

2009 Betts Reunion Program

WELCOME - BEN BETTS

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2009 THROUGH 2010

- ✓ BEN F. BETTS, JR. PRESIDENT
- ✓ LAMAR LEYNES VICE PRESIDENT
- ✓ CHARLOTTE HARVEY SECRETARY/TREASURER
- ✓ EDWIN DUKE HISTORIAN

INTRODUCTION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- ❖ SARA SUE ALEXANDER
- ❖ MARY LOUISE BLOUNT
- ❖ BETTY JANE BETTS
- ❖ MARTHA HOWE
- ❖ PATTI SPOONER,
- ❖ LINDA SCRUGGS
- ❖ NANCY SUBER
- ❖ MADELINE WHITE Ex-Officio

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - BEN F. BETTS, JR.
CEMETERY REPORT

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT - CHARLOTTE HARVEY

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MILITARY RECOGNITIONS

REMEMBRANCES (2008-2009)

WILLIAM ELBERT SPEARMAN, JR.	B. OCTOBER 15, 1919	D. JULY 29, 2008
JAMES ALLEN BETTS	B. JULY 28, 1949	D. NOVEMBER 5, 2008
JOHN WILLIAM BEDENBAUGH	B. MAY 17, 1941	D. DECEMBER 12, 2008
HENRY MOORE "H. M." BUTLER	B. DECEMBER 29, 1925	D. DECEMBER 21, 2008
ROSA LEE BETTS MOTE	B. SEPTEMBER 2, 1920	D. JANUARY 3, 2009
JOHN CHARLES HOWELL	B. MAY 25, 1945	D. JANUARY 11, 2009
WILLIAM S. "BILL" HIGDON	B. AUGUST 7, 1969	D. FEBRUARY 8, 2009
KATIE MILDRED SPEARMAN LONG	B. MAY 24, 1922	D. MARCH 14, 2009
EMMETT MONROE PRIEST	B. MARCH 3, 1916	D. MARCH 19, 2009
GENE WARE	B. FEBRUARY 2, 1930	D. APRIL 25, 2009
HARVEY D. BRADSHAW	B. AUGUST 25, 1932	D. AUGUST 19, 2009
BARBARA JACQUELINE SWAIN TOOLE	B. OCTOBER 18, 1931	D. AUGUST 19, 2009

TRIBUTES

- MARGIE BETTS GRANGER
- SURPRISE TRIBUTE

BETTSTOWN MEMORIES - JACK BRINKLEY

PARENTS: PAULINE AND LONNIE BRINKLEY

JACK GREW UP IN BETTSTOWN AND CURRENTLY OWNS THE BRINKLEY PLACE. HE WAS A MEMBER OF FRANKLIN AS A YOUTH AND ATTENDED SCHOOL IN FACEVILLE AND ATTAPULGUS. HE SERVED AS A U.S. AIR FORCE PILOT, GRADUATED LAW SCHOOL FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA AND ESTABLISHED PRACTICE IN COLUMBUS. HE SERVED MANY YEARS AS U. S. CONGRESSMAN FROM GEORGIA'S THIRD DISTRICT.

BETTS BOOK UPDATE - EDWIN DUKE

CALLS AND LETTERS:

- ✚ JEANETTE PATTERSON CALLED ME MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, SHE HAS BEEN IN AND OUT OF THE HOSPITAL THIS YEAR, SO PLEASE KEEP HER IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS. (912)925-4929/231 W. MONTGOMERY CROSSROADS, SAVANNAH, GA 31406

Special Thanks: Franklin Baptist Church 1002 Bettstown Road Bainbridge, Ga. 39818

Pastor: Gwan Garrison Phone (229) 243-1740

Reunion Website http://www.fairpoint.net/~betts_reunion/

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MARGIE LEE BETTS GRANGER



AUGUST 18, 1918

PARENTS:

JOHN LEE BETTS APRIL 17, 1883 - JULY 20, 1957
LEILA ADA COX APRIL 26, 1883 - MAY 25, 1965

SIBLINGS:

WILLARD FRIESON BETTS OCTOBER 20, 1909 - JULY 31, 1985
SUSAN ELMA BETTS HAGOOD OCTOBER 18, 1914 - MARCH 19, 2000

SPOUSE:

MELVIN NELSON GRANGER SEPTEMBER 1, 1915 - FEBRUARY 26, 1993

CHILDREN:

MELVIN GEORGE GRANGER JANUARY 23, 1940
KAREN ANN GRANGER RATCLIFFE AUGUST 31, 1942
ROBERT LEE GRANGER APRIL 16, 1944
SALLY LEILA GRANGER ANDERSON SEPTEMBER 25, 1947
BONNIE ROWENA GRANGER FEBRUARY 14, 1951

