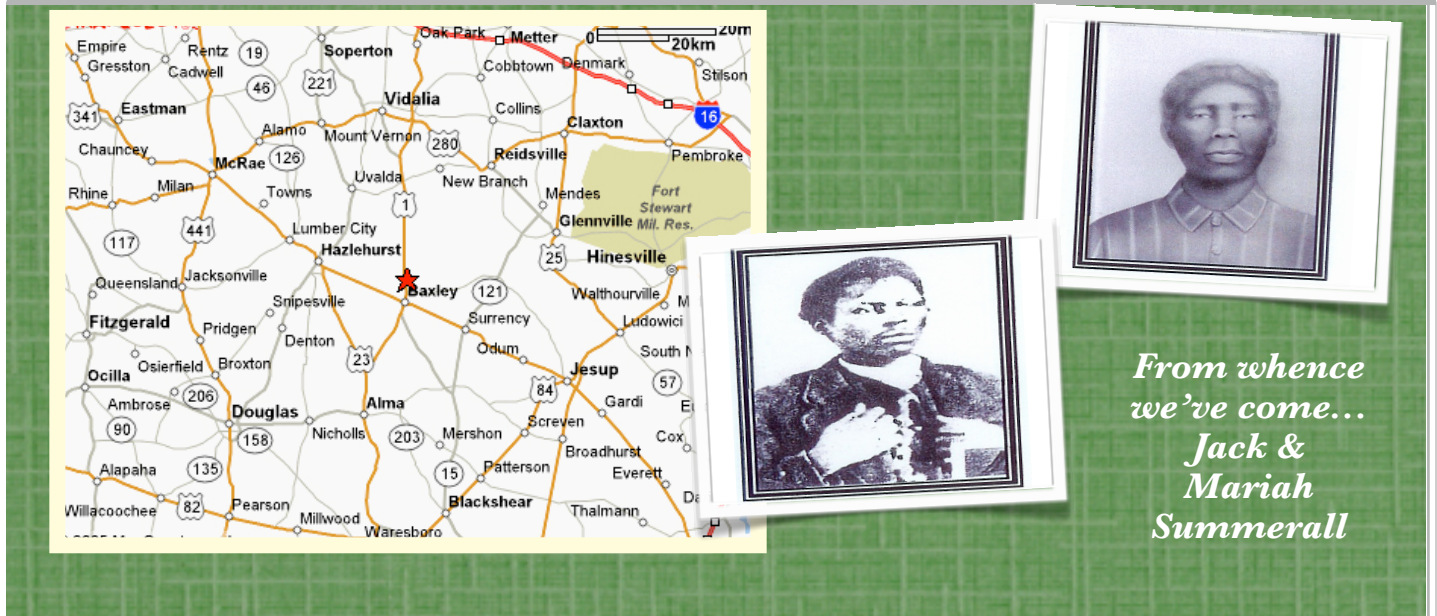


# Summerall Sentinel

VOL. 11

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ISSUE 02



## President's Message

First, I would like to thank the **Jack Summerall Family Gathering** for such a wonderful past reunion. I thank everyone who attended, participated, and did their part to make it happen. To God Be The Glory!!

Now...we're back to work.

Where do we hang our plaques? Recently we received a Resolution from the City of Baxley - a beautiful Resolution - but **where do we hang it?** Is there a building or a wall that we can call our own? Where do we hang our awards, family history, or family pride? For a number of years we had a family monument on the front lawn at Thankful New Jersey and we would always see it upon our return. How many of you went behind the church to see it this year? Don't let our history get pushed to the back or even removed from our observation. (This is nothing against Thankful New Jersey or its members). But it is saying something about us--the **Jack Summerall Family Gathering**--it is coming to a time where we must look ahead, protect our legacy, and leave a monument for our children (future). Each one of us need to take a personal inventory and examine our inner spirit. Is this something I want to support or not, is this a need for our family, or should we be looking in another direction? Whatever your outcome may be, then commit to your spirit and move forward. This is my plea that we take a step forward and support the **Summerall Corporation** and the visions of our ancestors, elders, and children.

Where do we hang our plaques? Where do we hang our ribbons/awards? Where do we hang our history?

