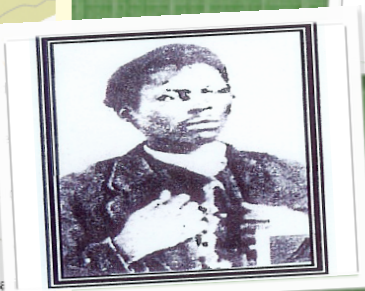
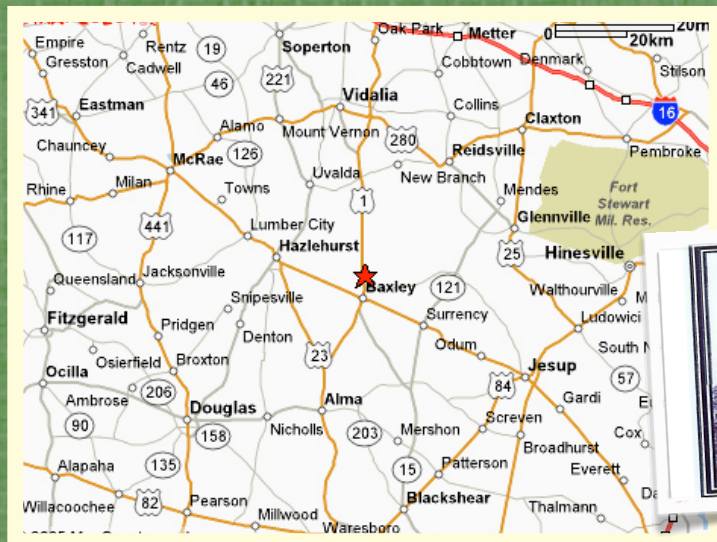


# Summerall Sentinel

VOL. 11

MARCH 2009

ISSUE 01



*From whence  
we've come...  
Jack &  
Mariah  
Summerall*

## *President's Communique'*

### ***Greetings Jacks,***

It's almost that time of year again when we make our annual journey to a small country town called Baxley, GA. It is our time to visit the land and sites of our ancestors and to walk the paths and dirt roads that our forefathers traveled. It's a time to laugh; a time to cry and reminisce on fond memories; a time to celebrate our heritage and identify with who we are. Who are we?

We are descendants of **Jack and Mariah Summerall**. A family with a rich legacy and the tenacity to come back to a small town called Baxley, GA. A proud people, we're a family that loves one another...no different than any other family. Yes, we have our troubles but what's most impressive is our unwavering love and commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.

God has always been our guide, support and anchor. He has and will continue to be the foundation of our family. We want to assure you that your *Family Gathering Officers* are working diligently as we prepare for our 54<sup>th</sup> Gathering and look forward to your continued support. With God's grace and mercy, we'll see you in August.

*Reuben G. Butler, Jr., President*  
Summerall Family Gathering

### ***Important Reminder:***

As per our last business meeting, in an effort to save cost, all individuals who are on our e-mail address list **WILL NOT** receive a hardcopy of the family newsletter or registration form. These individuals are expected to download these items. A copy of the newsletter and registration will only be mailed to those individuals who are on our mailing list and do not have an e-mail address. We would also encourage everyone who has Internet access to download the registration form ([www.jacksummerall.com](http://www.jacksummerall.com)) and share the information with family members who you know do not have Internet access. Anyone who is not on the mailing list or would like to request a hardcopy, contact the following individuals:

Reuben Butler, Jr. [summerallpres@yahoo.com](mailto:summerallpres@yahoo.com) (407) 879-0260  
Henrietta Greene-Linder [hgreene195@aol.com](mailto:hgreene195@aol.com) (954) 683-2649  
Lee Nora Weaver [lpatten864@aol.com](mailto:lpatten864@aol.com) (561) 251-3758



***"You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them."***  
**Bishop Desmond Tutu**

## Family Officers 2008 - 2009

**President:**  
Reuben Butler, Jr.

**Vice President:**  
Deloris Jones

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
Nikasha Wise

**Recording Secretary:**  
Beverly Madison

**Financial Secretary:**  
Pamela Stevens

**Treasurer:**  
Annette McCall

**Program Chairperson:**  
Henrietta Greene-Linder

**Parliamentarian:**  
Arthur Williams

**Co-Sergeant-At-Arms:**  
Reuben Butler, Sr.  
Felita Turner

**Co-Music Directors:**  
Dr. Dawnyetta Marable  
George Butts

**Co-Youth Directors:**  
Diann McNeil  
Kristy Ryals-Bennett

**Super Seniors:**  
Beverly Madison

**Benevolence:**  
Lucinda Webb

**Computer Technology:**  
Travoy Downing

**Historical & Legacy:**  
Rev. Rozell Gilmore

**Scholarship:**  
Sharon Pace

**Corporation/  
Community Center:**  
Reuben Butler, Sr.

**Newsletter:**  
Lee Nora Weaver  
Terry Rattray

## Message from Program Chair

Greetings Family Members,

I pray this newsletter will find you well and richly blessed in the Lord.

