

December 8, 2008

Dear Family Members:

We all are looking forward to an exciting and blessed 2009 with at least two events uppermost in our minds. After witnessing the historical landslide election of Barack Obama as Americas first African American President, we look forward to his inauguration on January 20, 2009. Let us continue to pray mightily for his protection, his optimum health, mental clarity and political prosperity as he takes on the awesome task of the American presidency with unprecedented challenges.

The second exciting event for 2009 is the 2009 Hanks-Turner Family Reunion, **July 17-19, 2009** at the George T. Bagby State Park in Fort Gaines, Ga. Our last family reunion July 15-17, 2005 was in Iselin, New Jersey. It was awesome, fabulous, and fantastic. As the young folk say, "It was off the chain." I still have special memory of the outstanding Broadway Show during the banquet and the bus trip to New York. What a tough act to follow!!! Big thanks to Gail Lockhart, Anita Coble and their committee.

A special feature of the 2009 Reunion will be the dedication of 15 Heritage trails on the old Hanks-Turner Farm. These 15 trails will represent the 15 Family branches of Jessie and Frances Hanks and Sara and Moses Turner. Please promote the reunion so that we may have a large crowd for the week-end and especially for this dedication. These branches are as follows:

Jessie and Frances Hanks

Albert Hanks

Cressa Hanks

Tom Hanks

Stephen and Laura Turner Hanks

Stephen and Versie Turner Hanks

Peter Hanks

Moses and Sara Turner

John Turner

Lougenia Turner Glenn

Prince Turner

Trudy Turner Chester

Roxy Turner Brown

Josephine Turner Kennedy

Mary Turner Johnson

Each trail will have some type of landmark/ memorial that will represent each branch. We need to get ideas from each of you regarding what that memorial or landmark will be. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on this Heritage Committee. It is with hope that this will be a landmark, whereby current and future generations of Jessie and Frances Hanks and Sara and Moses Turner can return for a celebration of their heritage.

Please call (229) 768-2571 or (877) 591- 5575 to make your hotel reservation by **May 1, 2009**. Please ask for the Hanks-Turner Family reunion block of rooms. A deposit equal to the first night's room rate will be required at the time the reservation is made. After May 1st, all rooms that are not reserved will be released for the public.

The following rooms have been reserved until **May 1, 2009**:

- 20 rooms with double beds or a King size bed--\$75.00 per night- plus a 12% tax.
- 5 Cottages which have two bedrooms, a kitchen, living room--\$100.00 per night plus a 12% tax.
- 1 Junior Suite which has a living room, dining area and one bedroom---\$125.00 per night, plus a 12% tax.

Registration for each adult is \$75.00 and \$40.00 for each child between 10 and 16 years old. Adults over 80 years old and children under 10 years old do not pay a registration fee. Registration will include food (Saturday night banquet, Friday night reception, family picnic, lunch after church on Sunday). Rental of facilities, programs, souvenirs, and other incidentals associated with managing the reunion. Please send your registration by **June 1, 2009**. Your timely response to reserving your room by **May 1, 2009** and submitting your registration and T-Shirt forms by **June 1, 2009** would certainly help us in our planning effort.

Enclosed you will find the following: a registration form, a T-Shirt form, a tentative schedule of events, a directory update sheet for those individuals who are not in the directory, and the later version of Hanks Turner Family Directory. Please return the registration forms to Frances Cook. Please return the t-shirt forms, the updated directory sheets, and updated pages from the current directory to Larry Hanks. Under separate cover you will soon receive a communiqué focusing on creating the Hanks Family Tree and updating the Turner Family Tree.

In the meantime, if you have ideas for the Family Reunion weekend, please share them with us. *Any ideas for a theme?*

Sincerely,

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