

# Crayton

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

## Carnival Funfest for Reunion 2009

The Reunion Committee would like to thank all the families and guest for attending the 2008 celebration. The reunion was a great success. Over 120 people participated in a fun filled day of music, food, fellowship & fashion.

*“It was good to see everyone in a playful spirit celebrating with family.”*

**Thelmon Brite, Jr.**

This year we plan to have a Carnival themed reunion. In addition to our regular events such as the Fashion & Talent Show and outdoor games, we will have several other activities like bobbing for apples and a pie eating contest to name a few.

Thelmon Brite remembered the fun-filled day and stated, “It was good to see everyone in a playful spirit celebrating with family.”

This year at Nolte Island, we will have a Carnival style celebration with lots of events for both young and old to participate in.

We invite all to come celebrate on Saturday, June 27th at Nolte Island. Registration begins at 11:00am.

The Hawaiian-style Luau was very popular with everyone decorated in brightly-colored leis in the spirit of celebration.

The water activities, limbo and surprise performance by the Temptationettes in the Talent Show were some of the biggest highlights. Perhaps the most memorable event was the unplanned water fight that lasted several hours and erupted in fun for the entire family.



Above: Sisters Irma Jackson, Peggy Brite, Gail Johnson, Lillian Jackson and Sue Jackson entertain as the Temptationettes in the Talent Show. Below: Ryan Brite, Thelmon Brite Jr. & Ronald Jackson display their swagger at Reunion '08.

Nolte Island is an outdoor park in Seguin, equipped with softball and volleyball facilities, a playscape for kids, covered pavilion and a full kitchen.

Family, your help is needed. Let's make the 2009 reunion one to remember. See you there!

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# Crayton

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

218 Harper Street Seguin, TX 78155

# FOCUS ON FAMILY

Greetings Family,

We cordially invite you to attend the 2009 Crayton Family Reunion on Saturday, 27th of June at Nolte Island in Seguin, Texas. The planning committee is extremely excited about the celebration and has organized a host of events including lunch, outdoor activities & more for the Carnival themed reunion. We intend to make the 2009 Crayton Family Reunion a memorable event for the entire family.

However, to make this spectacular event possible we need your financial support. Due to rising cost the registration fee to attend this year's reunion is **\$50 PER HOUSEHOLD**. This fee includes a lunch meal for your guest and family and allots money to pay for the venue and other related cost.

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

Registration fees are due **no later than June 1, 2009** 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 218 Harper St. Seguin, Texas 78155. For additional information please call (830) 372-5016.

Let's all remember to get our money in on time and come to support the 2009 Crayton Family Reunion. See you there!

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Greenwood  
Chairman 2009

*Family History: Through the words of one of our eldest relatives: Katherine Nichols*

Learning about your heritage is said to be key to "knowing thyself". Today the Crayton family has a strong presence of African-American culture but at the roots of its beginnings, the heritage is mostly American Indian.

Honoring our elders is a tradition that has been passed down for seven generations. At age 92, Katherine [Nichols] Wilson is one of our most respected elders and has a great memory of the family origins.

Katherine was born December 27, 1916 in Zorn, Texas (York Creek Community). She is the daughter of Richard and Rhoda [Crayton] Nichols and sibling to three brothers Lewis, Sidney and Baylor and two sisters Florence Williams and Janice Shaw. Katherine later married Aaron Wilson and worked as a nurse for 34 years.

As a child Katherine remembers her mother, Rhoda teaching family history each night after dinner. She spoke of the origin of the Crayton name from John Crayton, a wealthy land & slave owner in central Texas. He had a child named James Crayton in 1854 by an Indian woman named Riley Kimble. She is affectionately known to us as "Grandma Riley."

James "Jim" Crayton Sr. had both white and Indian blood and would later marry Jane Bell Allen Spruill in 1872 who had similar Indian roots. Together they had 18 children, 9 girls and 9 boys. Although not all are known to have survived birth, those that did are ancestors to all existing family today. Among them were James "Jim" Jr. Bruce, Baylor, Benjamin, John, Rhoda, Dock, Minnie, Elizabeth "Lizzie", Tennessee "Tennie", and Gurtrude "Gurtie" to name a few. This is how our family began.

Katherine is still proud of her Indian heritage from the Cherokee, Tonkawa and Cheyenne societies and loves to share family history. The question many ask is if the Crayton origins were mostly Indian and white where did the African American influence come in. This occurred by the family marrying African-Americans over time.

Today Katherine loves to grow flowers in her garden and has seven cats to keep her company in the York Creek Community where she still resides.

## T-SHIRTS - 2009

Order your reunion t-shirt today! To reserve t-shirts for your family, complete the form & send it in with \$15.00 per shirt to the address listed. Orders must be received by June 1, 2009.



## CRAYTON CORNER

**Talent Show:** To participate please send your name & talent with your registration and bring friends and family to see you perform to win 1st-3rd prize.

**Fashion Show:** To participate please call (830) 372-5016. Each participant is limited to two outfits, so bring your best fashions. Below are the dress categories to choose from.

- Formal
- Business
- Casual
- Hip Hop

**Carnival Style Reunion:** Come and enjoy the fun and kids don't forget your swim suits!

- Face painting,
- Pie eating & Beer drinking contest
- Bobbing for apples
- Popcorn and Cotton Candy
- Dunking booth
- Slipe-N-Slide, water ballon toss, water guns
- Castle Moon bounce
- Sack races, Limbo
- Gifts, prizes & more!

# REGISTRATION FOR REUNION



Sanford & Dorothy Crayton from Forth Worth, Texas enjoy the Hawaiian themed reunion. Find pictures like this and more at [www.craytonfamily.org](http://www.craytonfamily.org)

## REGISTRATION 2009

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: (**\$50 per household**) \_\_\_\_\_

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