

Davison Family Newsletter

AUGUST 2008



July 17, 18, 19, 2009
The 28th Annual
Davison Family
Reunion
In Peterman &
Monroeville, AL.

We are now less
than 1 year
from our next family
reunion.

Information will be sent
later this year about
2009 Hotel,
T-Shirt and Family Reunion
Dues and Activities that
will take place while we
are in Alabama!

Blessings Family.....

As you know it, the way time is flying by, we will be gathering together again to show love and enjoy a weekend with each other before we will have to return home again. We are so excited about this family reunion. After years of traveling, it is going to be back at the homeland. Many were born there and many have visited the area throughout our whole lives. We will travel far and near to get there. It will be another reunion to share memories even after it's over!

Your Committee for 2009

Chairman – Robert O. Coker

Treasurer – Robert O. Coker

Secretary – Beverly Walton (Red)

T- Shirts – Pierre Coker

Children Committee – Robert F. Coker & Clara Coker

Food Committee – Dora Coker, Jean Coker, Dolores Clausell & Nazareth Davison

BBQ Committee – Robert O. Coker, Dewaine Coker & Ray Davison

Videographer – Gregory Clausell

Photographer - TBA

STATE SPONSORS FOR 2009

Alabama – George Coker

Illinois – Beverly Walton

Michigan – Robert O. Coker

Mississippi – Ray Davison

Nebraska – Luke Davison

Ohio – Talmadge Davison

Texas – John A. Davison

**You may also email us:
davisonreunions@yahoo.com**

There were no funds left over from the 2007 Family Reunion, so we will be starting from scratch! Everyone needs to send in their family reunion dues on time. Thank you in advance!

We are also looking for a slogan for our Davison 2009 Reunion! (example – Back to the Homefront!) Email us some of your ideals!

BLESSINGS!

A FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER

STAYS TOGETHER!

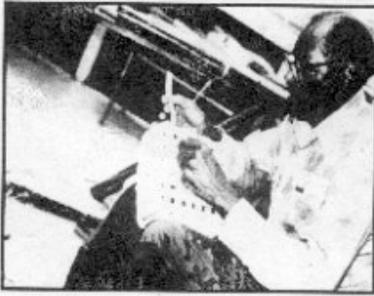
**PREPARE NOW TO
PLAN YOUR
VACATION! YOU DO
NOT WANT TO MISS
YOUR FAMILY
REUNION 2009!**



In Memory of
Alfonso Davison
10/12/33 – 06/18/08
Dewitt Davison's (Burnt
Corn) Oldest Son

Send your Email Address
to us!

WHOSE WAS WHO? MORE TO COME...



Mr. John Coker



Miss Lizzy Royster

Mr. John Coker was born in a little community called "China" in [Conecuh County](#) near [Evergreen, Alabama](#). He was one of 12 children. His father was a master basketmaker and so was Mr. John Coker. He made baskets that would hold as much as 125 lbs of materials. He move to Burnt Corn early in his life and brought property across the road from the [African American Bephany Baptist Church](#). Even though Mr. Coker was a member of the [Pilgrim Rest AME Zion Church](#) where he served as a deacon. Pilgrim Rest AME Church located approximately a mile further down the road arcross from [Burnt Corn Junior High School](#). He built his home in 1954, which is located in Burnt Corn on the Burnt Corn-[Peterman](#) Road. John Coker occupation was farming even though he maintained his basket making on the side. He made "cotton" and "corn" baskets from selected oak splits. Mr Coker married Johnnie Mae Davison and

had two sons, George Coker of Burnt Corn and Robert Coker of Springfield, Michigan. Mr. John Coker best friend was [Joseph \(Joe\) Watson](#). They had nicknames for each other, John Coker called Joe Watson "Lawyer" and Joe Watson called John Coker "Cowboy." Why?? we don't know, the secret went with them to their graves. Both Mr. John Coker and his best friend Joe "Lawyer" Watson died on February 1991. Mr. John Coker referred to his wife Johnnie Mae in the community by her pet name as "that girl". Johnnie Mae was an Insurance Agent selling burial insurance for Unity Insurance Company for Robert Jones Funeral Home in [Monroeville](#). Mrs. Johnnie Mae was the first person in Burnt Corn to own a Volkswagen Beetle which she said costed \$1600.00. Their oldest son George went to college and taught school at Monroe County Training School now known as J.F. Shields High School in [Beatrice, Alabama](#). Their youngest son Robert moved to Detriot, MI. He now resides in W. Bloomfield, MI.

