

Epilogue

Since one objective for writing **CLANDESTINE** is to promote linking generations – the elderly and the young – we encourage both young and old to acquire and internalize as much knowledge as possible. This applies to everyone and every family, but it is especially true for African/Black people given the arduous journey of our people and how much of our history has been lied about and distorted. It is essential that we push our youth to learn and value their history by stressing the significance of them positively engaging in our communities. We must let them know the huge difference their involvement will make. Our youth must be an integral part of preserving the rich history of our people. Sharing family stories is a wonderful way to spark the interest of youngsters.

Future generations and historians, as well, will appreciate and benefit from any documentation you and others leave behind. And for off-line records, remember: "Every unidentified photo is a lost Ancestor."

In that spirit, the authors are pleased to share several notes and photos depicting descendants of the Reddicks. We hope in doing so, we will encourage others to tell their family stories and to actively solicit and document the wealth of information that Elders in their family are willing to share. And perhaps record them, too.

Some notes on and photos of the next generations of the Oteys and the Reddicks follow...



The Reddick sisters – Marie, Ellen and Thelma; daughters of John and Della Reddick and granddaughters of Bolen and Mariah Reddick

Luther, the second born after Ellen, of the Reddick siblings. He was called 'Brother,' so Damani and his cousins called him "Uncle Brother."

His son John A. Reddick, from Vancouver, Washington, is the last to carry the Reddick name.

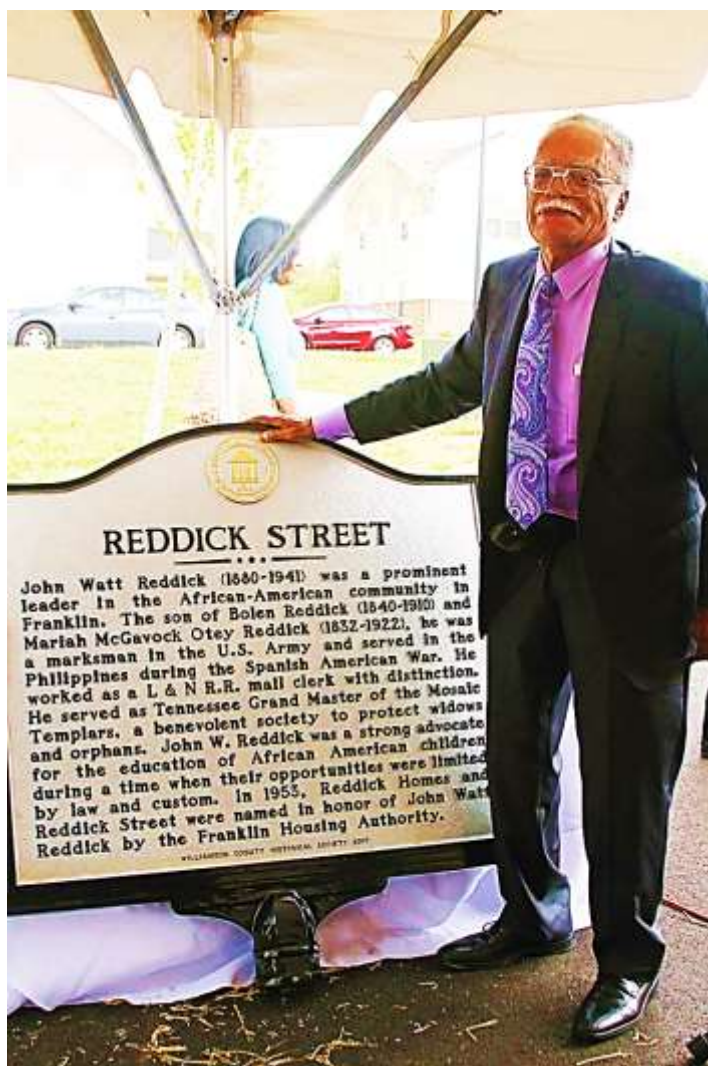


An email from Williamson County and Franklin historian, Rick Warwick, March 6, 2015:

I went to the archives this afternoon and found some interesting items. Bolen is listed in the 1880 census living with Mariah in Franklin so that let me know he didn't serve 15 years. I then went to the tax records and discovered that he was first listed in the 9th District rolls paying \$2 poll tax in 1873.

He is not on the 1872 rolls so he must have been released between 1871 and 73. I checked the deed books and discovered he purchased the lot on Columbia Ave. on July 27, 1884 from Hugh D. Southall. The lot was 48 1/2 feet by 175 ft and was fronting on Columbia Ave. next to Hugh Southall, the Christian Church (Cummins St. Church of Christ) and Charley Southall - price \$150.

John W. Reddick bought his lot on Columbia Ave. 92 ft. X 160 ft. from the estate of Joe L. Parkes, Sr. for \$1,000 in 1908. Deed Book 30, page 409. Also, of interest was Joseph Reddick. He appears on the tax rolls in 1875. He buys a house on 2nd Ave. for \$1,200 from J.B. McEwen across from the Masonic Hall. I have talked to one of his descendants several years ago, who was visiting in Franklin. It is possible he is a brother to Bolen.



One of Bolen and Mariah Reddick's three great-grandsons, Porter James, Jr., is pictured at the 2017 unveiling of the historical marker for Reddick Street named for 'Papa' - John Watt Reddick. Porter, Damani and John Alva Reddick, of Vancouver, Washington, are his only great-grandchildren. The marker was created by the Franklin Housing Authority and the Williamson County Historical Society with input by Reddick descendants and coordinated by Damani.

Revered and outstanding local Black historian Thelma Battle of Franklin, TN, helped to arrange a reception for our family at the Museum and Archives on Main Street. The attending members of the Otey and Reddick families met for the first time.

The dedication of the Reddick Street Apartments and the unveiling of the marker were the occasion for a reunion of the Oteys and the Reddicks after decades and decades and current generations not knowing of the existence of the other branch of the family.

