

Dear Family and Friends,

I want to thank everyone who made the 57th annual reunion last year so successful! Now it is time to invite you to the 58th reunion of Thompson kinfolk along with allied families. **Sunday, October 4th is the big day.** As always, we will gather at Ebenezer Methodist Church in Kemp, west of Swainsboro, Georgia. Go down Highway 80 or 56 from town and look for the new church signs at Kemp Road. They were donated and installed by Bill T. Akers, Jr., former President of our Foundation. Thanks, Bill! The church doors will open at 9:30 for registration and visiting, with the program starting at 10:30. Casual dress is fine.

Instead of a speaker this year, we will have an **all-music program** featuring several of our relatives. We are blessed to have many talented people in our midst, some of whom may surprise you. This will be a nice change of pace, I believe.

Dinner on the grounds will begin at noon. As is our tradition, the Robert Thompson family will be serving their delicious barbecue. Please take time to thank them for all their hard work and find a donation jar to help cover the meat expense. Also please bring several side dishes to add to the barbecue. Once again there will be a special table for the desserts. Plates, cups, utensils, napkins, table coverings and ice will be provided. Some folks enjoy bringing tables and chairs so they can linger in comfort.

If you lost a loved one in the last year, or know of someone who has, please send me the names, dates and other information so they can be included in our **memorial service**. Please send this right away, as it is very difficult to put together on the morning of the reunion.

Our budget is always strained so please consider mailing a donation to help with our many expenses, primarily the upkeep of the historic Ebenezer Church and Cemetery. If our family heritage is to be remembered, it is up to each one of us to do our part. Remember, as always, your gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible!

I look forward to seeing each of you at our unique reunion. We are fortunate to have this lovely church, our ancestral home, to gather at and renew old family acquaintances, as well as make new ones. Mark your calendar. Come visit under the majestic pines. Remember, it won't be as good a time without you there!

Yours truly,
Philip Stephens, President
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Saturday October 3rd:
1:30 Sharing Time
Swainsboro Library
3:00-5:00 Farm and Home Museum
Museum Drive
Sunday October 4th:
9:30 Registration and Visiting
10:30 Program, 12:00 Lunch
Ebenezer Methodist Church
Kemp Road at Ebenezer Church Road

Reubin Thompson Memorial Foundation, Inc., NEWSLETTER

Kemp, Georgia

September 2015

Including: **Beasley, Coleman, Flanders, Hall, Hooks, Kea, Kirkland, Kitchen(s), Lumley, Moore, Riner, Rowell, Scott, Sumner, Thigpen, Webb, Youngblood & more**

REUNION NEWS 2014

If you have not been to a reunion at Kemp, perhaps these words will help you envision the scene: a bright sunlit day with just a hint of fall in the air, a rustic, white wooden church, carloads of cousins pulling up under the soaring pine trees, smiling faces singing the old-time hymn "Come to the Church in the Wildwood" and smoky steaming barbecue. Yes, once again all the pieces came together for a nearly perfect day! It was a pleasure to have new attendees and lots of young people there. President Philip Stephens asked everyone to note the new sign on the cemetery fence **honoring Eve-Annette Fields Culver**, who remembered the Foundation in her will. She, husband Guy and several family members are buried at Ebenezer in the south-east corner.

FOUNDATION NEWS

The Board of Directors voted to award the **Roots and Wings Scholarship** to a deserving young person, to be announced at the reunion. For more information on this \$1000 scholarship or to receive an application, please contact the chairperson Susan Middleton of Macon at symiddleton@bellsouth.net In addition the Board voted to pay for part of the recent **interior painting of the ceiling and walls of Ebenezer Church**. You will be amazed at how nice it looks! Once again a large pine tree fell hitting the south side of the **cemetery fence**. The Board voted to have the fence repaired. Finally, the Directors still are in need of a person or firm to do some **tombstone repairs** in the cemetery. Please help us find someone to do this. Keeping our cemetery in good shape is one of the main goals of our foundation.

FAMILY NEWS

Sadly, we lost two former Board members since our last reunion:

Allen Thompson of Statesboro passed away on October 23rd, 2014, and his sister Virginia Thompson Nasworthy of Swainsboro died on June 15th. They were grandchildren of James Robert "Jay Bob" and Samantha Sconyers Thompson.

Jahala Crofts Morehead, 87, of Albemarle, North Carolina, died on February 2nd, 2015. She was a great granddaughter of Allen and Mary Catherine Kitchens Thompson and daughter of Annie Mildred Fields. [Sent in by daughter Melanie Morehead-Boone.]