The **Summerall Family Gathering** Program Committee is excitedly planning this year's activities. We have been working hard planning and preparing a fun filled weekend with a number of events for your enjoyment. We are dedicated to making this an enjoyable occasion and a time to pay tribute to our ancestors, strengthen family bonds, and pass this heritage along to the younger generation.

The following is a tentative schedule of Highlights of the 2009 Gathering:

Thursday: Opening Program

Friday: Women's Retreat  
Summerall Historical Workshop  
Evening Program

Saturday: Memorial Walk/Run/Motorcade/Gravesite Tribute  
Family Breakfasts  
Business Meeting  
Picnic  
Basketball Tournament  
Dance

Sunday: Family Worship  
Dinner & Departure

If anyone would like to participate on the program Thursday, Friday and/or the Sunday morning worship service, or assist at the picnic on Saturday, please contact: Henrietta Greene-Linder at 954-698-6168 or [hgreene195@aol.com](mailto:hgreene195@aol.com). If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Again, we are excited about the **2009 Summerall Family Gathering**, and hope you are as excited as we are, and are planning to join us for this Gathering.

Henrietta Greene-Linder  
Program Chairperson



## Women's Workshop

### Get Ready! Get Ready! Get Ready!

This year we will continue our Women's Workshop, which was a huge success last year. We want to continue to build on this workshop, as we know the roles we play and the tears we've shed in our responsibilities as women. This workshop will allow us to share our pains and visions for the future. We are asking all women to meet us on Friday afternoon, from 2:00 - 4:00 P.M., at the Progressive Center.

\* \* \* \* \*

*A family reunion is a time of great joy and excitement. In the world that we live in, families are often scattered around the globe. Loved ones may not see or talk to one another for years, even though there is but a plane ride separating them.*

*A family reunion is a time to remember that although you may feel close to your neighbors and friends, there is nothing quite like family. These are the ones who are closest to you in blood. You share the same history and ancestors who cared for you. When you really need help, family members are the ones who are most likely to come through.*

*(Family Friend Poems)*

## Historical Legacy Committee:

**Isabell Gordon:**  
Rev. Rozell Gilmore  
*Family Historian*

**Beatrice Stevens:**  
Patricia Washington

**Viola McMillan**  
Durrell McCall

**Sulah Whiten**  
Reginald Cray

**Lula Porter**  
Delores Harris

**Chelsey Williams**  
Esther Thomas

**Thomas Sharpe**  
Pat Collier

**Mattie Summerall**  
Clementine Price

**Rosa McNeil**  
Rev. Birdie Patricia Quinones



## In Loving Memory...

**James Williams (LP)**  
5-3-08

**Murtice Williams Burch (IG)**  
8-11-08

**Renford Butler (LP)**  
8-14-08

**Eunice Mae Williams (IG)**  
12-1-08

**Bernice Williams (LP)**  
2-3-09

**Winnie Allen Chappell (LP)**  
2-3-09

**Evangelist Preston Holmes (IG)**  
2-16-09

**Louise Ogden (PO)**  
3-09-09

*“When we all get to Heaven, what a  
day of rejoicing that will be...”*

## Historical Legacy Committee

*“It is indeed a desirable thing to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors.” Plutarch*

### History on Abigail (Abby) Summerall-Sharpe

As far as we know, Grandma Abby was the first child born to Jack and Mariah Summerall. She was born in 1852 or 53. She represents the second generation of the known Jack and Mariah family tree. She has the distinction of being the only child born into slavery. Her sister, Rosa was born in 1863, the same year President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

According to the 1880 Census Tract, Grandma and Grandpa Cezar's first child was born in 1867. A marriage register, in the Baxley Library, shows that they were officially married in 1872. We can assume that they were living as husband and wife from about 1866, which would fit the tradition age that young ladies got married at the time. She was either 14 or 15 years old, when she got married.

The 1880 Census Tract shows that between 1867 and 1879, she gave birth to six children. Her second group of birth began in 1882 with Sulah (Aunt Sulah). This second group is responsible for our Summerall Family Gathering. Many of us remember Aunt Sulah, her six sisters and brother, Thomas Sharpe.

My memory of Grandma Abby is that she was an elderly woman with brown skin, who would spend some time at my Grandma Isabell's house. She lived with her daughter, Viola, (Aunt Miss), across the pond. (My Grandma Isabell, and Aunt Sulah, lived across the pond). Cousin Ardella McCall, Aunt Viola's daughter, is the last living Grand who lived with her.

As a child, I remember hearing relatives telling a story of Grandma Abby running from the plantation where she was working. The story went like this: As she was running, others in the field shouted out: "Run Abby Run! Run Abby Run!"

Grandma Abby was baptized at Ten Mile Baptist Church in 1867. Her name is noted on the Church's "Color Members Roll", along with Grandpa Jack's. I was eight years old when she died in 1939. I can still hear the crying and the slow ringing of the church bell. Grandpa Cezar died between the years 1896 and 99, leaving her a widow with seven children.

