



The Touchstone

A Newsletter for and about the Descendants of Frank Garrett Hinton and Amanda Thomas Hinton

Pride and Legacy

By Shonda Hightower Hinton

I am the proud army wife of Captain Curt A. Hinton. We are originally from Peoria, Illinois, and currently live in Savannah, Georgia. We have two children – Kyle, 10, and Kara, 8.

Curt is on month 14 of a 15-month deployment to Afghanistan. This comes after his two previous deployments to Iraq. We have been stationed in Kentucky, and Hawaii, as well as Georgia, and will report to Virginia in September. Curt has missed birthdays, anniversaries, funerals, loose teeth, and watching our children learn to read and ride bikes. We have missed him *tremendously*. He sacrifices a lot for us.

I have asked myself, “What gets us through the multiple deployments, besides the phone calls, emails, webcams, and pictures?” One answer is pride and legacy.



Capt. Curt Anthony Hinton outside his home with Kyle, Kara, and niece Rylen in 2007.

I am the proud daughter of a Vietnam War Army veteran. Now, my children can proudly say their father supported Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 3rd Infantry Division during “Shock and Awe.” They can also say their dad is the Commander of the 24th Ordnance Company, supplying ammunition throughout Afghanistan. Their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will all be able to proudly say they are the descendants of Captain Curt A. Hinton, a stellar Army officer, as well as Corporal Frank Garrett

Hinton, their ancestor who bravely served in the Civil War.

All of our scrapbooks, photo albums, letters and emails are laying the foundation for Memory Lane right now. But I am imagining 35 years from now when all the memorabilia, including this article, may be the motivation for the future Four Star General Hinton.

April 2008

Volume 1, Issue 2

Inside this issue:

A Taste of Good Fruit	2
In Memory of...	2
Contest Winners	2
More than a Championship	3
Know Your Roots	3
News, Notes, and Tidbits	4
Photo Gallery	4

We're on the web!

Go to HintonGen on the Yahoo! Groups page and log in. You can upload your family's photos, chat with family members, and read past issues of *The Touchstone*.

In Memory of...

Bettymaye Hinton Frye

Bettymaye's daughter, Sylvia Frye Davis, wrote the following essay for the “Tribute to Seniors” that took place at the Third Annual Hinton Family Reunion in Peoria, Illinois, August 13, 2005.

My mother was born on December 15, 1922, and was the last baby of Andrew Jackson Hinton and Myrtle Ferguson Hinton. She grew up in Peoria, Illinois, and married Harold Frye in 1944. They had two girls, Cynthia and me, Sylvia, and six grandchildren – Trent Stone, Eric Donelson, Miriah Stone, Ja'Taun Stone, Monique Stone, and Shayla Stone. Mama and Daddy moved to Carrier Mills, Illinois, when he retired. He passed in 1978. Mama, a licensed practical nurse, retired in 1987.



Bettymaye H. Frye was a licensed practical nurse.

(See IN MEMORY OF, page 2.)

The Taste of Good Fruit

By MaRita Hinton Teague

Ever wonder why bad things happen to “good” people? The idea for my new novel entitled *The Taste of Good Fruit* came about from my own personal struggles surrounding this issue. The story deals with three women who each have earth-shattering struggles and how their journey towards self-discovery and renewed faith helps them.

After years of writing and going through the rigors of the publication process, I’m overjoyed to finally see my dream come true with publication of the novel. During the drive home to Northern Virginia from the 2005 Hinton Family Reunion in Peoria, I got a call from my publisher, offering me a contract on the story.



MaRita and her husband, Zedric, relax at home in Chantilly, Virginia, with sons Joshua and Noah in 2004.

I am indebted to our ancestors for paving the way for the wonderful opportunities I’ve been afforded. Many kudos to Audrey Hinton for informing me about so many people to be proud of in our great family. Knowing that

we come from ancestors who persevered and overcame has certainly been an inspiration to me in the recent years.

