



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

REMEMBER TO REGISTER BY MAY 31, 2016 TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MANY FAMILY ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THIS YEAR'S FAMILY REUNION.

REGISTER ONLINE AT THE REUNION WEBSITE OR COMPLETE AND RETURN PAGE 3 OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

(Note: Pay Pal payments are assessed a nominal fee of 5.75%).

BOOK HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE SHERATON WILD HORSE PASS RESORT AND CASINO BY CALLING MS. ANEKA DICK, GROUP RESERVATIONS COORDINATOR AT 520-796-8219 AND MENTIONING THE 2016 FAMILY REUNION.

— Ms. Dick's hours are M-F, 8am to 5pm (PST) —

SHERATON WILD HORSE PASS HOTEL AND CASINO OFFER SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:

1. AJI SPA: Native American Spa with unique treatments passed down through the Gila River Indian Community
2. GOLF
3. CASINO
4. KOLI EQUESTRIAN: horseback riding
5. WAGON RIDES
6. RESORT POOL: cascading streams and waterside for little guests
7. RAWHIDE-1880's Western Town(live action stunt shows

ARE YOU RETIRED OR ACTIVE MILITARY?

We want to honor family who served in the nation's military in future issues of the newsletter and in the 2016 Commemorative book. You can self-identify and tell us about other military family or ancestors by calling or emailing a member of the BLS Family Reunion Committee or visiting the family website. The Meet the Family section of this issue of the newsletter features senior members of the US military from the Greatest and Baby Boomer Generation.

SAMPSON AND LAVALAIS DECENDANTS

Write an article for the newsletter about Lavalais and/or Sampson family history, achievements, interests, skills, abilities, and/or talents. It can be oral history or an anecdotal tale. Post it at our BLS family website or email it to rtheresaro@gmail.com

CRACKLIN: by Shiela Moszzkley - **Cut 2 1/2 Pounds of pork fat with skin attached into 3" squares. Salt the lean side only and place in pan with lean side to bottom of the pan. Bake until fat melts into oil, covering bottom of pan. Turn over to skin side. Bake longer if skin has not crackled. Cooking time is approximately 60 minutes. NOTE: For spicy skins, add paprika.** Shiela says, "Over the years, I have used two methods in cooking my crackling. I prefer on top of the stove; but Ernest has forbid it after I set the kitchen on fire in 1972. Cooking inside the oven is safer."

THANKS GWEN AND PASTOR CHARLES PATRICK, AND RILEY AUSTIN-ROCHESTER FOR SPONSORING THE APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER



Legal and Identity Protection for your family
Call Gwen (Batiste) Patrick - [\(310\) 251-3326](tel:3102513326)

BUILDING FAMILY, CELEBRATING HERITAGE

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A BRIEF REFLECTION ON OUR UNIQUE AND RICH HERITAGE

by Linda Felder

ALFRED COLEMAN, born December 4, 1952, is the eldest surviving male grandchild of Lena Lavalais and Jules Batiste. He is the only son and third child of Fannie (Lavalais) Batiste and Althread Coleman (both deceased). Alfred has two daughters Sineathia and Zania and one grandchild Elijah. He is the eldest surviving male grandchild of Lena Lavalais and Jules Batiste. Alfred's route stands in stark contrast and against the profound backdrop and impact of societal processes and pressures. Through it all Alfred has maintained passion for music, dancing, singing and building things to improve his home.

At a time (the summer of 1962) when the American South was in a state of perilous unrest, when African-Americans staged sit-ins and Dr. Martin Luther King lead peaceful marches for human rights, civil rights and voting rights, Alfred, age eleven was traveling by train from Louisiana to California with his mother and two sisters, Fannie Clara and Margaret Ann. Three years later that optimistic move to Los Angeles revealed the American North held its own latent inequities around poverty, racial intolerance, and job discrimination. These inequities and the Vietnam War fueled riots and general civil unrest throughout the 1960's. Against this backdrop, Alfred graduated high school; and within months thereafter received the Nation's military draft notice. On July 7, 1970, Alfred followed instructions he had received in a dream to "stay in his lane" at the induction office and a military man would divide the young men by an arbitrary line down the center of the room. One side would go to the Marines (an almost certain death) and the others would go to other parts of the military. On draft day that dream began a reality and Alfred survived the Vietnam War as a Medical Service specialist in the Air Force from 1970 to 1974. He later attended Stanford University Medical Center, Primary Care Physician Assistant Program, where he was class valedictorian. He currently is a Physician Assistant in San Jose, California.

Our unique and rich religious heritage includes our confidence in the providence of God and the belief that God speaks to us in dreams and vision. Today, Alfred follows his dreams and by God's Grace he continuous to survive and thrive. His achievements map a route those his senior did not or could not successfully navigate. Lincoln and Lloyd Williams, sons of Lillian (Lavalais/Batiste) Williams; Eugene Vaughn, only son of Dorothy (Lavalais/Batiste) Vaughn; and Michael Prier, only son of Mercedes (Dez Lavalais/Batiste) were all deceased by the early 1990's.