The 1900 US Census shows that she married a Thomas Cromartie. He apparently died before 1920, because the 1920 Census tract shows her as Abby Sharpe again. **(This article is taken from Summerall Family History, being written by Rozell Gilmore.)**



### Historical Workshop

On Friday afternoon of the Family Gathering, we will share our family history and educate those who are unfamiliar with our roots. We strongly encourage participation of all family members, particularly our youth. This workshop will be from 4:30 p.m.-6 p.m. at the Progressive Center. We have identified a member from each family branch to be on the Historical Committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Fundraiser

This year, we will sell advertisement as a fundraiser. Fifty percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Jack Summerall Family Gathering. The remainder will be distributed between the Jack Summerall Corporation, Historical Committee and the Summerall Scholarship Fund. The cost for the ads is listed below:

#### **AD SIZE/COST:**

Full Page \$100    Half Page \$50    Quarter Page \$25    Business Card \$15

Louvenia Dicker is the project leader. She will handle all ads for the Baxley, GA area. Louvenia can be reached at 912-256-3078 or e-mailed at: [Imobley@appling.k12.ga.us](mailto:Imobley@appling.k12.ga.us). Natasha Wise will be responsible for all ads outside the Baxley, GA area. She can be reached at: [wisewam@aol.com](mailto:wisewam@aol.com). Personal and family ads are encouraged and welcome. (This also includes photographs.)



## **Scholarship Committee**

We, the scholarship committee would like to say THANK YOU to Mrs. Marian Gilmore-Loving for establishing a scholarship in memory of her brother, the late Rev. Joseph A. Gilmore, Sr., which will be an annual donation. The 1st Scholarship was awarded at the 2008 Family Gathering. We encourage others to donate to the scholarship fund in order to help students defray some of the cost of college expenses.

You may contact Mrs. Sharon Pace @ [wpspcp@aol.com](mailto:wpspcp@aol.com) for further information. The requirements and scholarship application is available on line at: [www.jacksummerall.com](http://www.jacksummerall.com). Deadline is August 1, 2009.

Known graduating seniors for 2009 who have submitted names are:

**\*Keanna Grant** – Decatur, GA, daughter of Keith (Tijuana) Williams and Carla Grant, grand-daughter of Margaret Williams, and great grand-daughter of Drissie Williams and the late David “Bubba” Williams.

**\*James Jones** – Baxley, GA, son of Jimmy and Deloris Jones, grand-son of

the late David E. and Annie Lois Williams, great-grandson of the late Manning and Mattie B. Williams.

**\*Justin Robinson** – Baxley, GA, son of DeWayne & Erika (Robinson) Spearman, grand-son of Bart and Christine Robinson and great-grandson of Drissie Williams and the late David “Bubba” Williams.

If you have scholarship information that you would like to share with students please forward to the website manager for posting.

Way to go Seniors!!

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Summerall Family Choir**

Calling all Jack Summerall Choir Members! If you are a present choir member, or one that would like to join this year, please submit your name, e-mail address, telephone number, and actual mailing address to Dr. Dawnyetta R. Marable. Please forward this information to:

[dmarablemd@students.mcg.edu](mailto:dmarablemd@students.mcg.edu).

**Dr. Dawnyetta R. Marable**  
Co-Music Director

## **Message from the Youth Department**

This year, our vision is to bring our youth and elderly together. We are excited to inform you that this year we will have a “Summerall Historical Workshop” and we are encouraging all our youth to participate so we can educate them on our family history. This event will be Friday at the Progressive Center from 4:30pm - 6pm.

At our family picnic on Saturday, we have organized some special activities for our young kids between ages 2 and 10. It should also be noted that the pool will be available for all ages. There will also be a basketball tournament after the picnic for our teens and young adults, followed by a dance.

Therefore, we are looking forward and preparing a fun time for our youth. We will also be expecting parental and family involvement as we encourage and support our next generation of Jacks.

**Kristy Ryals-Bennett**  
Co-Youth Director



## **PROJECT - - COMMUNITY CENTER -- UPDATE**

As some of you may or may not know, I accepted the appointment of Vice President to head the Summerall Community Center Board due to the fact that David Hartwell was called back to active duty immediately after the election last year. I gladly accepted this position because I want to do all that I can to continue our mission -- **TO BUILD OR PROCURE A JACK SUMMERALL COMMUNITY CENTER** in Baxley, Georgia.

You may remember that our Campaign Advisor, Professor Melvin R. Allen, set up a projected cost and first year operation at approximately \$300,000. In order to raise that amount, we should have raised \$100,000 each year starting in 2007 in order to have the \$300,000 by 2009. Well, family, it is now 2009! According to his plan, we would start building this year. The problem is, we are nowhere near the projected amount.

