

**HARPER FAMILY RECONNECTION MEETING NOTES for:
Sunday May 19, 2024 – 4pm – Zoom Meeting**

Attending: Beverly Harper-MD, Billy Lee-NY, Cathy Harper Hogan-GA, Cynthia Ford-Davis-PA,
Julia Wilkins-MD, Keisha Dominguez-MD and Sylvia Ford-George-PA

The purpose of the 35th Reunion Anniversary is to continue the legacy we began in 1994.

1. Details so far:

- We are planning a **one-day event**, at the **Harper Cabin in Brookside Nature Center**, 1400 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton, MD 20902.
- The date has been narrowed down to August 17 or 24. Final decision to be made this week.

2. Results from discussion w/Brookside:

- They are excited about our having the reunion there.
- They have less staff on Saturday's, but don't think it will be an issue.
- The Cabin hasn't been used/open much since covid. The chimney has been replaced, but it's in need of maintenance, repairs, pest control and funding.
- They have a new picnic area. We can have access to the campfire area, auditorium, restrooms and parking.
- FYI - Shirl Spicer, Countywide Museum Manager, Montgomery Parks Planning & Stewardship Division, is creating a home school group history program that includes Emancipation, and she may want to include The Harper Cabin and meet or speak with family members.

3. Activity Suggestions:

- We agreed to pursue Cathy's suggestion that we write to Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. of PBS series Find Your Roots to see if he or someone from his genealogist group could come and speak with us at the reunion.
- We also agreed to reach out to Howard Professor Dr. Nikole-Hannah Jones, (author of the 1619 Project) to see if some of her grad students could come and speak with us about preserving our history even more.

4. DRAFT Itinerary:

10:30 Meet & Greet
11:00 PowerPoint Presentation with Uncle Clyde's recollection of life in the Cabin
12:00 Family Roundtable Discussion: Where do we go from here, Getting folks involved -OR- Guest Speaker
1:00 Family Photo
1:30 Breaking Bread : Family Picnic
3:00 Closing remarks

Need to consider how and when we incorporate a tribute to our fallen family members and an Ancestor Dedication.

5. Next meeting date: Tuesday, June 4th at 7pm

6. Next Steps:

- Follow-up meeting with Brookside
- Secure date
- Send *Save The Date* to the family
- Contact hotel
- Figure out food for picnic
- Identify any needed costs
- Name tags that identify which brother attendee is related to
- Secure family photographer and DJ for the reunion