter of the late Mattie Baker, great granddaughter of the late Doshie Gilmore and great, great granddaughter of the late Isabell Gordon.

LaMeisha Myles is a graduate of A. Philip Randolph Academy of Technology, where she is currently enrolled in the cosmetology academy and will receive not only a diploma but also a cosmetology license. LaMeisha is the daughter of Judy Conaway-Myles, granddaughter of Arlisha Holmes, great granddaughter of Mattie Baker and great, great granddaughter of Isabell Gordon. LaMeisha plans to attend Florida Community College of Jacksonville (FCCJ) for two years and then transfer to Florida State University. LaMeisha will pursue a degree in Pre-Med to become one of Jack Summerall's finest pediatricians.

Cyndi Salami, the daughter of Jenny Conaway-Salami had a double celebration. She graduated from Valencia Community College, Orlando, FL on May 3rd and delivered a baby boy (Zion Coleman) on May 6, 2008. She is the granddaughter of Mattie Baker and the great granddaughter of Isabell Gordon.

Erica Williams is a senior at Albany State University in Albany, GA and will graduate December 13, 2008 as a Mass Communications major. She works as an on-air personality at her school's radio station and was recently nominated for On-Air Radio Personality of the Year. She is the daughter of Shelton and Lula Williams, granddaughter of the late Arthur & Hazel Williams.

Christina Pace, daughter of Wilfred & Sharon Pace of Orangeburg, SC; granddaughter of Drissie Mae Williams and the late David "Bubba" Williams, great granddaughter of Isabell Gordon will graduate from Orangeburg Preparatory School on May 30, 2008. Christina plans to attend Claflin University. She traveled to Washington, DC for her senior trip the week of March 3-8.

Wilfred & Sharon Pace of Orangeburg, South Carolina enjoyed a week in New Orleans, Louisiana to celebrate her 48th birthday and to participate in the National Assoc. of Professional Black Natural Resource Conservation Employees annual conference. **Christopher Pace**, son of Wilfred & Sharon Pace traveled to Chicago, IL for his 8th grade class trip the week of March 31st.

Margaret Williams will be retiring from the Griffin-Spalding County School System in June 2008 after 31 years of teaching school. She is the daughter of Drissie and the later David Williams and the granddaughter of Isabell Gordon.

Vera Byrd & David Heath wedded on Nov. 24, 2007 at Agape Assembly in Brunswick, GA. Vera is the daughter of Nell Byrd, granddaughter of Vera Byrd, great granddaughter of Doshie Gilmore and great, great granddaughter of Isabell Gordon.

Shelby Williams and Sergeant Wilfred Jolly, Jr. announce their marriage on Sun., March 16th, 2008 at New Life Church Ministries in Holly Hills, FL. They will reside in Jacksonville, NC. She is the daughter of Mickey Williams, grand daughter of the late Calvina Williams, great grand daughter of Arthur & Hazel Williams.

Alvin Vincent Chance & Ida Mae Hines will be united as one with Christ at 2 p.m. on June 14, 2008 at Greater New Corinth Missionary Baptist Church in Cairo, GA. Vincent is the son of the late Vivian Chance and grandson of the late Manning Williams.

ISABELL GORDON con't

Joseph Gilmore was installed as pastor of Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church (Marlboro, MD), succeeding his father, Joseph A. Gilmore, Sr. on Dec. 9, 2007. His younger brother, Todd Gilmore serves as Youth Minister. They are the grandsons of Doshie Gilmore and great grandsons of Isabell Gordon.

Roy Williams and twin brother Troy graduated from Albany State University on May 3, 2008. Roy will attend graduate school at the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering at Auburn University in the fall where he will earn a masters degree in Computer Science and Software Engineering. Troy will go to graduate school at Central Missouri University where he will earn a masters degree in Exercise Science and will be a Graduate Assistant with the university's football team. They are the sons of Troy Williams, Sr. and the grandson of the late David "Dee" Williams.

The home of **Murtice and Bobby Burch** was severely damaged in a fire recently in Daytona Beach, FL. Thanks to God and their daughter Janice, they were rescued.

SULAH WHITING

Lt. Colonel Reginald Cray accepted an assignment as Army Ass't. Training and Doctrine Command System Manager for Network Services. He will be assigned to Ft. Gordon, Ga. He is the son of the late Ola and Leadley Cray and grandson of Sula Whiting.

Kendra Cray made the A honor roll and also lettered in band. She is the daughter of Reginald and Olivia Cray.

CHELSEY WILLIAMS

Ka'lyn Geathers, granddaughter of Cynthia Calloway, great granddaughter of Rutha Mae Laws, great, great, great granddaughter of Druscilla Small and great, great, great granddaughter of Chelsey Williams, is a Debutante in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Christian Walker, 13 years old was the 2nd African American boy accepted at The Hotchkiss School from the KIPP Reach Academy in Oklahoma City. This is a prestigious boarding school that focuses on developing leaders among young people of color in the U.S. Christian is the son of Cheryl Walker-Hinson, grandson of Cynthia Laws-Calloway, great grandson of Rutha Mae Laws, great, great, grandson of Druscilla Small, great, great, great, grandson of Chelsey Williams.

LULA PORTER

Francois Boursiquot took on a new and exciting challenge when he was recently hired as the IT Administrator for a large law firm in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He is the son of Dr. Janice Boursiquot, grandson of Naomi Porter-Bowers and grandson of Lula Porter.

