

Q News

Over **333** years of quality family connections

HAPPY 2019!!

God bless each one of you wonderful Quander family members! Welcome to 2019! I hope your holidays were all you hoped they would be and more. There is a lot of craziness going on in the world around us, but the one positive constant will be our family. I pray that we continue to move this family forward, get to know each other and do what **we** can to create events to make that happen! Let's try to bring in new family members so they may also share in the joy of our fellowship. Make this your best year yet! I look forward to seeing you all at the social event in February!

Please be prepared to vote for Executive Board members at the social event. SEND ALL CANDIDATE NAMES TO QuandersUnitedInc@gmail.com BY FEBRUARY 1, 2019! We will be voting for Vice President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Correspondence Secretary, and Sergeant-at-Arms.



Upcoming Events

February 10

Quander Social/Meeting
@ Church of the Incarnation
**RSVP by January 26th
to 240-447-1098 or
QuandersUnitedInc@gmail.com**

August 2019

Annual Family Reunion - PA

Annual Dues

Until a new Financial Secretary is voted into office, please send annual dues to Larryl Matthews @ 3850 Carpenter Street, SE, Washington, DC 20020. Thank you!

Family Business Directory

If you have a business or service you would like to include in the family business directory, send your information to QuandersUnitedInc@gmail.com. Please include name, phone number, email (if you have one), and your website (if applicable). We look forward to creating a great resource for our family!

We are Many but We are One

In August 2018 at the Annual Quander Family reunion in Alexandria, Virginia, a very important decision was voted on. The presidents of all three Quander clans proposed that all the families merge to create one big reunion. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor of making this happen! Washington, D.C., Virginia and Pennsylvania will continue to maintain their separate groups, led locally by a vice president. Each group will also maintain its own treasury. A suggestion was made to have local elections every three years.

Additionally, there will be an overall president, treasurer, financial secretary, and correspondence secretary that will operate in support of all three clans. Voting/appointments for the overall offices will be conducted at the next annual family reunion, which will be held in Philadelphia in August 2019. After the elections, there will be work towards creating new bylaws/constitution.

This new structure reintroduces Washington, D.C. Quanders into the family reunion rotation. As such, we will be hosting in 2020. We are currently creating a series of fundraisers that will help offset some of the costs of hosting the reunion. We will all be looking to each other to help facilitate and participate in making these fundraisers successful. LaShaun Quander-Mosley, Jamila Stone, and LaTasha Ward have begun discussions and will putting forth some fun activities for us to partake in. At this juncture, some possibilities are cooking classes, bowling parties, and family moving outings.

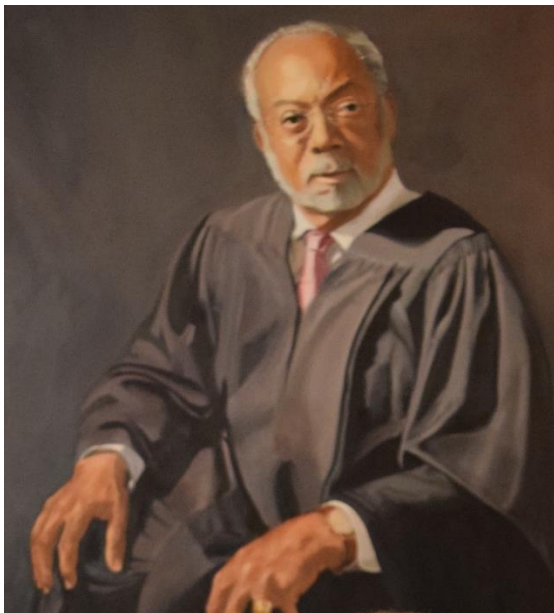
It is understood that this is a big undertaking and a break from the norm of the last many years, but we recognize that we are stronger together and want to move forward in history as ONE.

Honoring an Outstanding Family Member – Rohulamin Quander, Educator, Genealogist, Lawyer, Judge

by Evelyn Quander Rattley

I was born in Washington, D.C. on October 8, 1924, one of three siblings, to John Edward and Helen Orena Stewart Quander. My youth was pleasant and included memories shared with many Quander cousins, friends and neighbors who also attended St. Cyprian's Catholic Church, then located on 13th and South Carolina Avenue, S.E. Despite segregation, and the racially charged atmosphere of the time, life was good. As a young child, I was insulated from the hurts and stings that happened daily to my grandparents and parents. My summers were spent in Upper Marlboro, Maryland where I passed many pleasant moments in the loving and comfortable arms of my grandparents, William Dominic and Mary Greenfield Quander. As I grew older, I began to realize that being a Quander meant something special. But no one talked about what being a Quander meant, no one referred to our family's historic past, and we had not received any particular honor or recognition as a family.

No one made reference to an ancestral connection to George Washington, to the fact that we had many cousins who lived on the other side of the Potomac River, or on the other side of the Atlantic for that matter, in Africa. Perhaps they did not know, because our forbearers did not preserve the legacy connections of which there were many; or perhaps the legacy of enslavement was so painful that they chose to intentionally "forget." In addition, I grew up during the dramatic economic crisis called the Great Depression, a time when my elders were focused on day-to-day survival, and not on the "luxury" of researching and knowing our history and genealogy.



