

## The Lancaster Family Tree

I. Ruben Lancaster (Lydia)

II. Henry B1864 (Charlotte Holliday B1867)

III. John B1868 D1901

III. Emma (1st husband Cooley) (2nd husband, Jim Maffett)

IV. Robert                      IV. Zadie

IV. Stella                      IV. Drucilla

III. Adel (James Herring)

IV. John Henry              IV. Ernest

IV. Elley                      IV. Annie

IV. Melvin                    IV. Raymond

IV. Lonnie                    IV. Edgar

IV. Nettie Lee              IV. Mamie

IV. Ida                      IV. Aubrey

IV. Eve

III. Joe (1st wife Alice Taylor) (2nd wife Juanita Rivers)

IV. Arie                      IV. Hazel

IV. Ada                      IV. Lantina

IV. Maude                    IV. Johnny

III. Edgar (Ella Herring)

IV. McKinley              IV. Ruben

IV. Robert Lee              IV. James

IV. Maybell                    IV. Olis

IV. Thomas                    IV. Oliver

III. Ada (Troy Joiner)

IV. Eunice                    IV. David Buster

IV. Lullene                    IV. Eulette

IV. Pearl                      IV. Henry

III. Thomas (Melissa)

IV. George Frank      IV. Katherine

III. James (Johnnie Lee)

IV. Geneva      IV. Janet

IV. Jodie

III. Maybell (Iionnie Joiner)

IV. Charlotte      IV. Hattie Lee

IV. Lois      IV. Marvline

IV. Helen      IV. Marie

IV. Floyd      IV. Troy

IV. James      IV. Leroy

III. Guy (Carrie)

IV. Howard      IV. Elnora

IV. Veronica      IV. Elbert

IV. Olige      IV. Joe Lee

IV. L.C.

III. Booker (no children known)

III. Pauline (John Herring)

IV. Taylor      IV. Hattie Lee

IV. Retha      IV. Garfield

IV. Wylene      IV. Barfield

IV. Virginia      IV. Bernice (Betty)

IV. King David      IV. Benny

IV. Queenie Mac      IV. Roy

IV. William      IV. Stell

III. Homer (Carrie Herring)

IV. Flora      IV. Walter

IV. Roy

III. Letha (J.D. Boykin)

IV. Alberta

IV. Joe Henry

IV. Sarah

IV. Catherine

IV. Ruthie J.

IV. May Evelyne

IV. Nellie Ruth

IV. Emma

III. IV. Jennie Lee (Kline Boykin)

IV. Clifrd

IV. Ionie

III. Roosevelt (Beatrice)

III. Wyatt Williams (Amanda Gould)

IV. Florence

IV. Willena

IV. Cumire

III. Sam

III. Beatrice

III. Maryann Lancaster B1850 (Henry Thopmson)

II. Ada

II. William (wife, Emily)

II. Richard

II. Howard

II. Ruben

II. Howard

III. Willie Mae

III. Cora

III. Marion

II. Jasper (Jack) (wife,Eula)

III. Annie Mac

III. Melvin

III. Mildred

III. Beatrice

III. Johnny

II. Luella (Richard Herring)

III. Prudy (Frank Maffett)

IV. Georgia

IV. Flossie

IV. Fred

IV. Clyde

IV. Alvin                      IV. Shellie

IV. Lloyd                     IV. Lu Ella

IV. Charles

III. Dana (Eli Stephens)

IV. Eva                        IV. Thelma

IV. Ella Mac                IV. Jessie

IV. Novice                  IV. Marjorie

IV. Herman                 IV. Stanford

IV. Marie

III. Shellie (No Childre known)

III. Grady

III. Carrie (Homer Lancaster)

IV. Flora Mac              IV. Roy

IV. Walter

III. Flora (William Herring)

IV. Willa Dean              IV. Carolyn

IV. Booker                  IV. Benjamin

IV. Richard                IV. Janice

IV. Berlin                  IV. Edward

IV. Jacquelyn

### **Mission & Vision of The Descendants of Rubin Lancaster & Maryann Lancaster Thompson Family Foundation**

This mission and vision statement is in honor of the founders, Lonie Dothard & Eulette Arrington, whose vision was to bring the blood line of The Lancaster Family together in 1970 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Mission Statement:**

The Mission of the descendants of Rubin Lancaster and Maryann Lancaster Thompson Family Foundation is to ensure that the ties that have bound the families of a brother and sister since circa 1830 will remain unbreakable for centuries to come and in perpetuity through an annual family reunion; to promote education among our family, to ensure the Lancaster legacy remains intact for future generations and to render service to those in-need in the communities in which the descendants reside.