Sincerely,

*Reuben Z. Butler, Jr.*

Reuben Z. Butler, Jr., President  
Jack Summerall Family Gathering

**"Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family:  
Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one."** Jane Howard

## Family Officers

2009 - 2010

**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**

## Message from Program Chair

The members of the program committee would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one who attended and participated on the **54<sup>th</sup> Annual Jack Summerall Gathering**. We thank you for all the support and participation received.

As we prepare for next year's Gathering, we would like to reiterate that early registration is a must if we are to have a well-planned reunion. It is imperative that we have the cooperation of each and every family member when a deadline is set, so that preparation can be done on a timely basis.

The planning stages have begun for 2010 (Banquet Year), and we are soliciting ideas and suggestions at this time. If you would like to participate on next year's program, by all means feel free to let us know what role you would like to take part in. No matter how big or small, we are asking everyone to become involved, as together we as one can continue the legacy of our ancestors.

As you know, at this year's gathering, a Youth Department was organized, and we would like to devote one night (possibly Friday) as "Youth Night" where our youth would be in charge of the entire program. Therefore, if you know of any youth who would like to participate and be a part of that program, please feel free to e-mail me their information. The youth had a big impact on this year's gathering and we would like to keep them involved so that we do not lose their interest, so feel free to send us your ideas and suggestions on keeping them onboard. The basketball tournament was a big hit with our young adults so if you have any other ideas, please feel free to let us know about them.

Again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for allowing us to put together and be a part of a very diverse and spirit filled family gathering.

Looking forward to seeing you next year,

*Henrietta Greene*

Henrietta Greene, Program Chair  
hgreene195@aol.com  
954-698-6168

**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**

## Women's Workshop

This year the Jack Summerall Family Gathering held its second Women's Afternoon Retreat. The retreat was held on Friday afternoon and its theme was *Pearls and Lace*, which is based on Proverbs 31. The women who participated were treated to light refreshments, which were served on a lovely table decorated with lace, pearls, candles, silver picture frames, and other jewels and feminine frills. After a fun-filled icebreaker led by co-facilitator Shirley Washington, we were inspired by a message from Marie Stevens. Before receiving gift bags, which were provided for all, the women were given ample time to talk, laugh, and get to know each other and catch up on the latest news and happenings. A few minutes of time was also devoted to soliciting ideas for future women's activities. It is hoped that, sometime in the future, we may be able to offer an afternoon of pampering including manicures, pedicures, and other spa treatments. Ideas are still being solicited by co-facilitator (myself) Marie Burgess, and can be sent to my email at reemor@aol.com. I would also like to thank all of this year's retreat participants and would like to extend an invitation to all the Jack women to participate in next year's activity.

*Article submitted by: Marie Burgess, Women's Retreat Facilitator*

## **CORPORATION UPDATE**

Happy fall to one and all! As promised at this past Gathering, we will keep the family informed as to the status of erecting a building in the family's name. It is of utmost importance for ALL Jacks to submit their pledges. We asked every adult Jack 18 and over to donate \$100.00 a year for 5 years for a total of \$500.00. This request of \$500.00 was due 2 years ago. Very few Jacks submitted the total \$500.00. If all Jacks would now submit the \$500.00 requested, we would have enough money to put up a building. The need to have our own is becoming evident more and more.

At the business meeting this past August, we reminded the family that we do not own New Jersey church but we rent it every summer to hold the Gathering. Being renters, the terms of our agreement can change at anytime and/or we can be evicted at anytime. That is the status of one who rents. The past 2 Gatherings the officials of New Jersey expressed interest in possibly using the church during the time of the Jack Gathering for another purpose. Fortunately for us, they capitulated and we were able to use it for the Gathering once again. We have taken it for granted these past 50 odd years that New Jersey was ours during this 4<sup>th</sup> week in August. However, this is not the case. The numerous calls and discussions regarding us having the church for the Gathering made it very clear that our continued use during this 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in August is uncertain.

