



The Touchstone

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

A Grateful Heart

By Audrey Hinton

Happy New Year!

Just think, it was a year ago this month that I published the first issue of this Hinton Family newsletter. Though it was my plan to issue the newsletter quarterly, I didn't quite make it. Little did I know last February that 2008 would be the year that my father, Clarence David Hinton, M.D., would experience a decline in his health and that I would care for him during his illness until his soul's decision to make its transition. Though the year challenged me emotionally and physically, I focus now on how grateful I am to have had so many wonderful years with my Dad and the rich legacy he left me of education as a lifelong pursuit, service to others, and cherishment of family. He also handed down honesty and integrity, virtues on which I try to model my own life.

Now it's a new year, and I continue to focus on all I have to be grateful for. I'm thankful for having had the opportunity to



vote for the first African American to be elected president of the United States, Barack Obama. I'm thankful for my life, my good health, my home, my job, my loving family, and friends. Every day I give thanks for the presence of God in my life, the creative ideas He sends me, and the knowledge I have that everything is in divine order.

I don't make New Year's resolutions, but I do make goals. My number one goal for this year is to maintain an attitude of gratitude. Despite the appearance of lack in my life from time to time, I know that, in Truth, there is no lack. There is abundance everywhere. I will express my thanks for this abundance and have a grateful heart because a grateful heart will open the way for more blessings to come into my life. And should 2009 bring me challenging experiences as did 2008, I will give thanks for them, too, for I will know there's a lesson and a blessing in each one, sent by God to help me grow.

February 2009

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Don't Forget!
7th Annual
Family Reunion
June 18-21
Washington, DC

In Memory of...

Clarence David Hinton, M.D. (October 10, 1916 - September 23, 2008)

Phillip Craig Perry, Jr. submitted this loving tribute to his maternal grandfather.

My grandfather ("Pops"), Dr. Clarence D. Hinton, was a man of many accomplishments, and he knew more than a little about almost everything. He was a renaissance man in the truest sense of the word.

Pops was born in 1916 in Sharpsburg, Kentucky, to Alsey (Elsie) Trumbo and David Franklin Hinton. He had two older sisters, Audrey Ella and Louise. When he was 7 years old, he and his Dad moved to Peoria, Illinois, where he excelled as a scholar and an athlete at White Elementary School and Peoria Central High School. From 1936-38 he was a star half-back on Northwestern University's football team.

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Dr. Hinton was the Hinton Family Patriarch at the time of his death. Playing the violin was his favorite hobby.

In Memory of... (continued)

While he was at Howard University Medical School (1938-1942), Pops met the woman who would become my grandmother, Pauline ViCurtis Gray. They got married in 1943, just before he went to Burma to serve as a medical officer with the all-black 335th Station Hospital during World War II. He and my grandmother had three children, Audrey, Diane (my mother), and David. Pops became a prominent ear, nose, and throat doctor and professor at Howard University Medical School. He enjoyed playing the violin (his favorite hobby), listening to classical music, reading, playing cards, writing essays on affirmative action and reparations, traveling, and writing poems. When I was growing up, we loved to go fishing together.

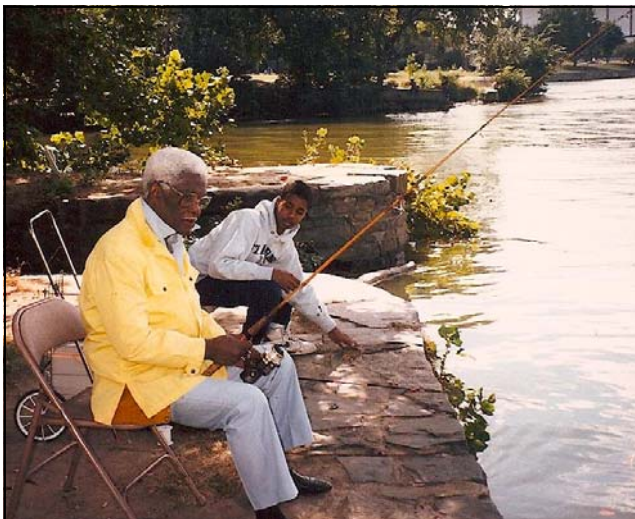
In November of 2003, while living in West Hollywood, California, I received a package in the mail from him. Inside the envelope, there were two sheets of paper: one was lined, yellow, legal-sized, and contained the familiar but indiscernible handwriting of a physician, while the other was a plain, white, 8.5 x 11 document seemingly produced from a type-writer.

Since my grandfather's death on September 23, 2008, this document has become one of my most cherished mementos. I re-read it often when I become retrospective and my thoughts

drift towards the past. Pops had an undeniable impact on the shaping of my character and personality, and I miss him a great deal. I often try to describe our relationship but it fails in comparison to his depiction of our bond, which he captured so poetically on that typed document back in 2003.

