

Family Matters

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The Official Newsletter of the Gillyard, Johnson, Mahoney Family Reunions



Family Reunion Team Leader's Corner Velma Dumas

Think back family and remember those good old days. For me they are days that I cherish with many fond memories.

We have an opportunity to again share memories, good and even perhaps not so good, as we go "Back Down Memory Lane" August 1-3, 2008.

It seems like it was just yesterday that we held our first family reunion. I can remember being part of that first planning team and wondering if we could get anyone to attend a family reunion. After all, it was our first. Now I am always excited about making plans to attend the reunions. I look forward to seeing relatives and friends.

Can you believe it? We are now only months away from the **third**, Gillyard, Johnson, Mahoney Family Reunion.

I am very pleased about leading the team for the 2008 reunion and delighted

to have as Co-Team Leaders, Roy Lee Gillyard and Dominique Gillyard. Joining us on the team are Demond Dumas, Curlie Gillyard, Robert Gillyard, Jr., Cassandra Griffin and William Mahoney. We are excited about putting together a weekend of fun, entertainment and precious lifetime memories.

For our 2006 reunion, we added the "Family Matters," newsletter as a means of generating interest and communicating our plans. This year, we've published a family reunion website (see this page for additional information) as an additional means of communicating family news and reunion plans.

We hope you enjoy the web site and newsletters. The 2008 reunion team is claiming **Victory!** We will see you August 1-3, 2008 in Shreveport and Mansfield, La.

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Important Dates

- ◆ December 31, 2007
Completed Surveys Due
- ◆ April 30, 2008
Pictures/Recipes Due
- ◆ June 30, 2008 T-Shirt Sizes
and Reunion Fees Due
- ◆ August 1-3, 2008 Reunion
Dates

Gillyard-Johnson-Mahoney Family Reunion Web Site

Technology has caught up with the Gillyards, Johnsons and Mahoneys. We're on the web. Visit www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com. To enter the site, type the password, memorylane. Pass the word on to family and friends. Tell them to bookmark the site and to submit all news, pictures, family happenings and milestones, for the web site or our newsletter to bettiegillyard@aol.com or velmadumas@peoplepc.com. Enjoy Surfing.



www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com



Money Garden

“Experts attribute lower investment rates to poor instruction on financial topics in public schools, and misconceptions about the risk of stocks within parts of the black community.”

At our 2006 reunion, family members were called to take action regarding Financial Planning/Management.

This month’s article features information on retirement planning.

In a recent article by the AP’s Daniel Sorid the following information regarding “Blacks’ Retirement Security at Risk” was indicated:

Employers have begun to discover troubling racial differences within their 401(k) retirement plans, a gap they say could leave today’s black workers far less financially prepared for retirement than whites.

Investor surveys and research by two large employers strongly suggest that blacks participate in retirement plans at far lower rates and are much less likely than whites to invest in the stock market.

McDonald’s Corp. discovered in 2004 that only half of its black store managers contributed to the company’s 401(k) plan, a lower percentage than whites.

Exelon Corp., the country’s largest operator of nuclear power plants, discovered this year that about 15 out of every 100 black employees did not participate in its 401(k) plan, compared with around 10 of every 100 whites. It

also found that one in three black employees contributed less than 5 percent of their pay to the plan, compared to just 14 percent of whites.

Experts attribute lower investment rates to poor instruction on financial topics in public schools, and misconceptions about the risk of stocks within parts of the black community.

There are clear differences between blacks and whites: How we think about money, where we save and invest our money, what we do with our money, and how we are influenced as to what we do with our money.

Family Take Action:

- The earlier you start planning and saving for retirement, the better off you will be.
- Read newspaper articles, books and other financial resources regularly.
- Remember Luke 12:42 which tells us to be “faithful, wise stewards.”

In February 2008, “Family Matters” takes a look at Children and Money.

Family Milestones

Birthdays

Alicia Brumfield and Takisha Brumfield (twins) celebrated their 30th birthday on October 18th.

Gretchen Gillyard-Petterway celebrated her 30th birthday on November 25th.

Melvin Douglas Gillyard celebrated his 60th birthday on November 27, 2007.

Marriages

Demond Dumas and Shericka Dennis married on May 26, 2007.

Births

Kaden Andra’ Davis born to Andre’ and LaVonya Davis

Email Birthdays, Marriages, Births and other News and Milestones to bettiegillyard@aol.com or velmadumas@peoplepc.com by January 31, 2008.

I truly enjoy meeting new people and making new friends. What I enjoy even more however, is meeting and discovering new relatives. Just think about it. Here I am at 54 years of age, connecting over the telephone with a cousin, who as I grew up, lived only 28 miles away and I never knew he existed.

I have learned more about relatives, many whose faces I still have never seen than I could have ever imagined when I started this journey of discovery four years ago.

With each new document I've uncovered, I am discovering and documenting a history of the Gillyards, Johnsons and Mahoneys.

Imagine reviewing the Death Certificate of an ancestor and learning that at the age of 86, he was hit by a car and died from multiple fractures to the body; or receiving from the National Archives, a copy of the actual land application

completed by an ancestor in 1894.

In 2006, the exhibit "From Slavery to Success," was a huge success. It was a pictorial journey that truly highlighted how our branches are continuing to flourish and flower. Everyone, including hotel staff, marveled at the exhibit.

I am now putting the finishing touches on the 2008 exhibit, "New Discoveries, Decades of Memories" and I can hardly wait to unveil it at the reunion.

Important family history moments spanning from 1833 - 2008, will be on display. Imagine seeing what life was like for the Gillyards, Johnsons and Mahoneys during different decades.

Land, Military, Census, Social Security, Marriage, Death, School, Business transactions, and other documents will be on display.

"New Discoveries, Decades of Memories" will be an interactive exhibit. Come prepared with your memories to add to the exhibit.



Marriage License



Family Quiz

Get answers at the 2008 Gillyard-Johnson-Mahoney Family Reunion.

1. How many children did Charlie Gillyard and Cynthia have?

- a. 7
- b. 9
- c. 10

2. How many children did Caesar Mahoney and Charlotte have?

- a. 7
- b. 10
- c. 15

3. In what year did Bernard (Monroe) Johnson and Mary marry?

- a. 1870
- b. 1880
- c. 1890

4. What President's name appears on the Land Patent Certificate issued to Charlie Gillyard and Robert Mahoney?

- a. Abraham Lincoln
- b. Grover Cleveland
- c. Bill Clinton

Family Historian
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The 2008 Gillyard-Johnson-Mahoney Family Reunion Details

Friday, August 1, 2008

Meet and Greet

Time: 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M

Holiday Inn, 102 Lake Street, Shreveport, La.

Saturday, August 2, 2008

Picnic

Time: 9:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Location: TBD

Dinner Program/Dance

Time: 7:00 P.M. - 12:00 A.M.

Holiday Inn, 102 Lake Street, Shreveport, La.

Sunday, August 3, 2008

Church

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Sunshine Baptist Church, 2214 Hwy. 509, Mansfield, La.

Family Reunion Colors:

Black, White, Gold

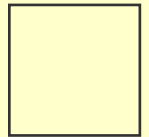
Gillyard-Johnson-Mahoney Family Reunions Mission:

*To focus on the things that shape us
rather than the circumstances that divide
us; to strengthen and preserve family as
God orders our steps.*

We're on the web:

www.gillyard-johnson-mahoney.com

Family Historian
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**RECIPIENT NAME
STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
CITY, ST ZIP CODE**