That is one of the reasons we need our own. If the family would submit their pledges, we would have our own. When someone threatens to put us out, we would not be worried where we're going to hold the Gathering. Jacks, we need your commitment to this project. How many ways can we ask you to submit your pledge? **If just 200 Jacks would donate the requested \$500.00 we could have a building up by the next Gathering.** Remember the money is tax deductible. Make your checks payable to - Jack Summerall Corporation and mail to:

Judy Brown  
3016 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue East  
Palmetto, FL 34221

I'm hearing more and more lately some of our senior Jacks say they would like to see a Jack building erected during their lifetime. There are some Jacks that have transitioned before they could see this become a reality. What more can we say to get you to make the sacrifice to have a showplace in our family name. We need everyone's help to make this a reality. We will take post dated checks, debit to your bank account, anyway you can get it to us – just get it to us. The Corporation Board is here to serve you, feel free to contact any of us with your questions and/or concerns.

*Humbly submitted,*  
**Board members, Jack Summerall Corporation**



### **Jacks' Fundraisers**

The Jack Summerall Community Center is asking for your support to help raise funds to build our family community center. We have the land, but we need funds to build. The Committee is excited to announce the approval of two fundraisers. You can participate in both. The first one is a Stay At Home Tea and the second one is the Summerall Singing Telegrams. Please read the instructions for each fundraiser below:

#### **1. Stay At Home Tea**

All family members will receive an instructional letter with a tea bag by the second week of November 2009. We would like for you to have a stay at home tea the day after Thanksgiving (Friday, November 27, 2009). You may invite family or friends and consider having a tea party to collection donations. You will be given an address to send your donations.

#### **2. The Singing Telegram**

What did you get for Valentine's Day last year? Are you tired of the same old Valentine gifts? Would you like to give or get a better Valentine's gift next year (February 14, 2010)? If you answered yes to one of the questions, the Committee has a solution for you. The answer is a singing telegram or the purchase of a poem to be read especially for the one you love. It's easy as one, two, three:

Selection - Payment - Family Friendly Service

You will select a song or poem that you would like for your family member or friend to receive; you make a payment based on your selection; and lastly, a service will be provided. The service will be provided by a Summerall Community Center volunteer who will sing a song or read a poem to "*THE ONE YOU LOVE*", to brighten their day.

The Committee is excited about each fundraiser. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Wally Burgess, Chairperson, at (646) 546-9198.**

*We cannot achieve our "GOAL" without you. What is our "GOAL"? A COMMUNITY CENTER*

### **Jack Summerall Community Center Committee Members**

David Hartwell, *President*  
Reuben Butler Sr., *Vice President*  
LaWanda Jackson, Esq., *Exec. Dir.*  
Carol Alderman, *Treasurer*

**Wally Burgess (646) 546-9198**  
Patricia Washington  
Ricky Jackson  
Judy Brown

Elaine Brown  
Reuben Butler, Jr.  
Amos Green  
Edward Sharp

## **Jack Summerall Community Center COMMUNITY NEWS**



### **Be My Valentine**

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## Historical Update

The History Committee presented “Tidbits of History” which allowed young and old to participate:

- Elementary and preschool children worked on history through art
- A Gallery of posters depicting life on a cotton plantation was on display
- A skit was presented by the Porter Family “Our grandma was soooo scary...”
- Reflections of how Washington Stevens left Baxley according to Ceaser Stevens
- How to chip boxes and collect turpentine according to Dwight Williams
- PowerPoint presentations were presented featuring David & Drissie Williams Family, Sharon & Wilfred Pace Family, and Takaunia Carstarphen
- Reflections from Esther Thomas “Those sisters loved each other and kept the family together”

The History Committee is looking for Family Gathering photos and memorabilia for next year. Continue to send in updated family history information. We need information from Mattie Summerall-Green Family.

**Submitted by: Patricia Washington, Historical Facilitator**



### **YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

This past Family Gathering we reinstalled our youth advisory committee. These individuals include:

President	Joy Andrews
Vice President	Emanuel McMillan
Secretary	Ernest Freeman
Asst. Secretary	Kiamata Dukes
Treasurer	Kimberly Olden
Asst. Treasurer	Kristin Carstarphen
Parliamentarian	Candice Stumbs
Asst. Parliamentarian	Asia Studstill
Program Chairman	Ronald Andrews
Historian	Jasmine Andrews

Their responsibilities will be to represent and hear the voices of our youth. They will also serve as participants at our reunion, which would assist them as future leaders and role models. Again, let us congratulate them and support them in their efforts and recommendations.

