

Wiggins, Miss.
Stone County



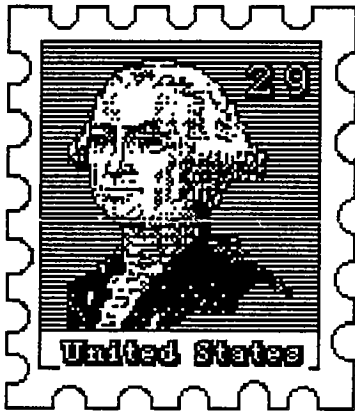
HY-NIALL



February 1991

The O'Neal Newsletter

Volume 1 Number 1



Help Wanted

Twenty nine cents is not much money in this day and time, but it could be the amount of money it would take to uncover a wealth of information that has not been shared with those of us interested in our O'Neal heritage. If you know someone that has some O'Neal family history, please drop them a line and let us put the information and/or pictures in the Hy-Niall Newsletter and Library.

A business meeting was held in Wiggins on December 8, 1990 to review our accomplishments, since we organized July 16, 1988. Some photographs, records and efforts of achievements were shown. A report from each Chieftian (board member) was heard, stating his or her accomplishments toward the betterment of Hy-Niall. There was some discussion of each Clan organizing to raise money in support of the Hy-Niall effort to expand the library and also to improve on our temporary shelter for museum articles.

"Roots from Tara"

"Roots From Tara" should be ready for publisher review by early 1992. Remember, one half the proceeds from the sale of this book, and/or movie rights go to the Hy-Niall Society. A small book titled, "Beginnings" will be available in the second quarter of 1991, which will sell for about five dollars. The book will give a history of the organization and development of the Hy-Niall Genealogical and Historical Society, through the end of 1990. It will be an interesting and educational book, with a number of photo's taken during reunions, business

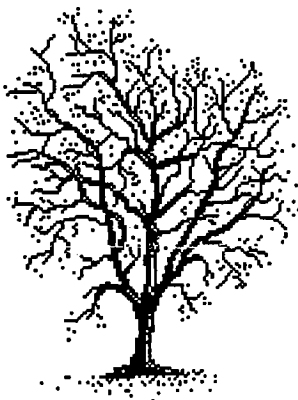
meetings, around the headquarters, and other interesting events. A beautiful hard-cover book of poems should be available by the end of the year. This book will include poems from the "Old Country", depicting the O'Neals of yesteryear, and also some from our own "Old Timers", who lived here before us. There will be hand picked poems written by others and especially family members. Please send in, any you have available, so that they may be reviewed for the book as soon as possible. A recipe book is also in the making, and will be primarily made up of old O'Neal and Allied Family recipes. So there again, please send those (better than average) recipes to the Hy-Niall Office. The sooner you can mail us poems or recipes, the better off we will be. All proceeds from the sale of these books will go to Hy-Niall Genealogical and Historical Society. Your help to make us stronger, is a benefit to us all.

Charter Membership

We are extending our Charter Membership offer through 1991, and all benefits as per enclosed sheet will be honored for that length of time. As an additional benefit, the book, "Beginnings" will be given as a bonus to those who are already a charter member and those who become a member during 1991. All lifetime membership advantages and family plans will also be extended through 1991. It is hoped and desired that anyone and everyone who has the slightest amount of Arthur O'Neal descendency will be moved to join this honorable organization. Remember, all charter members will be honored, by having their name listed on a special plaque to be hung in the Library/Museum. Remember too that we are the Founders and Organizers of this Great National Organization. It is wished that no-one will miss out on the opportunity to become a Charter Member, and have their name hung in plain view of those thousands of people who will be coming through our Library and Museum every year. This obligates you and each of us to let all our extended families know of this opportunity, and to send in names and addresses of those you know who are not receiving mail from us, but has an O'Neal connection.

Last Chance

This will be the only news-letter to be sent to everyone on our mailing list, as they are intended for members only. There will also be additional benefits in the near future, announced for members only. Others will continue to hear from the Hy-Niall Office, but not in the same nature, nor on a regular quarterly schedule.



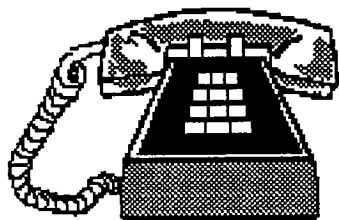
Reunion Report

Thanks go out to those three hundred or so kinsmen attending the June 23, 1990 reunion on the Coast. It was a great reunion and showed enthusiasm, interest, and great fellowship. Some time this year we'll announce a date for the second reunion to be held, probably in 1994.

There is an International O'Neal Clan reunion to be held in Ireland in 1992. The organizational reunion was held in 1982; and a Cheiffain was elected, who lives in Shanes Castle. This reunion lasted for two weeks and it is anticipated that the next one will be about the same. We will keep you posted as we receive additional information, but those of you who would be interested in joining a "Hy-Niall Society" group to attend this 1992 reunion, should let it be known as soon as possible, as we are already working on arrangements.

