

CLAIBORNE/ CLAVON Family Newsletter November, 2009

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 463 Southfield, Michigan 48037

ISSUE: XXII

MISSION STATEMENT: Preserving the history of the Claiborne/Clavon Family of South Carolina. To document, prepare and present a "factual" written record of our family's history" for future generations to read.

IN MEMORIAM

Cousin, **JAMES CLAVEN**, of Stone Mountain, Georgia passed from labor to reward on August 27th 2009 after a lengthy illness. Sadly, we received word of his "home-going" nearly a month after the last issue of the news-letter had gone out. His wife Oreatha has been in touch with members of the family and it was she who informed Detroit of his passing. James possessed many talents and was a great talker who seemed to always have time for conversation about family. He would phone or E-mail family members in Detroit on a regular basis. James was one of the Editors favorite people to hear from. "We would phone one another at least once a month and talk like kin folks will, for nearly an hour" said Bruce (Ford) I will certainly miss him. The real irony is that none of the Detroiters that knew James through phone calls, ever met him, in person! The Son of the late "Lil" Doc Clavon of Sumter, Grand Son of the late Doc Clavon Sr. and the Great Grand Son of the late Jake Clavon. James was the nephew of Wilbur, Betty, Candy, Annie Mae and Willie Mae of South Carolina. .May the peace and blessings of GOD be with his family. (if anyone has a spare obituary and is willing to share, please send it to the address on the front of the news letter).

November in Michigan causes everyone to brace for bad weather. Having already felt the wintry blast of cold temperatures, which have dropped down into the 30s the 'Winter Wonderland can be tough although the almanac is predicting a milder winter season, for this region, with less snow and more rain.

There is excitement in the air as everyone is preparing for Thanksgiving and the Christmas season that is already upon us! This is the time of year that causes one to reflect over the past year. We remember the 'good old days' and the occasional bad days, our gains and our losses. The losses to the family remain heavy, for they are "life altering" and things may never be the same nevertheless, life goes on! .

For just a few moments, take time to consider this story.....**An elder family member had scheduled a doctors appointment at 8 o'clock on that Tuesday morning. She also had a breakfast date at the nursing home, every morning, with her husband at 9 a m. While being examined by her doctor, he asked about her husband and his health. This dedicated family member explained that her husband has been suffering from the dreaded Alzheimer's disease, for five years and he no longer recognizes her. She urged the doctor to "make haste or I'll be late."** Surprised by her need to hurry, the doctor asked, "why do you still go, when he doesn't know who you are or that you are even in the room?" This attentive wife, looked at the doctor, as though in prayer and then replied, He doesn't know who I am but I still know who he is!" **WHAT A POWERFUL STATEMENT OF LOVE AND DEVOTION!**

The year of 2009 has brought triumphant reunion and a great deal of joy to this Clavon Family. It has also been heavy with the loss of loved ones and the grief it brings. *"The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything, they just continue to make the best of everything they have! Let us never forget....GOD in still in charge*

THE *South Carolina Reunion Committee* and everyone who played a part in putting this event together, can take 'great pleasure' in knowing that 'you made it happen', like never before! The place was packed with Kinfolks meeting kinfolks. They 'showed-up', from near and far. California, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North & South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia and more states than I have mentioned plus West Germany and Guam. They came with dancing shoes, to see other family members, to meet & greet and health issues didn't stop them. Some were on dialysis, others on oxygen and still others on canes and walkers. This great Clavon Family showed up! Those who were blessed to make it to Florence had a great time, those who could not be there were, truly missed. **THE BOOKLET OF HISTORICAL FAMILY PICTURES WAS A KEEPSAKE & TREASURE FOR EVERYONE!**

Damon & Maggie Clavon, Benjamin & Judith Claiborne, Ephraim & Amelia Clayborn of Columbia, South Carolina who settled in Mayesville Township, Sumter County.

