

The Whigham Report

Newsletter of the Whigham Family Association

Vol. 11, Num. 1

January 27, 2010

Hot! Hot! Hot!!!

2009 Reunion

This was no doubt the hottest year since we began having reunions - and it was a year when we had more activities outside. Still, I think all those who went spent less time worrying about the heat and more time just enjoying being together.

My best memory of this reunion will always be how great the food was. While everything went off well, I cannot find words to tell you how much I enjoyed the good southern cooking. All of you who missed the reunion missed a wonderful culinary experience. No one should have left hungry. And, we owe Virginia Whigham and all her crew a big vote of thanks. (And Virginia owes her family the same.)

One of the more successful activities at the reunion was the work done with the children by Nancy Kasper and Gail Dorrycott. The children were so appreciative of their efforts that when asked during the cake walk what their favorite part of the reunion was they invariably answered the "crafts."

We all gave Nancy and Gail a vote of thanks for doing such a great job!. Now we are looking for two people to do the same next year. If you will volunteer to help, please call me at (210) 680-5701, or email me at unicornjd@aol.com. We really need to get these responsibilities filled during the next few months. The Association will reimburse you for your expenditures for crafts, etc.

As usual we had a large number of really nice items for our silent auction and raised \$601 for the cemetery fund. Because we had not spent other year's cemetery money, we had a fairly large amount to spend on repairing and restoring gravestones this year. We voted to place a stone at Old Batesville Cemetery for Sallie Barnett Whigham (daughter of Thomas Galloway Whigham) and Samuel Whigham (son of Thomas Sr.).

We also voted to place a stone at Providence (Wycot Plantation) Cemetery for Sarah Adella Lawson Whigham (wife of Samuel) and to clean stones there for Jane Adella Whigham (daughter of Samuel), and for

Joseph B. and Joseph P. In addition, we are cleaning and repairing headstones at Providence Methodist Cemetery in Washington County, AL. We voted to take care of the graves of three of Joseph and Elizabeth Hannah Whigham (Thomas Marcus, Margaret Hollomon and Richard Nathan) and to clean the graves of two infants - Connie and Corinth Whigham, and to place a small stone for Clinton Whigham - all three were grandchildren of Thomas Marcus Whigham.

So, get busy making things for the next reunion as we agreed to focus on graves in Louisville, GA for William Whigham descendants - graves visited by many of our members during the 2007 reunion.

At the close of the reunion we elected officers for the next two years. All our current officers were reelected except for Myron who decided not to run again. Virginia Whigham was elected vice-president to fill his vacancy.

We also chose to have the 2010 reunion from June 25-27 at Lakepoint State Park, in Eufaula, AL. More about this in my column. Think you will be surprised at how beautiful it is there and how much there is to do. Hope you will all make plans to be there.

A number of Whigham photo albums were sold at the reunion. Only three were left, and two people have spoken for two of them, so only one was left. No more will be produced, but we do plan to have CD's of the photo album at the reunion.

Do make those reservations early. I've already reserved a four bedroom cabin on the lake so that all my family can be together for those two days. I'm looking forward to the peace and quiet - and some good times visiting with the family. But, if my grandson gets to go along, he and his father will probably spend some time on the golf course.

I do not know how the rest of you feel, but the days we spend together getting to know one another and enjoying our common Whigham heritage are ones I cherish. Can't help but hope it is not quite as hot this year as it was last year.

Whigham Family Association
Financial Report
January 1 –September 30, 2009

Income

Chronicles sales	\$499.96
Donations	135.00
Membership dues	550.00
Photo album sales	1,125.00
Reunion 2009	
50/50 drawing	79.00
Cake auction	128.50
Cake walk	70.00
Registration	1,324.00
Silent auction	611.00
Survivor souvenirs	155.00
T-shirt & hat sales	15.00
Total income	\$4,692.46

Expenses

Bank service charges	\$14.00
Cemetery fund expenditures	1,376.50
Newsletter expenses	310.40
Photo album production	1,871.13
Reunion 2009	
Catering	670.36
Facilities	375.00
Miscellaneous	181.02
Total expenses	\$4,798.41

Beginning balance: \$5,144.21

Ending balance: \$5,038.26*

* \$1,334.58 allocated to the cemetery fund

Submitted by: Lance C. Russell, Secretary/Treasurer

Needless to say, we no longer have any money left in the cemetery fund as we spent exactly as much as we had. At one point I thought that one of the people doing our work must know exactly how much money we had to spend. In any event we have some good pictures showing what great work was done in Barbour County. Tim and I will have to go to Washington County before the reunion to get pictures of the work done there. So . . . let's talk about . . .

