

# HEIROUSALEM COMMUNICATIONS

A FAMILY NEWSLETTER

JESSE H. WALKER, EDITOR

WE CAN CREATE A BETTER FUTURE!

Vol. 2 No. 1

February 1992

HAPPY 1992

Hello family and friends. What happened during Thanksgiving 1990? The answer is that most of you received a newsletter from me. The year 1991 seems to have been a very busy year that affected the communications process. However, the good news of 1992 is that we are still family, and that I will work to develop closer ties in the coming days and months of this year if you will help me.

FAMILY REUNION - JULY 3 - 5, 1992 - BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA: Although this leaves us just a short time, we can come together as a family during this time if we plan wisely. During the last week in February we will be meeting with Robert and Paul Walker to make some definite plans. Details will be sent to you as soon as arrangements have been made. In the meantime some family members have volunteered to do certain things. Millicent Walker Counts will collect and coordinate family pictures. Her address is 1179 Autumn Ridge Drive, Marietta, Georgia 30066. Her telephone number is 404-971-0580. Please give her a call and offer your assistance. Marietta Walker will collect and compile family recipes. Her address is 9104 Crossbow Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20022. Her telephone number is 301-839-0694. Please get your favorite recipes to Marietta to compile the family cookbook. There will be more information coming soon.

"AN ALABAMA LOVE STORY" includes the legend of Rita Wood Bates, one of the first citizens of Birmingham, Alabama. She was my great grandmother. On January 15, 1837, Rita Wood Bates was born a slave in what was then known as Jones Valley, Alabama, now known as the Eastlake section of the city of Birmingham. Her birth was recorded in the Wood family Bible as "Rita Wood, the property of Obediah Washington Wood". The Wood family were christians and were reported to have been very good to their slaves. They carried them to the Ruhama Baptist Church which was founded in 1819. A written history of this church is the documented source of this section of the "ALABAMA LOVE STORY". This church history was written by Superior Court Judge Thomas E. Huey. In 1861 Mother Rita was baptized along with some other slaves by the late Reverend Andrew Jackson Waldrop. In 1865 former slaves began to organize their own churches. The Pleasant

(Over)

(2)

Hill Baptist Church was founded in an area called Killough Springs. At the time of her funeral in 1947, Mother Rita was listed as a member in good standing since 1869.

At the age of 15 Rita married Clyde Bates and they gave birth to several children. One daughter was Mary Bates Pope, the daughter with whom she was living at the time of her death. Mary Bates Pope was 77 years of age at the time of her mother's death, and lived to become 88 years old. She was the mother of Mary Ann Pope Walker who was my mother. Mary Ann was 68 years of age at the time of her death in January of 1975.

FAMILY SKETCHES:

Millicent Walker Counts had an auto accident and has been in therapy. Pray for her complete recovery and that she will pass her CPA exam in May 1982.

Dr. Alicia Madden is doing a residency at the Perryville, Maryland Veterans Administration Hospital. Alicia is a podiatrist.

Helen Rita Walker is the mother of a set of twin girls, Jacqueline and Monique, in Fort Washington, Maryland.

Everett Suttle had two great concerts in Birmingham and LaFayette, Georgia in January.

INFORMATION REQUESTED: Please send me any information that you might have about the sisters and brothers of Mary Bates Pope, the children of Clyde Bates and Rita Wood Bates. Send any additional information that you might have about Mary Bates Pope and her husband, Robert Pope.

To continue to compile documentation of our family history, please send any information that you might have on James Arthur Brown and Henry Walker, Sr. Send all information to:

Rev. Jesse H. Walker  
319 S. Red Lion Terrace  
Village of Crofton  
Bear, Delaware 19701  
302-322-5021

Until next time.. . . .