Organize

Those of you who are a part of a family clan who are not holding regular annual reunions, are encouraged to organize and start such a group. If you wish to have help from the Hy-Niall Office to get these reunions started, please let us know. Those of you who are a member of



a clan who has regular reunions, are encouraged to continue. If you are a member of one of these families but have not been an active participant, you are encouraged to fill an obligation to your heritage by attending

and helping your group to grow. There again, if you need

help to get your reunions more "up-beat" and active, you're encouraged to contact the Hy-Niall Office for free assistance without obligation.

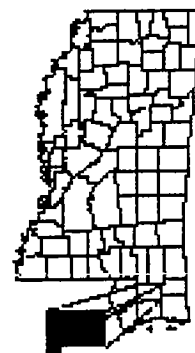
New Hours

By summer-time it is hoped the Hy-Niall Office will be manned six days per week for about ten hours or more each day. In the meantime if you call and do not get an answer, please be patient and call again. So far, Ari O'Neal is the only person who has been willing to devote full time to this organization, and of course at least half of his time needs to be spent outside the Office. However, mail is collected on a daily basis, and will be answered promptly. Telephone calls will be returned as long as we have a message. The more you support our group, the better our service will be and the faster we'll grow. So, the ball is really in your hands, and we believe you'll run with it.

"We'll be praying for a Touchdown".

Pine Hill Day

Thanks go out to those who have already joined the Hy-Niall Society. Thanks also for the many pieces of mail containing family genealogy, and local history. Keep up the good work and we'll have that book out before you know it. As many of you know, we're also involved in helping to write a "History of Stone County". Anyone who could contribute to this is encouraged to contact the Office. Stone county is almost the youngest county in the state and is seventy-five years old this year. "Pine Hill Day" has been an annual affair in Wiggins for several years, but this year will be a special one. If you have old pictures, or other historical data you'd like to donate or loan for this occasion please contact the Hy-Niall Office. Each contributor will be recognized for their effort.



Lifetime Membership

An extra special thanks go out to those of you who have become "Lifetime Members". This has helped us to move forward and realize many of our goals to be within reach. This should be the year for everyone to consider such a membership. Please study the advantages carefully as described on the enclosed sheet.

You can also make contributions in any amount you wish, all of which will be used to maintain and enhance our on-going projects. All donations, membership fees, or contributions are tax deductible. You may want to make extra contributions to special projects, like the improvements of grave sites and cemeteries, and roads to give access to such places, or any other of special projects. If so, you need only to designate your wishes on your check or just tell us at the Office.

Hy-Niall Supporters

Many thanks again for the great support we've maintained for the past two years. Special thanks to those of you who have donated artifacts from the museum, books for the Library, funds for necessary expenditures, like phone bills, copying, mailings and etc. Special thanks to you who have worked as officers and those who have helped work in the Office and out to advance the knowledge of our cause.

Please send any material that you think would be of interest to the Hy-Niall membership for this newsletter. If there are upcoming events, please remember that the newsletter is printed quarterly, therefore we need the information well in advance of the event.

1990 Census

The 1990 census was taken with some confusion as to who was counted and who was left out. Much of the information we have on our forefathers came from census records which was one of the most reliable pieces of data at that time. People of the cloth, politicians, and prisoners were the few people who had documentation on their lives in the late 1700's and early 1800s' The first census was taken in 1790. It did not contain much information. Place of Birth of parents, and age ranges. The point is that we should all do our best to assure that the census is accurate. In years to come, this is the data that will be studied and decisions will be made on what is found in those records. These records are privileged information for seventy years to protect the rights of the population to privacy. The 1910 census records have not been released for many years. Money for education, roads and other needs are based on the data at the current time. Research is underway by the government and universities using this data, also.



Historical census records do not exist for Mississippi before 1820 because Mississippi did not become a state until 1817 and was not a territory until 1798. To find census records on people living in Stone County, you would have to look at Harrison County records, because the county was formed in 1916 and those records have not been released yet.

