



The Touchstone

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

DNA Test Uncovers Our African Roots

By Audrey Hinton

Have you ever wondered where you are from? Not the city where you were born, but where your ancestry began. You know that I've traced our Hinton roots to Versailles, Kentucky, where our ancestor Frank Garrett Hinton was born in 1846. But where was Frank's father, Henry Garrett, from? And where was Henry's father's father from? In other words, where did our Hinton ancestry begin?

Now, thanks to DNA testing, I have uncovered the roots of our family tree. An analysis of the Y chromosome DNA done on my father, family patriarch, Dr. Clarence David Hinton, revealed that those of us who are directly descended from Frank Garrett Hinton share ancestry with people living today in two west African countries: the Yoruba people in Nigeria and the Bamileke people in Camaroon. My father has inherited through his father, David Franklin Hinton, a segment of DNA that was passed on consistently from father to son over many generations to him.

When I showed my father the results of this test, he said, "I like the glimpse this DNA test gives me into my past. I also feel

a new sense of pride in learning this about my African ancestry. It makes me want to meet and read about Bamileke and Yoruba people so I can learn more about my heritage." I'll have him share what he learns in a future issue of this newsletter.

To learn more about DNA testing and how you can find the roots of other branches of your family tree go to:

www.africanancestry.com.



A DNA test on family patriarch, Dr. Clarence D. Hinton, revealed we share ancestry with people living today in Nigeria and Camaroon.

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Don't Forget!

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In Memory of...

Wayne Walker (March 16, 1953 - June 4, 2008)

Wayne's twin sister, Wanda Walker-Smith, submitted this tribute to her brother.

"Wayne was devoted to his church and to serving God with his singing and personal ministering. He was diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes when he was 13 years old. He handled the disease very well until he was unfortunately paralyzed during a routine surgical procedure on his leg in 2001. After the surgery his health began to suffer, but he never wavered in his belief and love for God. All the way until the time of his going home he spoke so

(See IN MEMORY OF, page 2)



Wayne was a courageous man who lived his faith.

Ain't That the Truth

By Diane Hinton Perry

My short story entitled "Ain't That the Truth" has been published in the spring issue of the journal *Short Story*. This particular issue is devoted to the literature of the African Diaspora in North America and the Caribbean and is guest edited by Claflin University, the oldest historically black college in South Carolina.

As a fiction writer, I'm often asked about the inspiration for a story. Back in January, 1996, waiting in a hospital emergency room, wanting to pass the time, I began randomly writing down words people spoke, including those uttered by a short stout lady talking on the phone. For years I tossed her dialogue around in my head, trying to imagine this woman's story. To help the process, I grew her to almost six feet tall and gave her a name - Velma Blackwell. Then I sat her down in an emergency room beside a character inspired by my mother. When I started this story, my mother, ViCurtis Gray Hinton, otherwise known as Vi, had suffered a stroke and had lost her speech.

This story became a way to give my mother voice. My mother died two years ago this month. This story is dedicated to her memory.



ViCurtis Gray Hinton, Diane's mother, was the inspiration for her short story.

After raising her son, Phillip, and working as a contract specialist, Diane ventured to the Midwest for graduate study, pursuing her interests in fiction writing and African American literature. She received two master's degrees, one in Creative Writing from The University of Iowa and the other in African American Studies from Indiana University. Currently, she's writing a novel about two college lacrosse players, one African American and the other Iroquois. She and her husband, Phil, live in Silver Spring, Maryland.

If you'd like to read Diane's story, email her at diane-perry@juno.com or call 301-649-6465 to get details about ordering the journal.

In Memory of ... From page 1

fondly of the day he would be with Jesus Christ in Heaven. Often he would look off into space as if he was seeing something or reminiscing of something he had seen and would talk about how he looked forward to the day that he would be with God and our mother. I will not pretend to understand it all; however, I have the highest respect for his faith in God because I could tell it was real. When you think of him just smile and know that he is now happy."

