



# MEEKS FAMILY REUNION 2025

"COMING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD"



"Mississippi"





# State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES  
Governor

July 18, 2025

Meeks Family Reunion  
P.O. Box 813  
Lexington, MS 39095

Dear Friends:

As Governor of the Great State of Mississippi, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Meeks Family Reunion, the birth state of your reunion.

As you come together to celebrate your heritage and reconnect with one another, I am reminded of Psalm 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Your theme, "Coming Back to Move Forward," is a powerful reminder that our heritage and our history are the foundation upon which we build our future.

Mississippi is proud to be a state that values family, community, and tradition, and we are excited to have you share hospitality and our way of life. As you spend time together, sharing stories, laughter, and love, I hope you will take time to explore all that Mississippi has to offer.

To those returning, welcome back to Mississippi and may your reunion be filled with joy, laughter, and the enduring love of family!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tate Reeves".  
Tate Reeves

Post Office Box 139, Jackson,  
359-3741

Office of the Mayor

*Chokwe A. Lumumba, Mayor*



Mississippi 39205 • Phone (601)359-3150 • Fax (601)

219 South President Street

Post Office Box 17

Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0017

Telephone: 601-960-1084

Facsimile: 601-960-2193

July 18-20, 2025

Greetings!

On behalf of the City of Jackson, I would like to welcome the Meeks Family to the Capital City. We are honored you chose the Great City of Jackson to reunite with one another. We hope your reunion, under the theme of "Coming Back to Move Forward", provides both warmth and love.

I understand the Meeks Family has a rich and illustrious history dating back to the beginning of the family legacy in Holmes County, Mississippi in 1896. We warmly welcome family members from Mississippi and beyond to honor and extend this legacy.

While you are here, I encourage you to take advantage of some of the exceptional shopping, dining and sightseeing experiences Jackson has to offer. Jackson is not only the capital city of Mississippi, but also the cultural center, culinary destination and economic engine of the state. You are sure to discover a unique blend of the past and present, including historical landmarks, great local attractions and lively entertainment.

Best wishes for a memorable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chokwe A. Lumumba".

Chokwe Antar Lumumba, Mayor

City of Jackson

**Greeting from our President:**



Dear Family,

On behalf of the Mississippi Meeks family, we would like to WELCOME YOU HOME! Whether you have been here numerous of times for family visits or if this is your first time coming to the birthplace of the MEEKS FAMILY, we welcome you and say, "Make Yourself at Home." We have worked diligently to ensure that you experience the significance of this historic occasion. As you enjoy this weekend, take a look at the number of generations present through the smiling faces of your family. We hope that you will feel the love as we celebrate on the land owned by our beloved patriarch and matriarch Papa Abner and Mama Dora, where they raised a family that has spread far and wide. That family is US! We have something to be proud of, and we honor them, and we honor the spiritual foundation they laid for our family in trusting God along their journey.

We pray that you have a good time and don't hesitate to let any committee member know how we can assist you.

With Great Love,

*Tammy Falls-Puryear*

President



## REUNION ITINERARY

Theme: COMING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

### Friday, July 18, 2025

3:00 pm	Check in Time
12 pm – 6 pm	Registration and package pickup Hospitality Suite
7 pm	Banquet

### Saturday, July 19, 2025

7 - 9 am	Breakfast on your own or Hospitality Suite
9- 10 am	Loading Buses
11:45 am	Memorial Service – Bethel CME Church
1:00 pm	Picnic - Meeks Family Land
8:00 pm	Bus loading for travel back to hotel

### Sunday, July 20, 2025

8 am – 9:30 am	Breakfast
9:30 am	Worship Service and Business Meeting

All Roads Lead to  
Meeks Family Reunion  
Destination 2027

## **BANQUET PROGRAM**

Friday, July 18, 2025

Greeting-----Tammy Puryear

Scripture-----Michael Rand, Jr.

Prayer-----Charlie Earl Meeks

Welcome-----Kymberlyn Henderson

Introduction of Head Table -----Latonya Turner

Introduction of Magnificent Mississippians

Why We Are Here-----Rev. David Henderson

Solo-----Gina Meeks

Dinner Served

*Soft Music*

Family Tribute-----Modora Rand

Memorial Tribute-----Minnie McKennie/Lakesha Rand

Seed and Grow ----- Carol Archie

Family Oath/Family Song-----Rev. David Henderson

Family Dance & Social

Entertainment by DJ Scorpio



## PICNIC ITINERARY

July 19, 2025

7 - 9 am	Breakfast on your own or Hospitality Suite
9- 10 am	Loading Buses
11:45 am	Memorial Service – Bethel CME Church
	Memorial Message – Rev. David Henderson
	Balloon Release
1:00 pm	Picnic - Meeks Family Land
	Fun, Games, Activities, Entertainment
8:00 pm	Bus loading for travel back to hotel

### Breakfast Program – July 20, 2025

Song-----Congregation

Scripture-----Yulanda McKennie

Prayer/Blessing of Food-----John Meeks

*Breakfast Served.*

Family Message-----Rev. David Henderson

Song Service-----Meeks Choir

Family Business Meeting-----Tammy Puryear

Benediction-----Rev. David Henderson

Destination 2027

## **MEEKS FAMILY HISTORY**

Our fore parents settled in Canton, Mississippi many, many years ago. Canton is situated about eighteen miles north of Jackson, the Capitol of Mississippi.

After settling in Canton, our grandfather, Abner Meeks, Sr., was born on September 8, 1879, to the proud parents of Eddie and Betty Hampton Meeks.

Papa's grandmother on his father's side was an African, named Becky. His grandmother on his mother's side was named Delphia, having white straight hair that was soft as feathers. He never heard her say a harsh word to anybody.

