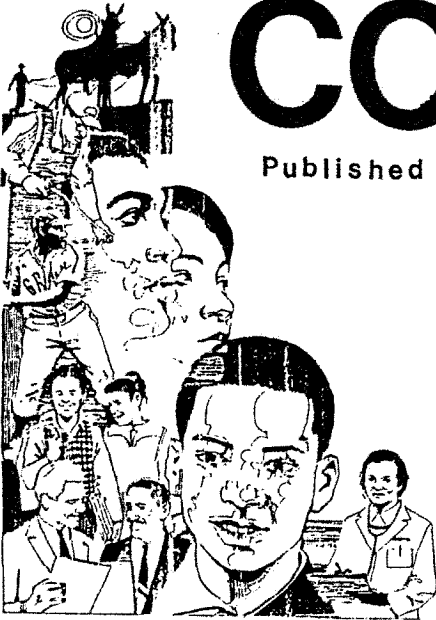


The Williams Hudson Family CONNECTION

Published by the California Chapter



A Few Days In Time!
July 29-31, 1988

First I would like to say, "that I was elated to see so many family members that attended the reunion. It was good to see you here and I hope that each of you had a wonderful time. Your presence made this reunion a big success.

I must commend the Los Angeles planning committee for doing an outstanding job in putting the '88 Reunion together. It is enlightening to see our younger generation take an idea from its infancy, overcome major obstacles such as shortage of funds, build on their idea and put on a "class" act that came in under budget. I have only praise for the future "leaders" of the Williams-Hudson Family.

As the theme of the California Chapter "Family Unity" projects, distance was no hinderance from California to Georgia, from sea to shining sea. It is wonderful to know that all the children of "Isaac" and "Mary" were well represented at this reunion.

See you in Columbus, Georgia in 1990.

Purnell Williams, Jr.
California Chapter Pres.

GREETINGS FROM CALIFORNIA:

To all my fellow members of the Williams-Hudson Family congregation, one of the greatest black families in the United States, **Happy new Year.** We should all be very proud to be a part of this family. Let us all pull together and continue to make it better.

I want everyone to keep in mind the idea of building a monument to commemorate the people who started this family. To make this idea a reality, we need to continue to save our pennies, nickels and dimes, put them together and watch them grow. With God's help and everyone's input, one day we will be able to construct the building.

From my household, I will pledge \$100.00 a year for the next six years. I hope I can get help from at least one hundred other family members to follow suit. Outside the 100 family members, everyone else should contribute what they can, making this a joint family effort. Send all money to the national treasurer, James Williams. We will call this the "Building Fund."

Thus far, I have only spoken with Ethyl Jenkins, Columbus, Georgia Reunion Chairperson. She gives her stamp of approval. I hope all of you will join her and say, "Let's go forward full speed ahead." Keep in prayer about this dream. If you have any thoughts about this project, please feel free to call or write me. I know this dream can come true if we all try.

From your National President
Curtis Crook, Sr.

REUNION JOURNAL.....

More than 230 voices were buzzing in harmonious jubilation on the night of July 30, 1988. It was the 38th celebration of the Williams-Hudson Family Reunion banquet, the climax of the reunion weekend.

This was a first for the California members to host the reunion. Traditionally the biennial celebration was held in either Birmingham, Alabama or Cataula, Georgia since the founding members, Nettie Paul Pleas and Lizzie McCotton reside there.

However, the California chapter reunion president, Purnell Williams, Jr. initiated a proposal at the 1986 reunion to bring it out west to California, and westward they came from Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago, Birmingham, Atlanta, San Francisco and Cataula ... the tall and the small ... the young and the old.

The weekend was ignited with a "Get Re-Acquainted Night" at the Airport Park Hotel. We were entertained by one of our own family members, Bonita Zeier, and her band, "Zamar." They ever performed a song specially written by Bonita and her husband, Richard, for the family. Tears, hugs, and kisses were exchanged, memories recounted, family stories told and retold until the wee morning hours.

For many, Saturday was spent shopping and sightseeing the tantalizing city of Los Angeles. Others were visiting family and friends both far and near. Williams-Hudsons were everywhere.