We are behind in the commitment that we made in 2007, but it is not too late. Please, family, let us get back on track and renew our promise. Let us begin now to make our donations to our mission. For Phase 1 of this campaign to be successful, we need a combination of

3 Heroes (\$5,000+) / 10 Founders (\$2,500+) / 25 Charter Members (\$1,000+)  
50 Supporters (\$500+) / 100 Believers (\$400 & below)

Remember, your past donations will be counted toward your pledge. Donations may be tax deductible, as the Jack Summerall Community Center, Inc., is a 5013(c) non-profit corporation. The payment of pledges in installments is acceptable. You may also arrange for deductions to be made monthly through your bank. **FAMILY, PLEASE KEEP YOUR DONATIONS COMING!**

You may send your donations to CAROL ALDERMAN, Treasurer, P.O. Box 22862, Savannah, GA 31403, or JUDY BROWN, Financial Secretary, 3016-8<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, Palmetto, FL 34221. *Please do not send cash in the mail.*

I look forward to working with each one of my relatives, and I thank you for all that you do for your family.

Reuben Butler, Sr., Vice President  
Summerall Community Center Board

# Family News...

## Rosa McNeil:

**Syretta Lett**, daughter of Sylvester & Mamie Lett, granddaughter of the late Robert & Mamie McNeil, great granddaughter of Rosa McNeil, is continuing her studies at the Philadelphia School of Medicine in Duluth, Georgia. Continue the good work, Syretta!

Congratulations to **LaShondral Bowers**, who received her Master's Degree in Education, on February 22, 2009, at the Savannah Civic Center, Savannah, Georgia. LaShondral is the daughter of Carol Alderman, granddaughter of Dorothy Barksdale, great granddaughter of Willie Mae Ivory, and great grand-niece of Rosa McNeil.

## Mattie Summerall:

The **Mattie Summerall/Green Family** will cruise to Jamaica August 12th to 20th. Leaving from New York, they will visit 5 islands.

Congratulations to **Karen Redmon** who graduated with a Master's Degree in October 2008 from Columbia University Teachers College in New York. Karen is the daughter of Doris Green Redmon, granddaughter of John Green, Sr., and the great granddaughter of Mattie Summerall.

**Eddie Hardaway** graduated with a Master's Degree from Hunter College in New York. Eddie is the husband of Michelle Hardaway and the son-in-law of Karen Redmon.

## Sulah Whiten:

**Mrs. Tommie Ogden** celebrated her 86th birthday on Jan 30 in Savannah, GA. She was surprised by more than 40 family and friends; including her children and grandchildren.

**Dr. Areatha Virgil** was hired as the new principal at Appling County Elementary School. She is the first African American principal for the school. Areatha is the daughter of Tommie and Alvin (deceased) Ogden. She is married to Rev. Dr. BJ Virgil, Pastor of Thankful New Jersey Baptist Church.

**Kendra Cray** made the A/B Honor Roll at Lakeside Middle School in Evans (Augusta), GA. Kendra is in the 8th grade. She is the daughter of Reginald and Olivia Cray and the granddaughter of Ola Cray (deceased) and Pearl Washington.

**LTC Reginald Cray** completed the Army Force Management Course at Fort Belvoir, VA. The course is designed for Army Acquisition Officers responsible for managing the Research, Development and Acquisition of systems and equipment for military organizations. LTC Cray was mobilized from retirement and is the Executive Officer for the Training and Doctrine Command Office for Networks and Services. He is the son of Ola and Leadley Cray (both deceased).

## Chelsey Williams:

**Elaine and James Brown** celebrated their golden anniversary on February 7, 2009. Her sister and brother-in-law, **Mildred and Bill Shepard**, celebrated their 21<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary. They were married on February 14, 1988. Mildred's daughter, **Sharon and Maurice Strapp** celebrated their two years of wedding bliss with about 12 of her friends from Daytona Beach. All took a 4-day cruise to Mexico with Sharon's friends, and sisters **Dorothy Byrd** and her daughter, **Gail Turner**, and her children **Brittany and Ejah** of Norwalk, Connecticut, and **Lucinda Webb** of Daytona Beach, FL, and **Gwen Jenkins** of Gainesville.

**Elaine Brown** was nominated to the Florida Retired Education Association State Board by the Manatee County Retired Educators for the state Community Service award. Elaine is the daughter of the late Druscilla Williams Small, and the granddaughter of Chelsey Williams.

**Elston Brown**, son of Elaine and James Brown, completed his requirements for the Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from Argosy University in Sarasota, FL. Elston has been selected to participate in the prestigious Beautilion sponsored by the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

## Viola McMillan:

Second graders, **Nia Jackson**, daughter of Tony and Dekira Jackson; and **Destiny Hartwell**, daughter of Marcus and Tracy Hartwell; and first grader, **Janelle Hartwell**, daughter of David and Kim Hartwell, each made all A's for this grading period. All girls are granddaughters of Marsha McCall Hartwell.

**Ciherra Cooper**, daughter of Durrell and Coretha McCall and granddaughter of David and Ella McCall, made the honor roll for the 1st semester.

**Mashama Johnson** and **Nia Jackson**, children of Tony and Dekira Jackson, were baptized in Columbia, SC at Killian Baptist Church on February 17, 2009 and November 16, 2008, respectively.

**Janelle Hartwell**, daughter of David and Kim Hartwell, was baptized on December 31, 2008 at Friendship Community Church in Atlanta, GA.