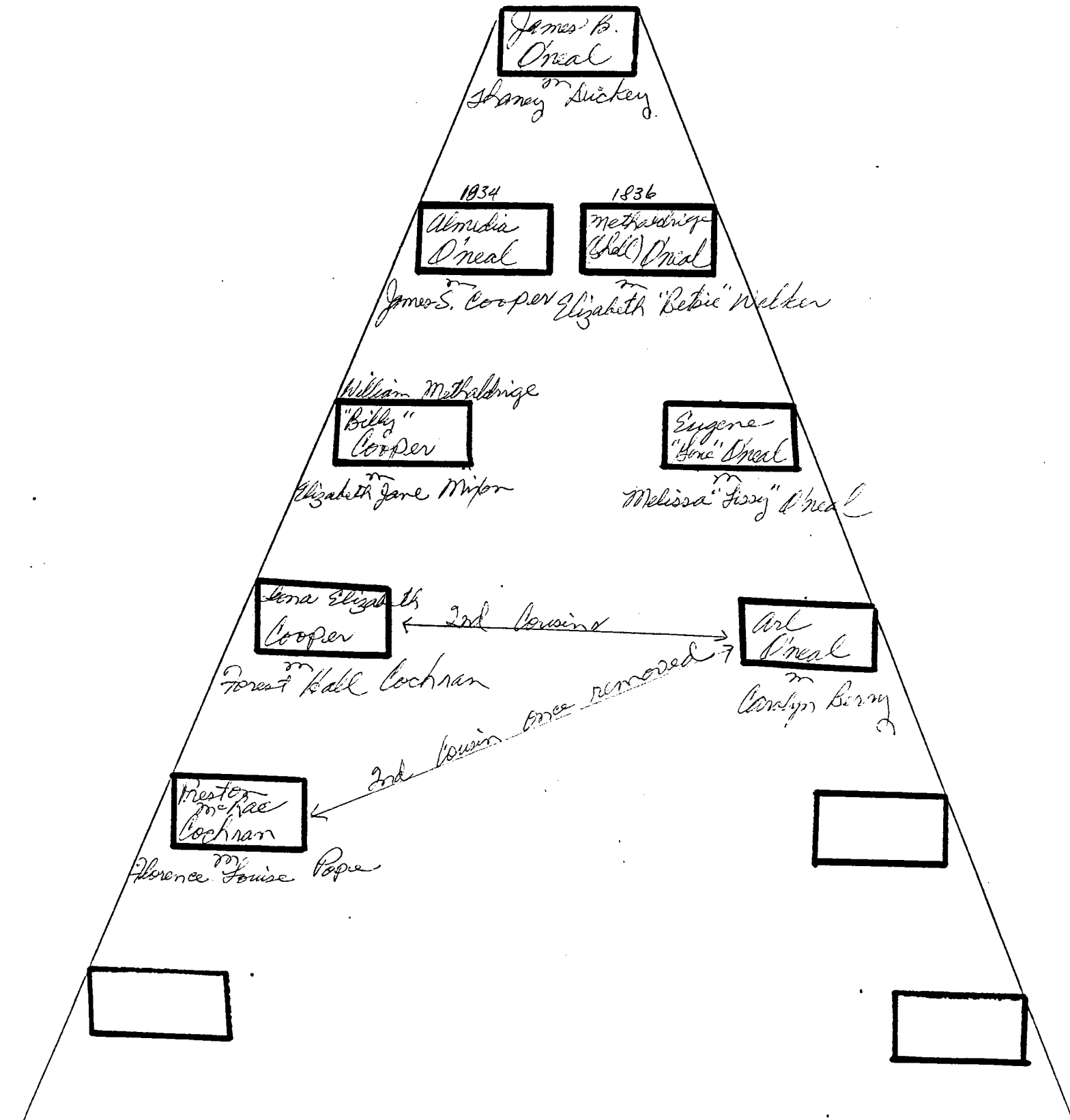


Arl O'Neal
Editor

The Hy-Niall Newsletter is published four times per year

All correspondence concerning this letter should be sent to :

Hy-Niall
2926A Highway 26
Wiggins, MS 39577



Compliments of Art O'Neal, Member No. 5

Chart your relationship, through a common Ancestor

Hy-Niall Genealogy and Singing

by Arl O'Neal

(Evolution of Some Area Schools)

Once upon a time, down in the southeastern corner of what is now Stone County, and in the midst of the Ramsey Springs Community there was born a brand New One Room School. This School was organized by Daniel Walker, Van O'Neal, Bob Williams, and William O'Neal, Jr., and it was called "Canceling Hill School".

According to Ford O'Neal, who was a son of Van O'Neal, who was one of the Founders; "Canceling Hill" was a large hill lying somewhat between the old "Ramsey Springs Hotel" sight and the, then Bob Williams Home.

Later on, the name of this school was changed to "Little Creek School", and might have been rebuilt or moved a little way South from its first location. I do know that Little Creek School stood by the side of the road that became Highway #57, and later became State Highway #15. It was almost directly in front of the Old Daniel Walker Place, and a couple miles north from Little Creek Church. Students in the area walked from miles away to learn Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. Many of our most prominent citi-

zens, of that Era, had only a few years of this type of teaching, from a teacher who taught all classes. This teacher, however, had complete control, and administered stiff punishment to those who chose to misbehave. Then a student also had to face their parents and the whole community, as no-one in those days, put up with gross misbehavior.

"Canceling Hill", which became "Little Creek", was later moved to lower Big Level, and became a part of "Powers" School, so named from J. L. Powers, a prominent citizen of the day. This was a larger school and many of the students came by horse drawn "School Wagons". Powers was a public school by then and offered classes to tenth grade. For those few who were ambitious enough to further educate themselves, it was necessary for them to go elsewhere.

Powers was later consolidated with "Home Consolidated High School". The name being derived from four small schools that by the first letter of their names formed h.o.m.e. The names of these schools were "Hope," which lay north of highway #26, "Odom Creek" located at present site, "Marion" was in lower Big Level, and "Ena" was to the northeast.

A three-story building was erected

and a fully accredited high school system evolved. The present building was built during the "Great Depression" of the thirties, then in 1971 students began to transfer to Wiggins and became a part of the newly reorganized Stone County School System.

"Big Level," as is the local name of "Home School" has become an all important Rodeo Center, of South Mississippi, and has also been impor-

tant in gospel singing, and a gathering place for local farmers and home makers and their children.

