L. Walker, of Clinton, Md. and other local family members hosted this magnificent event.

Caviness family an example of diversity

The earliest record to date of the Caviness family indicates that they were French Huguenots who fled from France to Switzerland, to England, to America in 1700.They fled from England on April 19, 1700 aboard the ship "Mary and Ann" and arrived in Virginia on July 31, 1700.

The captain was George Howes. Our African-American branch of the Caviness line began with the birth of my great-great grandmother Winsey Caviness to Henri Cavinis and Marie. (The spelling of the surname changed often so that individual legal papers of family members would not get confused. Many family members had the same first name.)

Winsey Caviness was a White woman born and raised in the antebellum slave state of North Carolina (around Randolph, and Moore counties ca. 1819.) Her grandfather was productive landowner.

One day, she witnessed some White men violently mistreating a slave man. This incident upset her so much that she made this vow: "Never will I give birth to a slave holder, therefore, I will never have a child by a White man."

She said she would free as many Brown babies as she could by allowing Black men to father her children.

If the mother was White, the children were born free. Children in the slave states were born into the status of the mother regardless of the father's race. Wincey was White and free; therefore her children were born free..

It was illegal for Whites and Blacks to marry. So although Winsey wanted to be a married mother, she vowed to never have a baby by a White man.

She had seven mulatto children by a Black man. They had a mutual love for each other and an understanding of their situation.

She had one boy and six girls: Harrison,Mary, Ann, Frances, Sarah, Martha, Hannah. She raised her children as a single unwed mother.

They never passed for White and they all married African Americans. So although Wincey wanted to be a married mother, she had to raise her children as a single mother.

Consequently, her children were born with the French Huguenot name Caviness and did not take on their name from a slave master.

Today, members of the Caviness family live in most states in the U.S. and Canada. Family members have made contribution in every area of the American culture.

Visit our website for more details...

A Few Family Highlights of family members young and old:

Harrison Caviness became one of the first African-American men to own property in Moore County, N.C.

Three Caviness daughters married three Walden brothers. Hannah Caviness married a Caviness, Peter Caviness.

Titalola Snead is entering her sophomore year at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa. She made the President's list for academic achievement during her freshman term.

Simone Monique Barnes, granddaughter of Delores Caviness Brown had recently opened a promotion company in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Ira Smith is one of the top OBGYN physicians in the U. S., and the Triangle Area in Durham, N.C. in particular. He is one of seven brothers.

All are extremely productive, partly due to their mother Bessie Staley Smith, daughter of a Caviess descendent.

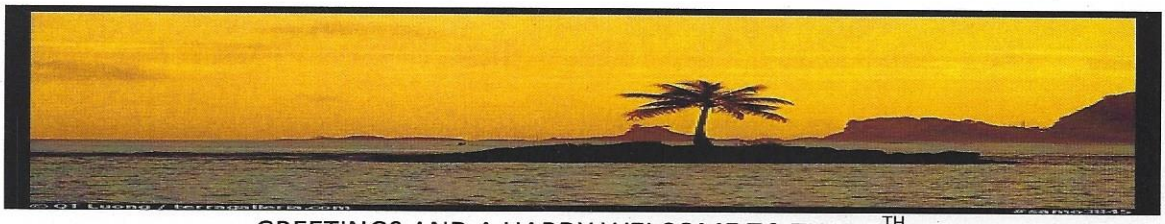
Thomas Caviness, owner of Tynisha's variety store on Georgia Avenue, in Wash., D.C. was visited by President Clinton in his effort to revitalize the business community. ~~He is one of the few people who have remained in business over 25 years on Georgia Avenue.~~ closed

Harold Cavaness is associate pastor at Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in Millburn, NJ.

Our family web page, designed by Sidney Snead, was honored by AOL as a featured site in May 1999.

We have professions in every field of endeavor. Many of our family members attended Historically Black Colleges, but many have attended other colleges, including the Ivy League colleges.

Most family members are very skilled whether self-taught or learned from other sources. We have entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, military, educators, administrators, public servants, framers, politicians, domestic engineers, and in every type occupation.



GREETINGS AND A HARDY WELCOME TO THE 15TH

CAVINESS /STRICKLAND FAMILY REUNION

keeping with the Hawaiian theme of our reunion this year; Aloha Ahiahi (Greetings, hello, Good evening, good-bye, affection, love), Mahalo (Thank You) God for allowing our family to come together again.