**Layla M. McCall**, daughter of Annette McCall and granddaughter of Ardella and the late David McCall, is listed in the 2009 Inaugural edition of "Who's Who in Black Charlotte."

**Artesa Mitchell**, daughter of Tony Bell and Ursula Mitchell and granddaughter of David and Ella McCall has joined the Navy.

## Viola McMillan (cont.):

**Tere'sa Gorham**, the daughter of Benjamin and Viola Gorham and granddaughter of the late James and Reatha McMillon will be taking over ownership of a hair salon, now named Niecy's Place in May 2009 at 816 Cove Road in Stamford, CT. The name changing and grand re-opening will be in the fall/winter of 2009. For more information about her, please visit her website at [www.wisdomsability.com](http://www.wisdomsability.com) or email her at [wisdomsability@yahoo.com](mailto:wisdomsability@yahoo.com) or call her at 203.515.2243.

**N'Seya Scott**, the 9-year-old daughter of Teresa Gorham and granddaughter of Benjamin and Viola Gorham, has been chosen as a participant in the REACH program. This private preparatory school is designed for minority participants that excel in school. She is in the 4th grade..

**Ayza Studstill**, the daughter of Keith and Melita Studstill, and granddaughter of David & Ella McCall, was baptized at First Tabernacle Baptist Church in Savannah, GA in February 2009.

**David Hartwell III**, son of Marsha Hartwell and grandson of Ardella and the late David McCall, will be leaving for Iraq March 2009.

## Lula Porter:

**Arthur "AJ" Smith, Jr.**, graduated from Army Basic Training at Ft. Jackson in October 2008. AJ is the son of Arthur Smith, Sr., grandson of Otha Lee Peterson, the great-grandson of Catherine Smith, and the great-great grandson of Lula Porter.

**Erica Gibson**, will graduate on June 5, 2009, from Everest Institute in Medical Billing & Coding. Erica is the daughter of Jackie Moreland, granddaughter of the late Dorothy (Smith) Golden, great granddaughter of Catherine Smith, and great great granddaughter of Lula Porter.

Congratulations to **Nakia & Andre Daniels** on the birth of their son. **Chance Porter Daniels** was born on February 9, 2009 weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. Andre is the son of JoAnn Porter, grandson of the late Harvey (H.C.) Porter, and great grandson of Lula Porter.

**Monique Streat** was recently promoted to Quality Control Specialist at Amerihealth Administrators in Philadelphia, PA. Monique is also pursuing a Bachelor's Degree and has completed one year at Gwynedd Mercy College. Monique is the daughter of James & Delores Streat, granddaughter of Lula Mae Weaver, and great granddaughter of Lula Porter.

# More Family News...

## Lula Porter (cont.):

Congratulations to **Kendra Streat** who graduated from the Community College of Philadelphia, with an Associate's Degree in Cultural Science & Technology. She is currently working as a Certified Nurses Aide. Kendra is the daughter of James & Delores Streat, granddaughter of Lula Mae Weaver, and great granddaughter of Lula Porter.

**Tyrique Wallace**, a student at Louis Wagner Middle School in Philadelphia, PA., was selected along with a few other students to attend the inauguration in Washington, DC. This honor was given to Tyrique for being an exceptional student. Way to go Tyrique.

Congratulations also goes out to **Tymir Young-El**, who received an award for being the "Most Popular" in his 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class at Ellwood Elementary School in Philadelphia, PA. Both Tyrique and Tymir are the sons of Kendra Streat, the grandsons of James & Delores Streat, great grandsons of Lula Mae Weaver and great, great grandsons of Lula Porter.

**Valeria Andrews**, along with her children: **Joy**, **Jasmine**, and **Ronald**, and other children from their church, The Church of the Redeemer Baptist Church, visited the Constitution Center in Downtown Philadelphia and viewed the Tavis Smiley's production of "America I Am." Afterwards, they went into the center's auditorium and watched the Inauguration with a host of other school students. **Ronald** has recently begun writing music for their church's newest ministry, "New Testament for a New Generation." Their first debut was on February 20, 2009, at their Youth Haven. He is also doing well academically. **Joy** has been selected to play a part in the story "Grease." Valeria is the daughter of the late Claudia "Vain" McCullough, and the granddaughter of Lula Porter.

Congratulations to **Demetrius "DeeBo" Weaver** for making all A's on his report card. He was also selected Most Valuable Player for his school's basketball team, the Pompano Beach Middle School Bengals. Demetrius is in the 7th grade. He is the son of Anthony Weaver, grandson of Lula Mae Weaver, and great grandson of Lula Porter.

Congratulations to **William Webb** for earning A's & B's on his report card. William is in the 4th grade at Colonial Drive Elementary School in Miami, FL. William is the son of Ebony Washington, grandson of Sabrina Washington, great grandson of the late Lois Washington, and great great grandson of Lula Porter.

**Reuben Butler, Sr.**, and **Mary Louise (Pargie)** will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 23rd. A celebration will be held the weekend of June 5-7, 2009. Anyone interested in participating in this joyous occasion, please contact Reuben, Jr. at 407-879-0260.