"When My Grandson Comes to Town"
By Dr. C. David Hinton

When my grandson comes to town
there's no mon-key-ing around.
Of all the places he could be,
he finds the time to visit me.
He has pals and friends galore
who are waiting at their door
for him to come and make a stop.
But I am closer to the top
of friends he likes to see
and you can bet that flatters me.
So all the others have to wait
while he and I communicate.
Neither of us talks a lot
of what we want or what we've got.
It's not of you or him or me
or what we are or want to be



C.D. Hinton enjoyed fishing with his grandson, Phillip. They are shown here, fishing in the Potomac River outside of the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, in September 1989.

that makes his visit quite so dear,
but it's the talk of yesteryear
that both of us like to hear.
We find ourselves sometimes a-wishing
both of us were somewhere a-fishing
like we did in yesteryear
the time we both hold so dear.

Sometimes we just like to play
such games as SCRABBLE every day.
A game he always seems to choose,
a game I always seem to lose.
At times our conversation
drifts to problems of our nation,
problems that we know for sure
that we have a perfect cure.
Or why the Redskins lost their game
'cause no one blocked for "What's his name?"
Or was it 'cause Smith failed to sack
the opposing quarterback?

Some days we look up at the sky
and wonder why men have to die
in wars that no one seems to win,
whose cause needs further answering.
These problems you can plainly see.
They puzzle him as well as me;
and as you surely must suspect,
to solve them requires intellect.
But intellect, he's got a plenty.
He's got a lot - "I ain't got any."
What I ain't got's too late to fix
'cause I am now past eighty-six.

Now who's this man so dear to me?
Just who on earth can he be?
You've guessed it right.
I have but one.
Need I say more? He's my grandson.

Proud To Be A Black Boy

By Kyle C. Hinton

On Sunday, January 18, 2009, we left home on our Inauguration Trip. On Monday, we took a 45-minute subway ride from our hotel to DC, and we stood in line almost two hours to get our Inauguration tickets. Then we went to the African American Civil War Monument, where we got to see our ancestor's name engraved on it, FRANK HINTON. That was cool! Last, we went to the Kid's Inaugural Concert and that was fun!



Kyle and his sister, Kara, rest on the base of Spirit of Freedom, the monument honoring black soldiers who served in the Civil War.

3:30 a.m. and left the hotel at 4:30 a.m. When we got to the National Mall, it

was too crowded to use our tickets. My mom put a blanket on the grass, and my sister and I took a nap. When we woke up, we were so cold we went into an art museum to warm up. We saw people sitting and napping on the floor everywhere. When we went back out onto the Mall and I finally saw the swearing-in of President Barack Obama on the JumboTron, it

On Inauguration Day we woke up at

made me feel proud to be a black boy



Kyle and Kara search for the name of their great, great, great grandfather, Frank Garrett Hinton, on the Wall of Honor at the African American Civil War Memorial in Washington, DC.

in America. Now I know I can truly be anything I want to be!

Kyle will be 11 on February 27th and is in the 5th grade. He lives with his mother and father, Shonda and Curt Hinton, and sister, Kara, in Ft. Lee, Virginia. History is his favorite subject.

Mya and Emma Go To Washington

By Wanda Walker-Smith

My husband, Gerald Smith, and I are the parents of Mya, a beautiful little 12-year-old girl who is in the sixth grade at Bethany school in Glendale, Ohio. She was the youngest volunteer at the Woodlawn office for (then Senator) Obama's campaign. Needless to say we are proud of her efforts – they paid off. Obama won!



Mya Smith and her friend Emma Oravec wait in the cold for the subway during their visit to Washington for the inauguration of Barack Obama.

When Gerald and I gave Mya the opportunity to choose a friend to accompany her on

our trip to Washington for the historical inauguration, she chose a friend she has known since kindergarten. When we inquired as to why she chose this

particular little girl out of all of her friends, her response was sweet and simple. "Because she is my friend." That was all we needed to hear.

Her little friend Emma happens to be white, with bone-straight red hair and sun-kissed freckles. This was of no concern to our daughter. They play games on their DSs, like the same movies, have sleepovers, and have goofy names for each other and their friends. They

laugh, they learn, they share, and they grow. Is that not what President Obama has been stressing?



Mya and Emma share some fun moments with Mya's father, Gerald Smith, at the African American Civil War Memorial.

Needless to say, we received some inquiring looks on our adventure to DC, but they were outweighed by the smiles from total strangers we encountered. The girls were oblivious to this. Their minds were focused on riding the DC Metro subway, finding the Capitol, the White House, and seeing how close they could get to the President.

February Photo Gallery

2008 Hinton Family Reunion

The rain dampened the ground at the Sixth Annual Hinton Family Reunion July 3-5, 2008, but it didn't dampen the spirits of the 50 family members and friends who were there. Reunion chairperson, Wanda Walker-Smith, and her committee planned a fun-filled weekend that included a get-acquainted party at her home Thursday evening; a picnic at Sharon Woods Park on Friday the 4th and fireworks; and a dinner at Pappa Deaux restaurant Saturday evening. There were prizes and games for everyone and Certificates of Appreciation for the youngsters. Everyone had a good time! Here are photos that tell more of the story.