Papa's father affectionately called "Grandpa Eddie" was a church going man. In his church, he was a class leader and a steward (same as a deacon). He liked dressing up and he loved to go places. He was not a field man. Papa said, "Grandpa Eddie raised him, and he hit him only two times in his life." Papa also said, "Grandpa Eddie was the ONLY person to ever hit him."

Papa's mother was named Betty. She was a fair skinned woman and wore her hair cut short in the back with bangs. She went to church almost every Sunday. Although her membership was at Bethel Church, Papa recalled his mother and father riding side saddle to Sweet Water Church.

At the age of seventeen (17), Papa Abner married the former Madora Haymore (Mama Dora). She was the proud daughter of the late Reverend Tee and Cordelia Henderson Haymore. Mama Dora's father, Tee Haymore was a Methodist Minister, after their marriage, Papa Abner and Mama Dora moved to Holmes County (Acona Community) in Lexington, Mississippi.

To this union fourteen (14) children were born. Two died in infancy. Although, they were now parents of the remaining twelve (12) children, they also found in their hearts the love and endurance to raise a grandson, Willie "Joe" Meeks. Thus, they raised thirteen (13) children.

Papa Abner and Mama Dora will always be remembered as the sweetest parents and grandparents in the world. Their love, kindness and guidance influenced their children to the extent that all of them remembered their home



atmosphere as a place filled with love for each other, and the willingness to help each other.

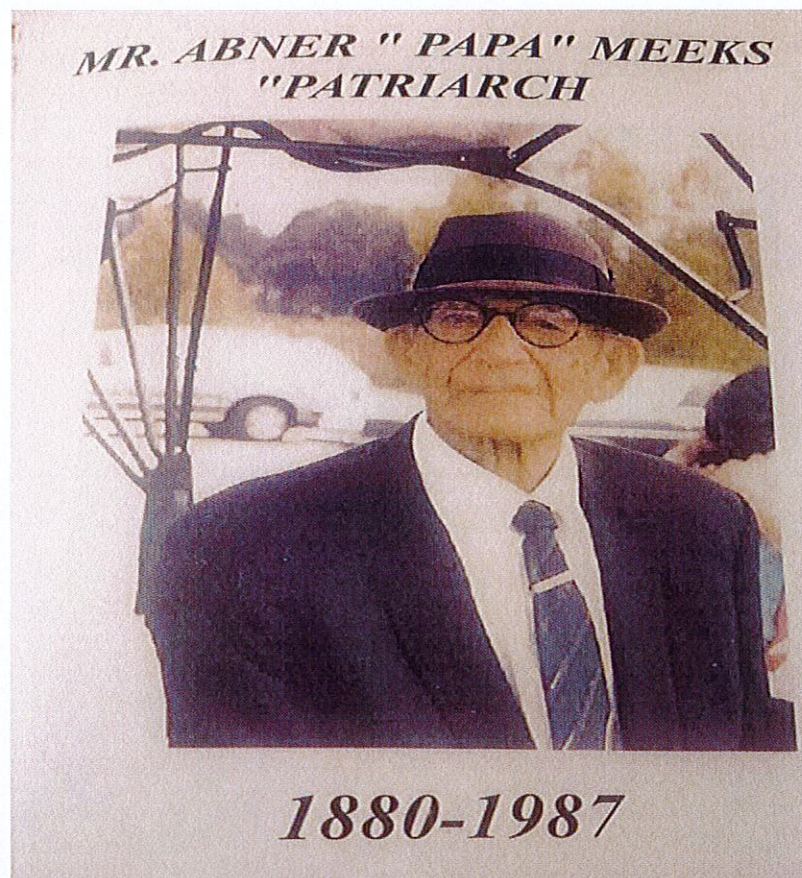
After a long illness, Mama Dora departed this life on August 22, 1948, at the age of 56. Papa Abner had a healthy and fulfilling life and on July 10, 1987, God called him home too. He was 107 years old.

We are celebrating on the land owned by Papa Abner. The land where he raised his family. Papa Abner acquired the land from his sister, Ruth who was known as Aunt Pete. Aunt Pete was married to Joe Love and after his death, the land went to Aunt Pete and before her death, she Will the land to Papa Abner. Papa stated that it was enough land for each of his children to have a equal portion.

Despite our grandparents, and some of our parents' deaths, "THE MEEKS FAMILY" has maintained closeness in love, and we continue to grow and have concern for each other. Papa was always a kind, proud independent father, a grandfather, great-great-great-great grandfather. We are witnessing seven generations in the Meeks Family. God is Good.

History is not to be changed. You just add to it.

**Memories:**





*"City of Angels Reunion 1996"*

## *Abner and Madora Meeks*

*"Live like I Lived! Love Everybody and You have to be  
Right! You Can't Fool God!"*