At a reception at the County Museum and Archives family members were greeted by the city's Vice Mayor and other dignitaries. Here is the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggL1q2Y4TiA>

And here also:

https://archive.org/details/Mariah_Reddick_-_A_Legacy



Historian Extraordinaire Thelma Battle with Ife. Thelma, a prolific author, has become family to us. Her research is phenomenal and she has been wonderfully helpful to us and many others. Coincidentally, two generations ago, members of the Battle and Reddick families knew each other in Franklin.



Ford 'Ron' Otey, Damani and Porter James, Jr. Ron is a descendant of Harvey Otey and his first wife Phebe. Although we are now dear cousins, we are not related by blood. Ironically, we found that not only did we serve in the Air Force at the same time, but had the same job in the Air Defense Command. Ron and his late sister Julia did a great deal of family research, and he shared it with us.



Starting from the left are Dr. Shirley Covington Lightfoot, Velma Otey and Ford (Ron) Otey. He descends from Harvey and his first wife Phebe Otey. Shirley and Velma were married to descendants. Mariah was matched with Harvey after Phebe died in 1852.

Next to Ron are Ife and Damani Keene, Porter James, Jr., his wife Gail Wright, Laura Jordon James (the spouse of David A. James) and Zahra Bonner (the daughter of Juliet James Bonner and Banchoice Bonner). Standing behind Porter James, Jr. are two of his grandsons Davis James and Samuel James, his son, David A. James and Porter's daughter Juliet James Bonner. Behind Juliet is her husband, Banchoice Bonner. (THANKS, David and Lara for photos, and Ban for video.)

Not in attendance from the James family were: Joyce Brody James, mother of Jennifer, David and Juliet, as well as David and Lara's son Aaron James and Porter's and Joyce's daughter Jennifer Price Booker and her daughter Jenna Price.

Here is the link to an article (with a few factual errors) published in The Herald of Williamson County:
http://www.williamsonherald.com/news/grand-opening-of-reddick-apartments-recognizes-rich-history-of-namesake/article_ca1ffff4-258b-11e7-88c0-7f26a1f4b7a9.html



Flem Otey Family Reunion, circa 1920s. Flem, Sr. was one of Mariah's stepsons (Adorables)

Ron's family is well-known in Nashville, TN. His relatives, Flem Otey Jr.'s family (below), owned Otey Quality Grocery. For decades, it catered to the Black neighborhood and students at Fisk University, Meharry Medical College nearby and Tennessee State University. That business grew into Otey's Center and then Otey Center.



Flem B. Otey Family: Sallie, Flem, Jr., Little Alice, Malinda, Oscar, Flem, Sr. and Henrietta



1914-1935 Green's Grocery:
1935-1953 Otey's Quality Grocery



Nashville Public Library Digital Collection

<http://nashville.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/nr/id/825>



Otey Center (17,000 square feet) in the 2000s (photo from Facebook) represents a strong family legacy, which is outlined here:

<https://www.pridepublishinggroup.com/pride/2014/04/04/the-otey-family-legacy-zion-new-jerusalem-celebrates-families/>.



Ron (Ford) Otey and his late sister Julia Otey Lee, pictured here singing with their father Ford Otey.

Thanks to Lisa Otey Spencer for the photo

The ribbon cutting for the Reddick Street Apartments (which replaced the razed Reddick Homes for low-income families) and the unveiling of the historical marker were on April 20, 2017.

First cousin Porter James, Jr. shows to his son David, Papa Columbia Avenue house on an old city map at the Franklin and Williamson County Museum and Archives

Damani Keene delivers remarks at the marker's unveiling and the dedication of the Reddick Street Apartments in April 2017.



Reddick's

Thelma Reddick Keene, youngest granddaughter of Bolen and Mariah Reddick received a newspaper clipping in the mail in the 1950s regarding the Reddick Homes and proudly showed it to her then-young son, Billy 'Damani' Keene.



At left, the Author's Mom as an unsmiling "flapper"- perhaps in the "Roaring 20's" She was later a big fan of Frank Sinatra, Lawrence Welk and Lena Horne.

Thelma Louise Reddick Keene (1913 – 1984)
(This photo was taken by her nephew Porter James, Jr. in St. Albans, Queens, NY. and restored by Ed Keen)

Thelma told Damani, her only child, that a school could have been named for her father because he was a strong advocate for education. Thankfully, she held on to the news clipping and so did her son, who is a habitual "pack-rat." It was the one shred of evidence to "prove" that the Reddick Homes and Reddick Street were named for Papa and not for a wealthy white man of similar name.

She also shared the "shotgun story" included in **CLANDESTINE**, but it was her Dad and her, not Bolen and a grandchild.



Damani's parents, George V. Keene and Thelma Reddick Keene with "Billy" in Hyde Park, NY at the former residence of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1953

The photo below is of the block in New York City where in the pre-World War II years, George Keene owned a cigar and notions shop at 161 West 145th Street. His store is to the left of the Auto Glass shop.





"Billy" Keene and Mom – Thelma Reddick Keene (1913-1984), Damani's Dad, George Valentine Keene (1892-1973) and Damani and his Mom after she moved in the late-1970s to Maryland to live with him, Ife and their kids.



Contributing Author Ife Keene is the oldest of three daughters of Wells and Johnnie Mae Kilgore, shown (above, left) at their 50th Anniversary celebration in Camden, NJ.

Ife with her sisters (pictured, top right in 1959), Cynthia Jackson (left) and Brenda Brown (center). Bottom photo has Cynthia Jo on the right and Brenda Lee in the middle. They both live in New Jersey.



The descendants of Wells and Johnnie Mae Kilgore at
The Kilgore Langston Gist Miles Family Reunion, Atlanta, GA, August 2019. Love them!!
This wonderful family welcomed me warmly when Ife and I married in 1966. Many of them will recognize the "parrot
story" in CLANDESTINE, though the names have been changed to protect "innocent" Thomas, Jr. and Wells.

The authors, "Then and Now."

