

The Whigham Report

Newsletter of the Whigham Family Association

Vol. 10, Num. 1

March 1, 2009

June 26 - 28, 2009 - Date for the Reunion

Back to Blue Springs, AL

Plans are underway for our summer reunion. While we had originally planned to go to Eufaula State Park, a visit by Myron Whigham and Pat and Emmett Johnson in September revealed that would not be possible. The Eufala Park is undergoing renovation and will not be available to us this year.

So, Myron, Emmett and I made the decision that we would go back to Blue Springs State Park. Many of you might not know this, but our biggest reunion was in 2001 at Blue Springs. 239 of our "cousins" came to share that time together. The largest group at that reunion were people who lived in central and southeast Alabama and those who were interested in the history of Blue Springs its connection to the Whigham family.

For those who don't know, the land for Blue Springs State Park was originally owned by the J.T.E. Whigham family. In fact, the natural springs that provides the swimming area was discovered by J.T.E. Whigham. One story goes,

"J.T. Whigham was hot. The mules were hot. It was one of those days when the weather's so hot and you want a drink of water so badly you can almost taste it, or hear it. "Woah!"

"The mules stopped. He did hear water, bubbling and gurgling right up through the ground. Sounded like it was coming from that old limesink over there. He went to look. Sure enough, there was a cool clear spring where no spring had been, and the water kept coming.

"As hot as he was, however, Whigham didn't stop to drink. He ran home as fast as he could to tell the news. A blue spring had opened up in his field." *Alabama Sunday Magazine January 2, 1972*

We have rented both Blue Springs State Park and the George C. Wallace Auditorium for our weekend activities. We will meet at Blue Springs for our Friday late afternoon cookout from 4 - 7 p.m, and the Saturday old-fashioned ice cream social from 4 - 7 p.m. Our Saturday morning event will be at the George C.

Wallace Auditorium in Clio. Myron reserved the large, new pavilion on the left (as you enter the park) - aptly named the Porter Pavilion. There is no charge for entry to the park if you identify yourself as with the reunion.

Activities at the park available to each of us include swimming, fishing (you need an Alabama license), volleyball, and there are various playing fields. Fishing licenses are available from any store in Alabama selling fishing gear. A search of the internet indicates short-term, non-resident licenses cost \$26. **We will have to be out of the park by 7 p.m. each evening.**

Campsites at the park may be reserved for \$18 per night. Just call Gloria, at 334-397-4875 . There are also hookups for motor homes.

For those of us who will be staying at a motel, Myron has made arrangements at the Best Western in Abbeville, AL, for 15 - 20 rooms at a rate of \$65 plus tax. However, do not make your reservation online. To get this rate you need to call Mina, at 334-585-5060, and tell her you are with the Whigham reunion. **Reservations must be made by June 1st.** Abbeville is 17 miles from the park on Hwy. 431 (much closer than Troy).



I am enclosing the reunion reservation form with this newsletter, so please fill it in and mail it off to Myron. Virginia Whigham has agreed to handle the food for this reunion, and she needs to know how many people to plan for. Myron will let Virginia know how many are coming. Also, send a note to let us know if you think we should make Tshirts or caps again.

The George C. Wallace Auditorium has been renovated and air-conditioned since our last visit there. Virginia has planned a great menu for the reunion, and the renovated and improved kitchen will be greatly appreciated. We will hold our main meeting on Saturday at the Wallace Auditorium,

The overall plans for food for the reunion are as follows:

Friday, 4-7 pm: Cookout at the Porter Pavilion at Blue Springs State Park, featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, etc.

Saturday, Lunch at 1p.m.: at George C. Wallace Auditorium, Clio - Southern dinner of fried chicken, corn on the cob, green beans, potato salad, rolls and iced tea.

One change this year - the business meeting will be held on Saturday after lunch so that more of our members can attend. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday at the Wallace auditorium.

Saturday, 4 - 7 p.m.: Old fashioned ice cream supper and watermelon at the Porter Pavilion at Blue Springs State Park. **Please bring your ice cream freezers.**

Further Reunion Activities

We are continuing our efforts to put together a "Whigham Cookbook" and would like each of you to bring some of your favorite recipes to include. A few were brought last year but not nearly enough to start a cookbook. Those of you who may not be able to come - even those of you who live in other countries - please mail or email me your favorite family recipes.

We would really like to put together a really good cookbook!

We will also continue our cakewalk, so those of you who live near enough to bring a cake, please bring one.

There is still much to do repairing the graves of our ancestors. I remember a couple of old cemeteries Don and I visited near Troy where Whigham graves needed attention. This was before we began our repair project. I intend to go back there this year, hopefully before our reunion begins. It is my intention to provide a specific lists of projects to repair and to present it at the reunion. We do not plan to have any money left in the cemetery fund after this reunion!

So, if you have a grave or graves in mind, please bring your suggestions to the reunion.

This means we will continue to have our Silent Auction on Saturday. So, if you haven't already begun to make the items you will bring, now is a good time to start! Whether it is a food item (fig preserves, jelly, etc.), needlework, woodwork or whatever your specialty is, your donations are greatly valued.

A Few 'Joyce' Words

This has been a difficult year for so many of us - dealing with sickness and sometimes deaths of those close to us. And, this year we have decided to make more time at our reunion for visiting and spend less time on organized activities. We do plan to take pictures by family again. But, this is a time when we can meet new

"cousins", renew ties with family we don't often see, and just generally have a good time.

So, make your reservations now with Myron and the motel and plan to join us for a really great time.

On a different note - we lost another of our Whigham "cousins" last year. Ola Mae Whigham, Roberts, daughter of Hugh Walter and Elizabeth Whigham and widow of Norman Roberts, passed away on February 20, 2008, in Jacksonville, FL. She is survived by a son, Norman Roberts, Jr., and two daughters, Carolyn and Nancy Bell. She was preceded in death by her husband, Norman, and two daughters, Joan and Mary Lou.

We also lost Dorothy Whigham Lee on September 21, 2008. She was the daughter of Richard and Helen Whigham of Flat, TX, the wife of David Lee and mother of Kimberli Lee Roy, and the grandmother of Cheyenne Roy.

It has been brought to my attention that I failed to report the deaths in 2007 of sisters, of Martha Frances and Edythe Evelyn Gandy. Martha died on July 26, 2007, and Evelyn died on December 23, 2007. More will be written about them in the next newsletter.

Errors in Whigham Chronicles, Second Edition

p. 878, #143, Nellie Edmundson is buried at Round Hill Cemetery, Elizabeth, Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

p.874, #54, John G. Whigham, buried Richland Cemetery, Dravosburg, Allegheny, Pa.

p. 874, #100, Charles Whigham married Elizabeth *Ann Mathany*, b. 1869 *McKeesport, Pa.*, d. 1924, *same*.

p. 874, #102, Nellie Whigham married George Dias b. 1873, son; Hebert F. Dias. b. 1899.

p. 874, #103, James H. Whigham married "Hannah."

p. 874, #101, George *Stewart* Whigham married "Elizabeth" b. 1871.

p. 878, #141, John Edward Edmundson, married Eliza McGee, and both are buried at Normalville Cemetery, Fayette, Pennsylvania.

Dues Time Again -

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Our dues are due every January, so please mail your check for \$10 to Lance Russell, 5701 Oaks St. Clair Circle, Moody, AL 35004.

Dues help to fund the newsletter, reservations and activities at the reunion. The more of us who pay our dues, the more things our organization can do.