Wayne was born on March 16, 1953 and passed away on June 4, 2008 at Vistas Hospice in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the fifth of seven children born to Mable (Baker) Walker and Lynwood J. Walker. His maternal grandparents were Ada Bell Hinton and Walter Baker. Wayne is survived by three sisters: Kathryn Walker, Wanda Walker-Smith (Gerald), and Celestine Walker, and his niece Mya Jade Smith who was the light of his life. Wayne also leaves behind a host of other family members who will share in the memory of his love and laughter. Donations may be made in Wayne's memory to The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International, 120 Wall Street-19th Floor, New York, New York, 10005.

News, Notes, and Tidbits

Graduates

Sara Evette Carter received a BA degree from the University of Minnesota on May 3rd. She earned cross-collegiate bachelor's degrees in subjects of her interest - Family Social Science, Sociology, and Psychology - and plans to remain in Minneapolis and pursue graduate degrees.



Sara Evette Carter

Tawana Tolson Hinton received her Associate's degree in Mortuary Science from the University of the District of Columbia on May 10th. She plans to pursue a career in funeral directing with a specialization in pre-need arrangements.

Carlنيا Mans, 5, graduated from pre-school and will start kindergarten in August in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ryan S. Williams, 18, graduated on June 5th from the Columbus Academy in Gahanna, Ohio. He will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.



Ryan S. Williams

Alexis Harris graduated on June 4th from the 5th grade. She will be taking an accelerated math class this summer.

Michael A. Farmer, Jr. and his sister, **Tia Farmer**, graduated from the 8th grade. They will attend North Atlanta High School in the fall.

(continued on page 4)

Introducing Brie — A Scholar, Athlete, and Family Girl

By Brie Marshall



My name is Brie Sy-dawn Lang, I am 16 years old, and I attend Augusta High School in Augusta, Kentucky. I will be in the 11th grade next school year. I am a straight “A” student, and I love to learn. Some of my hobbies are basketball, cheerleading, dancing, swimming, and listening to music. I have played point guard on my school’s basketball team, the Lady Panthers, throughout my high school years and received several trophies for just being a

team player. I had fun and learned a lot earlier this month when I went to basketball camp at Transylvania College in Lexington, Kentucky, with my team. We won three out of seven games. I was really proud of myself because I averaged 15 points per game!

I hope to be a cosmetologist when I graduate from college and live in New York because I like big cities. This is an exciting time in my life because I am learning to drive. I hope to get my license in July.

I have two sisters – Tamaya, who is 7, and Kathryn, who is 21. For those of

you who are unsure of who I am, I am the daughter of Rayejean (Lang) and John Marshall. My great-grandmother was Jennie Mae Hinton Lang and my grandfather was Robert Lang, Sr. I never got to meet my great grandmother and grandfather, but I am sure that they were wonderful people. I know that they are watching over me, and I will do all that I can to make them proud of me.

In conclusion I would like to encourage all young children to make good grades, go to college, and be as successful as you can be.

How to Trace Your Roots — A Beginners Guide

By Audrey Hinton



I’ve told you so much about your roots that you probably wonder why I’m writing an article on how you can trace them.

Here are some reasons: First of all, there’s much more to learn about your Hinton roots. Frank and Amanda, the ancestors we have in common, had parents. Maybe you can identify and research them. Second, you have a total of four family lines you can trace – your father’s mother and father and your mother’s mother and father. The Hinton line is only one of the four. Third, you can build a family health history and learn your genetic predisposition to certain diseases and health conditions. Fourth, tracing your roots is fun. Piecing together the information you gather is like putting a puzzle together or solving a mystery. And last, knowing where you came from helps you understand who you are today. So let’s get started!

First, select a surname, individual, or

family you want to research. Focusing your search makes it easier to keep track of the information you gather.

Next, gather everything you can find about the person or family that may contain your relatives’ names or information about their lives, e.g., birth certificates, diplomas, marriage certificates, death records, photographs, obituaries, and military records. Be sure to look in closets, the attic, basement, and the family Bible.

While you’re gathering this information, talk to relatives. It’s best to begin with your oldest relatives, but if they aren’t available, start with anyone you wish. Ask for names and dates and how people were related to each other. Also ask questions that will encourage them to tell you family stories and facts about themselves.

Write down everything you learn and keep it organized. Don’t throw away anything! Record information you gather on a pedigree chart or computer software such as Family Tree Maker.