There was a great turnout for the picnic, despite the rain.



We had pizza and fun at the Get-Acquainted Party.



Keith, Trista, and Martika Thomas came from Lexington with their parents, Rita (Lang) and Keith Thomas.



Sandy Figaro came with her son Edward Ferguson and his friend, Shannon .



Ruth Ann Hinton Scott was happy to see her brother Raymond McGee and son, Darryl.



The "Things," Reunion Committee chairperson, Wanda Walker-Smith, with her husband, Gerald, and daughter, Mya.



Beautiful, bright-eyed sisters Priscilla Stegall (l) and Carlnia Mans loved to pose for the camera.



Jonna Lang Carter presented Certificates of Appreciation to the children.



Audrey Hinton went to Dayton, Ohio, to visit Hubert Lang. He is now the Hinton Family Patriarch.



Dinner at Pappa Deaux was delicious.



Ronnett Dunn grilled the hotdogs and hamburgers at the picnic. Here she is at dinner with her beautiful daughter, Kaylyn Montgomery.



Newly weds, Rhonda (Lang) and Richard Fisher, were among the "new" faces at the reunion.



The "twins" – mother and daughter – Juanita Pharris Hinton and Jackie Hinton Cravanas had bright smiles after dinner at Pappa Deaux.

News, Notes, and Tidbits

Births

Landrian and Elicia Hinton are the proud parents of their third child, a baby boy, **Kenneth Braun Garrett Hinton**. Braun, as he is called, was born on October 7, 2008 and joins brother **Brycelin** and sister **Belleza**.

Kandace (Hinton) and Charles Davis proudly announce the birth of their son, **Landrian Dorian Drake Davis**. Dorian was born on December 22, 2008 and has a brother named **Charles**.

Achievements

Mya Smith was selected by her school (Bethany School in Glendale, Ohio) along with four other children from the



Mya Smith

5th & 6th grade to represent the school in a three-week exchange program with Regency School in Melbourne, Australia, from March 6 – March 28. They will be staying with a host family and attending classes at the school where they will learn about the Australian culture and share their American culture with the school and host families. Mya's parents, **Wanda and Gerald Smith**, are extremely proud of her and ask that the family pray that Mya and her classmates have a safe and wonderful trip.

Kandace Hinton Davis will receive her master's degree in Speech Pathology from Illinois State University on May 9, 2009.

Mikelle Hinton will graduate with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Bradley University on May 16, 2009.

Aleta Hinton will be graduating with her bachelor's degree in Business Management and Administration from Bradley University on May 16, 2009.

(Note: Kandace, Mikelle, Aleta, and Landrian are siblings and the children of Ken and Rita Hinton.)

Marriages

Rhonda Lang married **Richard Fisher** in June 2008 in Higginsport, Ohio, and are happily expecting a baby in September!

Recovering

Rev. William Hinton has recovered from emergency surgery performed last December. He and his family are looking forward to attending the reunion.

Deaths

Clarence David Hinton, M.D. died of a urinary tract infection on September 23, 2008. At 91, he was the

Hinton Family Patriarch. He is survived by his children, **ViCurtis Audrey Hinton**, **Barbara Diane Hinton Perry**, and **Clarence David Hinton, Jr.**; two grandchildren, **Phillip Craig Perry** and **Tiffany Diane Hinton**; and a sister, **Louise Hinton Long**. He was married for 63 years to **Pauline ViCurtis Gray Hinton**, who died in June 2006. His family was comforted by **Ken and Rita Hinton's** presence at his funeral service and the heartfelt tribute Ken gave him. (See story on page 1.)

Tidbits

While in Washington, DC, for Obama's inauguration, **Shonda**, **Kyle**, and **Kara Hinton** and **Wanda, Gerald, and Mya Smith**

joined **Audrey Hinton** at a Martin Luther King Day Celebration at the African American Civil War Memorial. They located the name of their ancestor, **Frank Hinton**, on the Wall of Honor and had lunch together afterwards. (See stories of their Inauguration Day adventures on page 3.)



Back row: Shonda, Wanda, Gerald, and Audrey. Front row: Kara, Mya, Emma Oravec, and Kyle at the African American Civil War Memorial.

Tiffany Hinton

and her mother, **Tawana Tolson Hinton**, brought in the New Year in the Bahamas.

C. David Hinton, Jr. started his own business. He is now the proud owner of DTT Transportation Services, LLC, providing passenger transportation services in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area.

Michelle Blackwell Johnson and her husband, **Mark**, are enjoying a two-week business trip to Egypt. Their four children are having fun with Grandma **LaReta Hinton Blackwell**, who went to Atlanta to stay with them while their parents are away.

Marcia Hinton is comfortable, content, and having fun with her four grandchildren.

The Touchstone is produced quarterly by **Audrey Hinton, Editor**, and **Gerald Smith, Publisher**. We welcome your comments about the newsletter and your contributions for publication. Please send them to vahinton@verizon.net or call 301-649-6465.