**Vision Statement:**

The Descendants of Rubin Lancaster and Maryann Lancaster Thompson envision uplifting our family through annual family reunion celebrations during the second week of August; providing educational scholarships to family members to attend colleges and universities for economic empowerment to uplift future generations; dedicating one day of community service to help those in-need in the communities in which Lancaster Descendants reside and by teaching our youth the legacy, history and traditions of the Lancaster Family through a National Youth Advisory Council.

The Rationale for The Rubin Lancaster & Maryann Lancaster Thompson Family Foundation

Many hours were spent discussing and developing ideas to create The Rubin Lancaster & Maryann Lancaster Thompson Family Foundation. Its purpose is to contribute meaningful amounts of money to support the causes that are important to our family.

**Family Reunions**

This summer thousands of African Americans pile into cars, board trains, hop on planes, travel hundreds or even thousands of miles to be a part of their family. Black families participate in reunions in what I believe are numbers and percentages and with a consistency to which no other group can make claim. For a long while it had the characteristic of a movement as each year, more and more families held their first reunion.

**The tradition of extended families**

What is this tradition? It is the love of family. Although Africa is a vast and diverse continent, one similarity at the center of the African tradition was the family, which was also the religious, economic, and political unit encompassing a wide circle of extended kinship. For Black people, slavery in this country disrupted this most essential structure since slavery allowed for no legal marriage, no legal family, and no legal control over the children. Nevertheless, even during slavery, women took care of children that were not their own and many slaves protected each other in spite of tribal and language differences. As soon as slavery ended women and men went about trying to put the family back together. These stories of former slaves trying to locate their families are inspiring to say the least. Many of these stories are told at reunions.

Black people became like other families. They reconnected, engaged in legal marriages, raised

children like others and did all the things that were like the white families around them. The system was different from what they had come from in Africa, but they were in a new world. The former slaves faced, of course, the worst kind of discrimination and racism when they were freed but they managed to raise families. They did a superb job when one looks at all that they had to face and have since faced as African Americans.

That African Americans survived at all is glorious but much of the survival is due to the fact that they helped each other, that they took care of each other that they extended themselves not only to blood relatives but also to others. The extended family was crucial. Aunts, uncles, grandparents, and unrelated individuals who were considered part of the family all were in the neighborhood and gave moral, psychological and financial support. Raising others' children became a natural phenomenon in African-American life. Caring for others within the family structure and community was not only a value carried over from the African legacy but also a reaction to discrimination and the fact that many social and human services were not offered to the black community.

However, family structures in America regardless of race and ethnicity and for a variety of reasons, has changed. In the process, the role of the extended family has diminished. But for Black Americans it was a greater loss than for other groups because it had been such a tradition and had played such an important role in survival. Speaker after speaker at African American events express this sentiment no matter what the topic. The feeling can also be heard on Black oriented radio talk shows as people tell the stories of those other than their parents who provided nurturing during childhood. They talk about people who carried familial ties but were not blood relatives.

### **Importance of the Lancaster Family Reunions**

We use the term "reunion" here to refer to three-day or longer events when families gather, usually in hotels or some other facility, and have a set program. The former one day picnic has grown to a much larger event which usually moves from location to location so that no one family has to do all the work each year. There are an increasing variety of activities.

### **What Does the Lancaster Family Reunion Transmit?**

The Lancaster Family Reunion does important things or has the potential to do them. Social control and passing on social values have been a major function of the extended family. The promotion of values, particularly to young people is a key aspect of reunions. Speakers at the banquet which is by now another tradition of the reunion will talk about what it means to be a family, what it means to be a good parent. They discuss what it means to have cooperation in the family, the necessity of going to school to check up on the children, what it is to be thoughtful and supportive, and what makes family. Unity, love, and support are key words used by participants and in reunion themes. Values are not only talked about; they can also be demonstrated. When families recognize their graduates at the reunion, they are saying "we value education and achievement." When families recognize their elders, they are showing respect. In the family, the elders played a special role in transmitting values.

Values are also demonstrated by the way people talk to each other and by the love and concern that is shown. Memorial services and religious services, which are almost a must at African-American reunions, further the transmission of values. Now that families are scattered, The Rubin Lancaster & Maryann Lancaster Thompson Family Foundation can offer a special opportunity for them to attend the reunion.

### **The Lancaster Family Identity**

An important aspect of reunions is that it gives the opportunity to strengthen our family identity. The importance of identity and how it leads to self-esteem cannot be overestimated. Every family seems to have a colorful background and it is one that instills pride. As one hears the achievements of whomever the family has been able to trace its roots to, the stories provide a testimony to the struggles, the indomitable courage, and the remarkable resilience of Black people. We all have heard the story of one of our ancestors by saying –"Such was the life of our earliest ancestor- a man who in a strange world and in even a stranger time was able to make a place of respectability for himself and for his family."