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Thursday July 2nd there was a party atmosphere at the "family 'meet & greet' at the Hampton Inn, as family members arrived and checked in from every section of the country **Friday**, additional tables were set up for an over-flow crowd that attended the semi-formal 'set down' **banquet**. For the nearly 300 guests at the banquet, there was an oral family history of Damon, Maggie and their children, given by the most senior male family member from Michigan, **Cleveland Clavon** of Southfield. Also an oral history presentation that chronicled the life and achievements of the late Jake Clavon, one of the family 'pioneers' was given by **Albertine Brown** of Richmond, Virginia. There was a great photo slide show, special presentations and recognition of our most senior family members. There was plenty of good food and the DJ rocked the house with music as the family danced the evening away! **Saturday** July 4th more than 400 family members attended the **22nd annual softball game between the Town and the Country Cousins**. The game was played at Chappell Park (thanks 'Cortie') in Bishopville. IT WAS HOT

and steamy nevertheless, the game was played with the passion of the 'big leagues'. At 8AM the teams took the field and the temperature was around 95 degrees. The game was close until the 7th inning, when the Country Cousins rallied for a 'come from behind', win 7 to 5. Gary (Carter) coach for the Town Cousins, had a good game plan, anyway! There was plenty of good food and beverages, hot dogs, chicken, potato salad and more! Junious (Laws) made sure the "whole Pig" that was barbecued for the occasion, was cooked to perfection. **Sunday**, July 5th the 4-day 'Coming Home Reunion, which began on July 2nd, was concluding as family members dressed and stepped. They attended church services at one of the (4) family churches in the area. The attendance for the 4-day affair brought together, more than 700 folks. There were professional photographs that preserve the daily events of this 'never to be forgotten' reunion thanks to 'Kat' Savage. The smiles and the happy faces said it clearly! This 'storybook' reunion experience cannot be captured by written accounts, only, photographs tell the story much better, of a proud, loving family enjoying every moment!

OPEN 'LETTER' TO THE FAMILY

To the Clavon Family of Michigan:

What a pleasure it was, having you with us on Friends & Family Day, Sunday July 5th. We, the Pastor and membership of Green Bay Baptist Church of Lynchburg, SC., look forward to seeing and having you worship with us, every year, as you make this your home church, while away from home. Thank you for your generous donations, which are a blessing to the church. May GOD continue blessing you and your families! Sincerely,

**Reverend Fredrick Martin, Pastor
The Clavon Family of South Carolina
The Edwards Family, The Hannah Family
Green Bay Baptist Church membership**

OPEN LETTER TO THE FAMILY

"To Our Dear Clavon families of Detroit & South Carolina", The Officers and membership of St. John United Methodist Church, would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our families from, both Detroit and South Carolina for their donation to the church building fund. We hope that when you Detroiters are in South Carolina again, you will come worship with us. We anticipate, being able to worship

in our new building on August 9th!

GOD Bless You All,

**Reverend Samuel B. Cooper, Pastor
Watkin White, Jr., Chairperson, of Trustees
Harry James White, Chairperson of Finance**

'OPEN' LETTER TO THE FAMILY

A 2009 Clavon Family Reunion to Remember

"On July 2nd 2009 we set in motion a tribute to our forefathers and mothers with a reunion. We celebrated the lives and contributions of more than seven generations of Clavon's. This family rose, from a nation that enslaved African-Americans, to become land and property owners and more. These determined Men and women raised, generations of strong, God fearing, upstanding children, in Lee County, South Carolina. We realize that we would never have become the intellectual, versatile, supportive family that we are today without the sacrifices that they made, as well as the hardships they had to endure. Family members, from 16 states and the countries of West Germany and Guam, attended this reunion.

Our family celebrated its' 2009 reunion for 4-days, by recounting our family history, which began more than seven generations ago, in South Carolina.

The celebration began on **Thursday** evening, with a 'meet & greet' for all arriving relatives. The banquet was held at the Florence Civic Center on **Friday** evening, with more than 300 guests in attendance.

Saturday morning, we held our 22nd Annual softball game, at Chappell Field Park, in Bishopville and more than 400 persons attended. **Sunday** morning, we concluded this 'Coming Home' Reunion as befitting this occasion, we attended church services and worshiped the LORD. What an awesome time everyone had and what awesome roots we have inherited!"

Submitted by the daughters of the late Watkin Sr & Elizabeth Clavon-White of Lynchburg, South Carolina.