*Josh Meeks*

*John Edgar Meeks*

*Lula Mae Williams*

*Bertha Ervin*

*Abner Meeks Jr.*

*Corina Meekie*

*Connie Ellis*

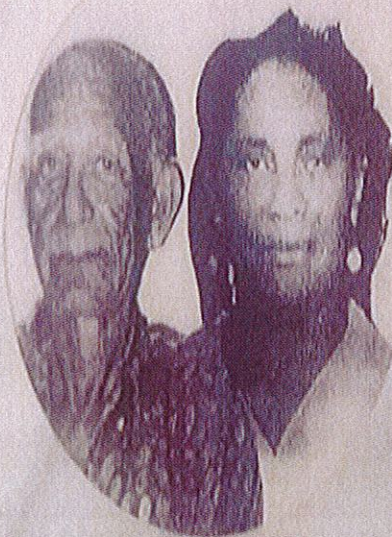
*Charlie Meeks*

*Minerva Calhoun*

*Mary Richmond*

*Lucille Rand*

*Nora Travis*



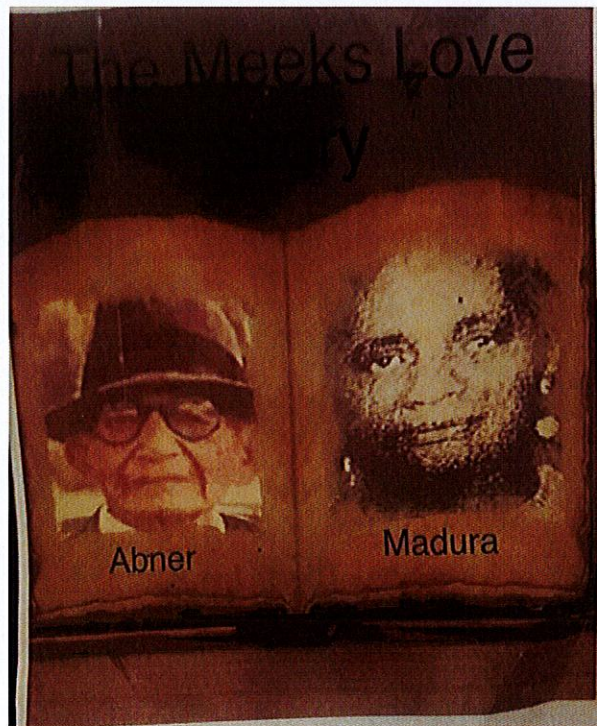


Papa Abner and Mama Dora:



Abner "Papa" Meeks, Sr. born September 8, 1879, in Madison County, MS. Moved to Holmes County, MS at a young age and united with Bethel CME church. He married Madura Haymore, and 14 children were born to this union, 2 died at birth. Papa Abner died on July 10, 1987, at the age of 107.

Madura Haymore-Meeks was born March 10, 1892, in Madison County, MS and later moved to Holmes County, MS after marrying Abner Meeks. She united with Bethel CME Church and died August 22, 1948, at the age of 56.





## **CONNIE MEEKS-ELLIS**

**1904-2006**



Connie was born on December 25, 1904, in the Acona Community, she was the oldest of the siblings. She joined Bethel CME Church and later joined Long Branch MB Church. She often remembered growing up with her brothers and sisters and how she had to care for the younger one. She had to wash clothes, clean the house, pick cotton, milk the cows, prepare breakfast, dinner, and supper. Connie married David Ellis on December 20, 1931, and to this union 8 children were born. Her legacy includes grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren and even great-great-great children. She departed this life on March 19, 2006, at the age of 102. Her advice was "Live a good life, have faith in God and success will come your way."

## **JOSHUA MEEKS**

**1908-1981**



Joshua was born August 28, 1908. The oldest of the brothers, marrying Eula Lee on December 25, 1929, and they were married for over 53 years, and they lived in Lexington, MS, where they raised 5 boys and 2 girls. His legacy includes 37 grandchildren, 89 great grandchildren, 83 great-great grandchildren, and 7 great-great-great grandchildren. His advice was "get a religion, live a Christian life and get an education." Joshua departed this life on February 24, 1981, at the age of 73.



## **LUCILLE MEEKS-RAND**

**1910-2000**



Lucille, known as Scooter, was born February 15, 1910. She became a Christian early in life and united with Bethel CME. In 1927, she was united in holy matrimony to John Henry Rand and united with New Zion MB Church. To this union ten children were born. Her legacy includes 41 grandchildren, 83 great grandchildren, 59 great-great grandchildren, and 1 great-great-great grandchild. Her advice was, "Let God be at the head of your life and He will bless and keep you." Scooter passed this life on February 28, 2000, 13 days after her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **CORIMA MEEKS-MEEKIE**

**1911-1997**



CORIMA (Cora) known as Bucheem was born February 22, 1911, in Lexington, MS and died July 4, 1997. On December 5, 1930, she joined in Holy Matrimony with Roy Meekie and 10 children were born. In the 1960's, she moved to St. Louis, MO and united with Compton Hill MB Church. She always had a smile on her face and was always quiet and never raised her voice. Her advice was: "Have a strong belief in God." Her legacy includes 10 children, 45 grandchildren, 132 great grandchildren, 181- 6<sup>th</sup> generation of great-great grandchildren, and her 7<sup>th</sup> generation includes 18 great-great-great grandchildren.



## **JOHN EDGAR “Alex” MEEKS**

**1914-1998**



John Edgar was known as Alex. Alex was born December 5, 1914, and departed this life on July 11, 1998. He confessed a hope in Christ and joined Bethel CME Church and attend school in Holmes County, MS. He married Ruby Lee Flowers, and 6 children were born to this union. He later married Pearlie Keys and had 10 children. He enjoyed his childhood with his brothers and sisters. Alex's advice was, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Alex legacy includes 16 children. 62 grandchildren, 90 great grandchildren, 93 great-great grandchildren, and 6 great-great-great grandchildren.

## **BERTHA ANN MEEKS-ERVIN**

**1916-1987**



Bertha Ann was known as Nigga. She was born on September 26, 1916, and departed this life on September 22, 1987, she married Otha Lee Ervin and fellowshipped with Bethel CME Church. Her legacy includes 10 children who were born into this union. 24 grandchildren, 31 great grands, 17 great-great grands. Her advice: "Get all the education you can. Keep God in your life and let him lead you the right way."