***WAY TO GO YOUNG JACKS!!!***



### **SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE:**

The scholarship recipients for this year are:

1. **Takaunia Carstarphen** (Parents: Morris & Mary Carstarphen)  
Graduated from Atlantic Community High School, Delray Beach, FL  
Attending Alabama A&M University in Normal, AL  
*She was awarded the Rev. Joseph A. Gilmore Sr. Scholarship, which was established in his memory by his wife, Ethel, and sister, Marian Gilmore.*
2. **Justin Robinson** (Parents: DeWayne & Erika Spearman)  
Graduated from Appling County High School, Baxley, GA  
Attending Tulsa Welding School in Jacksonville, FL
3. **Keanna Grant** (Parents: Keith & Tijuana Williams)  
Graduated from Ron McNair Senior High School, Atlanta, GA  
Attending Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, FL

The scholarship committee members are: Sharon Pace, Freddie Branch, Patricia Collier, Amos Green, Henrietta Greene, Layla McCall, Rev. Wilson Scott, Esther Thomas, Navada Williams, Carol Alderman, Elston Brown

**Submitted by: Sharon Pace, Scholarship Chairperson**

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## *A Prayer for Heroes*

Dearest Lord,

Throughout the ages,  
even to today, you have  
raised up for us Heroes,  
as examples of what is best in our  
humanity.



Bless all those whose sacrifice, love  
and courage have given so much to  
this world. Protect those heroes in  
harm's way, strengthen those whose  
heroic contribution perseveres day in  
and day out, heal those whose  
heroism has cost them in mind and  
body, and grant your eternal rest to  
those whose heroism has resulted in  
the ultimate sacrifice.

Grant by your grace, that we may  
each find even deeper heroic virtues  
in ourselves so that we may, following  
the example of the Hero of Heroes,  
your Son Jesus Christ, serve others as  
he served us.

Amen

--Nina Cusanelli

## SUMMERALL MILITARY PERSONNEL



We are updating our list of Jack Summerall Family military members past and present. Please **e-mail** information to the individuals below. Include branch of service (Army, Navy etc) career field (Transportation, Signal Corps etc) and whether retired and the number of years served. We would like to recognize these individuals at a later date.

Reginald Cray  
706-799-2382  
[reginald.cray@us.army.mil](mailto:reginald.cray@us.army.mil)

Vernon Conaway  
386-258-9317  
[camptq@yahoo.com](mailto:camptq@yahoo.com)

Reuben Butler, Jr.  
407-879-0260  
[summerallpres@yahoo.com](mailto:summerallpres@yahoo.com)

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE - - *IMPORTANT NOTICE!!***

We are now identifying members to serve on next year's Nominating Committee. Anyone interested in being a nominating committee member, please contact:

Reuben Butler, Jr.      407-879-0260      [summerallpres@yahoo.com](mailto:summerallpres@yahoo.com)

Henrietta Greene      954-698-6168      [hgreene195@aol.com](mailto:hgreene195@aol.com)

Deloris Jones      912-367-3435

It is our desire to identify at least one individual from each family to serve. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the above listed individuals.

# Reunion “Comments”

## **Mary Sanders - Super Sr: (RMcN)**

I would like to thank the committee for everything. I thought it was a wonderful, beautiful reunion. I enjoyed seeing everyone, as I always do, and it was really well planned. I realize it's a lot of hard work, but it paid off. I appreciate the gifts and the thoughtfulness. Thanks again to everyone that played a part for their hard labor. The youth did a great job and are to be commended for their input. Congratulations on the job they did - well done. Hoping to see another year.

## **Carol Alderman: (RMcN)**

Congratulations on an excellent program and souvenir journal. My aunt was surprised and loved the ad. As you begin planning next year's program, I have a youngster who might participate. Cousin Carol.

## **Bobby Burch (Expressed by his daughter) (IG)**

Our daddy always enjoyed the reunion and he looked forward to coming. We were so blessed to have him this family gathering.

## **Navada Williams (IG)**

I enjoyed myself at the reunion after going through my illness over the past few years with my inability to attend. I thank God for blessing me to be able to participate. It was a joy to see all my relatives.