Ms. Lizzy Royster was born in 1886, and lived in Burnt Corn most of her life. At age 20, she married Ed Royster and made her home in Burnt Corn. She had six children.

One of Miss Lizzy's, favorite past time was to travel, her words were "Travel honey, just travel and enjoy life." We used to joke and say that Miss Lizzy had "GO" written in her back. [Ms. Lizzy Royster](#) was born 1886, and her life in Burnt Corn up until about age 10 was as she described as "wonderful." Some of her treasured day was spent in the one-room schoolhouse. The room had only one fireplace to keep all warm inside. The school was located beside the "old" [Bethany Baptist Church](#) on the Burnt Corn-[Peterman](#) Road just above the now Frank Steadman property.

A total of some twenty-five students shared the schoolhouse with Miss Lizzy Royster At 7:45 all were seated and devotion was read, after which roll was called. Each student would answer "present." In the morning history and English were studied. In the afternoons geography, health and spelling gained the attention of the students. The students learned to spell by standing in front of the class, reciting, and then spelling the word. If it was spelled incorrectly the student moved to the back of the line. First through sixth grades studies together, while seventh and eighth grades were combined,

At lunchtime, Prince Tait, the schoolmaster, would say "All rise. Girls prepare to pass." Then the girls would go to their locker and obtain their lunch buckets. Next, the boys would obtain their buckets. They were kept separate for most parts. Lunchtime lasted one hour. When it was time to return to class, the schoolmaster would stand in the door and ring the bell. The readers (what we refer to as grades) would resume studies.

During playtime the girls usually were found playing baseball. Ms. Lizzy was especially fond of baseball. She considered herself a pretty good player. They also had favorite rhymes and songs of which she remembers with great finesse. The following one she performed with no hesitation...

"Here comes a gentleman...from Spain, To court your daughter Jane, My daughter Jane, she's much too young to be courted by anyone. Let her be older, let her be young, It is her duty, and it must be done."

Miss Lizzy remembers trips to Burnt Corn (they lived on the outskirts of town) in a horse and buggy. The day that her mother and other women of the community were filled with quiltmaking, cooking, spinning fibers on spinning wheels, and weaving socks for the boys and stockings for the girls. The men spent their days hunting, fishing, farming, making baskets, or running businesses.

Church was an important part of their lifestyle. Socials at church provided many hours of enjoyment, for example, on some occasions the ladies took box suppers to the church for the purpose of sharing them with the gentleman friend, and, of course, for raising funds for the church. The boxes were put in the middle aisle and a partner (male friend) made their intent to bid on the lunch box. The congregation would sing ... "Where was Moses when the light went out" then a candle was lit and a Bible verse using the term light was read such as ... "God said, Let there be and let your shine." The boxes were gathered from the middle aisle and gathered from the middle aisle and then escorted the respective lady to nearby shade tree to enjoy the meal. The boxes went upward of \$1.00.

Miss Lizzy speaks of coffee that was green. They had to boil it to obtain the brown color and the taste desired. She also tells of a concoction good for ailments called Sassafras Tea. A red root found in the fields was washed, cleaned, and dried. After this process, the kettle was put on to boil with the root inside. Syrup was used to sweeten most times due to the unavailability of sugar. She also mentions that the men would let the syrup barrels be skimmed of their toppings in order to make a product called "Beer-Whiskey."

At the age of 10, Miss Lizzy moved to Monroeville with her family after her mother's death. The family was soon separated further with her move to Pensacola. She lived with her father's brother there, (sitting nursing) with those needing and doing some traveling. At age 20, she married Ed Royster and made her home in Burnt Corn. She had six children, two of which were in World War II. She remembers electricity being connected in Burnt Corn around the year 1945 and telephones being installed on the outskirts of town around 1954.

Ms. Lizzy Royster is a legacy that life is "perhaps" what we make of it. She is both an inspiration and a delight, I am proud to know her. Her commitment to life is reflected in her terminology..."praying till you get knots on your knees." (Interview with Miss Lizzy, 1988)

More info: <http://burntcorn.com/>

I have requested that they put information about The Davison Family who lived in Burnt Corn on their site before our next family reunion. We may have to give them some feedback.