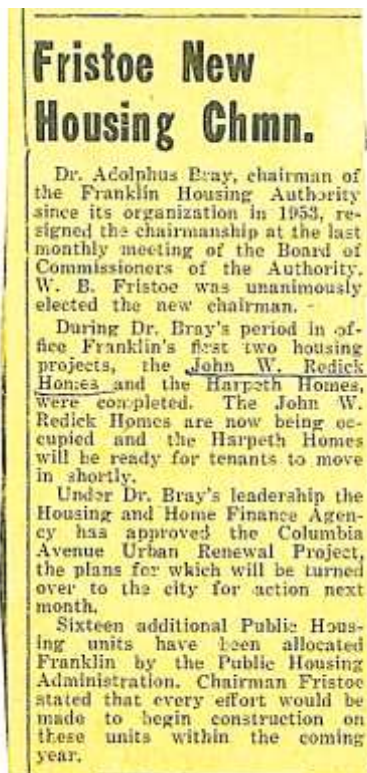


*Ife and Damani (wearing a 'Free Angela' button) at Cornell University's Africana
Studies & Research Center, about 1971, and— both with a lot less hair - in Panamá in 2007 and 2016.
The geese were named, "Honk" and "Tonk" and insisted on being in the photo,
which was taken for a Business Week magazine article on expatriates.*



*The authors' daughter Dr. Kweli Keene Carson (2nd from left)
with the authors' granddaughters (from left) Brittany Mills,
Nandi Carson and Danielle Newman.
Brittany and Danielle are the daughters of Khalid V. Keene,
shown below with them.*





*Old yellowed newspaper article and the Reddick Homes – segregated housing for African/Black families.
The photo, taken in 2006 by Porter James, Jr., shows the Reddick Street sign*

That undated scrap of newspaper, with a passing reference and a misspelling, was the only initial evidence that Reddick Street and the now-demolished Reddick Homes were named for Papa. Adjacent to the Homes, the city built the beautiful Reddick Senior Residence.



Low income housing would make Papa proud.

https://affordablehousingonline.com/housing-search/Tennessee/Franklin/Reddick-Street-Apartments/1008825_1

A footnote to Franklin and Tennessee Black/African history may have been lost forever. But Damani brought the old yellowed article to the attention of the Franklin Housing Authority's Director, Derwin Jackson. He and his staff, especially Susan Minor, readily took steps to ensure that historical memory was restored and preserved. We are profoundly appreciative for their receptiveness, action and support.

From the newsletter of the Franklin Housing Authority - 2016

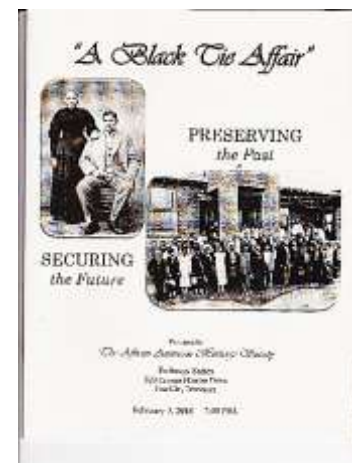


Bill "Damani" Keene and his wife Ife recently visited the FHA. Mr. Keene is the grandson of John Watt Reddick, the namesake of Reddick Homes and the Reddick Senior Residences. John Watt Reddick was the son of Mariah McGavock Otey Reddick and Bolen Reddick.

Mr. Keene's mother, Thelma Louise Reddick, was born at 419 Columbia Avenue. Her father, John Watt Reddick was the Grand Master of the Tennessee Mosaic Templars Lodge in the 1920's and 1930's. He worked on a mail railroad car and is buried at Toussaint L'Ouverture Cemetery next to his parents.

Our plan is to honor the history of the site and include some signage regarding the Reddick history at the Reddick Apartments site once those buildings are complete.

In recognition of Ife's and Damani's efforts, the African American Heritage Society of Williamson County and its Director Mrs. Alma McLemore were kind enough to honor the authors with a 2017 Preservation Award for our work to ensure John Watt Reddick's work and legacy was protected as well as our research for *CLANDESTINE*. It was presented by Ms. Thelma Battle at the Society's Annual Black-Tie Affair.



Ife and Damani Keene accepted the Preservation Award in Franklin, TN in February 2017

The authors visited Carnton Plantation for the third time in 2017, this time with their children and one grandchild.



From the left: Dr. Kweli Keene Carson, Damani & Ife Keene, Malik Imari Keene, Khalid V. Keene II and Khalid V. Keene at Carnton House in February 2017. Khalid V. Keene, II entered the University of Florida to study Chemical Engineering in Fall 2019 and is the great-great-great-grandson of Bolen and Mariah Reddick. He is also the 4th generation Keene bearing the middle name Valentine.

R.M.S. = Railway Mail Service



John Watt Reddick (1880 – 1941)

R. M. S. NOTES.
Chief Clerk Welch was in the city holding examinations July 9th. Clerks Walker, Stevens and Redick were among those examined, the latter making 100 per cent. Clerk Redick was transferred here from the Atlanta & New Orleans R. P. O., and will reside at Franklin, Tenn.

The Nashville Globe, Friday July 10, 1908

Reddick/James/Jordan Cousins



Pictured above are Reddick cousins. It's the James Family Reunion hosted by the Jordans. The annual Shining Sea Bike Path Family Portrait, 2019. From left, David A James, Aaron Lawson James, Jenna Price, Samuel James, Davis Alexander James, Lara Jordan James, Carolyn Lamar Jordan, Zahra Bonner, Juliet Bonner, Jennifer James Price Booker, and Larry Jordan.

Not in the photo are Joyce Brody James, mother of Jennifer, David and Juliet, and Banchoice Bonner, Juliet's husband. Aside from Larry, Carolyn and Lara Jordan, everyone else pictured is a child or grandchild of Porter James. Jr., the son of Porter and Marie Reddick James and the grandson of John and Della Reddick.

Four generations of Reddick/Keene male descendants



Kweli Keene Carson, D.D.S. and Malik Keene, our daughter and youngest son. Below, son (in-law) Marcus 'Reggie' Carson, D. Pharm, and our granddaughter, Nandi Carson.