## Lula Porter (cont.):

**Arlene "Addie" Bradley** and her daughter, **Aveyona**, have relocated to Philadelphia, PA. Aveyona will be graduating kindergarten this June from Saint Martin de Porres Catholic School. Arlene is the daughter of the late Catherine Smith, and the granddaughter of Lula Porter.

Congratulations to **Nyeisha Morton**, who has completed one year at Philadelphia Community College and one year at Lackawanna College in Scranton, PA. Her course of study is Early Childhood Education. **Dante Robinson** is in his 2nd year at Philadelphia Community College. He is majoring in Criminal Justice. **Quiana White** made it to the State Cheerleader's Finals. **Emmanuel Morton, Jr.'s** teams went undefeated JV football and in JV basketball at Saint Martin de Porres Catholic School. Way to go team! All are the children of Sharon & Emmanuel Morton, grandchildren of the late Jean Reid, great grandchildren of the late Catherine Smith, and great great grandchildren of Lula Porter.

**Sheilisa Reid**, daughter of Sheila Reid, granddaughter of the late Catherine Smith, and great great granddaughter of Lula Porter, has completed her 1st semester at Lock Haven University in PA.

**Ronnell Tabb** is in culinary school. **Doug Reid, Jr.**, is in the 9th grade ROTC. Ronnell and Doug, Jr., are the children of Cynthia & Doug Reid, Sr., grandchildren of the late Jean Reid, great grandchildren of the late Catherine Smith, and great great grandchildren of Lula Porter.

Congratulations to **Donte Smith**, who has completed a year and a half at Penn State University. **Desiree' Freeman** will graduate from high school in June. Donte & Desiree' are the children of Deborah & Ed Turner, grandchildren of the late Jean Reid, great grandchildren of the late Catherine Smith, and great great grandchildren of Lula Porter.

## Beatrice Stevens:

**Herman Stevens, Jr. Esq.**, helped spearhead a trip to the Inauguration in which two bus loads of people from Palm Beach, Broward, and Leon Counties (Florida) traveled to Washington, D.C. to witness President Barack Obama take the oath of office. Herman reports that everyone had a great time.

**Gary Lee Stevens** of Los Angeles, CA, lead singer of the Delfonics Revue has been performing for about three years all over the U.S. To sponsor them in your city, contact Dewitt Stevens, Sr. at 561-684-6297. Gary is the son of Eva & Dewitt Stevens, Sr., grandson of Beatrice Stevens.

## Beatrice Stevens (cont.):

**Rev. Dewitt Stevens, Jr.**, pastor of Macedonia Church, Inc., Norwalk, CT, will move into new facilities in the near future. Date to be announced. Dewitt Jr. is the son of Eva & Dewitt, Sr., grandson of Beatrice Stevens.

**Ayanna Southerland** recently received her Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from the University of South Florida. Ayanna is the daughter of Peggie Fagins, granddaughter of Ceaser & Jessie Stevens, great granddaughter of Beatrice & Washington Stevens. Congrats to Ayanna, who gave birth to a daughter, Alex Simone Cadet (7 lbs. 9 oz.) on February 18, 2009.

**T. Patrick Washington** (oldest grandson of Ceaser Stevens & son of Patricia Stevens Washington), his wife **Tamara**, & their 3 children **Daniel, Julia & Trinity** were all present on the National Mall for the presidential inauguration. Tamara has recently released a full-length CD of her vocal stylings, entitled "Life Is..." which is available on [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com) under her stage name Tamara Wellons. Patrick (aka blackpicasso) is a nationally recognized spoken word artist & emcee who was recently approached by Tavis Smiley to narrate his "America I AM" project to be shown in museums across the country. Done in conjunction with Wal Mart & shown on 3 wall-size screens, this 20 minute multimedia presentation explores the African American imprint on our country's history, through music & images. Also on display along with the presentation are memorable pieces of African American history, such as the original "Doors Of No Return" from Ghana that slaves passed thru into the new world, the typewriter Alex Haley used to write "Roots", Malcom X's Koran, and many other wonderful artifacts. Currently the exhibit will be at Philadelphia's National Constitution Center from January 15th thru May 9th and then will be moved around the country.

**Takaunia Carstarphen** will be graduating from Atlantic High School, Delray Beach, FL in June 2009. Takaunia has been accepted to Howard University in Washington DC. She received a track & field scholarship to Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, FL. Takaunia competed in an indoor track & field meet at the University of Florida., in the 800 meter dash and placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 22 college athletes. It is noted that she was the only high school student in the event. (WAY TO GO!) Takaunia has a personal record of 2:22. She is striving to reach 2:13 for full scholarship to University of Florida. Takaunia is the daughter of Morris & Mary Carstarphen, granddaughter of Herman Stevens, Sr., and great grand of Beatrice Stevens.



# Even More Family News...

## Isabell Gordon:

**Erica Danielle Williams** graduated Cum Laude from Albany State University on December 13, 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication. Erica is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and a member of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. Erica was also voted as Black College Radio's On-Air-Personality of the year by WASU Radio Station/Albany State University in Albany, GA. Erica is the daughter of Shelton and Lula Williams, granddaughter of Hazel and the late Arthur Williams, Sr., and great granddaughter of Isabell Gordon.