## **Golden & Ezekiel Dukes: (IG)**

To President Butler and Program Chairman H. Greene:

MY! MY! MY! What a great time we had in our fore parents hometown of Baxley, GA. We can't wait for the days to roll back again.

The Dukes would love to thank both of you for the opportunity to be on God's program at the reunion. The young adults kept coming up to me and saying they didn't have an opportunity to express themselves because time ran out. Hopefully next year we can forgo a program and have a much more casual night where the young adults can express themselves concerning problems and possible solutions that can help their generation become better adults. This will also help the next generation of leaders.

The musicians were awesome. I had to e-mail Cousin Gibson and let him know how much the choir enjoyed uplifting our voices for the Lord.

What a time! What a time we had at the 54 Family Gathering! May God bless and keep you strong. Keep listening and planning. Let God order your steps. For the BEST is yet to come at our family gatherings. Get ready, Get ready, Get ready! For the BEST is yet to COME!



## **Elston Brown: (CW)**

The reunion was really nice, especially the basketball game. Seeing all the cousins playing ball together was awesome!!

## **Jenny Conaway-Salami (IG)**

To address the Women's Retreat, it went very well. It allowed the Jack women an opportunity to come together on a more personal level. We were able to have a little fun and get to know a bit more about each other and where we came from. It is my prayer that we will continue to meet each year and get to know each other on a more deeper level. Some of the areas that I would like for us to explore are the things that we are uncomfortable with talking about that has and still continue to affect some of our family members, and the world at large today (drug addiction, HIV, homelessness, mental illness, poverty, etc). Our family has such strong, beautiful, courageous women that together we can make a difference in each other's lives, and the lives of people in our communities.

The Family Reunion itself was the BOMB!!! This was one of the best reunions I have ever attended, thanks to yourself and all of your staff on board. I am busy preparing for next year's reunion already, because I know that it will be even better than this year's gathering. The biggest impact of the reunion was the opening and closing of the reunion (receiving permission from the elders to start and end this year's reunion). That to me was very powerful and very moving. I encourage you to keep up the good work cousin Reuben because God is truly working in your life, to better serve the Jack Summerall Family.

In loving spirit, Jenny Conaway-Salami

## **Delores Burgess (IG)**

First off, let me say that this family gathering was unforgettable. The President and his staff did a wonderful job, and you (Henrietta) put together a very enjoyable program. My hat goes off to all of you. Everyone says "this is the best gathering ever", and I wholeheartedly agree. However, I must add that every year to me is "the best one ever", and that's a good thing because I think change is good and new experiences welcomed. I participated in every activity except the family history workshop (I'm sorry to say). The women's retreat was a very relaxing and thought provoking experience. Coming up with songs with women names was really a challenge. This was also a good way for meeting and fellowshiping with "cousins" we never conversed with in the past. Marie and Shirley are great facilitators.

The picnic and basketball tournament were also good. I just really enjoyed the family togetherness, and watching my cousins compete in friendly-family competition.

Let me not forget to mention the President requesting permission to begin and end the gathering. That was awesome, and a terrific way to honor, acknowledge and respect our Super Seniors. It also shows the younger generation that our older family members are important to us as a family unit.

The Minister really spoke truth. He spoke from Psalm 23 and I must say that I never heard it explained in such plain and down to earth language. This was the first time I heard our young cousin-in-law speak, but certainly hope that it will not be the last.

The music was excellent. The co-music director, drummers and keyboard player all did a fantastic job. The keyboard player reminded me so much of "My Michael". Several other family members remarked on how much he played like Michael. It's good when our youth take an interest in playing in the Church. The choir sang their hearts out too. They really had the church on fire.

## **Alfonso Gibson - Keyboard Player (LP)**

To all the "Jacks" and everyone else that is reading this. I had a great time in GA at the reunion, and I can't wait until next year. I'll be there. So bring your "shouting shoes" cause if you think this year was a BLAST, wait until next year. See you then. With much LOVE, Alfonso Gibson

# Reunion *“Comments”* cont.

## **Twilla Burch-Parker (IG)**

We have a lot of children. I wish we didn't have to use those bands. Overall, we had a good time.

