

McCollum clan to hold annual reunion

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The McCollum Family will hold its 37th annual reunion from July 12-14 at Brown-Douglas Recreation Center, 4725 Indiana Ave.

The meet and greet begins Friday, July 12 at 5:30 p.m. Saturday's program and dinner begins at 2 p.m.

The family traces its roots back to Charles and Minerva McCollum, slaves from Rockingham County. Many of their 15 known children migrated to Salem, Old Town and Winston between 1896 - 1920. Many moved into the historic Happy Hill neighborhood and onto Cromartie Street near Slater Normal School (now Winston-Salem State University). They also owned land in Silver Hill, a small community of African American farmers located near Reynolds High School.

Descendants with the names Kiser, Wright, Barber, Conrad, Sumler, Friday, McCollum, Johnson, Livingston, Thomas, Walker, Noble and Fielder still reside in Forsyth County. They have been productive and respected citizens of this community - as well as in Rockingham and



Members of the McCollum Family pose at the 1990 reunion.

Submitted Photo

Guilford counties, Virginia, Ohio, New Jersey, Washington D.C., California, Georgia, Detroit and New York - for more than 100 years.

The known children of Charles and Minerva McCollum are Eliza McCollum

(Neal McCauley), Phyllis McCollum, Flora McCollum Johnson, Sarah Ann McCollum (Glenn Williams), Mary McCollum Ferrel, Moses McCollum, George McCollum, Will McCollum, Henrietta McCollum Stanfield, Massey

McCollum Cowans Coins; David McCollum, John McCollum, Charles McCollum, Walter McCollum and Lucinda "Cindy" McCollum Johnson. If you believe you are a descendant of Charles and

Minerva McCollum or are a McCollum, you are most welcome to attend the reunion.

For additional information, contact Reunion President Nancy Green 336-744-0685.

Atkins

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ball rivalry with Reynolds High, a historically white high school across town.

Whether on the playing field or in the classroom, Hicks said Atkins students thrived in the increasingly integrated world.

"We were conscious of it, and we would always try to put our best foot forward to let people know that they're human, we're human, we're all the same. We tired to look past, and for the most part we did look past, skin color. What we were focusing on was the ability to succeed in both high school and in life."

Class Vice Chair Andrea Mickle Bush recalled that beginning in her junior year, Atkins students were given the chance to integrate local white high schools. Bush's brother did just that, enrolling at East Forsyth. Bush, whose 10 siblings all attended Atkins, said her class remains like a close-knit family.

"There's a love for Atkins," she said. "We saw each other everyday; we played with each other; we interacted with each other; we had fun."

Classmates travelled from near and far to attend the reunion. Future Williams had the distinction of traveling the farthest. He lives in the Western Caribbean island nation of Trinidad and Tobago with his wife Diane. He said the trip was well worth it.

"This is my beginning," he said of his classmates. "If it wasn't for the interactions between these people, we wouldn't be where we are now."

Many members of the class went on to achieve positions of prominence. George Glenn is a renowned musician who performs with the Eliminators, Otesha Creative Arts and the Chuck Davis African American Ensemble. Betty Thompson Morton worked in the test kitchen at Reynolds Wrap and starred in the company's popular "Pat and Betty" television commercials. Camille Russell Love is the director of Cultural Affairs for the City of Atlanta and played a role in the recent Lifetime Network version of "Steel Magnolias."

Ret. First Sgt. Ben Mickens began his last tour of duty in the Army



Bishop Designate Jacqueline Casseberry Hill of Macedonia Worship Center and Rev. Charles Kennedy of Bethabara Christian Church

Photos by Todd Luck



Old year book pages and other memorabilia make for displays throughout the banquet hall.



George Glenn



Harretta Johnson Duncan

at age 54, fighting in the Iraq War before his retirement in 2008. Ret. Lt. Col. William Clyburn also served his country.

Though he now resides in Maryland, the Army veteran said he couldn't resist coming to see his classmates.

"When you are trying to decide who you are in life, when your personality is still developing, some of the things they said, some of the things we did, had an impact on who we are now," Clyburn said.



Attendees move on the dance floor.

for Seniors only!

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