I would greatly appreciate your support by purchasing the book and spreading the word. If your group or church is interested, I’d really love to try to come for a book signing after the book’s May 12th release.

Feel free to visit my website at www.maritateague.com or e-mail me at mteague307@comcast.net.

In Memory of... From page 1

Mama was secretary of the Peoria Chapter of the NAACP and served on the Parent Teachers Association. She belongs to Baber AME Church and is a Christian with over-consuming love (if there is such a thing). If Mama could, she’d do the things she loved doing most — fishing (which she loved



Bettymaye Hinton Frye (1941)

to do with Daddy), bowling, playing cards and Scrabble, and even mowing her lawn, which she’d do as often as twice a week. Today such activities require too much exertion and make Mama short of breath, so she enjoys watching TV and being with her grandchildren.

There is an old song (“Sadie” by the Spinners) that says, “When she gets to Heaven, she’ll be teaching the angels how to love.” Everyone loves you, Mama.

Bettymaye passed away on February 12, 2008, at the Harrisburg (Illinois) Medical Center, after a long illness. Two brothers, Jewell Hinton and Robert Hinton, and an infant sister, Jeanetta Hinton, preceded her in death. In addition to her daughters and grandchildren, Bettymaye is survived by her sister Vera Hinton Allen Henson of Nashville, Tennessee, and a host of nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, cousins, and friends.

The Taste of Good Fruit is available for preorder from retailers on the Internet, such as target.com, borders.com, barnesandnoble.com, amazon.com, and christianbooks.com.

And the Winners Are...

Thanks to Michelle Blackwell Johnson, Ronnett Dunn, Gabrielle Lang, and Wanda Burdett for taking part in the contest to name this newsletter. They all had great suggestions, but we could select only one, *The Touchstone*, which was submitted by Michelle.

Michelle said, “Touchstone came to mind because this family, no matter how distant we are in miles, remains solid and supportive of one another. We are strong in our foundation like a rock, and there’s a sense that if one of us needs help, all we have to do is reach out and ask.” Michelle will receive a \$25 gift card to Target for selecting such a meaningful name for the newsletter.

Wanda’s submission, “News, Notes, and Tidbits,” is now the fitting title of the Hinton family news column on page 4. She will receive the DVD “Fight for Freedom: The Inspiring Story of African American Civil War Soldiers.”

Congratulations to our winners!

More than a Championship

By Taylor Cravanas



On October 26, 2006, the MRI sitting in front of me confirmed my worst fear. I had torn my ACL and meniscus, an injury requiring knee surgery and months of recovery. After an unfortunate delay, the surgery finally took place on April 4, 2007, and from there I experienced months of grueling physical therapy, strength training, and quickness exercises. I was finally released to

play without restriction about half way through the next high school soccer season, which was around five months after surgery. Having only a few weeks before the state tournament, I had to quickly get into shape, but luckily I was about back to normal by tournament time. After qualifying for state, we won both of the first games and made our way to the championship. I played all but four minutes, and we took a 2-1 lead with six minutes remaining. During the longest six minutes of my life, we kept the other team from scoring and claimed the state title for the

second consecutive time. I recently received my championship ring, and every time I put it on I recall the journey I have taken. I won more than a championship — I won the understanding that with absolute resolution, all obstacles can be surmounted.

Taylor is 15 years old and lives in Knoxville, Tennessee, with her parents Jackie (Hinton) and Vyrone and brother Alex. She maintains a 4.0 GPA, even with AP classes, and plays both varsity soccer and varsity basketball.

Know Your Roots

By Audrey Hinton

So far, I have been able to trace our Hinton Family roots back to Parmelia White and Henry Garrett. Parmelia was born in Virginia in 1808 and later was enslaved to Thomas Henton III of Versailles, Kentucky. Parmelia and Henry had five sons and one daughter: Alexander, Henry, Daniel Robert, William, Frank, and Martha. Even though they were enslaved to Thomas Henton, the children used the surname Garrett — their father's name.