Above:

At far right: Damani (great-grandson of Bolen & Mariah Reddick)

At far left: Khalid (2x great-grandson)

Rear: Khalid II (3x great-grandson)

Front: Jachai Hughes (4x great-grandson)

Three other 4x great grandsons below from left: TJ Newman, London Mills and Tyson Newman



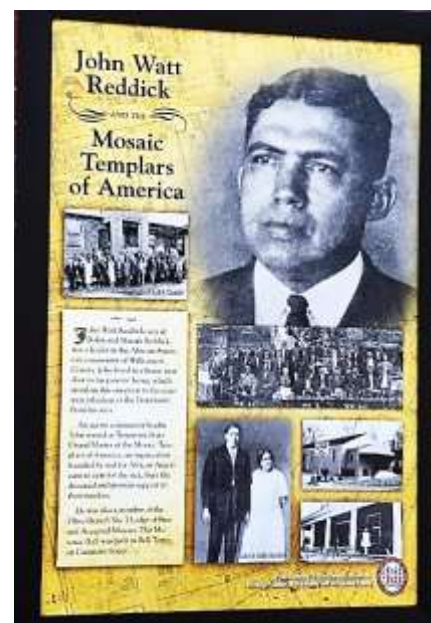
This is one panel of a mural in Franklin on the site of Papa John W. Reddick's home. It features photos of:

- the UBF (misidentified as the Mosaic Templars)
- Papa
- Franklin's Olive Branch Lodge #7 of the Free and Accepted Masons
- John and his wife Della Reddick
- a local church and, at the bottom right,
- Damani's mother Thelma Louise Reddick Keene as a child with her on the front porch of her parents' home.

Another panel (shown on another page) features Bolen and Mariah Reddick.

"The 1933 -34 Franklin telephone book indicates that the Reddicks lived at 419 Columbia Ave. with a phone number of 549."

Per an email from Rick Warwick, March 17, 2014



cat

REDDICK—Thursday evening at 10 o'clock, at her home in Franklin, Tenn., 419 Columbia Ave., Mrs. Della Reddick. She is survived by a husband, John Watt Reddick; three daughters, Misses Ellen, Marie and Thelma Reddick; one son, Luther B. Reddick, all of Franklin; a mother, Mrs. Luvina Johnson of Talladega, Ala.; sisters, Mrs. Fannie Calhonne also of Talladega, and Mrs. Katie Bright of Detroit, Mich.; brother, Will P. Johnson also of Detroit; nieces, Mrs. Annie Brummitt of Cincinnati, O.; Misses Mildred McCloud and Luvenia Bright, both of Detroit; nephews, Will P. and Daniel McLead; other relatives and friends. The remains are at the home in Franklin and the funeral will be Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock at the First Baptist church of Franklin, conducted by the pastor, Rev. S. J. Dixon. Interment in family square at Franklin cemetery. Zema Hill and Wilson, directors. Nashville phone, 7-9012; Franklin phone, 308-J.

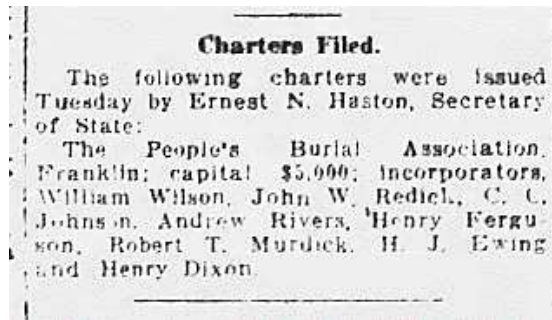


(Left) The obituary of the author's grandmother Della Louise Reddick (August 1878 – December 5, 1929). Her half-sisters - by her father's first wife Margaret - are pictured, Lavinia (1875-1916) and Nellie (1876-1925). Della's father was Daniel Johnson (Census listed him as Mulatto) and her mother was his second wife, also named Lavinia. They lived in Talladega, AL. At least two of their grandchildren (Marie and Thelma Reddick) attended Talladega College.

Thanks to Thelma Battle and Charita Upkins, both of Franklin, for sending us this clipping and to Thelma for the photo and her thorough research. Records contain conflicting information on Daniel's birth year, and state of birth.

For his middle name, one source gives Jolerson while listing him as Jr., and another, the initial K.

More research is needed.



