

# Crayton

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

## Reunion 01 a Success Members attend in record number

On behalf of the Crayton Family Reunion Planning Committee, we would like to thank all the families and their guest for participating the 01 celebration. The reunion was successful in bridging unknown relatives and uniting family. Over 300 people attended the reunion which consisted of a live DJ, door prizes, history, recreational games, and lots of good food. Awards were presented in appreciation of family support. Lewis Nichols (92) and Sylona Adams (91) received the oldest male & female honor, while homegoing memorials were

*The 2001 reunion gave our family the chance to remember and discuss our past times and truly see how many relatives still believe in the concept of family.*

- Irma McGarity

given to Marshall Ed Crayton and Sherman Crayton. Quitan Adams & family received the farthest traveled award, from San Francisco, CA. Lauren Holton (3 weeks old), received the youngest child award, and James Jackson Jr. claimed the



Award winners from left: James Jackson, Bernice Crayton, Sheran Brown, Bealle and Lauren Holton, Quintan Adams, Janice Hardge, and Freddie Stewart.

largest family bringing seven relatives from Palmdale, CA. Each award was hand crafted by committee members Gail and Ben Johnson for BJ s Crafts.

Irma McGarity, from Colorado Springs, CO attended the event and was inspired by the family s commitment to unite. She expressed the 2001 reunion gave our family the chance to remember and discuss our past times and truly see how many relatives still believe in the concept of family.

Thanks to you, the treasury is currently \$875.95 after all reunion expenses. These funds will be used to enhance Reunion 2002 and support projects such as the Crayton Family Scholarship and the preservation of Crayton Cemetery.

The reunion is a two-day event that invites the family to celebrate on Saturday, July 13th at Laubach Hall and come worship at Clearview Baptist Church on Sunday, July 14, 2002. Registration begins at 10:00am on Saturday morning.

Family, your help is needed to make this year s reunion a success. While the planning committee is already begun meeting, it is not to late to get involved if you are interested. The committee meets once a month and everyone is encouraged to participate. You can do your part by gathering your family s addresses and informing the Committee so that we can send invitations and newsletters to everyone. Lets all pull together and help make the 2002 Reunion a success.

# Focus On Family

Preparing for Reunion 2002

## Bow to Technology

by Pat Black published in the San Marcos Daily Newspaper

Greetings Family,

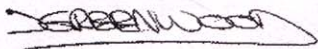
The reunion planning committee is extremely excited about the 2002 celebration. The committee is organizing a host of events which include lunch, entertainment, family research, and much more. We intend to make the 2002 Crayton Family Reunion a worthy follow-up of last year's event.

However, to make this spectacular event possible we need your financial support. The registration fee to attend this year's reunion is **\$30 PER HOUSEHOLD** and \$5.00 per guest. This fee includes a lunch meal for your guest and household members and allots money to pay for the venue, entertainment, decorations, etc.

In order to have a variety of food at the reunion, the family is asking each household to bring a side dish to add to the provided lunch menu. This is a small amount to pay to help bring the family together again.

Registration fees are due no later than May 20, 2001 to provide time to prepare for the event. To register and order t-shirts, complete the form and send registration fees in the form of a **check or money order** payable to the Crayton Family Reunion at the address 218 Haper St. Seguin, Texas 78155. Let's all remember to get our money in on time and come to support the 2002 Crayton Family Reunion. See you there!

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Greenwood  
President 2002

### Reunion Officers & Committee Chairs

**Jeff Greenwood**  
President

**James Greenwood**  
Vice-President

**Lillian Jackson**  
Treasurer

**Sheran Brown**  
Secretary

**Lincoln Mulkey**  
Historian

**Lillian Jackson**  
Entertainment Chair

**Peggy Brite**  
Luncheon Chair

**Letisha Bates**  
Decorations Chair

**Gail & Ben Johnson**  
Recognitions Chair

**Peggy Brite**  
T-shirt Chair

For questions about registration, t-shirts,  
or cemetery preservation efforts,  
Please Call (830) 372-5016  
or write to 218 Harper St. Seguin, TX 78155

In a ritual older than the first settlers, every spring the Crayton brothers, Billy [Baylor] and Bruce, hitch up their mules and plow the land they own beside Bishop Road. Billy is 81 years old and Bruce is 83, but they show no sign of slowing down in determination to continue farming by traditional methods.



Benjamin H. Crayton with  
one of his trusty steeds.