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

by Gwen (Batiste) Patrick

CLABERT STEVE (LAVALAIS) BATISTE, II, last remaining child of Clabert Steve Batiste and Rosa Lavalais (Batiste), is 86 years of age and resides in Los Angeles, California, where he and his wife of 63 years, Jeanette, raised six (6) children – Katherine, Gwendolyn, Jacquelyn, Victoria, Clabert III, and Antoinette. He lives an extraordinarily fulfilled life surviving Katherine and Antoinette who have gone on before my dad into glory. He has always been a leader by continuously servicing others. He is proud of his tour of duty from 1950-1958 as Sergeant First Class (second to Master Sergeant) during the Korean War. He is also proud that his neighbors have deemed him "Mayor of the Block."

Dad led command of the Fighting Deuce 4 Demarcation in Washington State – Fort Louis, but was hospitalized and honorably discharged just as his command moved out of Washington to Okinawa, Japan, and Indocin, Korea. He is a card carrying Disabled American Veteran. At age 17, he entered and completed ROTC as PFC at Fort Ord. His first enduring military experience was at induction. The military issued him a uniform with oversized shoes. With just a hint of the "fluent creole inflections (for which he is admired by descendants of his generation), Dad laughingly says, "They give me big ole shoes, and said I would grow into them. My foot was size 6 – they gave me 8's. I could put four feet into one shoe." Similarly, he enthusiastically recounts other service experiences and the friendships acquired. The picture of his troop and senior officers are proudly on display in his home. He gave his friends funny names like "Bucket Head;" while the more vulnerable he had to "babysit." This was especially so for the new "guys" who would come crying to him that they missed their mommies, or like Nash who complained, he missed his Nana. His leadership skills are apparent by the many names by which he is known: Clabert (pronounced "Clay-bear"), Steve, Uncle Steve, G-Pa, Batiste, and Dad. He has over 40 grandchildren, great grandchildren, and a new great-great granddaughter, Laniyah born Sunday, March 13. What a blessed and well-loved man he is!

CREOLE PHRASE/WORD: MON AMIE (AMI)/MON CHER

CREOLE (FRENCH)	PRONOUNCIATION (LOUISIANA CREOLE)	ENGLISH
MON	MOAN	MY
AMIE – female form *AMI – male form *MES AMIS – female & male form	"A" IS SAME AS THE SOUND IN PAPA "MIE" IS THE SAME AS "ME" IN ENGLISH "MES" SOUNDS LIKE MESS WITH ONLY ONE "S" "AMIS" LIKE AMIE WITH AN "S" SOUND	FRIEND MALE AND FEMALE FRIENDS *provided by Mary Ann Lacefield.
CHER	SHA	DEAR

*** View actual French pronunciation by googling French Canadian Keyboard., or go to www.louisianacreoledictionary.com. ***

THE REUNION COMMITTEE	THE BLS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
<p>Sharon Logan, Chair Mary Ann Lacefield Riley Austin-Rochester Gertrude (Trudy) Williams</p>	<p>Newsletter Managing Editor Riley Austin-Rochester rtheresaro@gmail.com Assistant Managing Editor Tamico Brown-Simmons tamico34@gmail.com Contributing Editors:: Mary Ann Lacefield - mlacefie2003@yahoo.com Outina Watson – qutina.watson@gmail.com; Gertrude Williams - trude11@pacbell.net</p>

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2016 BLS REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

*****NO PERSONAL CHECKS PLEASE*****

REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE AT WWW.BLSFAMILYREUNION.COM OR COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM BY MAY 31, 2016

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)

II. PAYMENT OPTIONS: (1) PAYMENT IN FULL (2) THIRD INCREMENTAL PAYMENT DUE:

25% of total due February 29; 50% of total due March 31; 75% of total due April 30

LAST DAY TO PAY FULL REGISTRATION OR REMAINING BALANCE OF PARTIAL PAYMENTS IS MAY 31, 2016

REGISTRATION FEES DO NOT INCLUDE TRAVEL OR ACCOMMODATIONS

ADULT REGISTRATION FEE: \$100 CHILD AGES 10 AND UNDER: \$75

NAME OF FAMILY MEMBER	AGE	FULL OR PARTIAL PAYMENT AMOUNT
INSERT 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. 2X L/3X L - \$15 D. 4XL/5XL - \$16

NAME	SIZE	AMOUNT PAID
INSERT TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR ALL T-SHIRTS ORDERED		

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

TOTAL PAYMENT FOR REGISTRATION FEES	\$
TOTAL PAYMENT FOR T-SHIRT ORDERS	\$
GRAND TOTAL PAYABLE BY MONEY ORDER/CASHIER'S CHECK AS REQUIRED ABOVE; OR PAY AT WWW.BLSFAMILYREUNION.COM (NOTE: There is a nominal fee for use of Pay Pal)	\$

FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS CALL ANNEKA DICK, GROUP RESERVATIONS COORDINATOR FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS (MONDAY-FRIDAY) AT 520-796-821; 8-5 (MST)

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*DON'T MISS THE 2016 FAMILY REUNION
IT PROMISES TO BE A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE AND MORE*

BLS FAMILY REUNION COMMITTEE

3371 SOUTH VINE STREET

CHANDLER, ARIZONA 85248

Smooth Sailing with B.L.S.



**Batiste -  avalais - Sampson
Family Reunion**



WINTER'S ARTWORK WEBSITE: superiebunee.deviantart.com

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