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

Please get those auction items made and ready for the reunion. We need to replenish our cemetery funds so that we can clean and repair more graves this year. Bring anything handmade whether it is jelly, other canned

items, woodworking, crocheted or knitted items - anything you have made yourself or someone else has made for you. Every grave we have cleaned or repaired in the past 5 years has been made possible by members of the association who have not only been generous in providing items but also have bid on other items in the auction. *We are extremely grateful to each of you.*

Reunion June 25 - 27, 2010

The park is located on the shores of Lake Eufaula, adjacent to the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge. If there are any nature lovers (like me) or bird watchers in our group, I am told this is an excellent place to come.

I do know that when we visited there in June to look over the site, we were all struck with the beauty and peacefulness of the site. In addition, there are a number of things to do there, so it is a great place to extend your reunion trip into a vacation. Golf, tennis, fishing and boating are all activities that are available. If you don't have a current Alabama fishing license, you may go to this site online to get the appropriate information <http://www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/freshwater/license/> to get one. Boats are available for rent.

The lodge was recently renovated, and rooms are available there for \$89 plus tax for a room with 2 queen size beds or \$96 plus tax for a king size room. Children under 12 stay free, but there is an additional charge of \$10 each for more than two people to a room. Rooms also contain a 32" flat screen TV, a small refrigerator, microwave, coffee pot, iron and ironing board.

In addition, there are two and four bedroom duplex cabins in a wooded area as well as one, two, three and four bedroom duplex cottages beside the lake. The cabins and cottages have a number of other amenities. (All are air-conditioned, of course).

For other information or to make reservations, call Lakepoint Resort State Park Office at 1-800-544-5253 or 334-687-8011 or 1-800-ALA-PARK. The email address is lakepointstd@mindspring.com.

Mailing address:

104 Lakepoint Dr.
Eufaula, AL 36027

Reservations for the reunion are due by May 25th.

A Few 'Joyce' Words

The past few months have been very busy, and I have neglected getting this newsletter out for far too long. I apologize for that, and my New Year's resolution is to do a better job this year of keeping the newsletters coming

regularly.

Some of you knew at the reunion that my brother-in-law died and was buried the first day of the reunion. I had anticipated his death as he was very ill and did not plan on going to the funeral till later - which I did.

Shortly after I returned I came down with a bout of shingles. Had never had them before; hadn't had the shot and was unprepared for the pain it caused. My older son, David, and his wife, Anna, had planned a trip to Colorado to visit national parks in September. I suffered from shingles throughout the trip, but they took good care of me. I had a great time but came home still having trouble with my left arm and was unable to type with both hands.

So, enough of excuses, the result is the same. No newsletter.

On a more positive note, some good news. The website whighamfamilyassn.com has been totally redone. Please visit it and see the changes. There have been a number of deaths this year - the obituaries are there. You can pay your dues online, register for membership or to go to the reunion, and find a lot of information there.

We have made a lot of new contacts these past six months gaining new family information and gathering new pictures for the photo album. So much so, that I simply cannot include it all in the newsletter. The information is being added to our database, and the pictures are being added to the photo album. Everything will be available at the reunion.

It is my hope that a large number of our family members take advantage of the opportunity to join us at the reunion this year. We have chosen one of our most beautiful locations yet as the place for our reunion. There is much for our young people and the adults to do at Lakeshore as this park was built with the idea of vacationing not just short term visits.

For once no one will be required to prepare and serve meals, allowing those who usually have this responsibility to attend and enjoy. See you there!!

For my son, Tim, and his wife, Gail, they find that they are busy each year getting new information about the Whigham family as we visit one cemetery after another throughout the South taking pictures of Whigham graves. Then, Tim puts them on the internet site, FindaGrave.com, along with hundreds of others he takes throughout Texas.

