

**The Official
Lancaster Family History
Ruben Lancaster & Sister Maryann Lancaster Thompson
Jackie Herring, National Lancaster Family Historian**

The Lancaster Family Reunion may be looked at in several phases, the first being events in U. S. history during the 1820s and 1830s in



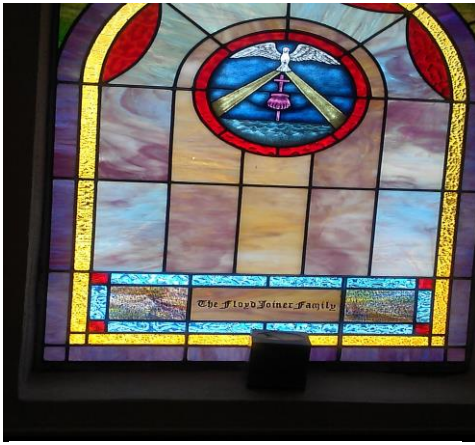
The Home Church in Woodland AL. This land was donated to the church by Rubin Lancaster in the earlier 1800's it served as the school house and church attended by many of our family member. Worship services on the 3rd Sunday of the month

Georgia and Alabama. The Indian Removal Acts initiated by President Andrew Jackson, and passed by the Congress of the United States, stipulated that all Native American tribes in these areas would be removed to land west of the Mississippi River, enabling white settlers to come in with their slaves and take over the land, particularly those of the Creek Nation, in northwestern Georgia and northeastern Alabama.

Carroll County in Georgia was created from land forced from the Creek Indians in 1827. Randolph County, Calhoun County and Chambers County were created by an act of the Alabama General Assembly in 1832 from the Creek Nation territory. It is in these counties that census, cemetery, and probate records related to the Lancaster's, Thompsons, Herrings, Boykins, Maffetts, Joiners, Johnsons, and others of the extended family can be found. Some of the Creek Indians classified themselves as free blacks or mulattoes, in order to remain in the area.



Inside the church stain glass windows with many of the family whom original members



Inside the church stain glass windows with many of the family whom original members L. F. Joiner Family

Ruben Lancaster was born in 1833 in North Carolina. His father and mother were born in Virginia. Lydia Lancaster, Ruben's wife, was born in 1844 in Alabama. She was a mulatto. Her father was born in Alabama, and her mother in Georgia. It was more than likely that both Ruben and Lydia were born slaves. Ruben and Lydia had one offspring, Henry, who was born in 1858 in Alabama.

Henry Lancaster later married Charlotte Holiday, born in 1859, and had sixteen children: John (1872), Emma (1880), Adell (1882), Joe (1883), Edgar (1885), Ada (1887),

Thomas (1889), James (1890), Maybell (1891), Guy (1894), Booker (1895), Pauline (1898), Homer (1900), Leatha (1903), Jennie Lee (1905), and Roosevelt (1908). Maryann Lancaster, Ruben's sister, was born in 1850 in Alabama. She later married Henry Thompson, born in 1850, and had seven children: Luella (1870), John (1876), Ada (?), Will (?), Richard (?), Howard (1874), and Jasper (?).



Inside the church with Jackie Herring

The Lancaster Family Reunion's second phase begins a hundred years later during the 1920s. During World War I, many blacks in the South saw an opportunity to move away to seek better living conditions and opportunities in the North, West, and elsewhere. The offspring of Henry and Charlotte Lancaster and Maryann and Henry

Thompson were among thousands of blacks that did likewise.



Inside the church stain glass windows with many of the family whom original members Floyd Joiner Family

The Republic Steel Corporation in northeastern Ohio was booming during the early 1920s and was seeking laborers. David Joiner and other men from the South came to work in Massillon and were sent back to bring up more workers. In 1922, the young wives and children of James Herring (Adell), Nick Herring (Henrietta), Troy Joiner (Ada), Lonnie Joiner (Maybell), Eli Stephens (Dana), Willie Luke (Ruby) left Randolph County during this first migration north and came to settle in Massillon. Many other of this extended family (Birdsongs, Carters, Maffetts and Boykins) followed, and they continued their migration north and south above the Ohio River for the next two decades into Ohio, Michigan, New York and other states.



Outside the church is the cemetery where many of our roots lay. The headstone of John Lancaster Born November 14, 1872/ Died June 3, 1901 at the age of 29

The third phase of the Lancaster Family Reunion began after the death and funeral of James “Biss” Herring (husband of Adell Lancaster) in Massillon. Ionie Dothard (daughter of Jennie Lee Lancaster Boykin) and Eulette Arrington (daughter of Ada Lancaster Joiner) conceived and planned for a family get together in the future at a park to socialize, and have a joyous occasion for family members and friends, rather than just at funerals.

The first get together was on a Saturday in 1970 in Cincinnati. Ionie Dothard became the main coordinator, facilitator, communicator and “do everything-er.” It then was decided to meet the next summer in Chattanooga, TN, the second weekend in August.

From that point, the family reunions expanded to Massillon, Woodland, and Detroit. The reunion became an annual weekend occasion that all family and extended family looked forward to, by moving it back and forth from Ohio and Michigan to Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.



After fourteen years, the first reunion moved west beyond the Mississippi River where family members had migrated. Kansas City, KS was the first, Colorado was next, and California followed. Family members in Virginia, Minnesota and Little Rock, AR, also became hosts for the reunion. With these new places to visit, an increase in the days and expenses resulted. The initial cycle of reunion sites was broken.

Death comes, and we think about what has been, and we mourn; but life continues, and we think about what is to come, and we are joyful. The third phase of the Lancaster Family Reunion continues.

Many headstone are very old in this cemetery that can't be identify this is truly a Historical Landmark of the Lancaster Family