Ronald Andrews, Jr., (age 10), son of Rev. Valerie Andrews, grandson of the late Claudia (Vain) McCullough, great-grandson of Lula Porter, recently participated in an art contest sponsored by the Arden Children's Theater in Philadelphia. He won four tickets to see the newly revised version of Sleeping Beauty.



Jacks Gone Home to Glory



Lois Porter-Washington was laid to rest 12/20/07 at Thankful New Jersey Baptist Church, Baxley, GA. She was the daughter of Lula Porter (the youngest of Abigail and Cesar Sharpe's daughters).

Osby McMillan, Sr. passed on April 5, 2008 in New York. He is the brother of Ardella McMillan-McCall and the son of Viola and James McMillan.

Lois and Osby were two of nine remaining grandchildren that we know of from Abigail and Cesar Sharp, which means there are seven remaining from this 4th generation: Cesar Stevens & Murtice Burch (Daytona Beach, FL); Dewitt Stevens (Palm Beach, FL/Norwalk, CT), Ardella McCall (Baxley, GA), Winnie Chappell & Edward Sharpe (Phil., PA), Lula Mae Weaver (Deerfield, FL).

Daughter of Esther Thomas, granddaughter of Chelsea Williams, **Lyndia Faye Bowen** passed away in Riverdale, GA April 5th and funeralized in Lewes, DE on April 12th.

Funeral services were held for **James Williams** on May 10, 2008, at: Mizpah Baptist Church in Baxley, GA. James, a native of Baxley is the husband of Gwen Williams, daughter of Geneva Butler and granddaughter of Lula Porter. He died in Roanoke, Alabama after a brief hospital stay.

John Curtis Tatnall died on Feb. 29th, his funeral was March 8th in Atlanta, GA. John is the grandson of Cornelia Sharpe Tatnall (Cezar Sharpe's sister), who was Abbie Sharpe's sister-in-law. Another one of Cornelia's grandchildren, **Mattie Lou Bennett's**, funeral was held on March 1st in Hazelhurst, GA. She was born in 1914. Both were of the 4th generation.

SUMMERALL HERITAGE CELEBRATIONS

Heritage celebrations were held for several of the surviving 4th generation Jacks. These events were well attended by immediate and extended family members. Our president of the Summerall Gathering, Herman Stevens presented all with a plaque.

A triple heritage celebration was held in Philadelphia in November for **Winnie Chappell, Lula Weaver** (daughters of Lula Porter) and **Edward Sharpe**, son of Thomas Sharpe. **Ardella McCall**, daughter of Viola McMillan (Aunt Miss) was honored on Dec. 15, 2007 in Atlanta, GA. This event was hosted by her oldest grandson and his wife, David & Kimberly Hartwell during their annual Christmas family celebration. A celebration was held for **Murtice (Murt) Burch** and **Cezar Stevens** in Daytona Beach, FL on Jan. 5, 2008. Murt is the only living child of Isabell Gordon (Aunt Bell) and Cesar is one of two remaining children of Beatrice Stevens (Aunt Bea). A plaque was presented to **Dewitt Stevens** by our president at his elaborate 80th birthday celebration in West Palm Beach, FL on Jan. 6, 2008. This event was primarily for immediate family members.

HISTORICAL LEGACY COMMITTEE

Summerall History Reflections

This year marks the 100th birthdays of Glance Williams, the son of Aunt Chelsey and Friday Williams. Glance died in the 1950s. I remember visiting him in Lyons, Georgia, in 1950. The thing I remember most about him was the dignified way in which he carried himself as he entered New Jersey Baptist Church on the first Sunday each month.

This is the same impression I have of cousin Ondra Stevens, the oldest son of Aunt Beatrice and Washington Stevens. Ondra was Vice-President of the Summerall Corporation, the first Corporation and business venture started by the Summerall Family Gathering. I consider these and other Summerall males who assembled for worship at New Jersey Baptist, to be my role models. They didn't realize it, but they were giving me the impression of what manhood was about. The impression that manhood meant serving God, being respectful, showing love toward your mother and family members, and being dignified.

The other person whose 100th birthday we celebrate this year is the person who had the greatest impact on my life, my mother, Doshie Gilmore. She birthed me into this world at the age of 22. She was a loving and caring mother, who always had room and time for family members who would stop by our house for one reason or another. I am forever thankful to God for the Bible stories and bed-time

prayer meetings she shared with her growing children, and the encouragement for us to become all that we could be. HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOM! (If you know of other members who were born in 1908, please email their names to me.

As I continue with the Summerall History Project, I find myself at a loss to discover where Jack and his family were living for about ten years after slavery. I have not been able to find their names in the 1870 U.S. Census Tracts. I am concluding that they remained on the plantation or somewhere in that area. Also there is a question as to which of David Summerall's children owned Grandma Abby. Her name is noted in the 1868 November church minutes of Ten Mile Creek Baptist Church, but, her mother, Mariah's name is not. This and other pieces of missing evidence are giving me lots of room for speculation. Hopefully, a family member will be able to find the missing pieces in the future.

Again, I am requesting historic information from all family members. I don't want coming generations to say "they were born, they worked, they died, and they were forgotten.

Rev. Rozell Gilmore
Family Historian