Another school in the area, "Cypress Creek," which was organized by J. S. (John) O'Neal, R.K. (Ran) Hickman, and A.E. (Little Lige) O'Neal, did not choose to unite with home school at the time, and continued into the early 1940's before closing. Gussy (O'Neal) Miles, and Leas (Broadus) O'Neal were among the

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last teachers to teach at Cypress Creek School.

I would like to suggest to other "Old Timers" that we treasure the past as we look to the future. To the younger generation please allow me to refer to: Ephesians 4:28 that says in part; "Do Something Useful That You May Have Something To Share, With Those On Need." To our children, I would refer to Ephesians 6:2, which

says that you should, "HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first commandment with a promise) "That it may go well with you and you may enjoy a long life on this earth."

I believe, "Education is the foundation for Greatness." Whether it be a person, a county, a state, a country or the World. And that it should begin at BIRTH.

Hy-Niall Genealogy and Singing River History

By Arl O'Neal

REUNIONS, REUNIONS, REUNIONS!! ' Summertime means Reunions, more and more every year it seems, and isn't that great. Amidst

the hustle and bustle of life in the fast lane, we find many Families who take the time out to travel from all parts of the World to be at Family gatherings.

There are all sorts of approach's to Family Reunions, and here is only a few. Some like to "Rough-it," on the beach, a creek bank, or an old Home place. Others choose a Community Center, a Church or School; while still other prefer a more formal setting, like a hotel, a coliseum, where

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food is catered, its cool and free of insects, has a speaker system, and comfortable furnishing. Below is a few contrasting examples.

The Ed Brooks Family has been holding reunions for several years in the Wiggins area, and this year it was held on the banks of Black Creek. Young and old alike enjoyed the sun and sand, and cooling off in the creek. Families brought baskets of food, and happy smiles, and what a great time, they had!!

Saturday, the 13th day of June found descendants of Methaldrige "SHELL" and 'SALLY" (Carpenter) O'Neal, in reunion at the cafeteria of Perkinson College Campus. Family members arrived from as far away as

California, and the great visitation began. Great food, prizes, and entertainment was enjoyed by all and due to an extensive thunderstorm, it was great that this was one of those comfortable "inside" reunions. Then on Sunday, June 14th, a Eugene O'Neal/Melissa (Bond) O'Neal Reunion was held at the Hy-Niall Society Headquarters where great baskets of food was enjoyed. A special note that there was a goof percentage of the younger generation, who enjoyed, watermelon, fun and games.

An Eli Washington O'Neal/Mary Ann (ROuse) O'Neal family reunion was held the 4th week in June, beginning with "DINNER at MONTANAS" on Friday evening, baskets of food and lot's of fun on Saturday at the Handsboro Art Center, then on Sunday after-noon, watermelon cutting and more fun at the "OLD PLACE" where L. E. O'Neal family

now lives.

A "Little Noah" Walker/Elizabeth Jane (Byrd) Walker reunion was held at Handsboro Art Center, the 3rd Saturday in June, with around 200 in attendance. "Little Noah" was a son of Samuel Dewey Walker, and a grandson of the original settler,

Daniel Walker and Elizabeth (Rogers) Walker.

The Old Broom School Gym hosts a number of Reunions, including the Flurry's the Parker/Reeves, and Littlefields. Lucedale Park see's Eubanks, Whittingtons and others. McLeods at Vernal, Howells, and Popes at Basin; Coopers, Cochrans and O'Neals at Deep Creek. Then there are Bond, Brelands, Havards, Fairleys, Carters, Goffs, and on and on, too many to name in this writing.

These are only a few examples of family gatherings around the "Singing River Watershed" area. If you wish to send information on your family to the HY-NIALL Society, please do. We'll be publishing a list of such gatherings early next year, and we'd love to have everyone listed.

Let's all work to enhance family reunions, and be sure to include the "Younger" generation. WE SHOULD ALL SHARE IN THE HERITAGE WITH OUR KIN. Make

reunions more interesting by having well informed and qualified speakers. "DO GET INVOLVED."

HY-Niall Genealogy and Singing River History

by Ari O'Neal

"The Senior Citizen"

-An Obligation To The Future
May, being Senior Citizen Month, gives us the chance, first of all to pay tribute to those in their Senior years. Those who have helped to mould our Communities into what they are today.

Just think of the knowledge available to the "NOW" Generation, from these great people who have proven themselves as capable parents, grandparents and more. Those who have kept our industry alive, our political system responsible, our Schools and Churches functioning. What a Joy it is for our Younger Generation to have the opportunity, to sit and listen to some of these great people.

Just think of the retired Teachers, Administrators, and Professors. The farmers, gardeners and other business leaders; the doctors, lawyers, the County and State Officials, and yes even Senators and Governors. Most are eager and willing to listen and try to help any young person who is willing to ask the questions.

Then, right in our midst, we have Senior citizens still in there pitching to bring us everything we need, from socks and underwear to trucks, tractors and automobiles; even more importantly, food.

Those great entrepreneurs, who were willing to risk their money and long hard hours to supply us with what we need. Senior bankers, civic leaders, genealogists, historians, musicians, and more, still helping to make our communities better. Many of these great Senior Citizens have lived through the "Great Depression", World Wars, and other hard times, that most of today's generation would not be able to even comprehend.