## **Annie Dell Williams (IG)**

I thought it was an excellent reunion. I really enjoyed the CD and want to compliment President Reuben Jr. on a job well done.

## **Daniel Williams (IG)**

I definitely enjoyed myself. I thought everything was great - the services, choir, basketball tournament, including the memorial walk for our ancestors.

## **Janice Williams (IG)**

I enjoyed it. I was most impressed with the diversity and the activities which appealed to all ages.

## **James & Delores Harris (LP)**

When we arrived in Baxley and were driving to our motel room, we were greeted by family members who were sitting out on the porch busy at work preparing for the reunion. They yelled, "hurry, unload your bags and come and help". We were made to feel needed and at the same time welcomed. Then Thursday night at church was as if the holy spirit took control and everybody was on one accord, and it remained that way the entire reunion, and even afterwards. To sum it all up, the reunion was filled with love, peace, happiness, joy and fun as we worshipped, worked, played, dined and fellowshiped together. It was truly an unforgettable and joyous occasion.

## **Regina Chance (IG)**

Psalms 118:23 says: *"This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes"*. Basically it sums it up for me when I reflect on this year's Gathering. You all did a fantastic job...it was evident that a great deal of planning went forth to make the Gathering a huge success! Continue to let the Lord lead and guide you...May His peace be with you, til we meet again! Be Blessed, Regina

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*"Families are the compass that guide us. They are the inspiration to reach great heights, and our comfort when we occasionally falter."* -- Brad Henry

## **Min. Valerie Andrews & Family (LP)**

As far as the Andrews household is concerned, the Gathering was awesome! It was great for me to see how much my children enjoyed it, and have been talking about it since our return trip home. In fact, Ronald (*Youth Program Chairman*) was throwing around some ideas he wanted to share for youth activities. Also, Jasmine (*Youth Historian*) was reading the history of the Summeralls. She told me she has shared with one of her teachers about our family history, and hopes to be able to share it with her classmates in a project of some kind.

Joy (*Youth President*) can't wait to get back...in fact, we are all looking forward to it! I really must say, I challenged myself with the walk to the cemetery. I wanted to do it with my children, but isn't it funny how they tired out more quickly than me? For me, that was most special and in a strange way, comforting. I also thoroughly enjoyed the Women's Retreat. That should be ongoing. Again, it gave me a chance to meet and greet relatives I never knew, and the fellowship was good. I also want to thank the committee for the historical piece that was done shortly thereafter. Watching the various PowerPoints some of our youths sent in displaying what the reunion meant to them was phenomenal. I really appreciated the skit that Delores (Pumpkin) was in as she portrayed grandma (Lula Porter). I didn't know she was "afraid of everything"... smile. Our reunion is like no other, and my children and I would all agree it's ONE OF A KIND TO SAY THE LEAST! Love you, Val

## **James & Delores "Pumpkin" Streat (LP)**

I would like to thank God for the fellowship, fun and good time that we had at this *54<sup>th</sup> Annual Summerall Family Gathering*. It was full of love and excitement for all. For me it will go down in my book of memory as one of the best of all times. I would like to thank the president and his officers for the time and love shown during this administration. I know God will continue to bless each of you in love, friendship and harmony. With love, Pumpkin

## **Lucinda Webb-Allen (CW)**

To the President and his staff: To God Be The Glory

We the Chelsey Williams family just want you all to know that we appreciate the Family Gathering so well. This Gathering was one of the best. Everybody along with the president did an awesome job. Everyone was so friendly and loving. This is the way God wants his people to be, very nice to everybody.

The picnic was well organized, especially with the crab legs and accessories with it. To sum it all up, from Thursday-Sunday, was awesome. May God continue blessing you all for the next Family Gathering.