MARGIE BETTS GRANGER - MY MOTHER

By BONNIE GRANGER

HER FATHER JOHN LEE BETTS LEFT HIS FAMILY TEMPORARILY TO FIND WORK IN CT AT THE STILES & REYNOLDS BRICK YARD IN BERLIN, CT. THE SON OF THE BRICKYARD OWNER HAD COME SOUTH TO FIND WORKERS FOR THE BUSINESS. UNCLE BUB WENT TO CT TO WORK IN THE BRICK YARD ALSO. JOHN LEE BETTS CAME TO CT ABOUT THE SPRING OF 1924. MOM AND THE REST OF HER FAMILY CAME NORTH IN SEPT. OF THAT YEAR

SHE SAID SHE WAS 6 YEARS OLD WHICH WOULD CONFIRM IT TO BE SEPT. 1924. AUSMUS AND HIS FATHER (GUNTER) CAME UP TO CT TO WORK IN THE TOBACCO FIELDS. HIS FATHER STAYED AND WORKED AT THE BRICK YARD, BUT WHEN THE SUMMER WAS THRU AUSMUS WENT BACK HOME. THEY ALSO VISITED WITH JOHN LEE AND HIS FAMILY. SON DUKE CAME TO CT TO WORK IN TOBACCO AND MET MAUDE GRANGER. THEY MARRIED AND SHE MOVED SOUTH WITH HIM.

MAUDE'S MOTHER AND FATHER WERE DECEASED AND WHEN SHE MOVED SOUTH SHE TOOK RESPONSIBILITY OF HER YOUNGER BROTHER MELVIN AND RAISED HIM AS HER OWN IN FACEVILLE, GA.

JOHN GREEN CAME TO VISIT HIS SON JOHN LEE IN CT QUITE A FEW TIMES. THROUGHOUT THE YEARS MY MOTHER, HER PARENTS AND MY FATHER KEPT IN TOUCH WITH OUR RELATIVES IN GEORGIA AND FLORIDA.

UNFORTUNATELY, MOM DOESN'T REALLY HAVE A LOT MORE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FAMILY HISTORY OTHER THAN HER SNIPPETS OF MEMORIES.

MARGIE LEE BETTS GRANGER AND MY FATHER MELVIN NELSON GRANGER HAD THROUGHOUT THE YEARS KEPT IN TOUCH WITH ALL OF THEIR RELATIVES IN FACEVILLE AND BAINBRIDGE, GEORGIA AND QUINCY, FLORIDA BY VISITING MANY TIMES. THEY ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT OUR SOUTHERN RELATIVES. ON MY LAST VISIT TO GEORGIA I RE-DISCOVERED THAT I HAVE RELATIVES FROM THE BETTS, COX, DUKE AND GRANGER LINEAGE. I AND MY SIBLINGS ARE A COMBINATION OF ALL OF THESE FAMILIES WITH A STRONG SOUTHERN HERITAGE OF WHICH WE ARE VERY PROUD.

I FEEL THAT WE HAVE COME FULL CIRCLE. MY DISTANT RELATIVES TRAVELED FROM CT TO SOUTH CAROLINA AND THEN SETTLED IN GEORGIA AND YET ANOTHER GENERATION HAS TRAVELED FROM GEORGIA BACK TO SETTLE IN CONNECTICUT AGAIN.

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NANCY LOUISE OWENS SUBER



FEBRUARY 19, 1940

PARENTS:

SALLY JEWEL PRIEST APRIL 3, 1919 - APRIL 19, 1993
WALTER DURWOOD OWENS APRIL 7, 1916 - DECEMBER 25, 1966

SIBLINGS:

JOHN DURWOOD OWENS NOVEMBER 8, 1946

SPOUSE:

WILLIAM HARVEY SUBER JULY 26, 1939

CHILDREN:

WILLIAM HARVEY SUBER, JR. JUNE 25, 1964
VIRGINIA PRIEST SUBER OCTOBER 31, 1966
HALLIE ISABELLE SUBER MAY 24, 1971

MY BROTHER, SISTER AND I WERE APPROACHED ABOUT DOING A TRIBUTE TO MOMMA AND TO HONOR HER FOR ALL OF THE HARD WORK AND THE THINGS SHE HAS DONE FOR THIS CHURCH AND IN HELPING TO PREPARE FOR THE BETTS REUNIONS. WHEN ASKED TO PREPARE THIS TRIBUTE, WE WERE REMINDED OF ALL OF THE THINGS MOMMA HAS DONE UP HERE AT THIS CHURCH (OF WHICH SHE IS NOT EVEN A MEMBER) AND ALL THREE OF US (MY BROTHER, SISTER AND I) REALLY HAD NO IDEA OF ALL THE THINGS SHE HAD DONE. GRANTED, I KNEW SHE OFTEN HELPED OUT, BUT I HAD NEVER REALLY SAT DOWN AND THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