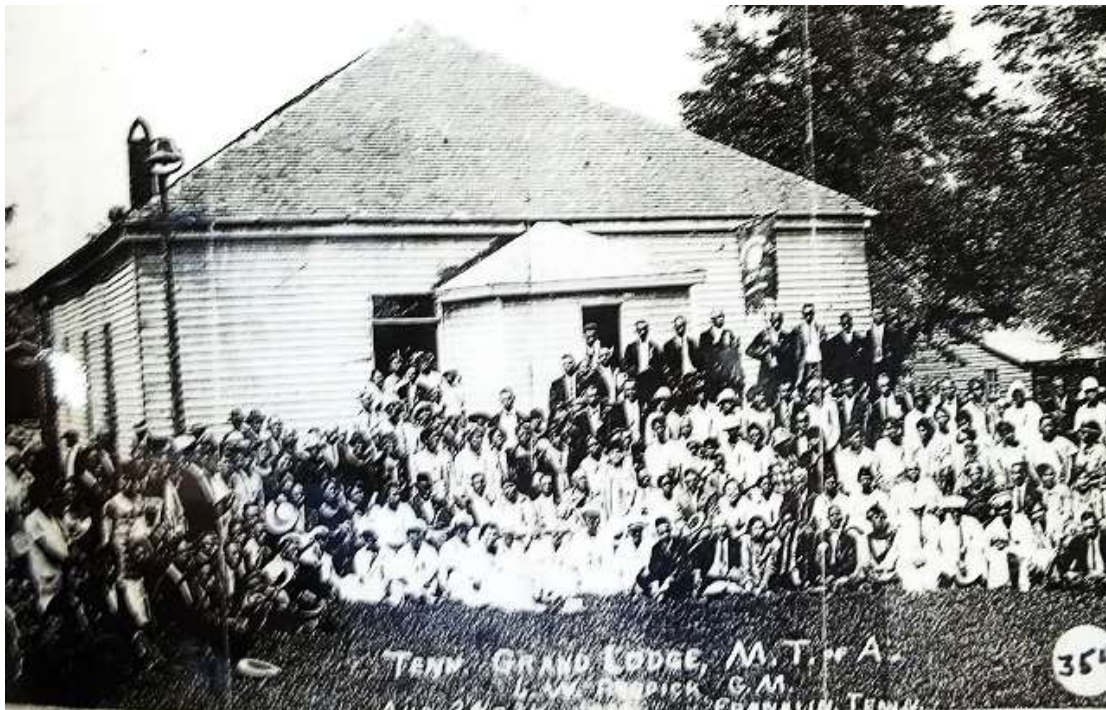
Newspaper article from 1925

<http://usctwillcotn.blogspot.com/search?q=reddick>

"In 1925, John W. Reddick's name was listed among a group of men who incorporated the "People's Burial Association" in Franklin. It's not clear whether this was associated with the MTA or another endeavor.

"That same year, the Tennessee Grand Lodge of the Mosaic Templars of America met in Franklin at the Providence United Primitive Baptist Church on the Corner of Natchez St. and Grandbury Streets. Photo is below."

Many, many thanks to Tina Cahalan Jones, who writes the Blog: <http://usctwillcotn.blogspot.com/>. She has been an invaluable and consistent resource for our family research.

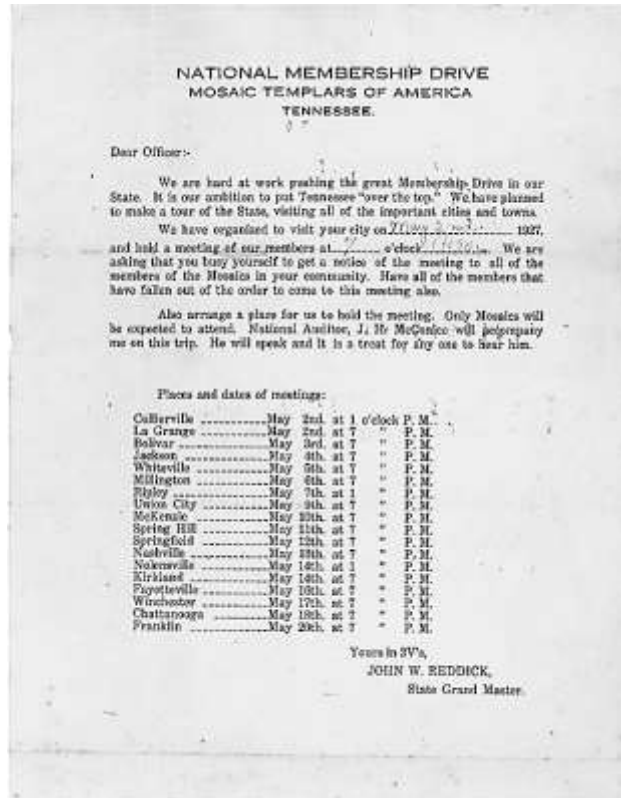
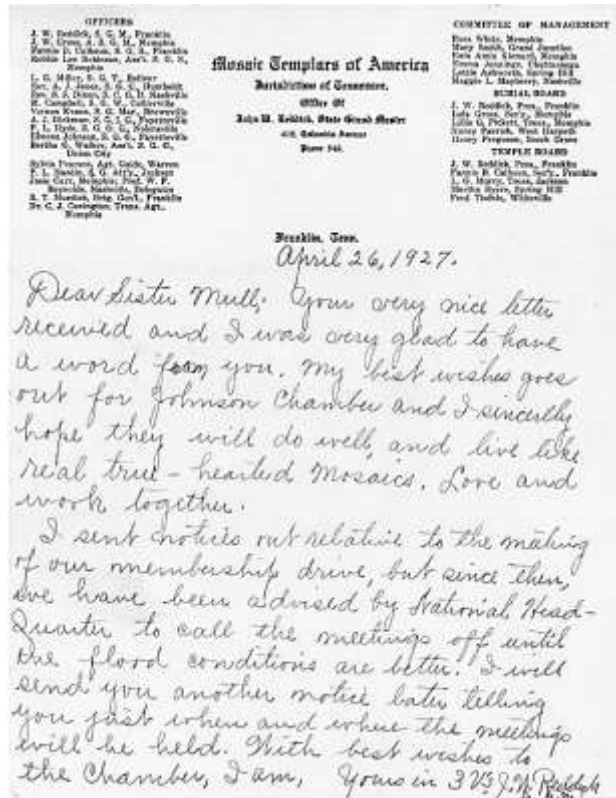


John Watt Reddick was the State Grand Master of the Tennessee Lodge of the Mosaic Templars of America and the Sisters of the Mysterious Ten. The State Grand Lodge met in Franklin, TN in 1925. The man sitting in the middle near the front in the light-colored suit holding his hat looks more like Papa than anyone.

Courtesy of Rick Warwick, Historian for the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County

The local unit of the Mosaic Templars in Franklin was named Reddick Temple. It seems logical to conclude that it was named after Papa.

Below is a letter he wrote while serving as State Grand Master for Tennessee, cancelling a membership meeting because of a major flood. Perhaps the cancellation was for one of the meetings scheduled in the letter to the right.



<http://usctwillcotn.blogspot.com/2018/02/mosaic-templars-of-american-reddick.html>

Tina Cahalan explained the closing: "The "3V's" represent John E. Bush's [one of the MTA founders] triumphant motto, adopted from Julius Caesar, "Veni, Vidi, Veci" ("I came, I saw, I conquered.)."