All the hustle and bustle came to a halt as we stood unified on the hotel lawn ready for our family portrait. Woodson Greer, husband to the late Joyce Diane Greer, a family member was our photographer. He shouted, "If you can't see me, I can't see you." So we squeezed, squirmed, and shifted until ... FLASH! Another moment in our history preserved.

We herded into the Triple Crown Room for the long awaited event, the banquet. Bouquets of gold, green and white balloons floated above every table. A billowy rainbow arc of brightly colored balloons hung over the head table in angelic splendor. Delectable, delightful fragrances came from a long table in the back of the room where a variety of hot and cold dishes were arranged buffet style. Quite simply, we grubbed.

After dinner, the program began. James Williams and Marchette Bailey stepped forward as master and mistress of ceremonies. There was no designated speaker for the evening. Instead Willie "Mack" Thompson gave us the opportunity to recognize what family line was being represented from each person present. We learned a lot about our family that night with extra input from L.C. Williams who takes special pride in knowing the family tree.

Special accomplishments were recognized with certificates and special awards given to the oldest living members, Nettie Paul Pleas, Lizzie McCotton, Purnell Williams, Sr. and Luther Burch Crook. G.W. Thompson presented the husbands of family members with T-shirts for being supportive of making the reunion a success. As the program came

to a close, Toya Brown, a young lady who was not a family member, soothed us with a song entitled "If You Believe" from the musical "The Wiz."

For some, when the program was over, the evening was over. They headed wearily up to their rooms content with their memories tucked in their minds, rekindled relationships tucked in their hearts and full stomachs tucked in their belts. For others a sudden burst of energy had them poppin' 'n snappin' 'n shakin' 'n clappin' on the danced floor. They danced and danced and danced way into the early Sunday morning hours.

The third and final day of the reunion weekend had a slow start. Many of us were exhausted from the two earlier late night affairs. It was almost 1:00 o'clock by the time most people arrived at the park for the picnic. The smell of sizzling hot dogs, juicy hamburgers, and succulent broasted chicken brought people to the designated area at Darby Park, located about a half mile from the hotel.

After lunch, there were relay races, an egg toss, sack races, and volleyball games with prizes for the winners. Watermelon served as the dessert. As the late afternoon drew nearer, everyone joined hands to praise God for the unity and love among our large clan. Our hearts were filled with the words of the Mizpah:

May the Lord watch between
me and thee while we are
absent one from another.

By Teri Jones

The Following Individuals Paid Their \$10 National Dues at the California Reunion

Total Dues Collected (\$140)

O.J. & Carmen Clemens
D. Dorsey
Agness Felder
Vera Hood
Christine Irwine
Melvin Jenkins
Alfred McClure
G.W. Thompson
James Williams
Leon Williams
Louis Williams
Sam & Willie Williams

1988 Reunion MEMORABILIA
is still available
(Cups & Shirts)
Contact

Purnell Williams, Jr.
1029 West Alton Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92707
714-540-5592

Lenora Mitchell
#6 Playfield Court
Columbus, GA 31907
404-563-4931



OFFICERS ELECTED IN 1988

Curtis Crook Sr., President
5126 Brynhurst Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90043

Leon Williams, First Vice President
1029 S. Ligo Mill Road
Washington, D.C. 20011

Pearline Walker, 2nd Vice Pres.
137 Willet Drive
Columbus, Georgia 31904

Horace Thompson, 3rd Vice Pres.
18847 Anglin
Detroit, Michigan 48234

Thomas Green, Secretary
1601 Woodhollow Drive
Columbus, Georgia 31906

Will Mack Thompson, Sgt. at Arms
19 Farallones Street
San Francisco, CA 94112

Bonita Zeir, Parliamentarian
5000 O'Sullivan Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90032

QUESTIONS FACING THE 1990 REUNION
BY JAMES WILLIAMS (LOS ANGELES)

1. How will annual reunion dues be collected? Should it be included as a mandatory part of each reunion's fees?
2. Should members who pay their dues be issued membership cards?
3. How should the annual dues be spent? For what purpose should the annual dues be used?
4. Should the family reunion pursue the establishment of a national scholarship fund?
5. Should the family reunion pursue the purchase of a building to hold family memorabilia, etc.?
6. Do we need to amend, rewrite, or restructure the by-laws governing the reunion?

WM HUDSON FAMILY REUNION
4937 ORINDA AVE
L.A. CA 90043