

Lowry Descendants Meet in Tennessee for Their 14th Family Reunion

Forty six descendants from the H. H. Lowry family gathered, from seven states and The District of Columbia, in Tennessee for their reunion. Six boys and three girls of the H. H. and Julia Revels Lowry family were born and grew-up in the Hopewell Community beginning in 1890. The descendants are from this family's Stella Iota, Viola Estelle, and Telford A. Lowry lineage. The state of Tennessee had the most present with 16 and North Carolina was a close second with 14. As Brother Tolbert from Gastonia had all 12 family connections in attendance. Jane Armstrong Farrell, along with family members, served as host for this family gathering. The Music Road Hotel in Pigeon Forge served as our headquarters the third weekend in October. The large lobby with ample seating in this family oriented hotel was ideal for families to maintain on-going relationships.

Jane and an older brother Bill Armstrong are the children of Frank and Viola Lowry Armstrong, and grew up in the Knoxville area. Her brother died several years ago from complications with his heart. We enjoyed a Friday evening catered meal in a banquet room in the hotel provided by their Tennessee family connections. Our cousin Jane and family sponsored a cookout under a shelter in a park outside Gatlinburg on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning we traveled to East Knoxville to attend the morning worship service at The Macedonia United Methodist Church, the home church of The Armstrong family. The Lowry descendants gathered in the church's social hall after service for a delicious meal prepared by cousin Jane and her family. On Saturday she had promised some of us a surprise dessert for Sunday's meal. It turned out to be one of those home-cooked layered cakes stacked high with thin layers like the ones both our mothers prepared for their families. My favorite was a coconut cake with raisins sprinkled between the layers. Cousin Jane's cake had an apple flavor, which we all enjoyed.

Jane and Bill Armstrong had very little contact with their first cousins growing up in Robeson County during their youth. She and I remember the only visit to Robeson County to visit her maternal grand parents during the early 1930s, she being around 4 years of age and I about 2 years older. She remembers her North Carolina cousins giving her a ride on Grandpa's buggy, pushing it up and down the yard and driveway while Brother Marvin filled in as

the horse. Cousin Jane didn't learn of her Lumbee connection until adulthood after attending Lowry family reunions in Tennessee and one in Pembroke in 1988. She is quite interested in learning more about her Lowry side of the family. I prepared a family album as a surprise gift, and presented it to her during our Sunday meal after church. I made copies from a family album I have been putting together over the years, which I thought would capture her interest. It contained Lowry genealogy, photos, and "creative writing" about The Lowrys and experiences growing up in Robeson County. There were copies of photos of Grandpa H. H. Lowry's house as it appeared in 1900 and 1993. There were copies of photos of 3 great uncles and one great aunt, 3 of which lived to be over 100 years of age. Uncle Telford's daughter inquired about a picture of H. H. Lowry. I have never seen a picture of our grandpa, who was the eldest son of Calvin Lowry. I would love to get a copy of his picture for my family album if one is available.

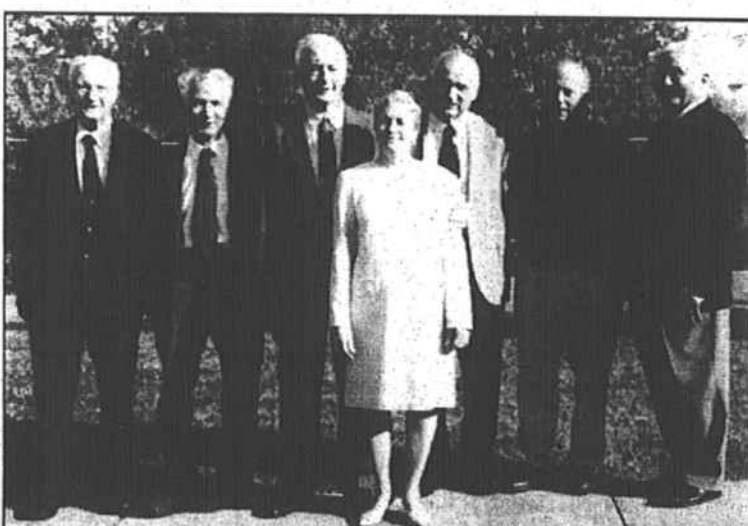
Several members of the clan are in favor of continuing yearly family reunions, because our age is becoming a factor to consider. I passed the three-quarter century mark whole in Tennessee. Brother Marvin will be entering the 8th decade of his life next summer if we can keep him healthy. Brother Murrill is quite close on the heels of his older brother age-wise. The last day of May in 2002 Brother Cecil B., the youngest son, will be entering the 7th decade of his life if he takes care of himself. At that time all 6 brothers will be in the 7th decade of their lives for a period of 2 months and 3 days. Sister Barbara doesn't have any anxiety that the record shows she was born 2 years, 1 month, and 8 days after her youngest brother. All the children were born at home on the family farm in Robeson County except Brother Marvin. He was born in a hospital in Richmond, Virginia where our Dad was working as a street car motorman.

We made no definite plans for a reunion next year, but there was talk of working something around the end of July or the first of August to celebrate Brother Marvin's special birthday. Family reunions offer a very useful mechanism for maintaining strong family ties.

by Ronald H. Lowry



Jane Armstrong Farrell about to receive her surprise gift from her cousin Ronald. Brother Cecil B. and wife Sandy from California listen to the presentation.



The Lowrys in Parking lot at Macedonia United Methodist Church in Knoxville. Left to right: Ronald, Murrill, Curliss, Barbara, Tolbert, Cecil B., Marvin Jr.



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Book on Indian basketball nearing publication date ...

As many of you know, Tim Brayboy and Bruce Barton have been working on a book about Indian basketball in Robeson & adjoining counties for some time. And the end is in sight.

They expect to present the book at the second annual meeting of the Indian Basketball Alumni Association, Inc. at the Indian Education Resource Center (located in the old "Indian" Pembroke High School building), next door to the UNC-Pembroke chancellor's residence. The meeting will be held tentatively on December 13, 2001, beginning at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there. More information will be forthcoming in the next few days and weeks. The name of the book is:

PLAYING BEFORE AN OVERFLOW CROWD,

The story of Indian basketball in Robeson & adjoining counties between 1939-1967.

The book, now about 90% complete, is a history of "Indian" basketball in Robeson as we remember it. Information is scant, but it was a time of rank segregation although positive currents emanated from the unique social incubator and experiment. The book explores what happened, where it happened, when, how, who, and, most importantly, WHY?

Also, what valuable lessons can be learned from this special moment in time?

TO RESERVE A COPY, fill in the blanks and send it to Indian Basketball Book, c/o Bruce Barton, Post Office Box 362, Pembroke, N.C. 28372. Or call 910-521-2054 for more information. We also welcome old "Indian" basketball photographs and memories.

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