Per Mosaic Records regarding J.W. Reddick, as stated on Tina Cahalan Jones' blog:

- Rank: Tennessee State Grand Master (elected August 30, 1922);
- President, Burial Board of Tennessee;
- President, Temple Board of Tennessee

Mosaic Templars of America Meet in Franklin
John Watt Reddick, Local Negro, Heads the State Order
The Review-Appeal (of Franklin, TN)
August 26, 1926

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week the members of the state grand lodge of the Mosaic Templars of America, are convening in Franklin. This is strictly a colored organization founded in 1883, now operating in 26 states with more than one hundred thousand members. The Tennessee membership is about seven thousand. The National Headquarters are in Little Rock, Arkansas. The assets of the order are nearly one million dollars.

All meetings of the order are being held here in the Primitive Baptist Church.

The object of the order is caring for the sick, burying the dead, and furnishing an endowment fund for the families of the deceased. It is well known that the order has done a great deal of good for the members of the colored race in Franklin and Williamson County. It has buried hundreds of the dead and paid out thousands of dollars to the needy. All of the state officers and delegates from the various lodges are in attendance at this three

day meeting. About three hundred delegates are here.

John Watt Reddick, well known Franklin negro, who for the past 21 years has held a governmental position as railway clerk and who enjoys the good will of these white citizens of Franklin as well as the members of his own race is head of the state order and is presiding over the order's state grand master. He is well educated, intelligent, and courteous to everyone. His record since assuming the duties of his office is a splendid one and the delegates could do no better than to elect him for another term. Certainly his work merits another term in office.

Courtesy of Rick Warwick, Historian for the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County

Mariah was featured, including her photo, on "CBS Sunday Morning" in 2006.

'The Widow of the South'



"Confederate and Union armies met outside Franklin, Tenn., where the sacrifices of Carrie McGavock became legendary. She is the subject of Robert Hicks' book, "The Widow of the South."

On NOV 30, 2006, SUNDAY MORNING Play VIDEO"

Unfortunately, the link to the video of the program is inactive.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/search/?q=%27widow+of+the+south%27+%27robert+hicks%27>

Mariah and Bolen Reddick are remembered on another panel of the on Columbia Avenue in Franklin. You can enlarge it to read the text.



Photo courtesy of Find A Grave and Birdgirl



mural

It is possible that Damani's mother Thelma Reddick Keene is in this photograph of the 1934 graduates of Tennessee State University.

"The university was established as the Tennessee Agricultural Industrial State Normal School for Negroes in 1912.[4][5] Its dedication was held on January 16, 1913. It changed its name to Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial State Normal College in 1925. Two years later, in 1927, it became known as Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial State College."

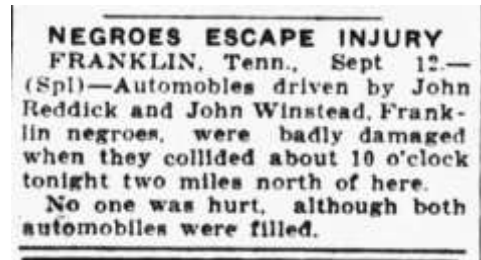
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tennessee_State_University



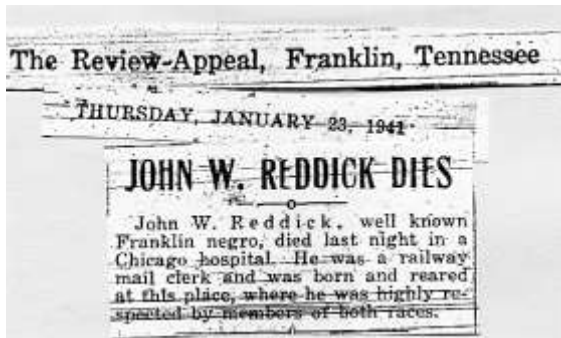
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Nashville Tennessean, Monday, September 13, 1937

Thankfully, Papa (1880-1941) his neighbor and their passengers not injured in this 1937 auto accident.



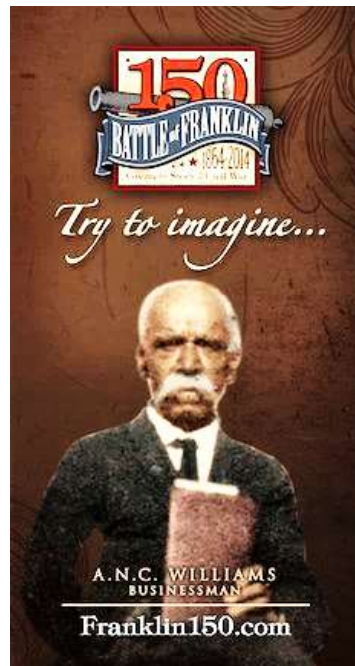
were



Papa died in 1941 at the Veterans Hospital in Cook County, Illinois where his daughter Marie lived with her husband Porter James, Sr. and their sons, Porter James, Sr. and Richard Green.

In observance of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin, A.N.C. Williams and Mariah Otey Reddick were among the citizens

(and the only Africans) chosen to be featured on banners on Main Street. The photo of Mariah shows her holding Carrie McGavock's granddaughter.



Panamá - 2016



The authors, Ife and Damani, in the highlands of the Republic of Panamá near their home, "Sunset Dreams," in Sorá. The Pacific Ocean is in the distance.

Photo taken by Ife B. Grady, Editor 'Extraordinaire' of **CLANDESTINE**.

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Unveiling and Dedication of a Memorial to Enslaved Africans at Carnton Plantation

On November 9th, 2019, coincidentally on Damani's late Mom's birthday, preservationists led by "Franklin Charge" unveiled and dedicated a large memorial stone in honor of the mostly unidentified enslaved Africans interred in the "slave section" of the cemetery at Carnton, where Mariah Otey Reddick was once enslaved.



Thanks to Franklin Charge for the photos.

Although Mariah is not buried there, her and Bolen's still-born twins, Isaiah and Winder Reddick are interred there together. Had they lived, they would have been Damani's great-uncles.

