



## The President's Corner MARSHALL HILL

Hello, My name is Marshall Brent Hill. I am the son of **Rev. Henry E. Hill** and **Reonetta (Franks) Hill**. I am one of the descendants of **Henry F. Hill** and **Lenny J. (Flemings) Hill** who were my grandparents. My great grandparents were **Lamar and Luttie Posey-Hill**. I am 49 years of age. I have a wife, **Gracy (Price) Hill** of 25+ years. I have three children: **Marshall, Jr. (Brent)** -age 22, **Natasha**-age 16, and **Daniel**-age 14. I have lived in the St John Colony, Texas all my life. I attended school in Lockhart, Texas and attended college at Blinn Junior College in Brenham, Texas and Southwest Texas State University (currently Texas State University) in San Marcos, Texas. St John Colony has been celebrating Juneteenth in this area over 137 years. As president of the St John Colony 19th Body, STJ19B, one of my goals is to keep it going by bringing families together each year to learn more history about this community, our ancestors, and the things that make this community very special. In the future, it is my desire to have the barbecue pits redesigned to make them more effective. I would like to have a sidewalk poured from the pavilion area to the restrooms. I would also like to see the building of a basketball court and upgrading of the facilities for all the members of the community to use for recreation. With the continued support and help of everyone working together, this can be achieved. Thank you again for your support.

## LEST WE FORGET

By Louis Simms

Rev. Lee Otis Carter loves St. John Colony with a passion. He is largely responsible for putting St. John Colony's Juneteenth celebration on the map by tireless campaigning to local, and State agencies. It is typical



for television newsmen to cover the Juneteenth celebration because of Rev. Carter's relentless promotion of St. John Colony and the Juneteenth celebration. Moreover, because of Rev. Carter, the State of Texas Historical Commission has designated the St. John Colony Picnic and Historical Trail Ride as an official

Lee Otis: Continue page 2

## BLACK AND WHITE HILLS TOGETHER AGAIN

By Louis Simms

It was a dark gloomy morning with an air of unprecedented and yet, undefined expectations. It was a morning that Freddie Kruger could appreciate. Some appeared calm, but uncontrollable arm and leg movements exposed their nervous anticipation. Some were concerned for good reasons, and yet others were chatting continually about nothing to conceal their anxiety. Before getting into their cars, the preacher said, "Pray for your soul because the Day of Judgment is at hand." The caravan of cars left Austin driving into the abyss of uncharted territory to Hills Prairie and unknown people. Who are these people? Why would they live in the middle of nowhere surrounded by trees as thick as molasses? If someone got hurt, could we summon help in time? Oh Lord, please help us to navigate this sinister situation. Someone had suggested an escort by the Bastrop County Sheriff for protection, why didn't we listen? As the caravan moved closer and closer to our final destination the lead car stalled for what seems like days before moving ever so slowly toward the old rundown creepy two-story house that looked like the one in Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho. Oh God! Protect us from the evil that dwells within...Just yanking your chain. Please forgive me, but I couldn't resist a literary 'sci-fi' moment. It's true; we were a little apprehensive about our impending visit with the white Hills in Hills Prairie, Texas. However, our apprehensions were quickly alleviated when **Libby Sartain**, her mother **Sarah Pedrick**, and Libby's husband, **David Sartain** greeted us with opened arms and hearts. Our relationship with the white Hills is a testament to Libby's ancestors who treated our ancestors with love and respect. Below, **Wiley Hill**, Libby's ancestor, wrote in his Last Will and Testament about our ancestor and slave, **Edward Hill**: "Now my dear wife, I have left old man Edward to you during your natural life. I want him treated well and never to be put out under an overseer. I wish for him to do anything he can for you, but not to be treated ill by anybody, and let him have time to make him a little crop, and land convenient, for

Libby: Continue next column

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him to tend, he has been a faithful slave to me, and I want him favored in his old age. I should have left him to have served nobody but I have seen the evil of it they have come to suffer, and when it is the will of God to take you, I wish for him and his wife to go live with any one of my children that they wish to, that will treat them well, let them have their choice, he helped me get what I have got."

**THE JUNETEENTH PROGRAM**  
Saturday, June 20 - 11:30AM - 1:00PM

## SPEAKERS



Libby Sartain



Rev. W. Gregg

**Elizabeth 'Libby' Pedrick-Sartain** Libby is an author, was Chief Human Resource Officer for Yahoo and Southwest Airlines, a Sister in Christ, a true friend to the Hill Family, and the descendants of St. John Colony. She has shared her time, her family, and her history without hesitation. Libby is that 'one in a million' white slave owner's descendant who has done everything within her power to help the black Hills to factually document their history. Libby's extraordinary writing skills were on display in the foreword that laid the foundation in Rev. Gregg's book, [From a Prince to a Slave](#) ■ **Rev. Webster Gregg**, our co-keynote speaker, is a descendant of St. John and **Edward Hill**. Rev. Gregg is the Lead Minister of the Incarceration Ministry at St. James Missionary Baptist Church in Austin, Texas. He has a business degree from Modern College, attended ACC and Huston-Tillotson College, and he is currently attending theology school. He is also the author of two new books about the Hill Family from St. John Colony: [From a Prince to a Slave](#) and [The Hill Families from Africa to America](#). Rev. Gregg's books will be available at the Juneteenth celebration. Please contact Rev. Gregg at (512) 926-4363, if you have any questions.