## **LULA MEEKS-WILLIAMS**

**1917-1994**



Lula was born July 3, 1917, and passed this life on February 21, 1994. In 1934, at the age of 17, she married S. C. Williams, and 12 children were born to this union. Lula rose at 5 am to make homemade biscuits for her family after growing up in a home with her siblings, where she lived a life rich in love, family, and faith. She confessed Christ and joined Bethel CME Church and later united with Union AME. Lula later joined Sweet Canaan COGIC where she took pride in her faith and loved cooking for her family and community. She shared a special bond with her father, often preparing meals for him. She remembered growing up with her brothers and sisters as good times. She said it was the “old times”, and she enjoyed it very much. Her advice was: “Keep God in your life and remember the power of prayer.” Her famous saying was, “treat people how you want to be treated,” which guided her interactions throughout her life. Her legacy includes 43 grandchildren, 102 great-grandchildren, 102 great-great grandchildren, and 10 great-great-great grandchildren.

## **MARY MEEKS-RICHMOND**

**1919-1991**

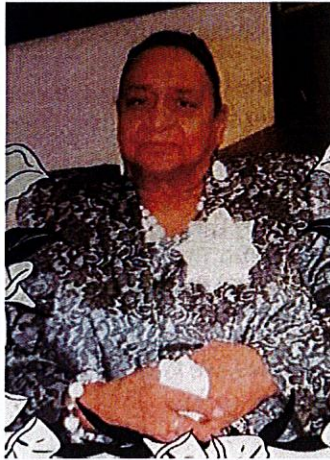


Mary was born in Holmes County, MS on April 19, 1919, she attended school and accepted Christ at an early age while united with Shiloh MB Church and later united with Strangers' Home MB Church in Greenwood, MS after marrying David Richmond. She too remembered the good times at home with her sisters and brothers. Their home life produced togetherness, love, and concern for each other. Her advice: "Take one day at a time and do not worry." She departed this life on December 23, 1991. Her legacy includes 9 children, 23 grandchildren, 42 great grandchildren, 21 great- great grandchildren.



## **NORA ANN MEEKS-TRAVIS**

**1922-2012**



Nora Ann was born January 27, 1922, and passed this life in March of 2012. She married William Travis on April 20, 1941, and to this union 9 children were born. Her legacy produced 33 grandchildren, 66 great grandchildren, 61 great-great grands, and 1 great-great-great grandchild. Memory lane: She remembered the 12-to-14-mile walks to church, playing hide and seek with her sisters and friends, and walking home from school, picking grapes and huckleberries. Her advice was: "Let the Lord be the head of your life. Let Him come first and everything else will fall into place." Her favorite saying was, "treat everybody the way you would want to be treated."

## **ABNER MEEKS**

**1925-1991**



Abner, known as Jack was born March 15, 1925, and departed this life on February 11, 1991, and married Annie Mae Meeks. Jack remembered all the fun they had growing up and that Papa never raised his voice. But when he spoke up against adversities, people listened, and they had great respect for him. His advice was: "Go to school and get a good education." His legacy consists of 4 children, 13 grandchildren, and 9 great grandchildren.



## **CHARLIE MEEKS**

**1930-1995**



Charlie known as Shed, was born June 6, 1930, and passed this life on August 3, 1995. He attended Shiloh Public School in Lexington, MS and was a member of Bethel CME Church, then Strangers Home Baptist Church in Greenwood, MS before moving to St. Louis, MO. He married Ruthelle Polk. Shed had one daughter and one son, and his legacy includes 6 grandchildren and 6 great grands. Shed biggest memory while growing up at home was that there was a real togetherness that existed among the children. They never tried to hurt one another. His advice: "Live right and do right. Don't try to beat people but try to help people."

**MANERVIA MEEKS-CALHOUN**  
**1933-2016**



Manervia known as “Coonbaby” was born May 6, 1933. Coonbaby left Mississippi, after the passing of her mother to live with her brother, Jack and his wife, Annie Mae. In 1954, she married Guy Lee Calhoun and moved to New Orleans, Louisiana. She united with St. Thomas Missionary Baptist Church. Coonbaby, departed this life on October 8, 2016. Her advice: “Keep Christ in your life and keep your hands in God’s hand.” Her legacy includes 9 children, 16 grandchildren, and 39 great grandchildren.



## **WILLIE JOE MEEKS**

**1927-2005**



Willie was born December 23, 1927, in Lexington. He was the oldest child of Connie Meeks-Ellis. Joe as he was called, was raised by his grandparents, Papa Abner and Mama Dora. People thought he was actually Papa Abner and Mama Dora's son. They never made a difference between him and their birth children. That's how much love they showed to all their children. Joe married Gracie Byrd on January 23, 1954, and to this union 12 children were born. 3 died as infants. Joe was never afraid of hard work. He bought a home to raise and take care of his family with only a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade education. He was a stern and soft-spoken man who loved his family. Joe departed this life March 28, 2005. He will always be remembered for his soft smile and gentle nature and his favorite saying, "Hot Dog." His legacy includes 6 children, 24 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.



## THEME SONG:

"THIS IS MY FAMILY"

*(Sung in the tune of "Blessed Assurance")*

Sisters, and brothers, mothers and dads  
Nieces and nephews, cousins and grands .  
Uncles and auntees, holding our hands  
We'll go on loving throughout the land.

God gave them to us, so precious and dear  
We give them flowers while they are here.  
Respect each other, show happiness and love Counting our  
blessings that come from above.

We are endearing, enthusiastic too  
Kind and spiritual in whatever we do.  
Blessed with this le-ga-cy from years gone by.  
Trusting and believing in the Lord on high.

THIS IS MY FAMILY, THIS IS MY PRAYER  
LOVING EACH OTHER, EVERYWHERE .  
THIS IS MY FAMILY, THIS IS MY PRAYER  
LOVING EACH OTHER EVERYWHERE.

Composed by: Melverta Richmond Henderson



## **FAMILY OATH:**

I pledge the oath to you, my family.