* * * * *

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & APPRECIATION

Giving honor and praise to our esteemed **Ancestors**, Ife and I gratefully acknowledge them with respect and admiration.

Asé

I thank first, last and always the life of my love and love of my life and Contributing Author, my dear and lovely wife **Carole 'Ife' Kilgore Keene**. She's a twice published author in her own right: ***All of A Sudden It's Too Late*** www.smashwords.com/books/view/146049 and her first book, available by special order only, ***Cancer of the Spirit***. Her innumerable contributions to this work and steadfast support of me are priceless. My gratitude to her is beyond expression. This became a joint endeavor very early, and has been joyful and immensely rewarding. We reached a point where we couldn't always identify who had written a certain part. There really aren't any words, but... Asante Sana, Boobie!!

I thank my dear first cousin **Porter James, Jr.**, whose initial research helped tremendously and **Ms. Thelma Battle**, the great and revered local historian of Franklin, TN. Her knowledge and assistance have been invaluable. She has become family to Ife and me. Ironically, two generations ago her family in Franklin knew my family quite well. I remember with fondness Porter's parents, **Porter, Sr. and Marie James** and their adopted son, the late **Richard Green**. He left us too soon, but I will always remember his kindness and love. I acknowledge my only other first cousin in North America, **John A. Reddick** of Vancouver, WA. He is the last to carry our great-grandfather's surname and our grandfather's first name. Thanks to a distant cousin, **Doris McLeod-Williams**, related to my maternal grandmother **Della Johnson Reddick**, who was extremely helpful to me in my research. And thanks to cousin **Gladys Manigault Watkins** for introducing us. Gladys and I were classmates at Howard, but didn't know we were related until my Mom recognized her Mom on campus Commencement Day in 1966!!!

Special thanks to my brother (in-law) **Gary "Ghairi Baxepira" Brown** for his specific and pivotal creative inspiration for significant plot points of **CLANDESTINE** and for his own book, ***Pyramids Analogy to Our Reality***, and to his son, **Denny Brown**, both of whom recommended critical resources to me, a first-time novelist.

Ife and I profoundly thank our Editor, **Ife B. Grady** (at ifebgrady@yahoo.com; Yes, another Ife – smile -), whom we met in Panamá. Her insights, suggestions, comments, and above all, her compatible understanding of the mission of **CLANDESTINE** to ensure that uplifting African culture was a prominent theme throughout our work, were paramount in telling what we endeavored to achieve: a truthful and inspiring work from an African perspective.

We also thank our dear daughter **Kweli** for her priceless cross-checking of the final manuscript. Her thorough and detailed review was helpful beyond measure. You're the best, Suga! We thank our son **Khalid** and his son, **Khalid II**, for their outstanding work to create video "trailers" for **CLANDESTINE**. Absolutely great work. We thank our youngest son **Malik** for his consistent support and appreciation for the mission of **CLANDESTINE** and our other Afrocentric endeavors through the years. He was a student of **Baba Agyei** of Watoto Shule in Washington, DC.

We wholeheartedly thank our (Ife's) sister **Brenda K. Brown** for her unwavering support and promotion of this and numerous other endeavors in the past. We are truly blessed to have her in our lives, and even more blessed to have her as family. Love you, Bren.

Many thanks to **Akili Ron Anderson**, a long-time friend, for his amazing artwork which we licensed to use as our symbol for **CLANDESTINE**. His works in wood, stained glass, photography, set design and on canvas are phenomenal. www.AkiliRonAnderson.com Support him, please.

Also, I wish to recognize and thank my recently (2016) discovered "step" cousin **Ford (Ron) Otey** of Nashville and his late sister **Julia Otey Lee** for their research on the descendants of my great-grandmother Mariah with her first husband **Harvey Otey, Sr.** I thank all of my cousins in the **Porter James, Jr.** family for their encouragement and support. On their behalf, I thank the people of Franklin, TN for the courtesies and kindnesses they extended to us when we have visited. In addition to those already mentioned, we thank **Eric Jacobson** and his staff at Battle of Franklin Trust, then-Vice Mayor **Pearl Bransford** and **Aimee Saunders**, former Director of the Williamson County Museum and Archives, **Carolyn Worthy**, **Eleanor** and **Mary Bright**, and particularly **Alma McLemore**, the Board and the sponsors of the African American Heritage Society of Williamson County.

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prominently featuring Mariah Otey Reddick (<https://www.amazon.com/Widow-South-Robert-Hicks/dp/0446697435>). Robert inadvertently inspired me to write and has been supportive; as well as **Rick Warwick**, the Historian of the Williamson County Historical Society (<https://williamsonheritage.org/staffandboard>). They are both in Franklin, TN., and have been generous with their time and knowledge. They are doing outstanding historical preservation work in Franklin, my Mom's hometown, where a major portion of the **CLANDESTINE** saga unfolds. In addition, **Christina "Tina" Jones Cahalan**, also in Franklin, has consistently provided valuable information. Her research has been eye-opening. Appreciation to **Phil Wilkes Fixio**, the African-Native American historian and specialist on African Fort. Thanks to each one!

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We thank the thirty-seven (37) people who submitted the name(s) of an Ancestor in response to our 2018 "**Honor Thy Ancestor**" opportunity. They allowed us to use that name for a fictional character in **CLANDESTINE** and thereby honor their Ancestor. **Asé** The list of those Ancestors and the descendant who submitted the name is on our website: <https://clandestine-life.com/book-activities/>

Many thanks to ALL our Afro-Panamáian friends, including: the **Goodin, Gobern and Lowe** extended families, **Daniel "The Champ" Gordon** of **Pio's Barber Shop**. Much admiration for the inimitable and indomitable "**Saint,**" aka **Ekunanticopo Dudu**, the courageous Afro-Panamáian freedom fighter. He battled imperialism alongside both Indigenous Peoples in Central America and beside other Africans in the Motherland. An inspiration. La Lucha Continúa! Muchas Gracias! Profound thanks to **TeeJ Mercer** of **Media Mavericks** (<http://www.mediamavericks.tv/>), who taught us how to "News Jack."

