



BATISTE • LAVALAIS • SAMPSON FAMILY REUNION NEWSLETTER

SMOOTH SAILING WITH BLS IN THE VALLEY OF THE SUN
SHERATON WILD HORSE PASS RESORT AND CASINO
CHANDLER, ARIZONA

REUNION DATES: JULY 22 – 24, 2016

www.blsfamilyreunion.com

This month's newsletter provides cost details, forms and information: for Hotel Accommodation, Reunion Registration, and T-Shirt Ordering. Future issues of the Newsletter will cover the Talent Show and other exciting special activities.

Remember to visit www.blsfamilyreunion.com. There we will post information about the Family Reunion in real time. Contact a BLS Committee member if you have questions.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Family members are responsible for their hotel accommodations.

Rates for family wishing to stay at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Casino are:

Standard rooms: single & double - \$99/night.

Suites: Triple - \$129/night - / - Quad - \$149/night

These rates do not include any security deposits or transfer costs to and from the hotel.

Shuttle services are available 24 hours to locations on the Resort property (e.g. Casino, Raw Hide, Golf Course, Spa, Premium Outlet, Race Track, Horseback Riding) Hertz Car Rental is onsite and discounts are available.

To book rooms for the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Casino please call 602-225-0100 and mention 2016 BLS Family Reunion or visit www.wildhorsepassresort.com. A block of 40 standard rooms have been reserved and there are a limited number of triple and quad rooms available.

BLS 2016 REGULAR REUNION ACTIVITIES

Look for the complete calendar of events in coming issues of the Newsletter and at www.blsfamilyreunion.com

2016 DATE	PLACE	ACTIVITY
Friday, July 22	Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Casino	Hospitality & Registration
Saturday, July 23	Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Casino	Dinner, Dance and Talent Show
Sunday, July 24	Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Casino	Farewell Breakfast

THE 2016 BLS COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO VOLUNTEER

We're planning a lot of exciting special events for the upcoming reunion; e.g. A Creole language workshop, Genealogy presentations, Native Avoyelles Parish Indian re-enactments, and more. The more volunteers the more successful the family reunion. Become a sponsor, submit an article, and volunteer for one of several communication/ fundraising teams. (Facebook, Twitter, E-bay, etc.) Help preserve our traditions for future generations, build family and celebrate a rich heritage. So here are suggested ways to get involved.

- **COMPLETE AND MAIL THE ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FORM AND DEPOSIT** of \$65 by November 15, 2015 or pay your deposit at the BLS website: www.blsfamilyreunion.com.
- **VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME:** Sharing your time and talents would be a huge help. We're seeking all skills and occupations, including: athlete, blogger, doctor, educator, entertainer, entrepreneur, Native American tribe member, lawyer, military, minister, techie, writer, etc.
- **TELL US MORE ABOUT YOURSELF:** "We showcase in each newsletter our family members' achievements, interests, skills, abilities, and talents. Check out the "Meet the Family" section. So become a contributing editor. Tell us who you are. Our latest contributing editor is featured below.

THE NEWEST CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Qutina Watson is the newest contributing editor to the BLS Family Reunion Newsletter. She turned thirty this month, which she says she fully celebrated. She's descendent of Great-Grandfather Prudent Guillory and Great-Grandmother, Victoria Baptist. (Baptist is just another one of the several ways our ancestors' surname was recorded. Batiste and Baptiste are others.) Qutina said, "I received the newsletter from my mother, Theresa Guillory Watson, and noticed that you are looking for writers/bloggers." She expressed genuine interest in our effort to discover and promote family ties and family history. Her family gathered around to pronounce the Creole Word featured in the July issue of the newsletter. Qutina, 'Tina,' as I have come to call her, recently published her first book: *'Shattered But Not Broken.'* She has been a contributing writer for two (2) magazines: *Miss Lady* and *The Mirror Online*. Welcome Tina.

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PROUD SPONSOR OF THE 2016

BLS FAMILY REUNION NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY CREOLE PHRASE/WORD: Kouzin (masculine form) (Kouzinn (feminine form))*

Creole	French	English
Kou - zan (phonetic pronunciation*)	Cousine (feminine form) Cousin (masculine form)	Cousin

It's used as a customary greeting and an acknowledgement that practically everyone from Avoyelles Parish was and are related; i.e.

CREOLE - "Comme ca va kouzin?" **FRENCH** - "Comment ca va cousin?" **ENGLISH** - "How are you cousin or how is it going cousin?"

*** BLS Contributing Editor, Mary Lacefield explains that there is a small "s" connected below the "c" in ca va which you may see by googling "French Canadian Keyboard." *The phonetic pronunciation of kouzan can be found at www.louisianacreoledictionary.com. "Comme" has the same pronunciation as the English word comb. While "comment" is phonetically pronounced "ko mo. Stay tuned next issue the monthly creole phrase is ca va" ***

CONNECTIONS CONTINUING...

by BLS Family Reunion Chair, Sharon Logan

In a time where the "family" is plagued with so many distractions in life, regular gatherings have a tendency to take a lower priority. This is why I am so grateful that the Batiste, Lavalais, & Sampson's (BLS) are continuing to connect to build lasting memories for generations to come. If you think about it, for 30 years, our family has maintained an intentional and consistent focus to celebrate our heritage in various parts of the country. I think this is phenomenal! I know quite a few families who have let the family reunion fizzle after the third or fourth gathering due to one thing or another.