Luckily for us, someone in the family was committed to that cause and worked hard to make it happen. My decision to write this article is because that person, Cousin Rohulamin Quander, deserves proper recognition for his consistent sustained efforts that have unlocked our history and genealogy, and established what it means *To Be a Quander*. This accolade is long overdue. His efforts have enabled us to document our rightful place in American history, including being featured three times in Smithsonian museums and programs, as well as in other local, national, and international exhibits and news media presentations. Because of his historical retracing and outreach, the significance of the Quander name has been firmly established. Remember how glorious the Quander Tricentennial Celebration was in June 1984.

While we all worked together to make it happen and that success resulted from the efforts of more than one person, it was Rohulamin's research, and his efforts to publicize what he

found, that laid the groundwork on which our 300-year celebration was built, as well as much of the recognition we have received since.

Ro said recently that his interest in our family history and genealogy began in the late 1960's when he was a student at the Howard University Law School. He said, "Interacting with West African students at Howard, I realized that there was much about our family's history that I didn't know. That's when I decided to find out what I could. I never expected that there was so much to be learned. Just look at us now!"

That desire to learn more about our family was also shared by James W. Quander, Rohulamin's dad. James often stated that he too always wanted to know our history. He confided to me, "I know that there is a lot more to who we are and where we came from."

As a law student Cousin Rohulamin mastered the art of research and public presentation of findings, and put that to good use uncovering the story of our family. Single-handedly, he made the research of Quander family history a personal journey. For 50 years, through the Quander Historical and Educational Society, Inc., he has researched, documented, preserved, shared, and stored our history, and family documents, which are held by the Moorland-Spingarn Collection at Howard University. What he has uncovered belongs to all of us, creating a shared family legacy – a legacy that we can all be proud of.

I was impressed that much of what was found does not necessarily make us great or famous, as many of his discoveries establish that as ordinary citizens, we demanded our rights and just due, despite our race, as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. The uncovering and revelation of our strengths, accomplishments, and the spirit and determination exhibited by our ancestors is what makes us who we are today. In fact, it is the knowing who we are and where we came from that makes us special, as so many families of African descent cannot trace their lineage, and know very little of their past.

Ro's efforts have raised our visibility to the point where other families look to us as role models. To some, the Quanders are the standard by which others measure themselves. For instance, the Quander family name is emblazoned on signs for Quander Road in Alexandria, Virginia; Quander Street in Prince William County, Virginia; Quander's Promise Lane in Bowie, Maryland; and the restoration of Quander Street in Southeast Washington, D.C. Where else in a major metropolitan area will you find four streets named for one African American family?

I am so grateful to our cousin, Rohulamin Quander, for these many accomplishments and for working tirelessly in countless ways to distinguish the family name. We have so much to thank him for, which is why I want the family to give Ro the recognition that he deserves for all the time and work he and his family have so generously donated to our benefit. Ro says he could not have done all he's done to uplift the family name without the support and teamwork of his wife, Carmen Torruella Quander, who designed our Quander coat of arms, and created sketches depicting our early history. She also accompanied Ro to Ghana, West Africa to conduct research and meet family members.

Were it not for Cousin Rohulamin and his family, the knowledge and appreciation of what it means *TO BE A QUANDER* would most probably still be unknown and lost. Quander family members, let us consider how we can express our gratitude, to honor and thank them, to whom we owe so much.

Note: Evelyn Quander Rattley is a 93-year-old retired educator. She is the daughter of John Edward Quander, Sr. and granddaughter of William Dominic Quander.

Family Cookout - June 2018

June 30th was a wonderful day for a family cookout! The turn-out was amazing and there was so much food that folks had to take some to go. The Cosca Park location was a good one, and there was plenty of seating for all who attended.

During the event, Cousin Rohulamin was presented with a plaque to signify the family's appreciation for all he has done to elevate the Quander family in the eyes of the world. He was truly appreciative to have the honor bestowed upon him! He later gave a presentation about the prominence Quander relatives in military history. It was truly inspiring.

We are looking forward to an even bigger gathering this upcoming summer! This can be the year of Each One – Bring One. Do you think we are up for the challenge?

Let's start the planning soon. Chairperson and committee members please step up.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Babies!

Baby girl Tyler Sione to Alicia Reedy on May 16, 2018

Baby boy Kingston Anthony to Danielle Grimes and husband Eric Coates on August 24, 2018

Movin' on Up!

Quanders United VP, Jamila Stone, graduated from college with a degree in English

QUANDER FACT

Henry Quando was a slave who sued for and won his freedom in 1830. The case was heard in Prince George's County, Maryland as Quando vs. Claggett. Do you know who Quando's attorney was? **The first family member under 20 years old who can email the correct answer to this question to QuandersUnitedInc@gmail.com will win a prize!**

DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?

Do you have any Quander facts to share? Send it to QuandersUnitedInc@gmail.com

KNOW YOUR HISTORY!

Next submission deadline for Q News is

Sunday, March 17, 2019.

Be sure to submit your announcements and pictures to the

QuandersUnitedInc@gmail.com

***Please keep articles to 800 words @ 12 pt. font**

2019 General Meetings: March 30th June 29th August 31st November 30th