Please don't forget to keep me informed about all the news in the family. Not only do I add it to the database, I try to keep all the family informed on the website and through the newsletters about all the new happenings. So, pass your information along.

Additions to 2008 Photo Albums

If you got your photo album at the 2008 reunion and are due to get the 73 pages added in the 2009 edition, please contact me. I try to remember everyone, but I am afraid I will forget someone. Cost for the addition will be \$20, which includes the cost of printing, sheet protectors, packaging and shipping. That seems fair considering the work involved.

Just send your check, payable to Whigham Family Association, %Joyce Dorrycott, 6454 Village Park, San Antonio, TX 78250, and I will get these additional pages off to you.

Whigham Cookbook

Thanks to our new vice-president, Virginia Whigham, it looks as if we will finally get the cookbooks printed in time for the reunion.

So, if you haven't sent your recipe in yet, please mail it to: Virginia Whigham, 3301 Dairy Point Drive, High Point, NC 27265 - or you send it to me - Joyce Dorrycott, 6454 Village Park, San Antonio, TX 78250, and I will get it off to her.

I know we are all excited about getting our cookbooks so, even if you can't get to the reunion, get your recipes in by April 1st.

Dues are Due every January - or Now

Our by-laws call for our dues to be paid every January. At \$10 per family per year, the dues are meant to be enough to cover the costs of our quarterly newsletters. All our income is set at a low level to enable as many of our families as are interested to become members of the association. This far, we have been able to subsidize our reunion costs with the money we collect at the reunion from books, registrations, etc., so that we can keep registration fees at the reunion to a minimum. We want you to WANT to be a member and not to find it burdensome to do so.

So, please send your dues to our treasurer:

Lance Russell, 2015 Park Place Drive, Moody, AL 35004.



Whigham Deaths

We have had a larger number of deaths than usual - at least we have learned of more of them. So, I will not be able to include all the obituaries this time.

One that has great meaning to those of us who attend the reunions is that of Byron Whigham, who passed away on November 29th, at the age of 66, of a massive heart attack. Byron is buried at Earlytown Church of Christ Cemetery, in Geneva County, AL. Many of you may remember Byron as the man who brought all those great peanuts to the reunion. He was also the brother of Myron, Burnell, Pat and Royce Whigham. On that same day, Edwin McKnight, husband of Ann Elmore McKnight, died at the age of 67 and is buried at the City Cemetery, in Ellisville, MS.

On December 31st, Reba Whigham Johnson's brother, Billy Vandyke Whigham also passed away at the age of 76. I don't have any further details on his death, but they will be posted on the website.

My second cousin, Ellis Glenn Whigham, died in a tragic accident at a small airport he managed in Oklahoma, on August 13th, details of which are included in his obituary.

Perhaps our most tragic death was that of the youngest daughter of Terral Lee Whigham, Mandi Lee, age 22, who died in an extremely tragic accident on November 20th at night as she was going to work. Her car hit a hog, causing an accident and her death. She was the mother of four children.

We also lost the mother of Boyd Whigham, Martha Byrd Whigham, who passed away on January 3rd, at the age of 99. No matter the age - 22 or 99 - we all have a tough time giving up those we love. Then, on January 4th, we lost Lawson Whigham Johnson, at the age of 98. Lawson was the son of Crockett and Willie Eugenia Whigham Johnson, and a great great grandson of Samuel and Sarah Adella Whigham.

On November 15th, Debi McCaw, wife of Thomas Ruben (Rudy) Sullivan, died of heart failure. Rudy is the youngest son of Claudine Whigham. This family has more than their share of problems as Rudy is suffering with fourth stage renal cancer.

So, we have many people to pray for, but I would add one more. My grandson, Christopher Kasper, has suffered with heart problems since he was a teenager. His rib cage never expanded, preventing his heart from growing to normal size. He went through three surgeries during his teen years, but none were successful.

Many doctor visits and much medication have kept him going over the years - at times leading to periods of some health. Today, he is 30 years old, married and the father of three young sons. He is also a candidate for a heart transplant, but it must be the heart of a teenager as an adult heart would be too large.

It is not our prayer than anyone die to provide a new heart for Chris, but we do pray that if one should become available it would be a match. Oh, and those of you who go to reunions know his mother - my daughter Nancy who helps out at all the reunions. And, Chris is her only child.