Further, the family realizes that there are those in the family who are now carrying out the heritage, and that this should be captured for later generations. Often, members of the family who have attained a prominent status realize they can make a difference and will consciously try to set a tone of morality that they feel is important. Thus documentation of the activities of present family members is also collected.

We know that our young family members do not get tired of hearing about their history. At the family reunion we need different ways of telling family history. Telling the story can be accomplished in a myriad of ways including plays, quilts, storytelling, fashion shows, and power point presentations.

### **The Lancaster Family Communication Network**

love, concern, and support are furthered by communication. As a result of meeting over the years, birthday cards or other messages to members of the family are being sent that might not have been prior to the reunion. Who knows how that love and support that has been extended to someone may help him/her?

We have been using social media, Facebook, for more than two years with over 240 family members who have joined to network with current family and to meet new family members. By using e-mail, family members are now getting to know each other better. They would never sit down and write a letter by snail mail, but e-mailing makes communicating so easy. Furthering of relationships may occur by phone, for sometimes conversations need to be personal and private. Family members can also correspond via the family web site and announcements of accomplishments no longer have to wait until the reunion. Newsletters have blossomed and it is as if families are in competition with each other as to who can produce the most impressive one. Nurturing and affection is promoted through these methods of increased communication.

## **Lancaster Family Role Models**

The reunion offers an opportunity to display the talent in the family and to develop real and useful role models. Instead of remote sport figures, young people come upon persons in their own family who they can admire. We have many role models and once I overheard two Lancaster young men who were admiring their uncle. He was an educator from the East coast. I thought they were admiring him for that. But when I asked them, they were admiring his patience with his children. Since his wife was one of the organizers for the reunion, she was very busy and he took care of the children. They wondered if someday they would ever be such a devoted patient father as him.

## **Passing On Traditions**

The reunion helps to pass on traditions. Families sing the Negro National Anthem. They play games that the elders used to play.

## **Growth and Development**

African American family reunions have become institutionalized throughout the United States. We see structural growth and economic growth.

## **Structural Growth**

Initially, in 1970 the main goal of Eulette Arrington & Iona Dothard was just to bring family together, but as time goes on, family reunions become more structured. Many families have national organizations with officers and an executive committee.

## **The Lancaster By-laws Committee**

The Lancaster Family has become more structured and it is necessary to have By-laws. By-laws determine the name of the reunion, who can be members, reunion date, i.e., the fourth Saturday of August, meeting dates, who can vote, and the types of officers needed. Special requirements may also be listed, i.e., there will be no political rallying. As families have established scholarship funds, national youth committee, community service days, the By-laws may indicate who is eligible.

## **Scholarship Funds**

The Lancaster Scholarship fund helps in family growth. In the past funds used to be raised by passing the hat, they have become more formal through the use of applications in guiding the decision making process. We will work to develop a fund to help those in the family that cannot afford to come to the reunion, or for the elders who live on a limited income.



## **Fund-raising**

We will develop family fund-raising activities to help with reunion costs and scholarships. This will be known as The Descendents of Rubin Lancaster & Maryann Lancaster Thompson Endowment Fund. One idea is when a new baby is born each family sends \$10.00 to the Treasurer and an endowment is started so that when that child goes to college there will be funds available in that child's name. There are many things that the Lancaster Family can do and they will be discussed at our Annual Meeting.

## **Lancaster Community Service Day**

We have developed a method of "giving back." This is an old tradition among African Americans who frequently express their giving and serving through the idiom of kinship. Many people give through their church family. As families continue their reunions and after they have thought about their own, e.g., the scholarship fund they have begun to think about others outside their family. There's a family that gives to Spellman College and Morehouse College because the 12 children of their ancestors, a former slave, went to those colleges.

## **Why Serve on Lancaster Family / MLK Day of Service?**

The Lancaster Family history and struggle are closely tied with the vision of the late Dr. King. Dr. King believed in a nation of freedom and justice for all, and encouraged all citizens to live up to the purpose and potential of America by applying the principles of nonviolence to make this country a better place to live—creating the Beloved Community.

On the 25th anniversary of the National Martin Luther King holiday, we still have work to do to realize Dr. King's dream. MLK Day of Service is the perfect time for the descendents of the Lancaster family to do something for others. Just as Dr. King set big goals and focused relentlessly on results, we need family service projects to address today's social challenges. That service may meet a tangible need, or it may meet a need of the spirit.