Thank you so much for allowing me to host the 2016 BLS Family Reunion in Phoenix, AZ. I am working with a great team who is working diligently to ensure that the reunion is a success. We are excited to be able to hold it at a location that embodies the Native American culture, as it will be located at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass on the Gila River Community, home to the Pima (Akimel O'otham) and Maricopa (Pee Posh) tribes. While experiencing this culture, it is our hope that BLS family of all ages will establish long lasting connections.

Will you help us to get the word out? Communications are being distributed by way of newsletter, email, Facebook, phone, and our very own website (www.blfamilyreunion.com). But nothing beats the personal touch of word of mouth...So please tell as many family members that you know to get connected. We want to get to know you and get your input from time to time; so be sure to connect with us on Facebook, sign the guest book on the website, and/or check the website regularly. This is a step closer to continuing the connections...

MEET THE FAMILY – OUR ORAL HISTORY: A BATISTE-LAVALAIS FAMILY MEMORY

by Linda Felder

Aunt Marie - A Recollection: My Aunt Marie Batiste Wade is the 7th child of Lena Lavalais and Jules Batiste. As she reminisced with me about her childhood, marriage, family and work life; I realized that we have a lot in common. Her love of family, work ethic and loyalty are the cornerstones of her life. She reminded me more than once that she had three brothers (Thomas, Jules and Clyde) and seven sisters (Lillian, Fannie, Mercedes, Dorothy, Margaret, Rose and Mary). Their mom Lena was in charge of everything including their friends. Lena often said, "Your friends are your own sisters and brothers and not some stranger." And the siblings were paired; and in fact Aunt Marie's sister and friend was Rose Mary Batiste Williams.

Prior to retirement, she left home at 4 am to catch the bus in Southgate for commute to the lock and key company where she was employed in Huntington Beach, CA. She always arrived ahead of schedule. After retirement, Auntie Marie left home at 6 am because her daughters (Donna and Barbara), counted on her to get the grandchildren to school on time. Currently in her twentieth year at Dollarhide Senior Center as a ceramic instructor she continues this practice. "I like to prepare for the day so I get to my ceramic class at least 30 minutes ahead of schedule," she stated.

She reminisced about her late husband's proposal of marriage. He asked her dad only after mistakenly asking her mom because he saw that her mom was in charge of everything. After he got it right, she had a wedding with all the trimmings! "I had a white gown with long sleeves. This was required dress when I got married, she said." If you contact her by telephone (landline) you will be met with a greeting from her late husband, "Hello, we are indisposed right now. Please leave a message and may the good Lord 'take' liking to you. That's it!"

THE REUNION COMMITTEE		THE BLS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	
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2016 BLS REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

MAIL THIS COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT IN THE FORM OF MONEY ORDER OR CASHIER'S CHECK PAYABLE TO SHARON LOGAN AND BLS FAMILY REUNION IN THE MEMO

MAIL TO:

2016 FAMILY REUNION TREASURER
ATTN: GERTRUDE (TRUDY) WILLIAMS
3868 S. REDONDO BLVD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90009

NO PERSONAL CHECKS PLEASE

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT MAY ALSO BE MADE ONLINE AT WWW.BLSFAMILYREUNION.COM

I. FAMILY MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION.

NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
HOME/CELL PHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
WRITE IN NAME(S) OF YOUR OLDEST KNOWN ANCESTORS (MATRIARCH (M) AND PATRIARCH (P))	BATISTE _____ (M) _____ (P) LAVALAIS _____ (M) _____ (P) SAMPSON _____ (M) _____ (P) <i>(THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BLS NEWSLETTER WILL INCLUDE PEDIGREE CHARTS TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED)</i>

II. PAYMENT OPTIONS: (1) NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT FEE (2) FULL OR INCREMENTAL PAYMENT

**A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$65 PER FAMILY MUST BE PAID BY 11/15/2015.
A FAMILY'S TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE OFFSET BY THIS DEPOSIT.**

FULL PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES AND T-SHIRT ORDERS MAY BE MADE AT ANYTIME BUT NOT LATER THAN 05/31/2016
INCREMENTAL PAYMENT FOR REGISTRATION FEES AND T-SHIRT ORDERS CAN BE MADE BEGINNING JANUARY 31, 2016, BUT MUST BE PAID IN FULL BY 05/31/2016

PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE: Age 11 and above \$100 to be offset by fundraisers. Age 10 and under at reduced rate to be provided.

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER	AGE	FULL OR PARTIAL PAYMENT AMOUNT
INSERT \$65 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT, OR TOTAL FULL OR PARTIAL PAYMENTS		

III. T-SHIRT ORDERS

A. YOUTH PRICE: S/M/L - \$11 B. ADULT PRICE: S/M/ L/XL - \$13 C. 2XL/3XL - \$15 D. 4XL/5XL - \$16

NAME	SIZE	AMOUNT PAID
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE FOR ALL T-SHIRTS ORDERED		

IV. TOTAL TO BE PAID BY MONEY ORDER/CASHIER'S CHECK (No Personal Checks Please)

TOTAL DEPOSIT/REGISTRATION FEES	\$
TOTAL T-SHIRT ORDERS	\$
GRAND TOTAL PAYABLE BY MONEY ORDER/CASHIER'S CHECK AS REQUIRED ABOVE; OR PAY AT WWW.BLSFAMILYREUNION.COM	\$

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