Congratulations to **Marian Gilmore**, who retired after 32 years with the State of Washington Children's Administration. Marian served in the capacity of Supervisor for 29 years and was responsible for programs in Child Welfare for Clark & Skammania Counties. Two retirement celebrations are planned; one for staff and one for the community. After retirement, Marian will continue to spend time with her family and her church, volunteer as Peer Reviewer for the Counsel on Accreditation, Red Cross volunteer, continue to be active in Delta Sigma Beta Sorority, Inc. and the Portland Chapter of The Links. Marian is the daughter of the late Doshie Gilmore and great granddaughter of Isabell Gordon.

**Antwan R. Carter**, will graduate in 2009 from Appling County High School in Baxley, GA. Antwan excelled in track and football and his team was the regional champion in 2008. Antwan is the son of Reuben & Patricia Williams Carter, grandson of Hazel F. Williams, and great grandson of Hazel & Arthur Williams, Sr.

Congratulations to **Virginia & Aaron Norman**, who celebrated the birth of their daughter, **Jocelyn Erin Latrice Norman**, who was born in Italy. Virginia is the daughter of Brenda & Glenn Dunlap, Sr., the granddaughter of Arthur & Verdell Williams, and the great granddaughter of Hazel & Arthur Williams, Sr.

Congratulations to **Christopher Lee Williams**, who graduated with honors from Georgia Tech with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Earth & Atmospheric Sciences. Christopher is the son of Agnes & Arthur Williams, the grandson of Jose's & Maria Schmitt and the late Mannie & Mattie B. Williams, and the great grandson of Isabell Gordon. Way to go, Christopher!

## Isabell Gordon (cont.):

**Navada Williams** is currently at the Appling County Pavilion, Baxley, GA., phone 912-367-9841; Room 304. She is the daughter of the late Manning & Mattie B. Williams and the granddaughter of Isabell Gordon

**Christopher Pace**, a 9<sup>th</sup> grader, recently joined the National Forensics League. He is a member of the Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School Speech, Drama and Debate Team. He is also a member of the varsity soccer team. Christopher is the son of Wilfred & Sharon (Williams) Pace, and the grandson of Drissie and the late David "Bubba" Williams.

**Drissie Williams' Family** enjoyed a weekend getaway to Hilton Head, SC, during Valentine's Day weekend. The weekend was enjoyed by **Drissie, Johnola, Earline, Christine, Margaret, Dwight, Melissa, Sharon and Wilfred.**

**Valarie Ryan**, daughter of the late Manning & Mattie B. Williams, and the granddaughter of Isabell Gordon, is a sales representative for Primerica, Inc. For all your insurance needs contact her at 912-367-7645. If you are seeking a part-time job, Primerica is the way!

**Emanuel Ryan** is a member of the Appling County High School track team, who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Southeastern Conference Track Meet in February 2009. Emanuel is in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Samuel Ryan**, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Appling County High School, competed in the 400 Relay and placed 1<sup>st</sup> in this event. He also competed in the Long Jump (placed 3<sup>rd</sup>) and the High Jump (placed 3<sup>rd</sup>) with a score of 5'1". Congratulations to Samuel who competed for the first time in the Long and High Jumps.

**Jeremiah Ryan** is enjoying life and doing well at the Sunshine Center, Baxley, GA., where he attended the Valentine's Dance. All are sons of Valarie Ryan, the grandsons of the late Manning & Mattie B. Williams, and the great grandsons of Isabell Gordon.

A surprise 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party was given to **William "Buddy" Lewis** by his wife Stephanie and his extended family on Saturday, February 28, 2009, at 4:00 PM, at the Thankful New Jersey Baptist Church. Buddy is the son of Velma and the late William Lewis, the grandson of the late Manning & Mattie B. Williams, and the great grandson of Isabell Gordon.

## Isabell Gordon (cont.):

Congratulations to **Nya Spearman**, who was on the Honor Roll the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine weeks. She passed the Benchmark Assessments with 100% correct in reading and 95% correct in math. Nya also received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Annual Hot Shot contest. Nya is the daughter of DeWayne & Erika (Robinson) Spearman, granddaughter of Bart & Christine Robinson, and great granddaughter of Drissie and the late David "Bubba" Williams.

A "Welcome Home" celebration was given at Thanksgiving for **Captain Edward Williams (Army)** by his wife **Army Captain Saundeth (Sandy) Williams** and his extended family upon his return from Iraq, at their home in Clarksville, Tennessee. Captain Williams is the son of Annie Dell and the late Pastor Edward Williams, grandson of the late Manning & Mattie B. Williams, and the great grandson of Isabell Gordon.

Congratulations to **Wilfred Mitchell Jolly**, husband of Shelby, who was promoted on January 1, 2009, to Staff Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. Shelby is the daughter of Mickey Williams, the granddaughter of the late Calvina Williams, and the great granddaughter of Hazel & Arthur Williams, Sr.