SO, I GOT TO THINKING BACK AND REMINISCING ABOUT WHEN I STARTED COMING TO THE BETTS REUNIONS AND THIS IS WHAT I RECALL. I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS PROBABLY A PRE-TEEN & TEENAGER MY GRANDMOTHER SALLY JEWELL PRIEST OWENS INVITING MY MOM AND OUR FAMILY TO COME TO THE BETTS REUNION AND WE WOULD NEVER COME. SO EVERY YEAR AFTER THE REUNION, WE WOULD BE AT GRANNY'S HOUSE AND SHE WOULD TALK ABOUT WHO WAS THERE, HOW MUCH SHE ENJOYED THE DAY AND HOW GOOD THE FOOD WAS. THE NEXT YEAR SHE WOULD INVITE US AGAIN AND WE STILL DIDN'T GO. *THIS SCENARIO WENT ON FOR MANY YEARS.*

GRANNY PASSED AWAY IN THE SPRING OF 1993, AND IT SEEMS LIKE AFTER THAT MOMMA HAD ALL OF THESE FAMILY HISTORY QUESTIONS SHE WOULD WANT TO ASK GRANNY, BUT SHE COULDN'T. IT WAS AROUND THIS TIME WE GOT A COMPUTER WITH THE INTERNET. SO, OUT OF THE BLUE MOMMA STARTED GETTING INTO THE FAMILY RESEARCH AND GENEALOGY. SHE WOULD LOOK UP FAMILY HISTORY ON THE INTERNET AND THEN SHE WOULD SAY, "I WISH MOMMA WAS HERE SO I COULD ASK HER ABOUT SO AND SO PERSON OR SO AND SO FAMILY." SHE BEGAN CONNECTING WITH FAMILY MEMBERS AND FINDING OUT ALL SORTS OF INTERESTING FAMILY FACTS.

NOT LONG AFTER THAT SHE STARTED HOLDING THE PRIEST REUNIONS AT OUR HOUSE. ALL OF THE OUT-OF-TOWN PEOPLE THAT SHE WOULD TELL THEM NOT TO BRING ANY COVERED DISHES THAT SHE WOULD MAKE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE. SO ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE WE STARTED COMING TO THE BETTS REUNIONS. OLD FRIENDSHIPS WERE REKINDLED AND NEW ONES MADE. NOT LONG AFTER WE STARTED COMING, MOMMA GOT ON THE DECORATING COMMITTEE. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU ALL REALIZE THE MONTHS AND HOURS AND HOW MANY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE EACH YEAR. JUST FOR THIS REUNION! YOU'VE GOT TO GET THE SPEAKER, THE FLOWERS, INVITE EVERYONE, MAKE SURE THIS ROOM IS DECORATED. THE LIST GOES ON AND ON. BUT, I DON'T THINK MOM HAS MINDED, BECAUSE IT GIVES HER AN EXCUSE TO HAVE ALL OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OVER TO COORDINATE AND PLAN THE REUNION.

OVER THE YEARS MOM GOT MORE AND MORE INTERESTED IN OUR FAMILY HISTORY, AND SHE EVEN INVITED A RELATIVE (SHE MET OVER THE INTERNET) WHO LIVES IN WASHINGTON STATE TO COME SPEND THE WEEKEND WITH HER! WELL, THE REST OF US--(OUR FAMILY) WERE JUST MORTIFIED THAT SHE WOULD INVITE A STRANGER TO COME AND STAY. FOR ALL WE KNEW THAT WOMAN COULD HAVE BEEN AN AX MURDERER. WELL, THE WOMAN CAME AND AFTER ALL SHE WASN'T AN AX MURDERER---THEY HAD A GREAT TIME AND A NEW FRIENDSHIP WAS STARTED AND WE MET A COUSIN WE NEVER KNEW WE HAD!

MOM HAS BROUGHT THE BETTS FAMILY AND THE PRIEST FAMILY ALIVE TO ME. IT IS NICE TO COME HERE AND HAVE A SPEAKER WHERE WE CAN LEARN ABOUT OUR FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY HERE IN BETTSTOWN. WE GREW UP IN QUINCY AND AT LAKE SEMINOLE AND I DON'T EVEN THINK I KNEW WHERE BETTSTOWN WAS UNTIL WE STARTED COMING TO THE REUNIONS.

MY BROTHER, SISTER AND I KEPT MY MOM AND DAD ON THEIR TOES! I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY DID IT AND I OFTEN ASK MOMMA. I'M AMAZED. SHE HAS EVEN MANAGED TO GET ALL 3 OF US AND OUR FAMILIES HERE TO THE REUNIONS, WHICH IS A BIG ACCOMPLISHMENT! MOM ALSO HAS 3 GRANDSONS WHOM SHE LOVES DEARLY.

FOR ALL YOU DO, MOM, WE WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE TRULY APPRECIATED AND LOVED.

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