That I will uphold my family heritage with  
respect for the values of my forefathers.

To live a good life but take it one day at a time.

To do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

To try to help people rather than beat them.

Most importantly,

have a strong belief in the most high and  
let him guide me down a path that's righteous.

I pledge to teach my family about the  
history of our family, that we never forget  
that we're family.

I pledge to make a conscious effort to  
donate to the family fund, to ensure that the  
rich tradition of the Meeks Family Reunion  
legacy continues for generations to come.

Family Forever,

LaFamilia4Life!

## **“MEEKS SEED AND GROW”**

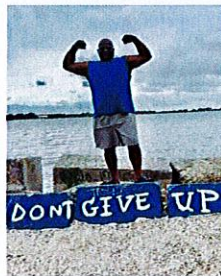
The Meeks Family has always been a family of faith, love, and support. The family started out gathering in the pasture of Papa Abner's house. In 1992, the family held its first reunion out of state in St. Louis, MO and the Meeks Family Reunion began to grow and go. Over the course of the years, our family saw a need to help new states with a small number of family members with funds to host the reunion and began campaigning for each state to send funds to the hosting state. In June of 2016 in Memphis, Tennessee, the Meeks Family Seed and Grow account was officially established. The purpose of this account is to raise funds from family members to assist our future family members with initial start-up funds while planning the reunion. As a family, it is our responsibility to continue our traditions and prepare future generations for financial and reunion success with less strain. Proverbs 13:22, "A man leaves an inheritance to his children's children; and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just." As a family, we are doing what is right because we love, cherish, and honor our family. This account acts as a viable solution to allow us to attain and retain what is necessary in preparation for reunions. The Meeks family will always, **"PAY IT FORWARD."**



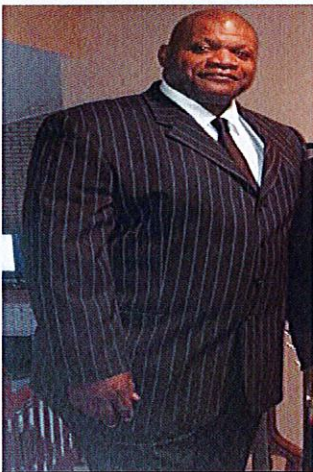


**MEEKS FAMILY, "DARRYL O. MEEKS"  
TUG-OF WAR MEMORIAL AWARD**

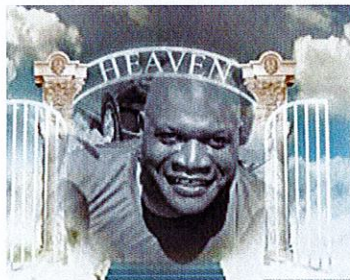
This Award is in remembrance of Darryl O. Meeks.  
Awarded to the team who wins the Tug-of-War competition  
during the reunion. In remembrance of our ultimate Tug-of-war captain and anchor  
"Darryl O. Meeks.  
Motto: "Don't Give Up."

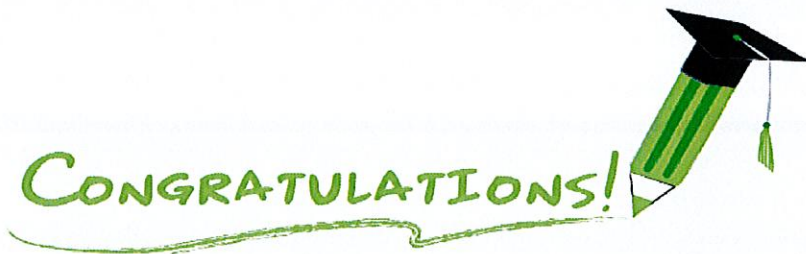


**"Meeks Family Reunion"**  
Darryl O. Meeks  
Tug-of-War Memorial Trophy



August 17, 1961 – February 25, 2022





**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

**Michael Archie** with the Memphis Grizzlies Wheelchair Basketball team won the Orlando Magic Invitational Tournament in December 2023. Finished 10<sup>th</sup> at the National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament in April 2024. The Memphis Grizzlies Wheelchair Basketball Team won the Wheelcats Invitational Tournament in April 2024. Made All-Tournament Team as Best 2.5 Class. Finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lakeshore Pioneer Classic in January 2025 and made All-Tournament Team Best in Class 2.5.  
Olive Branch, MS

**Jeremiah Burman** 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduate awarded the Principal's Award for receiving straight A's through middle school.  
Sparta, MI

**Stanley Anthony Calhoun, Sr.** retirement from CF Industries – 2024  
New Orleans, LA

**Chase Clark** – Kindergarten Graduate and Sienna Youth League Baseball Champion, Track and Field Regional Ranked in 100m.  
Missouri City, TX son of Stacy Clark

**Christian Clark** – Athletic Student of the Year, Houston Dynamo Soccer Youth League Champion, Track and Field Regional Ranked in 4x400m.  
Missouri City, TX son of Stacy Clark

**Christopher Clark, Jr.** was named Defensive Player of the Year, Youth Football Superbowl Champion, Homecoming King, Track and Field Regional Ranked in Long Jump  
Missouri City, TX son of Stacy Clark

**Kimberly Collins** bought a new home.  
Wentzville, MO

**Cassandra Davis** is a Licensed Funeral Director/Embalmer/Licensed Cremationist/Notary Public.  
Memphis, TN

**Diana Jones** retired June 1, 2024, from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with 25 years of service.  
Sikeston, MO

**Christian Matthews** was selected to attend the TN Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Forensic Academy this summer.  
Cordova, TN



**Antoine Meeks** worked with the Union during several election cycles and during the hospitality workers' strike  
Detroit, MI

**Christopher H. Meeks** received IATF 16949 Lead Auditor Certification June 2025.  
Toledo, Ohio

**Curtis Meeks** retired from Anel Corporation January 2, 2024, after 40 years as a welder and fabricator.  
Vaiden, MS

**Jessica Meeks** is the Assistant Professor at the University of Memphis May 2025.  
Memphis, TN

**Nekeysa Meeks** retired from the Mississippi Department of Health on June 1, 2024, after 26 years of service at the age of 43.  
Lexington, MS

**Orlanda Meeks** – US Airman received his certification as a licensed aircraft mechanic.  
Texas.

**Valerye McCarthy** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Miss AIM for Northern Mississippi Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction AIM Pageant.  
Lexington, MS

**Michael Rand** is the Assistant Fire Chief at Acona Fire Department and his wife, Lucille is a fire fighter.  
Lexington, MS.