Congratulations to **Bobby & Felicia Burch**, who will celebrate their 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on August 30, 2009. Bobby & Felicia will soon become proud grandparents! Bobby is the son of Bobby Burch, Sr. and the late Murtrice Burch, and the grandson of Isabell Gordon.

**Jamael Medlock**, a saxophone player in the FAMU 100, performed in the inauguration parade in Washington. His sister, **Jante' Medlock**, traveled to D.C. to witness the occasion. Jamael and Jante' are the children of Lutrell and Janice (Burch) Medlock, grandson of Bobby Burch, Sr. and the late Murtrice Burch, and the great grandson of Isabell Gordon.

Congratulations to **Serena & Glenn Dunlap, Jr.**, on the birth of their son, **Landon Josiah Dunlap**, born February 16, 2009. Glenn is the son of Brenda & Glenn Dunlap, Sr., the grandson of Arthur & Verdell Williams, and the great grandson of Hazel & Arthur Williams, Sr.

~ *I don't care how poor a man is; if he has family, he's rich.* ~

Dan Wilcox and Thad Mumford, "Identity Crisis," M\*A\*S\*H

## MILITARY UPDATE

To all Jack Summerall Family military service members--you are not only part of the best-trained military in the world, but part of a great family. We all know that we have a new President and Military Commander-in-Chief Barack Obama. I felt proud and honored when I saw President Obama's picture on the wall with our military leadership outside my Commanding General's door on January 20<sup>th</sup>. As the Summerall Family's senior military representative, I would like to thank our family members, past and present, for the service you have given to our Country. We have service members in all branches of the military; both Active Duty and Reserves. Also, we have members supporting Iraq and Afghanistan, and in other corners of the world. You and your families are in our thoughts and prayers. Again, thanks for your service.

### **Reginald L. Cray,**

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army

Summerall Family, Chairman, Military Joint Chiefs of Staff

Below is a list of known active military family members. Please feel free to support them with your letters, phone calls and e-mails:

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Anthony Williams (Army) - IG  
Being deployed to Iraq  
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Angela Hairston (Army) - IG  
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Captain Edward Williams (Army) - IG  
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David Hartwell, III (Army) - VMcM  
(Deploying to Iraq in March)

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Aaron H. Butler (Army) - LP

Artesa Mitchell (Navy) - VMcM  
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Velisa Harris (Air Force) - LP

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910-988-7671

Reuben Butler, III (Army) - LP

## PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

On January 20, 2009, change came to Washington, D.C. and **I WAS THERE.** My 17 year old grandson Terrell, Cousin Delores Streat and I, hung out in D.C. for 5 days during the Inauguration. What an awesome event to have attended. People of all races were there and excited, helpful and kind. Love was everywhere. The Inauguration was likened to an era that neither of the 3 of us were a part – the 60's movement. The 60's movement is portrayed as a time of *free love*. The Inauguration of our 44<sup>th</sup> President was one giant love fest, without the drugs of course. Of all the dozens and dozens of people we interacted with during our time in the nation's capital, we did not encounter a stranger. The portrayals of love and pride will stay with me for a lifetime. I joined the Obama bandwagon late, but am thankful that it does not matter when you came aboard, as long as you're in the number.

This Black man has brought people together from all around the world and given all of us a sense of hope, and shown us what we can do if he's doesn't do anything else, he's done enough. The Sunday service we attended honored another great Black man, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. To paraphrase part of the minister's sermon, if only we could go to various Cemeteries (Old Field) and dig up a few of our ancestors for just a moment so they can witness this momentous occasion. My, my – what a time that would be. To think that little Black girls are running around the White House and calling it home. To quote a 60's term – *far out man*, it blows your mind.

When I can no longer express my pride and excitement for what happened in our country on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009, my grandson can tell the story. I will probably only see one Black American President in my lifetime, but my grandson may witness more than one during his lifetime. Even if he does, none could ever surpass the exhilaration of being there when Barack Hussein Obama, a Black man, was exalted to the highest office in the land.

Humbly submitted,

**LaWanda Ann Jackson, Esq.**

### *Jacks at the Inauguration*

- ◆ Carol Aldermann (RMcN) ◆ Kesha Alderman (RMcN) ◆ LaShondral Alderman (RMcN) ◆ Kristen Carstarphen (BS) ◆ Mary Carstarphen (BS) ◆ Morris Carstarphen (BS) ◆ Takaunia Carstarphen (BS) ◆ LaWanda Jackson, Esq. (LP) ◆ Terrell Jackson (LP) ◆ Dr. Dawnyetta R. Marable (IG) ◆ Jamael Medlock (IG) ◆ Jante Medlock (IG) ◆ Carolyn Stevens (BS) ◆ Herman Stevens, Jr., Esq. (BS) ◆ Delores Streat (LP) ◆ Candace Stubbs (BS) ◆ Tyrique Wallace (LP) ◆ Daniel Washington (BS) ◆ Julia Washington (BS) ◆ T. Patrick Washington (BS) ◆ Tamara Washington (BS) ◆ Trinity Washington (BS)







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