We are direct descendants of Frank. He was born on October 30, 1843 or 1844. On May 2, 1863, he married Amanda Thomas (b. 1849), an enslaved woman of Native American ancestry. In September 1863, Frank and his brothers helped end slavery by enlisting in the Civil War. In accordance with army regulations, they used the surname

Hinton (as spelled by the enlistment officer). When they mustered out in 1865, Frank kept the surname Hinton, and his brothers resumed using the name Garrett. (See the February 2008 issue.)



Amanda Thomas Hinton as depicted in an undated pencil drawing by her son Laurence (Clarence) Hinton.

Frank and Amanda had 11 children: Jenny C., Edward L., Parmelear F., William Alexander, Millie Frances, Robert F., John H., Andrew, Steller Garfield, Laurence (Clarence), and David Franklin, my grandfather.

Frank was a Methodist minister and traveled for many years in Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana, spreading the word of God. He retired around 1920 and died of a stroke on September 16, 1921, in Peoria, Illinois. Amanda died on April 21, 1918, in Evansville, Indiana.

Do you know which of Frank and Amanda's children is your direct ances-

tor? Do you know where he lived, what he did, whom he married, or who his children were? Do you know what his strengths and passions were or what challenges he overcame and successes he achieved? If you don't but would like to, see the June 2008 issue of *The Touchstone* for a primer on how to begin researching the history of your branch of the Hinton Family.



Frank Garrett Hinton, former slave and Civil War veteran, holds his granddaughter Vera Hinton in Peoria, Illinois, in 1920.

News, Notes, and Tidbits

Accomplishments

Myles Johnson, 10, one of the Gifted Students of Georgia, recently distinguished himself in being chosen to travel to Japan this July as a Junior Ambassador of Georgia.

Ronnett Dunn was awarded Recognition Shares from Proctor & Gamble for her outstanding contribution to the Gillette Integration.

Wanda Burdett celebrated her 20-year anniversary as a manager with Wal-Mart on December 28, 2007.

Kelvin Lightner, 15, maintains a 4.2 grade point average with a tough schedule of advanced placement courses.

Marriages

Sonja Renee Parks married Christopher Stegall on November 29, 2007, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sylvia Frye married Torrence Davis on February 23, 2008, in Carrier Mills, Illinois.

Rikeesha Cannon will marry Michael Phelon on April 12, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois.

Katrina Lightner will marry Travis R. Bacchus on May 31, 2008, in Lancaster, California.

Babies

Landrian and Elicia Hinton are expecting a baby in October.

MaRita (Hinton) and Zedric Teague are expecting their third son in early May.

Shonte Revely and his wife Rebecca are expecting a baby girl on April 23rd.

Illnesses

Senior family member Louise Hinton Curtwright, 87, is at home, recovering nicely from a stay in the hospital.

Juanita Pharris Hinton is on the mend after a short illness.

Deaths

Bettymaye Hinton Frye died on February 12, 2008, in Harrisburg, Illinois. See story on page 1.

Tidbits

Mya Smith, 10, excels in the classroom, plays the violin, and loves to act, play volleyball, and run track.

Alexis Harris, 10, dances in pre-game shows for the San Antonio Spurs and is on the AB honor roll at school.

Photo Gallery



Taylor Cravanas (r) and teammate



Myles Johnson



Kelvin Lightner



Mya Smith



Alexis Harris

Dear Family,

We're thrilled to have brought you this second edition of our Hinton family newsletter and hope you've enjoyed reading it! We need your help for this newsletter to be successful, so please let us hear from you. Tell us what you think of the newsletter and what you would like to see and read in it. Also send us your stories, photographs, family recipes, and family news.

Send your comments and submissions to:

Audrey Hinton, Editor
The Touchstone
1920 Westchester Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20902
Phone: 301-649-6465
Fax: 301-649-3035
E-mail : familynews1@verizon.net

With thanks and love,

Audrey and Gerald



Audrey Hinton
Editor



Gerald Smith
Publisher