**Riley Randle** – 1<sup>st</sup> place Spelling Bee Champion Premier Academy School.  
St. Louis, MO

**Carol Richmond-Archie** 2<sup>nd</sup> Retirement – January 2025 from Social Security Administration  
Greenwood, MS.

**McKenzie Richmond** finished 11th grade with a 4.0. She currently has a GPA of 3.76. She aspires to be an orthodontist and has already begun her journey. She will be starting a dental assisting program in the fall that will allow her to graduate with a dental assistance certificate. She is also shadowing her dentist during the summer. McKenzie was accepted into the Grady Hospital Teen Experience Leadership Program in which she will be gaining hands-on healthcare experience at Grady's #1 trauma care hospital. She is also a member of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) in which she attends competitions with her school. She recently completed a Douglas Youth Leadership program as well as a Morehouse School of Medicine S.T.E.A.M Academy program. She continues to juggle multiple extracurricular activities as she works at Smoothie King, plays club volleyball in which she is the captain and Libero. They just completed the AAU championships in Orlando. She also is the captain of her HS Varsity team.  
Douglasville, Ga

**Morgan Richmond** completed her 7<sup>th</sup> grade year on the honor roll and was awarded Leadership certificates. She is currently perfecting her craft in doing nails and has a very artistic eye. She is active in Jack and Jill, Inc., and will be on the Teen Leadership board. She completed her year as the varsity cheerleading captain and will continue through her 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.  
Douglasville, GA.

**Brianna Smith** is the granddaughter of Carolyn Smith, who is a rising senior in high school (class of 2026). She served as Class President, Captain of the Debate team, former junior high school coach, County Debate League organizer and a member of her school's swim team.

**Brielle Smith**, granddaughter of Carolyn Smith, will be entering high school as a rising freshman in September 2025. Brielle served as President of her junior high's Junior Thespian Association, a member of both the Model UN and traditional debate teams, and swims with a local club.

**Michael P. Taylor, II**, is a 2016 Urban Prep Charter School graduate. He received a B. S. Degree in Speech on May 8, 2021, from Jackson State University in Jackson, MS. August of 2021, he attended the University of Iowa with a full ride for 3 years receiving his master's degree in fine arts. He taught several acting classes while at University of Iowa and currently teaches online Acting classes for Jackson State University.  
Chicago, IL

**Romell Vantrese**, son of Tomeka Randle – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll.  
Chicago, IL

**Lawankia Wade** obtained her RN Degree.  
Brandon, MS

**Terrance Wade** became a licensed minister.  
Brandon, MS

**Timothy "TJ" Wade**, the son of Yolanda "Penny" Meeks, graduated on June 26 from the MDCC Law Enforcement Training Academy.  
Lexington, MS

**Zorian Wade** got engaged to Edwaun, Sr.  
Brandon, MS

**Kel Ward** elected the first black Mayor of Bellerive Acres.  
St. Louis, MO

**Alicia Weaver** retired December 22, 2023 from M.G.M. Grand Casino with 25 years of service. Awarded the "Spirit of Detroit" Award by City Council for helping settle the casino strike and procuring the best contract in history across the country.  
Detroit, Michigan



**Anthony Williams, Jr.** is a Job Corps Graduate.  
St. Louis, MO

**Patricia Williams** published her book, "The Secrets to Your Success, The Perfect Resume."  
Chicago, IL

**Reginald Williams** (Tomeka Randle) 2<sup>nd</sup> grade high honor roll.  
Chicago, IL

**Malia Meeks-Wilson** joined the US Army PV3 and was the first black female student during AIT.  
Texas

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

**Michael and Viveca Archie** are celebrating 15 years of marriage.  
Olive Branch, MS

**Ruthie and Alvin Darden** married for 53 years on December 11, 2024.  
Louis, MO.



**David and Kymberlyn Henderson** celebrated their 8<sup>th</sup> year wedding anniversary June 2025  
Greenwood, MS.

**Melverta and Reginal Henderson, Sr.** celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on November 11, 2024.  
Itta Bena, MS

**Jake and Diana Jones** celebrated 33 years of marriage and will celebrate 34 years on August 8, 2025,  
with God's blessing. Sikeston, MO.