OPEN LETTER TO

To the South Carolina Reunion Committee

Descendants of Damon & Maggie Clavon came into full knowledge (late 1980s&90) of our SC relatives rather late in life, considering 1918, is the year of our family separation. Nevertheless, linking together remains one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Both, Michigan and SC are branches from the same family tree. The moment we became aware of that

fact, both groups reached out and joined hands. This Reunion generated so much excitement and anticipation it was difficult to contain. The LOVE was there, not only could you see it, you could feel it. Only Divine guidance could have permitted these events to occur and 91-years later we're together, once again. Damon, Maggie and their children, that left SC in 1918, have all gone on to be with the LORD. Their spirits, through their descendants, soar because we have not permitted time, distance or circumstances, to keep us apart! There were 50 or more family members that made the trip, many had never been to SC before. Our origins are in Michigan but we were drawn to SC for the 'Coming Home' Reunion' because, it is here, that the family tree took ROOT. A special 'thank you' to members of the Detroit Committee, who helped to shape this event through joint meetings, generous donations and total a commitment to the Reunion. Once again, thank you SC, for an unforgettable time!

Cleveland 'Brownie' Clavon

and The Claiborne/Clavon Committee of Detroit!

JESSICA, JESSICA, JESSICA DICKEY!

This, SHY, PRETTY, SLEEPY EYED, TALENTED TEEN from SC, without any urging, or help took on a huge challenge. She designed the '2009' family reunion T-shirt and did an incredible job. The lettering on the T-shirts was done in her own hand and show-off the calligraphy skills Jessica has developed. You are wonderful and the entire family says, "thanks." Young folks, no doubt, will be encouraged to undertake other challenges, for future family reunions, because of what you have shown, thanks sweetheart!

Erin Dent, another of the younger generation of Clavon's from Pennsylvania, showed-off her singing talent during the 2009 banquet. She gave the crowd of cousins a taste of her beautiful voice, while rendering a selection, without music. Erin, is the granddaughter of Cleveland Clavon. She attends East Stroudsburg State College and is a member of the Jazz singing group that has toured, in Europe.



**UNDER THE WEATHER & ON THE MEND/
SICK & SHUT-IN's:**

Sara "Bunky" Blyther (Sumter, SC)
Suzanne Ford-Carpenter (Detroit, Mich)
Gladys Clavon (Lynchburg, SC)
Kenneth Clavon (Texas)
Sally Clavon (Detroit, Mich)
Charlie & Wilbur Davis (Sumter, SC)
Jeanetta Ford (Detroit, Mich)
Natalie "Kitty 'Cat" Ford (Southfield, Mich)
Aunt Becky (Rebecca Laws of Lynchburg, SC)
Sharon Clavon-Logan (Southfield, Mich)
Sylvia Pearson (Livonia, Mich)
Marilyn Clavon-Quates (L.A. California)
Cleveland (Brownie) Clavon (Southfield, Mich)
REMEMBER EACH ONE. IN YOUR DAILY PRAYER!

Please, continue to support OUR Family News-
letter. Your donations have been great. Only
\$4.00 yearly per family, or whatever you want to
give, gets it done!Thanks Sooooo Much.

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to report the loss of a family
member, **GRACE M. CLAVON** of Lynchburg, SC.
She departed this life on July 11th after waging a long
battle to regain her health. Grace leaves to cherish
her memory and celebrate her life, three daughters
and her beloved husband, **Timothy Clavon**. She was,
an avid and skilled softball player and was determined
to attend the 22nd annual softball game on the 4th of
July. Though weakened by her illness, with Tim at
her side, she was able to attend the game. Our
prayers and love of the entire family go out to Tim
and the girls. May the LORD keep you during this
difficult period! **PEACE AND LOVE TO ALL**

The Roving Reporter

Ruby Clavon-Williams and the SC Committee,
deserve a "Medal" for organizing and directing the SC
Reunion 2009. Ruby, who served as Committee
Chairperson, when asked, said *"Perfection is what
we (committee & myself) wanted to achieve. How-
ever we had never attempted ANYTHING of this
magnitude. We met often, as the planning that
went into this event and the cost, was enormous.
Ultimately, we got the best response anyone could
ask, OUR FAMILY came & enjoyed every day of
this 4-day reunion! We needed additional tables
set-up at the banquet hall to accommodate our*

*family and guests. Without every person who
came and participated in this celebration, it would
not have been the beautiful REUNION that it
proved to be." Our deepest appreciation is to You,
You and You for all of the support. Again, thanks
to all of my family, I love you!" RUBY*

Who will ever forget 2009?

