

# A PROUD FAMILY TRADITION

Since the Huguely family is spread throughout the nation, it has gathered at various locations throughout the country over the past five decades.

This year the family is making Madison County home for the 50th such gathering.



SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Some members of the Huguely family posed for a photo at the White House in 1997 when the group held its annual reunion in Washington D.C.

## Huguely family celebrates 50th reunion in Madison County

By Ryan Garrett  
*Register News Writer*

"We're located in 21 states," said Lucian Huguely Jr., one of hundreds of descendants of Amie King Huguely and Matthew Huguely who will gather for the 50th Huguely Family Reunion next weekend in Madison County.

The Huguely family is detail-oriented in its planning of the reunions, and this golden anniversary is no exception. Each of 13 branches of the family tree elects a representative who joins several officers to compose the executive board, which organizes the reunions.

"A heavy concentration of us are in Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan," said Antoinette Miles, Lucian's niece and president of the executive board since 2001.

The family has spread all over the

country since Amie and Matthew Huguely spent the 1800s in Doylestown in northeastern Madison County.

"As a girl, I was at the first family reunion," said Elizabeth Moran, who will make the trek this year to Madison County from North Hills, Calif. "I think I was 11 or 12 years old." Next year's reunion will be in California.

Huguely descendants have always felt just as comfortable spending time with cousins and grandparents as with brothers and sisters, Moran said.

"That's all we've ever known is family," she said. "My family's always been just as close as a telephone."

For the first 25 years of the family reunion — begun in 1954, two generations after Matthew and Amie Huguely — they most often took place in Madison County.

That changed eventually, and "For the last 25 years, we've traveled everywhere," Lucian said.

Still, "Our largest crowd is when we come home to Madison County," said Margaret Moran, Lucian's sister and Antoinette's mother.

"The last time we hosted here was in '98 — it varies, people come and go on various dates — but, our biggest crowd was probably at the picnic," Lucian said. "We hosted between 350 and 400."

The picnic is only one aspect of the reunion. This year's gathering begins Thursday morning with a golf scramble at Gibson Bay and continues with a series of events that concludes Sunday morning when family members are left to their own volition to attend church or visit with local friends.

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# REUNION

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Even Sunday is semi-organized.

"We had talked about giving the family choir an opportunity to perform, and they will be performing at St. Paul AME," Lucian said.

That sort of dedication to details may be what has helped the reunions grow to their current size, and it also has helped the Huguelys get their family tree computerized and accepted by the Library of Congress.

The family is trying to reach more members by working on a Web site that will include the executive board's bylaws, minutes of its meetings, family newsletters and a section where e-mail addresses can be listed so extended family members can stay in touch throughout the year.

The Huguelys also have a family scholarship fund for family members who plan to attend college, and a large donation last year prompted the family to create a foundation named after Amie Gillispie, the first secretary of the executive board, to promote the fund.

"Tied to the requirements with grades and all that, is participation in the reunions," Miles said.

The family reunions were not always such a blowout. Prior to 1976, they consisted of only a traditional picnic and get-together.

"We knew that the younger people in my generation were looking for something more," Huguey said.

The first addition was the hiring of a band that put the Huguey Reunion Entertainment Committee in the hole \$232.74 for the 1976 reunion.

"And we haven't lost



SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

**Juanita and Lucian Huguey Jr. and Antoinette Miles are shown at the McDonald Park Inn hotel in Charlotte, N.C. during the 1996 family reunion.**

money since," Miles said. "But if you don't have a dance, they don't know what to do."

"In 1980, we decided we wanted more than that," Huguey said. "So we added days to the event and made it a weekend."

With the extra days came travel, entertainment and an amendment to the bylaws to include a representative government.

There are several new additions planned for this year's reunion that will set it apart from those in the past, including the creation of a time capsule to be opened at the centennial reunion in 2054. The governing body is asking family members to bring items for the box.

"But we won't bury that box until September or October because we need to put pictures and things from this event in the box," Miles said.

"The most important piece is this is a reunion where we're passing the torch to the younger generation," she said.

This year's theme -- "Their time, our time, the next 50 years -- your time" -- makes that sentiment apparent.

"My grandfather was the first president of this reunion and his granddaughter is the president for the 50th anniversary, which is my last term," Miles said.

"It's almost like God planned this," added her mother, Margaret Moran.

# Passing the torch

The family was ordained of God that children might be trained up for himself. It was before the church, or rather the first form of the church on Earth.

We greet you today with life, love and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who is the author and finisher of our faith.

Church and Community Focus would like to spotlight the 50th celebration of the Huguely family reunion this week. This year's reunion will be conducted Aug. 12-15 in Madison County. This year's theme is "Passing the torch to the younger generation; their time, our time, the next 50 years your time."

This year's golden reunion celebration will feature many exciting activities including an 18-hole shotgun start golf scramble on Thursday, Aug. 12. It will feature teams of four of all levels of play. This golf scramble is for all ages and is open to the general public. There is a \$35 entry fee. For more information, call Troy Huguely at (502) 570-9251 or (859) 685-1441. Tee time is 8 a.m. at Gibson Bay Golf Course.

That evening there will be a "Family and Friends Talent Showcase" featuring area ministers, the Pleasant Green Children's Choir and many more at Madison Middle School. The general public is invited. Admission is a \$5 donation. Later that evening, there will be bowling and other fun activities at Galaxy Bowling & Family Entertainment Center.

On Friday, Aug. 13, there will be a tour of historic areas in Richmond and Berea, including a tour of the famous Artisan Center in Berea. This will be followed by a seminar on African Americans in Madison County conducted by Ms. Jackie Burnside.

Friday night, the 50th anniversary will continue with a dinner celebration at the Perkins Building on the EKU campus. Included will be a Memorial Service titled "A Celebration of Family."

A dance with a live DJ will follow. On Saturday, Aug. 14, the big family picnic will be held at the Berea City Park. There will be youth games and other activities for the whole family. The Sunday (Aug. 15) morning worship will be conducted at St. Paul A.M.E. Church, and at that time, two of the oldest surviving family members, Enoch Gillispie and Madge Huguely, will be honored.



**Elder John Settles**

CHURCH &  
COMMUNITY  
FOCUS

**SATURDAY**

**JULY 31, 2004**

Richmond Register

## Huguely Talent Showcase

At 6 p.m. Thursday, the 50th annual Huguely family reunion will host a Talent Showcase at Madison Middle School. The mistress of ceremonies will be Kristy Runyon of WLEX-TV. Appearing on the program will be area ministers Francis Jackson, Rudene Runyon, Melody Brooks, Henry (Poncho) Kenny, Jeroline Cantrell, the Pleasant Green Youth Choir, the Huguely Family choir and others. Admission is a \$5 donation.

**SATURDAY**

**AUGUST 7, 2004**

Richmond Register

## Thought for the week:

"A house without a roof would scarcely be a more different home than a family unsheltered by God's friendship and the sense of being always rested in his providential care and guidance!"