**Curtis Lee and Jessie Marie Meeks** celebrated 42 years of marriage on August 14, 2024. Vaiden MS

**Jeanna and Kenneth Montgomery** celebrated their 15th year wedding anniversary on June 19, 2025.  
Lexington, MS

**Michael and Lucille Rand** celebrated their wedding anniversary on July 17<sup>th</sup>.  
Lexington, MS

**Cynthia and David Walker** celebrated their marriage of 29 years on June 8, 2025.  
St. Louis, MO

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS:**

**Ouida Meeks-Baptiste** celebrated her 80th birthday October 9, 2024.  
Pineville, LA

**Connie Bell Shipp** celebrated her 93rd birthday.  
Freeport, Ill



**BIRTHS:**

**Stanley Calhoun, Jr. and Jazlyn Boling** welcomed Skylar Aaliyah Calhoun on March 10, 2024.  
Houston, Texas

**Akilah Gould** gave birth to her first child on January 28, 2024.  
Los Angeles, CA

**Willow Reagan Melody Henderson** was born February 15, 2024, daughter of Reginal Henderson, III.  
Southaven, MS

**Zoria Wade and Edwuan, Sr.**, welcomed 2 sons, Edwuan, Jr., and Exekial.  
Brandon, MS

**BUSINESSES:**

**Tranell Darden**, Owner of Slayed by Nelly Hair Style.  
St. Louis, MO

**Akilah Gould** launched her own wine brand - Lucky Girl Rose.  
Los Angeles, CA

**Christian Matthews** is the founder and owner of Enchanted Elegance.  
Cordova, TN

**Marquise Meekie** started the Martha Meekie Scholarship Fund in honor of his mom – who passed away  
January 1, 2024.  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Alicia Pierce**, Owner of *Sam's Daughter the Brand* Website: [samsdaughter.com](http://samsdaughter.com).  
St. Louis, MO







**GRADUATES - COLLEGE:**

**Donae Barnes** graduated May 18, 2025, from St. Louis Community College, Nursing Degree  
St. Louis, Mo

**Kiki Booker** graduated on May 13, 2025 from Dental School as a Certified Dental Assistant and is  
continuing to become a Dental Hygienist.  
New Orleans, LA.

**Cassandra Davis** graduated from Southwest Tennessee Community College – Magna Cum Laude A.A.S.  
in Funeral Services Education.  
Memphis, TN

**Danyeille Little**, daughter of Centralia Little, is a 2023 Graduate with a bachelor's degree in  
Cybersecurity. She is currently pursuing her master's online at Purdue University.  
Sikeston, MO

**Tyshaun Meekie**, DePaul University Theatre Arts and Psychology  
Chicago, Ill

**Curtis and Jessie Meeks** daughter graduated from University of Memphis in May 2024. She now  
teaches Medical Assistant classes at the University of Memphis.  
Memphis, TN

**Jessica Meeks** graduated from the University of Memphis in May of 2025.  
Memphis, TN

**Kaylan Powell** 2024 College Graduate  
Mississippi

**Ayanna Releford** received her 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree – Master of Science in Information Technology Management  
and became an English Teacher for young women who were victims of human trafficking in Latin  
America.  
Los Angeles, CA

**William Staples**, Grand Rapids Community College HVAC Engineer.

**Michael P. Taylor, II**, Master's Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Iowa.  
Chicago, IL

**Isaiah Williams**, Environmental/Engineering Management. Leadership Certificates. Perfecting her craft in doing nails and she has a very artistic eye. University of Missouri at Rolla  
St. Louis, MO

**GRADUATE - HIGH SCHOOL:**

**Jayla Alexander** High School Graduate 2024  
Dothan, AL

**Joshua Baptiste**, Madison Prep High School  
Baton Rouge, LA

**Khyren Binion**, Hubbard High School 2025  
Chicago, IL

**Ne'Leh Collins**, 2025 Graduate Bishop Dubourg High School currently attending Northwest Missouri State University.  
St. Louis, MO

**Samiya Delaney**, 2024 Graduate – Manchester Academy in Yazoo City, MS.  
Tchula, MS

**Tamia Gibson**, 2025 Link High School  
Grand Rapids, MI

**Shamia Kyles** 2025 Graduate  
Lexington, MS

**Dontrail Mason**, Ritenour High School  
St. Louis, MO

**Jayden McCurthy** graduated High School  
Lexington, MS

**Bennie Kendrick Powell, Jr.**, 2025 Graduate  
Kosciusko, MS

**Ricardo Powell, Jr.**, 2024 Graduate  
Ridgeland, MS

**Amiyah Spencer**— granddaughter of Carolyn Meeks, Distinguished Honors Graduate of Greenwood High School 2024.  
Greenwood, MS

**Jakiah Spencer**—granddaughter of Carolyn Meeks, Graduated May 2025 from Greenwood High School with Distinguished Honors  
Greenwood, MS



**Trinity Washington**, Grand Center Academy, currently attending Forest Park Community College Nursing Program – 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.  
St. Louis, MO

**Jasmine Williams**, Hazelwood High School 2025 and currently attending Florissant Valley Community College.  
St. Louis, MO

**Reagan Wilson**, graduate of Greenwood High School 2024.  
Greenwood, MS

#### **GRADUATES- MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

**Trenity Meeks**, daughter of Tredell and Nekeysa Meeks graduated from S. V. Marshall Middle School #8 of 140 on May 15, 2025.  
Lexington, MS

#### **MARRIAGES:**

**Antonio and Toni Bowen** married on June 30, 2025.  
St. Louis, MO

**Nikia and Alto Burks** married February 16th, 2023.  
Dothan, AL

**Akilah Gould** got married  
Los Angeles, CA



**Henry and Natasha Sutherland**, married October 3, 2023.  
Kansas City, MO

**Terrance Ward** married Lawanki Ward  
Brandon, MS

#### **PROMOTIONS:**

**Stanley Anthony Calhoun, Jr.** promoted to Manager for Xfinity  
Houston, Texas

**Kimberly Collins**, New job – HR Manager  
Wentzville, MO

**Autumn Farris**, daughter of April Richmond (Atlanta, GA) promoted to permanent teacher at The Little School in San Francisco, CA. Accepted into the Black Early Childhood Education Program.  
San Francisco, CA

**Schyler Grandison**, son of Schlander Grandison graduated Pre-K and headed to Kindergarten.  
Kansas City, MO

**Alaya S. Kyles** daughter of Patrick Kyles - Preschool Graduate – A Special Love Childcare Academy,  
Valedictorian and top math score recipient.  
Dallas, Texas