Dr. Howard Thurman, a noted African American philosopher, theologian, author and an all around outstanding human being once stated that, "there must always remain in every person's life some space for the celebration of events of the past to bear their fruits in the present; those events that look forward and backward at the same time". Thus, the CAVINESS/STRICKLAND FAMILY REUNION was born.

Welcome to the historic Annapolis, MD area. We greet you and welcome you to our 15th bi-annual celebration. While we're together, let's get to really know each other, and to learn how our ancestors played a vital part in which we are today. If you take the time to recall moments in the past, I am sure you will have an "AAHA" moment, and see the connection.

To our seasoned family members I say, maybe you planned to leave a legacy or you have yet to identify what or how. Well, it's not too late. Continue to pursue your dream, and lift someone as you travel through life. Remember, your goal isn't necessarily to live longer; it's to live life to the maximum as you do kind deeds for the least of these.

To our younger family members, as the saying goes, and it's very true, "Don't forget the bridge that brought you over". Family members as well as non-family members have made many sacrifices, even death and harsh punishments to make sure that the life you live today would be better than the life they experienced. You WOULD NOT have the opportunities you have today, if our older generations had been selfish, uninformed, uninvolved, and unmotivated. Each of us owes it to them, to show respect for our fellow man, and to prepare ourselves to take the experiences they taught us to the next level, and leave this world a better place for generations coming after us.

Be blessed and remember that mastering YOURSELF will always be your greatest challenge; but, you can and must do it. Read the history of your roots; you've got the blood of folk who loved the Lord and praised him, worked hard for an honest living, were skilled and employed, were fashionable, were friendly, took care of their families, and in addition, left a legacy worthy of publishing in many countries and many cultures.

Welcome, and may you enjoy and inspire one another.

FUTURE LEADERS FROM THE CAVINESS FAMILY

Our Academic Achievers 2009-2010

- Raven N. Towns: Graduate Kindergarten 2009 to 1st Grade. Parents/Jerome & Shantell Towns - Regina George-Towns, Granddaughter, Pauline Caviness-George-Punity, Great Granddaughter, Arthur & Stella Caviness , Great, Great Granddaughter

- Raphael Shamberger: Graduate High School 2010. Attending in the fall Morgan State University, Parents/William & Emma Jean Shamberger Grandson, William & Novella Caviness Shamberger Sr. Great Grandson

- Christopher W. McSweeney Jr.: Oustanding Football Player with the Laurel Steelers, and honor roll student at Forest Ridge Elem School, Savage, MD, son of Christopher W. McSweeney, Sr, and Stephanie Adams, grandson of Barbara and Joseph McSweeney, great grandson of James Carl and Elle B Caviness

- Ebony Nicholson: Honor Roll Student, Coolidge High School, Washington, DC. Thomas E. Nicholson: most improved student in 2nd grade, Whittier Elem Sch. Ebony and Thomas are the children of Stephanie M. and Leroy Nicholson, great grand children of Carl Caviness & Ella Bethel Caviness, and grandchildren of Joseph & Barbara C.McSweeney.

- Congratulations to Debra Caviness, President and CEO of the OIC of the Greater city of Bridgeport, CT. Debra was recently honored for her outstanding work as Mayoral Aide to Mayor Bill Finch. In that position she oversees the small and minority contractors to make sure they get the knowledge they need to compete for city contracts. She is employed as she is also a proud grandmother of 1-year old Devan D'Shara Dorcas Caviness. Debra is the daughter of Robert Caviness (dec) and Dorothy Caviness, Great granddaughter of Jerry and Corella Strickland Caviness.

- Donnie Haith: Graduate to Middle School 6 Grade- Parents/Melissa Thompson/Donnie Haith, Swannie Thompson & Paul Thompson (dec) Grandparents, Arthur & Stella Caviness Great, Great, Grandparents

- Austin Spruell: Graduate 2010 to Middle School/Parents, Sabrina Spruell/Cosmo Spruell, June and Louise Garner, Grandparents

- Ashkya and Ellyana Martinez (Twins) : Parents/ William & Shalonda Martez, Swannie (Bit) Thompson & Paul Thompson (dec.), Arthur & Stella Caviness Great, Great Granddaughter

- Portia Spruell: Graduate 2010 , Attending this fall Winston Salem State Univ.(Psychology) Parents/ Parent/Sabrina Spruell and Cosmo Spruell, Robert and Louise Garner, Grandparents