I am persuaded that (nothing) shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39 The Chelsey Williams Family

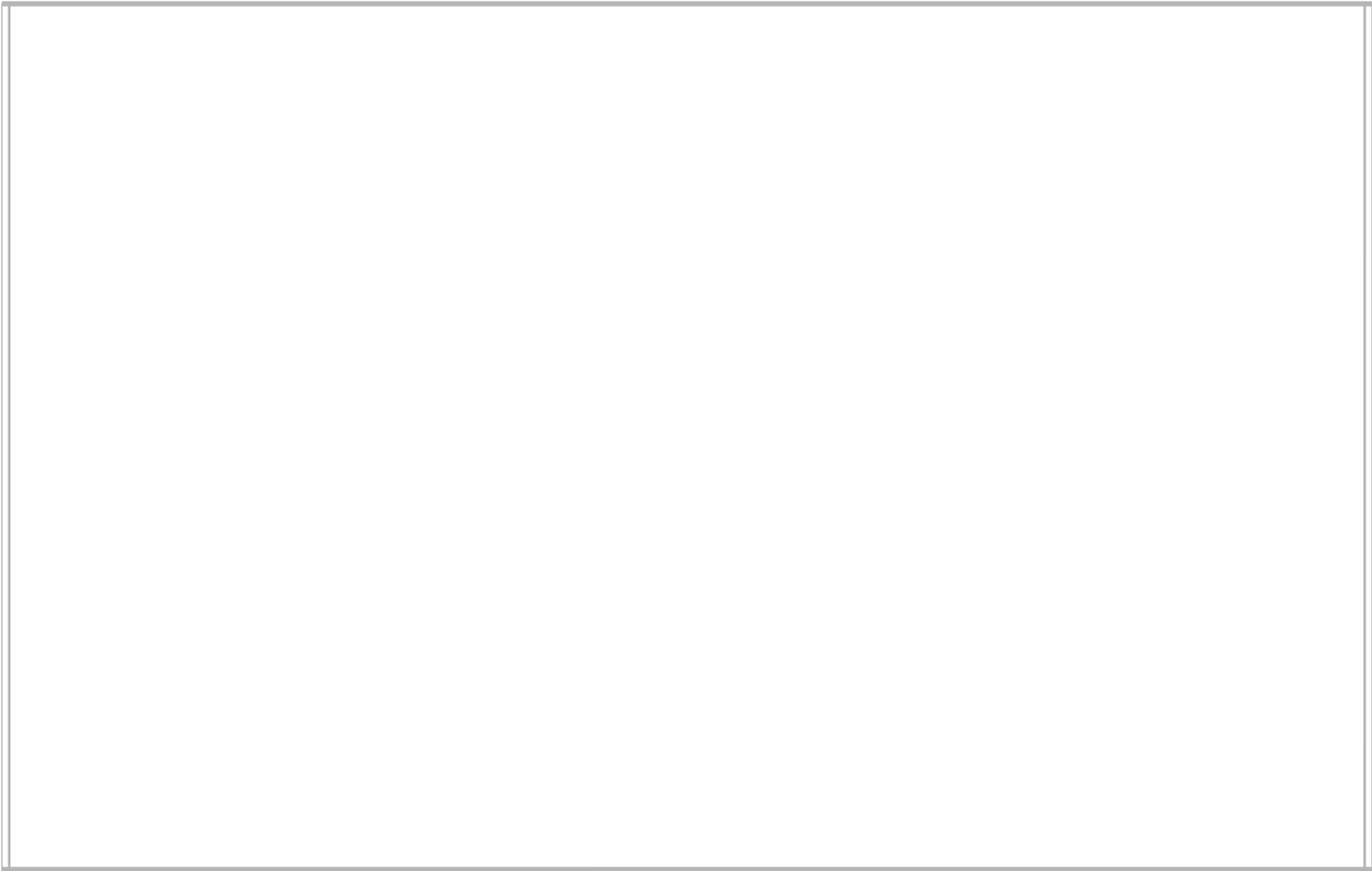
## **Sharon Pace (Expressed by her mother, Drissie Williams) (IG)**

My mother Drissie Williams said that this year was a very spirit filled reunion for her, the Holy Spirit was in the house and she felt the anointing. She enjoyed the town hall meeting and was glad to see the young people getting involved and learning how to carry out the reunion when the older family members have gone on and she appreciates them having this opportunity. She said that she remembers when the reunion first started and remembers all those who have gone on before her. Keep the young people involved so the legacy can continue for years to come.

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*"We all grow up with the weight of history on us. Our ancestors dwell in the attics of our brains as they do in the spiraling chains of knowledge hidden in every cell of our bodies."* ~Shirley Abbott

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Boca Raton, FL 33486