National Prayer Day falls in the Month of May, and is a good time to find a place of solitude, maybe a log, on a creek bank; to sit and think, and to PRAY!

Then there is Forestry recognition; of utmost importance to the environment, our recreation, and our economy, especially within the watershed of the Singing River. Just think how many of our ancestors floated logs down the "Great Singing River", to market. Many prospered, some drowned, or was killed. But life went on. Then came the "Tram-roads", some with engines, log cars and skidders that had wheels made to run on poles, that were layed and maintained with laborers needed to work.

Out of all this came eight wheeled log wagons, "Carry log" carts, and dollies. Ox teams and mule trains,

saddle horses, wagons and buggies, were everywhere.

Now we have "eighteen wheeled" log trucks with diesel engines, tandem drive axles, power steering, air conditioning and more. To support these fast moving, heavy-haulers, we have power saws, powerful and fast skidders and loaders, that can load a truck with full length trees, in a few minutes. Then last but not least are the modern mills that have a market for every inch and pound of the tree, so that nothing is wasted. Then we plant new trees, and begin the cycle over again. The evolution of the timber business has been one of our greatest resources.

And oh; but yes, the Ladies!!!!, those Gracious Ladies, who supported the men, and those who still do. They were as strong and as beautiful as one could imagine. "Mothers", always there always caring, always helping, always "Praying". Just think, how important is a Mother. They, by the Grace of God, may well hold the key to happiness. Yes, May is the month that has another most important day, that is called "Mother's Day". A loving caring Mother, teamed with a loving and caring Father, will most likely produce loving caring children, who will also become special Mothers and Fathers. Maybe God intended it that way!

The Child or the Parent

Hy-Niall Genealogy And Sing-
ing River History

by

Arl O'Neal

At first glance, one might say that the article I am about to write, is a far cry from Genealogy or local history, but is it? April being a month for us all to make a special effort toward the prevention of child abuse, which is historical, and then the fact that child abuse, or neglect, sometimes run along family Genealogies, lead me to believe that the timing might be quite beneficial.

My experience with children began with the birth of our first child, in 1947. My wife and I accepted the responsibility of raising, (not rearing) children, based on the knowledge we had gained from our Parents, and not "Dr. Spock". We knew from the beginning, that teaching the child was already in process at birth, and that behavioral and spiritual guidance must begin as the child develops and learns. As our children began school, we began to work with school principal's, teacher's and other parent's, maintaining a united effort to have the children learn more, and behave while doing so. We supported scouting groups, athletics, Civic clubs, the Church, and others in these efforts.

In later years, as our children are teenagers, I find myself counseling with neighborhood kids who had been "kicked out" or had left home because they could not "get along" with their parents. Still later I'm working with the Forrest County Youth Courts in their Big Brother Program, then by the mid eighties my wife and I moved thirty-five

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boys and enough staff to care for them onto our place in Forest County. We also established our own ministry and school. We then eventually had an average of forty-five boys, fifteen to twenty horses, and forty to fifty dogs, on the place. The boys were housed in our Home, along with some of the Staff. Thank God that we were able to "CHANGE THE LIVES" of many of these boys and turn them into good students, and great American citizens. We were also able to help the Mississippi Sheriffs, in their effort with boys and girls, who had been abused and/or neglected. At the present time we're working with the Baptist's Village also, in their effort to give a Home to Children in need. Our conclusion is that there are many parents who must seek help while their children are very young, before the numbers in Child-care facilities can be lowered.

Unfortunately, the past thirty years or so we have watched the number of neglectful parents increase. We have watched many of our Church's become more interested in "faculty" and "class image," than the hard facts of true Spiritual guidance, among all classes and ages of people. Schools are overloaded and under financed, yet most parents don't "lend a Hand" to help, nor do we support Bond issues to finance repairs, expand, or to buy new equipment or books. Whatever happened to the Old Days, when we gathered at the school or church and collectively did repairs, painting, cleaning, installing and etc. Then, what is wrong with "CHIPPING IN" a little for those of us who, for different reasons, do not wish to go down and help with the labor.

Nearly every day, I hear talk about "these bad kids." However, my years of experience working with those so

called "bad kids" tell me that where there are children who are bad, they are children who have been abused and/or neglected by their parents or parent, and they are HURTING, HURTING, HURTING, while no one seems to care.

To the parents of "PROBLEM CHILDREN", who know not what to do, I would say, SEEK HELP. To parents of young children, who are afraid that you might not be successful in raising your child, please do not be ashamed or afraid to seek help. You'll probably be glad you did. Your child is the most important thing you'll ever have, no matter how wealthy you become. Example: I know of one man who had only two sons, yet now, after a hundred and fifty years, his posterity extends around the world and numbers into the thousands and over half bears his name.

"WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH.

WITHOUT COMPARISON, THERE IS NO AWARENESS OF PERCEPTION;

WITHOUT PERCEPTION, THERE IS NO KNOWLEDGE:

WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, THERE CAN BE NO UNDERSTANDING;

WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING, ONE CANNOT HAVE JUDGMENT;

WITHOUT JUDGMENT, ONE CANNOT ACT WISELY;

NO PERSON IS WISE, OR POSSESSES WISDOM;

HE WILL ACT (OR DO) WISELY OR FOOLISHLY.