- Tiffany Banks-Ritter: Graduate North Carolina A&T University 2009. Starting fall Master Program Pathology Assistance – Parents/ Hamilton & Paula Ritter-Lipscomb and Boise Banks , Arthur & Stella Caviness Great, Great, Granddaughter

- Kiara Shamberger: Graduate 2010 Morgan State University. Parents/William & Emma Jean Shamberger Granddaughter, William & Novella Caviness Shamberger Sr. Great Granddaughter

- Ayes-ha Thompson: Graduate 2009 – Parents/Monique Thompson /Thompson, Byron Overby. Attending Winston Salem State University, North Carolina (Psychology) Arthur & Stella Caviness Great Granddaughter

- Etiania Allen-: Graduate 2009, Salem International University, West Virginia, Parents/Emanuel and Edith Allen, Swannie (Bit) Thompson & Paul Thompson (dec.) Arthur & Stella Caviness Great Granddaughter

- Kamero, Loretto PA Ritter: - High School Graduate 2010, Basketball Scholarship/St. Francis University PA. Parents/Larry & Diane Ritter, Arthur & Stella, Mazie Ritter/Joe Ritter Grandson, Caviness Great, Great, Grandson

- Nora Ritter : Graduate 2009 – Attending Central State, Durham NC, Scholarship Parents/Roger and Monnece Ritter, Mazie Ritter/Joe Ritter, Grandmother, Arthur & Stella Caviness Great, Great, Granddaughter

- Michael Ritter Jr: 2nd year in college – Parents/Michael & Lorrain Ritter – Mazie Ritter/Joe Ritter, Arthur & Stella Caviness Great, Great. Grandson

- Jordan Ritter: Graduate High School 2010. Parents/Tyrone & Stephanie Ritter, Arthur & Stella Caviness Great Grand

- Paula Ritter : Certificate Master-Adult Education 2010 , Parents/ Mazie Ritter/Joe Ritter, Arthur & Stella Caviness Granddaughter

- **Sabrina Spruell: Starting in the fall BA program in Criminal Justice, University Of North Carolina. Parents/Robert and Louise Garner, Arthur & Stella Caviness Grand Daughter**

- **Tab Davis, Jasmine: Graduate High School, Attending Guilford Tech. Community College, Nursing Program**

- **Channene Ritter: Starting this fall On line Program Phlebotomy, Parents/ Mazie Ritter/Joe Ritter, Arthur & Stella Caviness Granddaughter**

- **Gabrielle Shamberger: 2009 Attending Morgan State University. William & Novella Caviness Shamberger Sr. Great Grandson, William & Novella Caviness Shamberger Sr.**



Our Dear Love Ones Whom We Miss Dearly

Myrtle Dean McSwain Morgan

Thomas Junior Caviness

DeCarlo LeGran Polk

Hazel Caviness

Anthony Alonzo Green

Jacqueline Caviness

Gertrude Patricia Caviness

Please see The Family Book on display for information on the related family members for the deceased family.

FAMILY

I ran into a stranger as he passed by,
"Oh excuse me please" was my reply.
He said, "Please excuse me too;
I wasn't watching for you."
We were very polite, this stranger and I.
we went on our way and we said goodbye.
But at home a different story is told,
how we treat our loved ones, young and old.
Later that day, cooking the evening meal,
my son stood beside me very still.
When I turned, I nearly knocked him down.
"Move out of the way," I said with a frown.
He walked away, his little heart broken.
I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.
While I lay awake in bed,
God's still small voice came to me and said,
"While dealing with a stranger,
common courtesy you use,
but the family you love, you seem to abuse.
Go and look on the kitchen floor,
you'll find some flowers there by the door.
Those are the flowers he brought for you.
He picked them himself: pink, yellow and blue.
He stood very quietly not to spoil the surprise,
you never saw the tears that filled his little eyes."
By this time, I felt very small,
and now my tears began to fall.
I quietly went and knelt by his bed;
"Wake up, little one, wake up," I said.
"Are these the flowers you picked for me?"
He smiled, "I found 'em, out by the tree.
I picked 'em because they're pretty like you.
I knew you'd like 'em, especially the blue."
I said, "Son, I'm very sorry for the way I acted today;
I shouldn't have yelled at you that way."
He said, "Oh, Mom, that's okay.
I love you anyway."
I said, "Son, I love you too,
and I do like the flowers, especially the blue."

Do you know what the word FAMILY means?
FAMILY = (F) ATHER (A) ND (M) OTHER (I) (L) OVE (Y) OU