Lee Otis: Continue from page 1

State of Texas Juneteenth Celebration. Rev. Carter Also created the Pre-Juneteenth Program in 2004, which is a historical overview of St. John Colony’s history. The program is from 10AM-12 Noon. Lee Otis Carter also organized the original Historical Trail Ride from Webberville to St. John Colony in 1985. The trail ride will begin at 9:30AM on Friday, June 19, in Webberville. It will end Saturday, June 20, 2009 at 11:30AM at St. John Colony’s Cemetery for the Historical Flag Raising. Call Rev. Carter at (512) 559-0418 or (512) 573-3252.

**8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DALE TO ST. JOHN JUNETEENTH TRAIL RIDE**



Clay Roland

Stanley Neal

There will be a **BBQ** and other activities after 3:00PM at Stanley Neal’s house Friday, June 19, 2009. ■ **The Trail Ride** is Saturday, June 20, 2009. The trail ride will start at 9:30 AM in Dale, Texas, ride to the Juneteenth Picnic Grounds for lunch, and then back to Dale, Texas. All riders, riding clubs and wagons are welcome. ■ The donation is \$4.00 per person. The proceeds from this trail ride goes to the St. John 19th Body. **Clay Roland, Stanley Neal, and STJ19B are not Responsible for Accidents.** Ride at your own risk. Please contact **Clay** at (512) 601-1166 or **Stanley** (512) 665-8837. ■ **Juneteenth’s Church Service** is 11:00 AM Sunday, June 21, 2009 at St. John Regular Missionary Baptist Church in St. John Colony.

**GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**



**Johnnie Fowler-Johnson** was born to **Waymon, Sr.** and **Mildred Walker Roland-Fowler** in St. John Colony November 7, 1943. Johnnie died November 2, 2008. As keynote speaker last year she spoke about better food choices for better health. She attended St. John Colony schools. She had a BS Degree in Communication from St. Thomas University in Houston, TX. She was a Health Coach working on her PhD.

**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**

**Shirley Roland-Hemphill** is asking everyone to please complete the donation form. The donations are \$20 for female head of households, \$30 for male head of household and \$30 per family. Make your money orders or checks payable to St. John 19th Body. Mail to: St. John 19<sup>th</sup> Body c/o Shirley Hemphill - 3208 Dale Lane - Dale, TX 78616. Call Shirley at (512) 601-1096 or (512) 517-5842. Your membership donations are tax deductible. ■ Vendor spaces are available for \$25, if you have your own tables and chairs. Vendors can rent one table and two chairs for \$35, please contact **Vonda Graham** at (512) 787-3823 or (512) 601-2525. ■ **Jermaine Hill, cook, needs volunteers to help cook the meat. Please call (512) 227-1736.** ■ **IN OR OUT OF TOWN,** please donate a COVERED DISH. You may donate salads, cakes, pies, veggies, and other covered dishes. ■ When going through the FOOD LINE, please take two veggies, salad, bread, and a dessert. We want to make sure everyone gets a complete meal. Once everyone has gone through the line, you are more than welcome to go through a second time. ■ **Freddie Roland** will announce the call for **TAKE HOME BBQ BEEF or CHICKEN.** Please designate on the donation form whether you want brisket or chicken to take home. ■ A free Moonwalk and other activities this year for the children. ■ Please CLEAN UP your area by putting your trash into the large trash barrels.

**GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**



**Brother Paul Franks** was born to **Hiawatha and Thelma Arnold-Franks** on November 14, 1942 in St. John Colony. He died on August 16, 2008. Paul received his BA Degree

in Physical Education and Health from Huston-Tillotson. He also attended Prairie View A&M University working toward a Master’s of Education Degree with a focus on Guidance & Counseling. He was an ordained Minister of the Gospel who was consumed by the Spirit to do the will of God. He was a member of STJ19B.

**New Elected Officers**

President	Marshall Hill	512-914-0348
Vice President	Doray Hill	512-601-2193
Secretary	Gracy Price-Hill	512-601-2817
Treasurer	Shirley Hemphill	512-601-5842
Asst Treasurer	C.T. Hemphill	512-601-1096

**GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**



Edward Simms

**Edward Simms,** my father, was the last child born to **Matthew Simms** and **Mary Davis Williams Walker Simms** in St. John Colony on October 20, 1916 and he died July 30, 2008 in Austin, TX. He was a veteran of World War II, owned a store in St. John Colony, wrote poetry as a young man and was the ultimate ‘Jack’ of all trades. Edward married Doris Hill-Simms August 29, 1937. He avidly worked many areas for the Juneteenth, including the rejuvenation of the Juneteenth program.

**Mrs. Ima Jean Carter-Anderson** was born March 11, 1920 to Ammie and Georgia Walker-Carter, Sr. She departed on June 22, 2008 in Lockhart, Texas.



Ima Jean Anderson was the oldest of six children. She attended the St. John Colony School in Dale, TX. She confessed a hope in Christ at an early age. She became a member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church and remained a member until she departed this life to meet Christ on the other side. She loved the Lord, good gospel singing, and football, the Dallas Cowboys being her absolute favorite team. She was a lifetime Juneteenth member.



**John Bruce Lee Irving Alexander Haynes** was born on March 24, 1921, the second child of Earlie and Birdie (Walker) Haynes Dilworth, in St John Colony, Texas. He was baptized at a young age into the congregation of St. John Regular Missionary Baptist Church. Bruce was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. During his service in the army he was married to Mandy Franks.

**THE MEMORIAL WALL** sponsored by St. John Regular Missionary Baptist Church not only honors our ancestors, but you as well. You can view and have your name inscribed on this beautifully constructed wall while celebrating the Juneteenth. For more info: Edna Franks-Rayford (512) 601-2034 or Vessie Davis-Tutt (512) 303-0360