Our cousin Tom Bridges and wife Sue of Colfax, North Carolina, made their second trip to the Holy Lands last November. He said highlights were a stop at a winding pathway, along a small stream from Nazareth to Capernaum, which was probably the exact way that Jesus took as he made this trip many times; a visit to temple mount and the western wailing wall where they prayed beside Jews reading the Torah; their visit to a site on the Jordan River, in the wilderness near the Dead Sea, where they remembered their baptism; and the final stop at a garden tomb, hewn out of rocks, and a service of communion. He is an active Methodist lay minister and retired entomologist.

Two grandchildren born in ten days!! Melissa Maynor Hooks is the proud grandmother of two: Hoyt Hunter Wade Hooks born to son Philip and wife Laura Hooks on July 19th and Olivia James Hill born July 29th to daughter Rebecca and husband Earl Hill. These little ones are the great-great grandchildren of George and Grace Thompson and great grandchildren of Peggy T. Maynor. Congratulations!

Please send in items of news about our large family or bring to the reunion.

RESEARCH NEWS

This list reflects the latest research on the **children of Reubin and Rachel Thompson**. Most of us descend from Robert and Henry. [*Several below have no documentation to support them, at present.]

<u>CHILD</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>DIED</u>	<u>SPOUSE</u>	<u># of CHILDREN</u>
1. Asa	c1793	bet. 1840-1850	unknown	6
2. Katherine	1 Sept. 1795	6 Dec. 1884	?Thomas? FLANDERS John Chestnut SUMNER	1 5
3. Reubin*, Jr.	c1796	unknown	?	?
4. John	c1799	after 1858	Susannah _____	9
5. Elizabeth	c1800	after 1850	?John? WILLIAMS	4
6. Sarah "Sallie"	c1801	c1833	Rev. Jordan FLANDERS	8
7. Robert	4 Jan. 1804	25 Nov. 1865	Mildred Amelia BEASLEY	13
8. Henry	3 Aug. 1806	6 May 1887	Mary Catherine WEBB	11
9. Allen*	c1808	unknown	?	?
10. Jordan*	c1810	unknown	?	?
11. Hettie	c1816	1848	John B. ROWELL	8

REUNION NEWS 2015

On Saturday, October 3rd, we will once again have "**Sharing Time**" at the **Swainsboro Library** at 331 West Main Street, starting at 1:30. Instead of featuring a special family, this year we will concentrate on the **Civil War days**, sharing stories of our brave kinfolks who fought and the families left behind in South Georgia. You don't need to bring anything special...just an interest in learning and sharing about our family. At 3:00 those who wish will go to the Emanuel County Farm and Home Museum north of town. All ages will enjoy the dog-trot house, one-room school and old farm buildings, all authentic! Granny's Attic exhibits household furnishings, clothing and jewelry of the 1800s. It will be open for us until 5:00. DIRECTIONS: From downtown Swainsboro, go north on US 1, turn right on Ralph Lee Road, follow Fair Ground Road to Museum Road.

"Calling all Photos!!!" This is a great time to get those old photos out of drawers and closets and bring them to the reunion. You may well have a photo of someone's close kin which they have never seen. You may also have old photos which you cannot identify. Bring them to see if someone in attendance can. Remember to keep photographs out of the attic or basement or anywhere there is excessive heat, light or humidity. Make copies and share your photos with other family members, helpful in case yours are lost or destroyed. We will have a scanner in order to copy photographs if they are not framed, also cameras. So gather up your collection of pictures and bring those dearly departed relatives to the reunion!

AS ALWAYS, WE WELCOME ALL PERSONS WITH A CONNECTION TO EBENEZER CHURCH AND CEMETERY at our events. Come and bring along a cousin who has not attended before. Follow the great example of cousin Susan Yandle Middleton who looked up her first cousins and encouraged each to attend. Come enjoy the all music program this year. Family traditions are very meaningful and a way to connect to each other....*come and make some memories!*

Newsletter editor & family historian:

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Officers & Directors: Philip Stephens, President, Clarke Johnson, Treasurer, Bo George, Lucille Braswell, Marilyn Lear, Andy Thompson, Rev. Clarence Thompson, Martha Thompson, and Robert Thompson.

IF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE SEND YOUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS SO THAT WE DO NOT LOSE CONTACT WITH YOU.



The talented family of our cousin the Rev. Clarence Thompson sang last October at Ebenezer. Left to right: daughter Angela Mauldin, wife Mildred, Clarence and son Clay. Candles were lit for deceased family members.



Visiting the Farm and Home Museum in Swainsboro in October of 2014. The small room on the right of the porch was once used as a post office!



Missy Elder shows the Thompson cousins the old fashioned clothes washer in the center hall of the dog trot house. To use you push and pull the handle!