Cousin Gladys has a new puppy...she bosses him
too!...**Nat** (Clavon) of Virginia, got a real surprise
when his brothers, James, Joe and Tim dropped in!
Shirley & Rob (Morrell) did some real entertaining
with a "splash party." Oops! Say Rob, the fellows
really enjoyed your hospitality and your 'posh' sports
bar too! . **Holly Dwyer**, a petite, cute college coed
and the granddaughter of **Betty Dwyer** of Sumter,
SC jumped to her feet, as the selection for a host
state for 2011 Reunion was being considered. She
yelled "**Virginia.**" Immediately, nearly everyone
agreed on her choice! Roll up your sleeves VIRGINIA
The real kicker is, Holly lives in Florida!

Cousin Ann Gilchrist from Burlington, Hello, **WE
SAW YOU** at the Banquet. Say hello to your Mom
and let her know, she has a pretty daughter!

The finale of the banquet was some "straight up hip
swing dancing" and "HUSTLING" **John Quates** from
Michigan did his thing... several times. John's mother
Marilynn, who lives in California, was unbelievable, as
she pulled her oxygen tank onto the dance floor and
"cut a bunch of steps! Anybody check out **Gary 'the
coach' Carter** from Bishopville, the brother can
dance that 'hustle'!...**Shirley (Morrell) & her big
sister Ruby** 'breezed' into Motown and left a bunch
of happy, 'more shapely' ladies in and around Detroit.
Ask her for the secret! She also has a formula for
you guys with a 'gut' too! **Sharon Clavon-Logan**
did, bring a comb to SC. the weather DID IT! Say,
did anyone notice that 'antique' **Bruce** (Ford) drove
to SC with his daughter and grandson along for the
ride? He said he paid \$63 for the 1994 Aerostar....
**GOD is good!.... Congratulations to DEACON
Thaddeus (Cortes) Dickey and his wife,
DEACONESS Andrea Dickey** of Bishopville, SC.
Both were recently installed into their offices at
Green Bay Baptist Church in Lynchburg, SC.
Say, **Doc** it was good to see your son **Terry**, who
came all the way from West Germany to attend the
reunion. He asked to placed on the newsletter mailing

list, please send us his address. **The Spears Family**, from Durham NC were in Michigan recently, for the AAU basketball finals. Their son **Michael Anthony** played and was voted **"Best Defensive Player" in the game**. Mike is also an outstanding scorer with a nice 3-point shot too...he's got **GAME!**

To the sons, daughters and descendant, of the late **Watkin Sr & Elizabeth Clavon-WHITE**:, Your Detroit cousins send love & thanks for your personal letters & e-mails. Cousins, **Albertine, Elouise, Watkin Jr. & Harry James**....we look forward to seeing you in 2011!... **Carla Clavon** of Detroit, one of the sweetest Clavon women you could ever meet, recently pledged her love during a wedding ceremony in Atlanta, where the couple now make, their home. **Congratulations to the newlyweds and their families, Reverend & Mrs. Robert Wayne Crummie**, we pray **GOD'S** blessings!

Buda (Hallie Dwyer) and family, your Detroit Cousins, sends love and hope all is well. It was great to see everyone! **Candy, Betty, Wilma, Willie Mae, Annie Mae, Uncle Snoop** Hello everyone!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF OUR

June, July, August and September, babies and big folks!

"Happy Birthday tooooooo youuuuuu."



HAVE ANY OLD FAMILY PHOTOS?...Please **SHARE** send a copy to the Family Photo Archives or put them on CD's then call (313-592-0770).

'L'il' **JUAN P. CLAVON** is a senior at Prairie View University and will graduate next spring. You're a real smile-maker and do your family proud! **CURPRI BURNS** is returning to **TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY** for her junior year after a nice summer of relaxation. We know as an **HONORS STUDENT** she will continue her winning ways **JUSTIN FORD** returns to the **REAL WORK** as a

Junior at Michigan State University. **CRYSTAL 'Big Smile' CLAVON** will be returning to Ferris State University this Fall, stay focused sweetheart **ON THE BOOKS!****LOVE YA!** **BRITTIANY A. JEFFERSON**, will be enrolled in Sam Houston University this fall. She has completed her Associates Degree and will be working towards a B.A

ALL OF OUR RETURNING STUDENT: IF YOUR NAME DIDN'T APPEAR IN THIS EDITION, HOWEVER, IF YOU WOULD, SEND YOUR NAME, SCHOOL AND OTHER INFO TO THE CLAIRBORNE/CLAVON FAMILY NEWSLETTER 'AT P.O. BOX 463 SOUTHFIELD, MI. 48037 and any mistakes, oversight or lack of information will be corrected!