WHAT HAVE WE THEN, TO USE FOR COMPARISON AND PERCEPTION;

THAT WILL SERVE BETTER, THAN THE TEN COMMANDMENTS,

AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

If you need help, please call me at (601) 928-9257, and if I can't be of help, then maybe I can direct you to someone who can. But, please do seek help if you need it.

Someone asked, "What can I do, where can I start, can I make a difference." My answer, "You do what you can, you start where you are, and yes, you can make a difference!!!!"

Hy-Niall Genealogy and Singing

by Arl O'Neal
"Old Time Religion"

One of the very earliest Baptist Church's in the Stone County area is "Red Creek Baptist", organized in 1826. Missionaries from Providence Baptist Church of Perry County headed by John Dale, and Norvell Robertson, began as early as 1823 to hold meetings, in what was then Hancock County. These meetings led to the organization of 1826, about ninety years before Stone County was formed. The Reverend Thomas Price became Red Creeks first Pastor in 1835 and was paid \$12.00 per month. The Reverend Price was also a member of the "Saddle-Bag Brigade" and was instrumental in establishing other church's in the South Mississippi area. He continued to serve Red Creek for sixty consecutive years, however. The Church prospered under his guidance, with the help of many great families of the time period. The Batson, Bond, Dale, Davis, Brown, Smith, and Price families, some of the Lott, Sweetman, Hatten, Dickey, Culpepper, Daughdrille, and many others were strong supporters.

The second location of Red Creek was built on land donated by "Nat" Herrington, in 1878. Cincinnati Abemathy "Nat" Herrington was prominent business man of the Wiggins area until his death in 1923. His first wife, Delphi Bond, two young son's, and a daughter who "Theodore Bilbo's" first wife, are all buried on this land. This graded yard is among those presently being restored and protected by the Hy-Niall Society. "Nat" Herrington" also donated land for the establishment of a large and prosperous Boarding School in Wiggins, in 1906. Willard Bond, was the first principal, Theodore Bilbo was a teacher, and Jim Broom president. All of these men became important Statesman within Mississippi, and Bilbo went on to Washington to become one of our Senator's while Pat Harrison was the other

one. "Nat Herrington grew up in the forks of Red and Black Creeks where his parents settled, after moving from Jasper County before the War between the States. They were a part of early Church's in Jasper County, then in Jackson County by the mid-nineteenth century.

The Methodist Circuit Riders were present in this area, years before Mississippi became a State. The Salem Campgrounds is said to have been established as early as 1818, and is the oldest such campground known to still exist in South Mississippi. It is located on the east side of the Pascagoula, almost on the line of George and Jackson Counties. One of the earliest Methodist Church's was established at the Wolf-Pit on the west side of the river. It was later moved about four miles and became Red Hill Methodist, in 1837. Slaves and Masters sat down together for many a good preaching and singing services, during the early campground days. Mount Pleasant Campground was built long after the war, by descendants of slaves of earlier years.

In the spring of 1803, the famous Circuit Rider, Lorenzo Dow, then only twenty six years of age, blazed a trail of Hell Fire and Brimstone down the Natchez Trace to Natchez, then headed west on the "three Chopped Way", after holding Camp meetings at Washington in Mississippi Territory near Natchez. Mathew P. Sturdevent, was the first Itinerant Minister assigned to the Tombigbee Circuit by the South Carolina Conference, 1808 to 1810. One of his early successors was the Reverend Richmond Nolley. Others with familiar names to South Mississippi were A. C. Ramsey and John Ira Byrd.

An expert from, "Roots From Tara", a book to be published soon, tells of a Quartet Singing group, prompted by a Reverend Shroaks, who accompanied Circuit Riders in their meeting held weekly around

South Mississippi during summer months. This particular Quartet consisted of two brothers, James O'Neal and William O'Neal and two sister, Thane Dickey and Susana Dickey. They were transported and Chaperoned by the two boys parents, who were Arthur and Hannah (Benton) O'Neal, with the use of a large cairage and team, belonging to the Dickey Plantation. The Quartet's beautiful Singing, their broad smiles, and sparkling Irish eyes, is said to have set the stage for many savings of the soul. Once while singing in the congregation of the Reverend John Ira Byrd, near the River Pearl, it is said this Quartet really "Rattled The Rafters", then later as the Reverend Byrd was Blasting the Devil to kingdom come and back, he also rattled the rafters. And then he called on Arthur O'Neal to pray/ and this was his prayer.

"My Dear Father in Heaven, help us your Humble Servant's to do thy

will. Help us to bring a message to every person, who does not know Jesus Christ, that he may be Humbled to serve Him. May we muster every bit of strength, power and knowledge, that we have in our bodies and mind, that we may successfully relay the message that is easy to understand. I pray that you would touch those around us, that they may be able to hear, comprehend, and accept our message in the manner that it is intended.