At this point, you’ll begin to see where

information is missing. To find it, look for other resources. You can find the 1930 census and earlier ones and some military records, court documents, and land deeds on the Internet. You will need to visit courthouses, cemeteries, historical societies, and churches in the towns where your ancestors lived to find more detailed information.

Last, think of ways to preserve and further your family history. Write a story about the person or family you researched. Organize and attend family reunions. Assemble a scrapbook of photos and memorabilia. Write your own life story. Whatever you do, enjoy!

Do you have a family history story to tell or a family member you’d like for others to know about? If so, submit it and a picture for publication in *The Touchstone*.

Portions of this article were extracted from genealogy.about.com. To learn more about tracing your roots, also see genealogy.com or read *Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African-American Genealogy and Historical Identity* by Dee Parmer Woodtor.

News, Notes, and Tidbits (continued)

Achievements

Capt. Curt A. Hinton returned home to Savannah, Georgia, on May 23rd, after a 15-month deployment in Afghanistan. Welcome home, Curt!



Curt Hinton and Family

Michael C. Farmer finished his junior year with a "B" average.

CoRita Cornish ranked 5th in her 6th grade graduating class.

Mya Smith, 11, made honor roll and played the violin with the Bethany Strings, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mya's father, **Gerald Smith**, was promoted to Program Manager for Kroger's Customer Service Center and her mother, **Wanda Walker-Smith**, was inducted into the Queenstown Chapter of The Links, Incorporated on May 3rd.

Hubert Lang celebrated his 80th birthday on April 11th. He is the second oldest living male descendant of Frank and Amanda Hinton.

Christian Funches, 7, performed at the Peoria School Board, singing and using sign language. His brother, **Brennan Funches**, 9, had a speaking part in an end-of-school-year performance.



Brennan Funches & Bryce Hinton

Brycelin Hinton, 10, won his baseball championship. He is the team catcher. His sister, **Belleza**

Hinton, 6, sang and had a speaking part in a performance at the Peoria courthouse open court.

C. David Hinton, Jr., after just three months with his new employer, Lindsay Ford and Kia of Wheaton, Maryland, surpassed a strong team of salesman to be among the best of the best—an honor given only to the top three producers each quarter.

Babies

Kathryn and Nathan Reed had a baby girl, **Amya**, on April 25th.

Shonte Revely and his wife, **Rebecca**, had a baby girl, **Victoria Anne**, on April 23rd.

Ricky and Jenny Lang had a baby girl, **Destiny Sierra**, on November 18, 2007.

MaRita and Zedric Teague are the proud parents of a new baby, their third son, **Zachariah Justice**, born on May 9th.

MaRita's sister **Kandace** and husband, **Charles Davis**, are expecting a playmate for their son, **Langston**.

A baby girl, **Alexa**, was born to **Robert Lang and Bambi** on December 10, 2007.

On the Move

Marilyn Janet Harris Hinton is excited about her plans to move to Atlanta in July to be near her daughter,



The Farmer Family at 2004 reunion

Nicole Farmer, and grandchildren. Nicole will be happy to see her mother living like a queen in a wonderful retirement community with assisted living.

Darryl Scott is moving with his family from Tampa, Florida, to Columbus, Ohio, where he has a new job with America Electric Power.

Louise Hinton Long, 95, Hinton family matriarch and oldest living descendant of Frank and Amanda Hinton,



Farewell to Louise Long

was visited on May 10th by her niece **Audrey Hinton** and cousins **Leroy and Gabrielle Lang and their grandson Jeremiah** before she moved from Chicago to Silver Spring, Maryland. She is now living happily with her "baby brother,"

Dr. Clarence David Hinton, 91-year-old Hinton family patriarch.

Deaths

Wayne Walker of Cincinnati, Ohio, died on June 4, 2008. See story on page 1.

Tidbits

Ken and Rita Hinton welcomed their 9th grandchild and 7th grandson, **Zachariah Teague**, on May 9th. With two more grandchildren on the way, they are rooting for a girl!

The Touchstone is produced quarterly by **Audrey Hinton, Editor**, and **Gerald Smith, Publisher**. Send your comments and contributions to familynews1@verizon.net or call 301-649-6465.