SENSATIONAL PASTRIES BY MENROSE: Specializes in 'GOURMET' pastries of all descriptions. Her creativity is unmatched!. For all specialty pastries to include wedding cake phone Menrose at 248-227-3779 let us support.....Our own



"AFRICAN-AMERICAN FOLKLORE" Quote **There are four (4) rungs on the 'ladder of success they line up this way:**

- PLAN PURPOSEFULLY**
- PREPARE PRAYERFULLY**
- PROCEED POSITIVELY**
- PURSUE PERSISTENTLY**



CONGRADULATION

Nefertiti (Nefy) Clavon of Detroit recently graduated from Southfield high School and is, if she hasn't already arrived, on her way to Prairie View University in Texas. She will join her big brother who is a senior at the same university! Prayers go out to you.....Way to **GO!**

Destiny Clavon of South Carolina has been accepted, assigned to a dormitory and her room. She will begin her 'freshman' classes at Charleston College in South Carolina. Stay as prayerful as always as we pray for you too.....enough said!

A LITTLE KNOWN FACT

Dearborn, Michigan, home of The Ford Motor Company's World Headquarters, It is the City where Henry Ford made his home, during his lifetime and where he died. Dearborn also had the distinction of being one of the most racially 'segregated' cities in America. No African-Americans lived within its' borders and it was considered risky' to drive through, if you were black. In 1966 the City Of Dearborn held its' annual beauty pageant to select "Miss Dearborn." Young beauties by the hundreds entered the beauty contest, considered, the best in the State. When finalists were selected, votes tabulated and the judges, sure of their choices, MARILYN GRACE CLAVON-QUATES emerged as "Miss Dearborn 1966." While working at Federal's Department Store, in Dearborn, said Marilyn, she entered the contest rather "jokingly.

(Marilynn continued)

This stunning beauty & cousin now lives in Los Angeles, California where she is a Counselor! BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL! ..."THAT'S A FACT" (ps: Marilyn fled in from California to attend the "Coming Home 2009 Reunion" in SC, thanks to her daughter "Yummy" and had a wonderful time. This piece of our Family History is worth telling, over again! We all thank you "YumYum" Mom was a sight for sore eyes!

Questions and excitement have already begun about the 2011 Family Reunion in Virginia. SUCH AS... Have the Virginians considered the city in Virginia that will be hosting? As plans go forward what, in terms of assistance will be required or needed? Fortunately, we have a large group of family members in the state to see this venture through. Who will be the contact person IN VIRGINIA? ALBERTINE, ELOISE OR???? Sent your information to the P.O. Box on the newsletter so we can start the ball rolling!

A BIT OF BLACK HISTORY

Inventor Garrett A. Morgan, a Black Man, created a breathing device that is used by many firefighters and he received a patent in 1914 for his "gas mask." His invention was used by soldiers, during World War I. Also used was a mask he designed to rescue men who became trapped in a tunnel under Lake Erie in 1916. Morgan, also invented the traffic signal light and the first hair straightener!

On the plantations of America, many everyday items made by those who were enslaved, bore precious codes.....most prominently, these "codes" were found in quilts made by slaves. To "read" antique slave-made quilts today is to decipher the story of a people in patterns and symbols. Some are autobiographical legacy quilts, revealing the region from which the quilt-maker's family came!

On March 30, 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified. This act gave "all MALE CITIZENS the right to vote, regardless of color or previous condition of servitude." The very next day, in the town of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, Thomas Mundy Peterson, became the first FREEDMAN /BLACK in America to cast a vote!

WE JUST NEED 'MORE!

Caring, compassion, Love, Prayer, Forgiveness, Patience, Health, Money, Healing just to name a few needs! Remember, you need only ask the LORD! Read James 4:2,3 in your Bible.