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James Loewen, in one courageous book, ***Lies My Teacher Told Me***, set the record straight on innumerable lies, omissions and distortions about American history just as **RedStickWarriors.com** and **J.B. Bird of www.JohnHorse.com** have done online. We thank them and others who refuse to accept - and offer a corrective to - the exclusionary and self-congratulatory pabulum that so often passes for "history" or "his story." Much appreciation to the owners, **John** and **Donna Cummings**, and research director **Dr. Ibrahim Seck** of the Whitney Plantation (<https://www.whitneyplantation.org/> - formerly the Habitation Haydel), and to the owner, **Richard Bourgeois** and his partner **Angela Cheramie**, of Ducros Plantation, who replied to our inquiries and were quite helpful. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ducros_Plantation and Facebook page: <https://bit.ly/2G5F6yj>)

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I thank all of those who either encouraged us in this quest or who - with subtle attempts to discourage us - provided additional motivation to tell “the other side” of the story in order to reduce what Nigerian novelist **Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie** calls, “The Danger of a Single Story” in her classic Ted Talk.

We deeply appreciate the initiative to promote **CLANDESTINE** by **Dr.-Louis-George Tin**, the Prime Minister of the **State of the African Diaspora**, which is Region VI of the African Union. (Damani was appointed a Member of Parliament of the State of the African Diaspora in early 2020.)

Recent (2020) additions to the **CLANDESTINE** team are **Mal and Carol Woolfolk** and our new friend **Bert Hickson** the Hollywood movie producer they introduced to us. We are excited to be working with him on future project. We thank each of them, as well as Bert's friend and scriptwriter **Dennis Flagg**, for their encouragement, expertise and enthusiasm.

FAMILY



I hope that my “lost” and long-sought-for cousins from Panamá, descendants of my aunt **Blanche Keene** of Kingston, Jamaica by way of Colón, will somehow discover me through this book. My efforts, despite assistance from 'Afrodescendientes' in Panamá, especially **Carmela Gobern** and her **Panamá Cybernews**, to locate them so far have been fruitless. Carm and others introduced us to **Lloyd and Lance Keene** and their wives. While their Dad also came to Panamá from Jamaica and we “favor,” so far, we have not discovered a direct family link. But we still call each other 'Primos' (cousins).



*In the photos above, left: Damani's Dad, **George V. Keene**, younger brother of **Blanche**, at the right.* I thank the **Oranes, Ebanks, Campbells and Maxwells** for welcoming me and my family after we discovered each other via DNA testing in 2019. We share common Ancestors - **Adam and Agnes (1815-1885) Keene** in Jamaica in the 1800's. They have already enriched our lives and we look forward to a big Family Reunion.



*Left: **John Orane and Maria Keene Orane**.
Maria (1815-1885) was the aunt of
George V. Keene – Damani's dad.*

*At right is their son, **Louis Orane**.
He migrated to Costa Rica and owned
a successful clothing business.*



Photo at right > >: Cousins **Diane Maxwell** (in black) and **Maria Ebanks** (right) with Ife and me at our first ever meeting in Summer 2019 near Annapolis, Maryland. Diane was the first to respond to my inquiry on Ancestry.com.



< < Photo at left: Cousins from Costa Rica:

Dr. Odel Orane Anglin in the center, his son, **Dr. Odel Orane Woodley**, at the right, both dentists, and (far left) his grandson, **Arkell Clarke Orane**, at our first meeting in Panamá in 2019. Their Ancestor migrated from Jamaica to Costa Rica.

Photo at right > > : On the left, is **Bill Henry**, husband of **Jennifer Orane-Henry** between Ife and me. On the right is **Christine Orane**. We met them in New Jersey for the first time in 2019, also.



In addition to the Jamaican branch of the family, DNA has recently (February 2020) uncovered a link to another branch of the Family Tree 'originally' from Mississippi, where Mariah was born. DNA shows Damani is related to the **Bass** family. It is possible they are related to Mariah's parents or other kinfolk enslaved at the Ducros Plantation in Terrebonne, LA.

Many thanks to **Apryle Stanley** for reaching out on Ancestry.com and providing this delightful information.

Damani is a DNA match to the one living child, **John 'Poly' Bass** (born 1934), of the distinguished-looking couple above. **Elisha Percy Bass** (1890-1970) and his wife, **Rosa Porter Bass** (1891-1953) lived in Sabine Parish, Louisiana until the late 1920s. Sabine is about 200 miles northwest of Terrebonne Parish, home to Ducros Plantation. The 1930 census shows the family lived in Mounds, Creek County, Oklahoma. In 1937, the family migrated to Chowchilla in Madera County, California.

Damani and Ife tested their DNA and found their African roots in **Benin, Nigeria, Central Africa (Congo), Ghana, Senegal, Mali** and **southern Africa, as well**. So, we look forward to meeting those "Cousins" soon!

Edward Keen is a 5th to 8th cousin identified by DNA results on GEDMatch, who, despite the similarity in name, appears not to be related to the Keene family in Jamaica. At his own initiative, he restored photos of my Mom and of Papa Reddick, included in *Clandestine*. Thank you!

We acknowledge our fantastic grands, **Nandi A. Carson, Khalid V. Keene II, Brittany Jackson Mills** and **Danielle Newman**, and we thank our three wonderful children, **Malik I. Keene, Kweli K. Carson and Khalid V. Keene**, as well as son-in-law **Marcus "Reggie" Carson**, for their loving encouragement and enduring support. We thank **all** of the **Kilgore Family**, but especially Ife's loving parents **Wells Herbert Lee Kilgore** of Woodruff, SC and Camden, NJ and **Johnnie Mae Humbert Kilgore** of Honea Path, SC and Camden, NJ. for stressing the importance of developing positive values and high self-esteem.

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ASANTE SANA!! THANK YOU!! DAALU!! MUCHAS GRACIAS!! MESI!! ADUPE O!!

Damani & Ife

Asé



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