

Huguely family holds 43rd annual reunion

When Alex Haley published "Roots" in 1976 and made an appeal for family reunions and the keeping of family records, the Huguely family was gathering in Lexington, Ky. for its 22nd annual reunion. This year, the Huguely clan comes to Howard County, Md. from August 6-10 for its 43rd annual reunion, hosted by the James Cornelison family of Ellicott City.

The Huguely family began in Madison County, Ky., on the Huguely Plantation with the union of two slaves, Matthew Huguely and Amie Keene, born in 1829 and 1830 respectively. National Archives records in Washington verify that thirteen children were born to this union. The 1870 census lists Matthew Huguely as the head of his household and a farmer who could neither read or write, but who owned real estate valued at \$400, a large amount for a Black farmer in the South only five years after the end of the Civil

War. Of the thirteen original branches, eleven survive today. In addition, three extended branches represent the families of Matthew and Amie's siblings, one being Matthew's brother George Huguely, the Civil War veteran of neighboring Estill County, Ky., who died in 1936.

More than 300 relatives gather each year, particularly when the reunion site is one of the cities along the I-75 corridor in Kentucky and Ohio where the largest number of descendants live. However, when the reunion travels to California, Michigan, Tennessee, North Carolina and now Maryland, the attendance is usually around 150, not counting teenagers and children. The reunion is a kaleidoscope of colors as family members proudly wearing their branch's assigned color. A newsletter, the council of officers and branch representatives keep members informed of family happenings throughout the year.

The family and the reunion remain strong because, in addition to practicing the family motto of "love one another," the members like one another, offering support and encouragement in both happy and sad times. Kinsmen will lay a prayer on one another, fuss with, pitch horse shoes, or give a hug - whatever is appropriate.

According to the bylaws, "the purpose of the Huguely Family Reunion is to provide a means for relatives to meet and celebrate their kinsmanship and to be the keeper of the family history by maintaining the family records that will give something important to the young - our heritage." To this end, the family tree will be displayed in a new format generated by a genealogy computer program, showing the placement of all 1,325 family names on 74 connected pages, and mounted across the four walls of the hospitality room. The accompanying family tree directory



FAMILY MEMBERS OF the Lucian Huguely and Elizabeth Covington branch, one of 11 existing branches, participate in a recent family reunion.

shows each person's birth name, generation from the roots, mother's name, branch, and limb. This massive project in produced by family member, Kenneth Cobb, of Glen Burnie, Md.

This year's activities include excursions to Baltimore,

Washington, and Atlantic City, along with a college fair, memorial service, banquet, dance, business meeting, a family history presentation of 140 slides, and a rousing rendition of the Huguely Family Song, written by Lucille Ellison of Cincinnati. To further

document the 1997 presence of the 43rd Huguely Family Reunion in the Baltimore-Washington region, a commemorative brick has been ordered for the brick walkway of the oldest standing structure at Howard University, the renovated Howard Hall built in 1869.

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