**Cynthia Walker** – Associate Lead/Field Supervision Legel Edward Jones Financial Services.  
St. Louis, MO

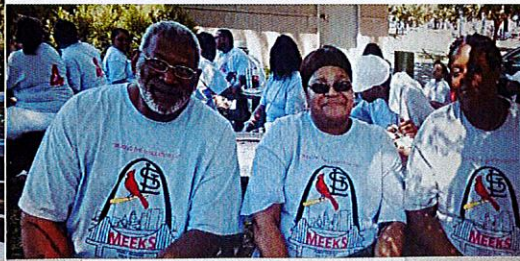




## “Previous Reunion Memories”



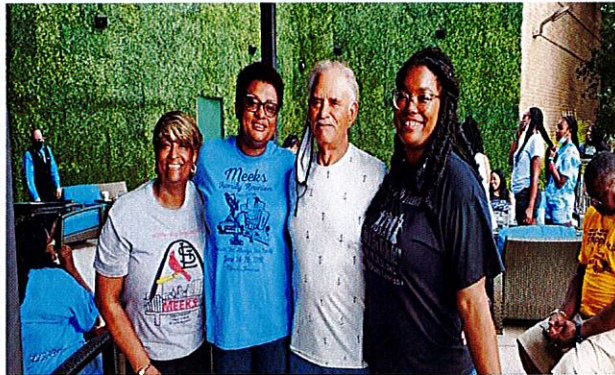




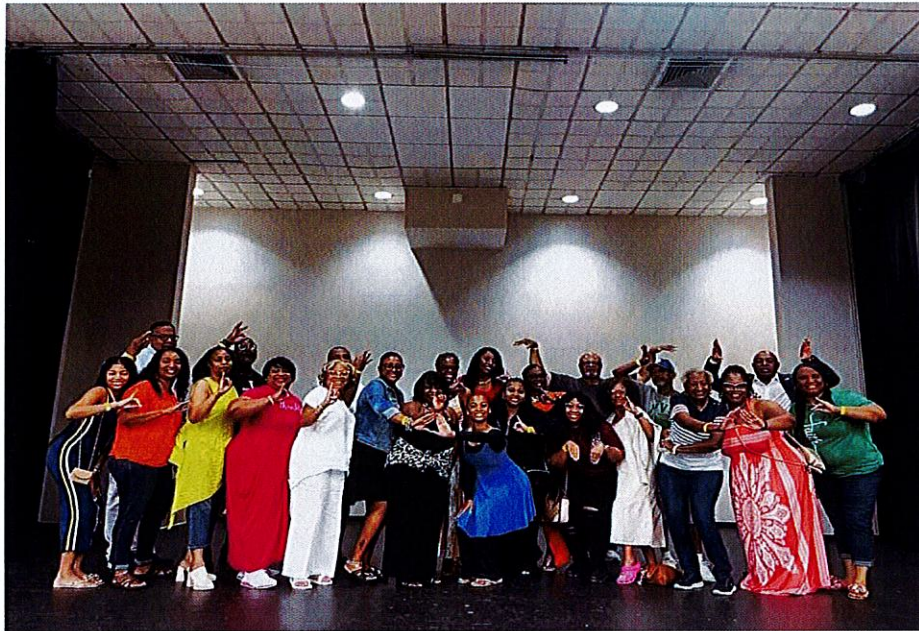
























# Our Family

Is a circle of strength;  
Founded on Faith, Joined in Love  
Kept by God, Together

*forever*



**“Papa Abner and Mama Madora Haymore-Meeks”**  
Generational Count

2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>		Total
Connie	9						
Josh	7	37	89	83	7		223
Lucille	10	41	83	52	1		187
Corima	10	45	132	181	18		386
Alex	16	62	90	93	6		267
Bertha	10	24	31	17			82
Lula	12	43	102	102	10		269
Mary	9	23	42	21			95
Nora	9	33	66	61	1		170
Jack	4	13	9				26
Charlie	2	6	6				14
Manervia	9	16	39				64
Willie	6	24	6				36
TOTAL	113	367+	695+	610+	43+		1,828+

We have a lot to be thankful for, the memories through the years, the many times together, full of laughter, full of tears. You could gather a million treasures; you could search from coast to coast. The most valuable thing you’ll find, Is that family matters most.

## **Magnificent Mississippians Cousin Committee 2025**

**Tammy Falls-Puryear, President**

**Rev. David Henderson, Vice-President**

**Latonya Turner, Acting President**

**Modora Rand, Secretary**

**Kymerlyn Henderson, Treasurer**

**Patricia Dixon, Asst. Treasurer**

**Michael Rand, Sergeant at Arms**

**Robert Wright, Sergeant at Arms**

<b>Members - At - Large</b>	<b>Advisors</b>
<b>Minnie McKennie</b>	<b>Laura Doty-Meeks</b>
<b>Mary Martin</b>	<b>John "Stem" Meeks</b>
<b>Nekeysa Meeks</b>	<b>Inell Redmond</b>
<b>Lakesha Rand</b>	<b>Carnear Falls</b>
<b>Yulanda McKennie</b>	<b>Timothy Travis</b>
<b>Angela Green</b>	<b>Charlie Earl Meeks</b>
<b>Tredell "Nuk" Meeks</b>	<b>Gina Meeks</b>
<b>Shaneshia Dixon</b>	<b>Carol Ann Archie</b>
	<b>Yolanda 'Penny' Meeks</b>
	<b>Carolyn Meeks</b>

**"COMING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD"**





**“COMING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD”**



**MEEKS FAMILY  
REUNION**

**JULY 18-JULY 20, 2025**

**“MISSISSIPPI”**