"The old way is going to beat. You watch I tell you," Bruce says with a grin. "I can starve out anybody I want to."

The brothers claim that the end of the small farmers was caused by the advent of tractors. They talk of tractor salesmen "coming out in their bow ties" to convince farmers that the use of a gasoline-powered machine could increase production.

They'd tell you that you don't have to feed your workers. With a tractor, one man could do all the work. It was all lies. It put us in bad shape," Billy said.

Billy Crayton thinks that farmers made a fatal mistake when they mortgaged their land to buy expensive tractors. The crops from a little tract of land wouldn't pay off their equipment and the farmers lost their land. He noted that the only small farmers left are usually in a government program.

"I can plant anything I want. The government doesn't tell me nothing he said. Mules are the key to the Crayton's independence.

The Crayton's use four mules and a riding plow to turn over the land. They also have a harrow, a hay rake, and other equipment which can be pulled by animals. The Blue Ribbon plow is 40 years old, and a replacement would be hard to find.

The mules; Jake, Julie, Pete, and Repeat, are now about four years old and are still learning the job of pulling farm equipment. "Them mules is all crazy, and they're wild," Billy said.

According to the Craytons, mules can no longer be obtained in

### Reunion T-shirts - On Sale Now!

The 2002 t-shirt displays the Crayton family logo accented with a decorated design. The family logo was constructed using symbols and colors to characterize our strength. The color black represents the pride of our heritage and red, which outlines the Crayton name, symbolizes the blood of our kinship. To reserve t-shirts for your family, complete the form and send it in with \$10.00 per shirt to the address listed. T-shirt orders need to be submitted no later than May 20, 2002.

Find articles like Bow to Technology  
<http://www.craytonfamily.com>

the San Marcos area. Two of their mules came from Mexico, and two from Refugio. Billy said that the mules could start to work at age two and continue through their expected lives of 40 years.

Members of the Crayton Family have lived on the same farm for at least three generations. Jim Crayton, the father of Billy and Bruce, was given the land at the end of the Civil War by his father and master, John Crayton.

"My daddy was a slave. His daddy owned him. My grandma was an Indian. He give Poppa 160 acres of land and stocked it with cattle and horses. We've had it ever since," Billy said.

Jim Crayton was the father of 18 children. The family dwindled over the years and some members moved away. Leaving Billy, Bruce, and one other brother on the farm.

"The baby boy is living. He's 78 years old. His name is Ben Crayton," Billy said, adding that Ben spent the past two years in a resting home. "He's doing all right, I'm going to bring him home in a few days."

The farm will pass to nieces and nephews when the Crayton brothers are gone. Ben is a lifelong bachelor. Billy is married but has not had any children. Bruce is another story. "Bruce has had five wives, but he left them all. He's mean. It's his Indian blood," Billy said.

Watching the Crayton brothers at work in the field, it seems that they will go on forever. The crops planned for this year include corn, sudan grass, and sorghum. The family used to raise cattle at their place and at another farm near Wimberley. They still raise a few hogs each year.

Bruce and Billy Crayton are slender, weathered and wise. Their age has not diminished their ability to work or to talk. If they have a secret, it seems to be embodied in Billy's willingness to go on performing hard, simple task:

"You have to make something out of this land by turning it. If you don't, you can't do nothing with it. It's been a job, I tell you."

Log on to the family website for exclusive news on the 2002 Reunion. While your there, check out the history page and learn more about the origins of the Crayton s of central Texas. Or visit the ancestors page and find out where some of our oldest relatives are buried and what is being done to preserve these sites. Get a chance to see the progress for this year s reunion and see pictures, like the one below of the attendants from last year. Visit us at <http://www.craytonfamily.com>. See you there.



First Cousins, Liza Belleison and Eva Washington express feelings of pride to be part of the 2001 reunion.

## REGISTRATION 2002

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: (**\$30 per household**) \_\_\_\_\_

Number guest attending: \_\_\_\_\_

(**\$5 per guest**) \_\_\_\_\_ \$Total

(Circle T-shirt size & enter quantity)

S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ \$Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Child sizes: size: \_\_\_\_\_ quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ \$Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**DO NOT SEND CASH** - Please send check or money order to Crayton Family Reunion, 218 Harper St. Seguin, Tx 78155

# Crayton

## FAMILY REUNION

JULY 13-14, 2002

...y, and other family related info at:  
[craytonfamily.com](http://craytonfamily.com)

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