Thank you Father for Reverend Byrd, for his abilities, his ambitions and his strength. Thank you Father for my lovely wife Hannah, our two talented sons, James and William and their companions Thane and Susana, and for their talents and desire, to work for thy cause. May we all be pleasing in thy eyes, and may we working together, be able to help those in need. Father I pray for this church and everyone connected with it, and everyone in this commu-

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nity. Those who are sick, or afflicted, or need redemption, those who are hurting through ignorance or improper spiritual guidance. Let no stone be unturned until every person has had the chance to know Jesus Christ and understand his teachings. All these things Father, we ask in the name of our Precious Savior Jesus Christ, of Nazereth; Amen."

On this particular night there was eighteen people of all ages came forward to join the church. This was almost half the congregation, but the following night over a hundred

people showed up for evening Worship, as word spread about this beautiful talented Quartet, and meaningful sermons being preached. Summer finally came to an end, and this little group of singers returned to that cozy little plantation called "Tara", down on Black creek, and to the "Dickey Plantation" nearby.

This summer of OLD TIME RELIGION may have set the stage for a later marriage of James O'Neal to Thane Dickey and William O'Neal to Susana Dickey. They each raised eight children!!!!

Hy-Niall Genealogy and Singing River History

Stone Locality
1-10-92

by Art O'Neal
"Uncle General and the Panther"
(Late 1830's)

General Dekalb O'Neal, Grew up along Black Creek about three miles "up river" from where it runs under the (present) highway 26 between Wiggins and Lucedale. Legend has been handed down over the years about an "escapade" he had with a Panther. I'll try and give it to you as it was gun to me.

It was early fall, you know, those bright sky days and crispy nights, but not yet frosty. Uncle General was a full grown young man but still "hangin' round" his Father's place, who was James Benton O'Neal born in Tennessee in 1801, and whose Mother was Thaneey Dickey, of the old Dickey Plantation here in Ole "Bigger than average" dog he calls "Bear Claws" and heads off for Black Creek. Arriving there about mid-morning, he and Bear Claws, waded and swam, and walked the sand-bars till early afternoon. Then, Uncle General lay in the sun for awhile to dry, while Bear Claws rolled in the sand and shook himself dry.

gins to fly. Now I mean he's dream-
ing 'bout Southern Belles, Dancing,
and holding one very close, feeling
like he's in Heaven. Suddenly awak-
ening to King Panther and Bear-
Claws, all over him growling and
knauling; screaming and clawing, he
comes un-snoozed so fast he things
the Devil must have won the War.
He's looking King Panther right in
the Eye-balls and just "Losses-it".
With all the strength he can muster,

he manages to roll right out from
under this tragedy, onto the floor,
and with one big heave n type roll
he's under the bed. About that time
Bear Claws gets loose enough to
leap out the window. King Panther
right behind, leaps all the way to the
"Slough Log", then scrambles up a
large white-oak.

swing while handaging a few wounds
with tom bed sheeling. Looking up
at "King Panther", his first thought is
to shoot him, but then he said to
himself, "Naw Mr. Panther, you were
asscared as I; and besides, your folks
were here long before mine."
Bear Claws, protected with long
thick hair, is not seriously hurt, but
Uncle General kept a few scars.
The next times while snoozing at
"The Camp", they closed the doors!!!

Suddenly, a heavy cloud began to
Creep up form the North, and it looked
threatening to the two wanderer's, so
they got themselves up and going
straight for a near-by camp. "The
Camp" was an earlier Home of
O'Neal family before they moved to
"higher ground" after having been
"flooded out" a few times too many.
Upon arriving at the camp, the Gen-
eral and Bear Claws sat in a porch
swing until their eyes began to droop,
at which time they headed into a bed-
room, to catch a snooze or two while
"waiting out" the thunderstorm.
Opening a shutter to the North, Uncle
General sprawled out on a bed, while
Bear-Claws took up a snoozing posi-
tion on the floor near-by, and soon
the two rambler had began the act of
"Serious Snoozing".

While this "Heavy Duty" snooz-
ing progressing, here comes this
bigger than most, "King of the
Woods" type panther. He's just "lolly
gagging along while "slow footin it
across a slough on a very slick log,
and then he single foots it right down
a path leading up to the front porch.
One light leap and he's on the porch,
paddlewheeling it right on under the
swing; takes a right into the "Dog-
Trot", just as a Serious Lightning
Bolt strikes just behind him. Seeing
an open door to his right, he Acceler-
ates himself right through as his
nostrils shift into gear and picks up
an "Uncle General Scent". This
frightens "King Panther", as he spots
the open shutter; leaps for it but falls
a little short, landing right on top of
Uncle General. By now Bear-Claws
has come un-snoozed and is on King
Panther like white on rice.

Now Uncle General is in Heavy
Duty Dream World as the "Fur be-

Dear Fellow Hy-Niallian;

Due to my extended illness and eventual surgery, plus the over-burdening work-load of my gracious helper, Clyde Hatten, we were un-able to get a second quarter bulletin out to our members. My speedy recovery is like a miracle, and it really is great to be back here, working for you. If it be God,s will, and yours, I'll be right here in our Library/Office almost every day for a long, long time. I do appreciate your patient's and would appreciate your prayers, not only for the continuance of my health improvement, but also for that of the Hy-Niall Society.

Please do read the enclosed bulletins carefully, and with consideration. Remember, the only way for any group to grow, and succeed in becoming a strong organization, is through the help of each person, for the benefit of all.

To get your poems in our up-coming book, you need to act now. Surely there is more good poems lying around waiting to be discovered. We would especially like to have poems from your Ancestor, or from you, your children or grand-children. The Hy-Niall book of poems will be a high quality hard-cover book, filled with about two hundred select poems. We have around half that many now. Be Sure, the Authors name is on each poem, you send in. Many thanks!!!!

Relatively yours,



Arl Rankin O'Neal

"Where there is no vision, the people perish.
Without comparison there is no awareness of perception;
Without perception, there is no knowledge.
Without knowledge, there can be no understanding;
Without understanding, one cannot have judgement;
Without judgement, one cannot act wisely.
No man is wise, or possesses wisdom;
He will act (or do) wisely or foolishly.
What have we, to use for comparison and perception,
That will serve better than the TEN COMMANDMENTS,
And the CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES."

HY-NIALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE "ONE HUNDRED CLUB"

This club is being organized primarily to further enhance the development of lost and neglected grave-sites. We have spent a lot of time, this past year in searching for lost and abandoned grave-sites of O'Neal and allied families. Now we are seeking financial help to clear, clean, and fence or re-fence, as needed, these very important Burial grounds; and to see to it that they are kept up forever. Out of this fund-raising, there will be a growth fund established, to insure that once these sites are in acceptable condition, they will be kept that way. This will include roads and right-of-ways leading into these cemeteries. As you can see this is a project not easy to complete, and will require a lot of effort, now and in the future.

The "One Hundred Club" will consist of one hundred people, who has given \$100. (or more) to this project. The membership will be cut off with the receipt of, or from the one hundredth member. However, contributions of any size, may always be made, by anyone who wishes to contribute to this worthy project, in any amount. The "one hundred members" will be recognized, by having their name on a bronze plaque, to hang in the Library office, then in the museum.

Some of the grave-sites we'll be working on will be those of William O'Neal, born 1803 in the Carolina's, and buried on his "Home Place", now in Stone county. The Major O'Neal Cemetery, also in Stone County. Two Herrington family cemeteries, one in Stone and one in Jackson counties. The Nathaniel (Buck) Bond Cemetery where he and two grandchildren were buried on his "Home Place", in Jackson county. There are others, and the search continues.

A committee will be organized at our next board-meeting, so that we may move forward with this work as funds are available. It will be the responsibility of each "100 club" member to keep up with this work, and help us to "push a little harder" and see this project through.

Please join to-day and become a member of this "Special Group", with-in the Hy-Niall family. You should make checks payable to the Hy-Niall Society, and designate for, "The 100 Club".

THANK YOU FOR COOPERATING IN THIS EFFORT TO PROTECT THE BURIAL GROUNDS OF OUR ANCESTORS:

ARL O'NEAL



If we don't do it, who will?

PLEASE HELP

the

HY-NIALL SOCIETY

If you descend from, Arthur and Hannah (Benton) O'Neal, then you should be a bona-fide member of the National Hy-Niall Society, while Charter Memberships are available. This is a membership that is available to no-one else in the world, except those of us who were fortunate enough to have descended from Arthur and Hannah, through their son's William and James.

After 1991, the membership will be open to others who descend from the Ancient Hy-Niall, and the exclusive Charter Membership now being offered to only descendents, and their extended families of William O'Neal or James O'Neal, will CEASE FOREVER. YOU MUST JOIN THE SOCIETY NOW; to get your name on the plaque that will hang on the wall of the LIBRARY/MUSEUM forever, and also to receive the other "special benefits" offered now. I urge you to send your \$25.00 check to-day to secure your recognition as a CHARTER MEMBER of this great NATIONAL SOCIETY.

We really do appreciate the many of you who are already a bona-fide member. You may want to check and see if your 1991 dues have been paid, and remember only \$15.00 will continue your membership, if you are already a member. We especially appreciate those of you who have become life-time-members. If we had about fifty more life-time members this year, we could really begin to accomplish most of our goals. Then if we can obtain an additional three hundred or so, regular annual pay bona-fide Charter Members, from this family this year, we could keep good and impressive bulletins coming to you on a regular basis, and also research our family genealogy, back into Ireland. This would further enhance our ancient family, hopefully to be completed by 1994. "WE NEED YOUR HELP!! NOW!!!"

By the way, the MacNeill clan of the United States, who descend from the O'Neal's (O'Neill's) of Ireland, have over seven hundred annual paying families. They also have received enough Lifetime Memberships, at \$1,000. each to restore a family Castle in Scotland. Now, let me point something out to you; WE ARE GREATER THAN THEY, BY ANY STANDARDS OF HISTORY YOU WISH TO MEASURE US BY. SO LET'S DO BETTER THAN THEY.

Please join us to-day, and help make YOUR FAMILY SOCIETY THE BEST THERE IS ANYWHERE. And, to secure us, the CLAN OF ARTHUR O'NEAL, as the true FOUNDERS of this HY-NIALL SOCIETY.



Chairman, Hy-Niall Society