



Family Song

AIKEN'S PLACE

Lyrics by: Almetha Aiken Frazier, 2000

Revised: 2010

TUNE: THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC
(Glory, Glory, Hallelujah)

Verse 1:

We're gathered here together,
And we're walking hand in hand
We honor our ancestors,
And we vow to keep this land,
We're the children of James and Annie
And of William and Maybelle,
And we have this song to tell.

Chorus:

Aiken's, Aiken's, Aiken's Place is where we are,
We hope you are looking down upon us,
Like a morning star,
We hope to keep you in our hearts and,
We'll be a family,
While we sit beneath the Old Oak Tree.

Verse: 2

We'll cherish this our heritage,
Of which we can be proud,
Each year when we gather here,
We draw a bigger crowd,
This land that we've inherited,
We pray will always be,
A part of this great family!

Chorus:

Verse: 3

We look back at the Little House,
Besides the Big Oak Tree,
It makes us know that we're a part,
Of a rich history,
And we will keep this land,
That was passed down to you and me,
And on this we all agree!



Aiken Family History

It isn't known when or how our forefathers arrived here in America. We only know that Janie Aiken Grant remembers her grandfather saying that his grandfather's name was Julius Goodwin Aiken. She doesn't know who his wife was or where on the mainland he lived. We do know that he had a son named James.

James' wife name was Jennie and they had a baby girl named Katie. The crying of baby Katie had to be muffled when James and Jennie ran away from the mainland to Pinkney Island to keep their escape from being discovered.

James and his family later moved from Pinkney Island to Hilton Head Island, SC and made their home in what was known as Brownsville. Their family grew with 4 more children: Peter, Martha, Janie, and James Jr.

Katie Aiken Tolbert had 3 children. Peter Aiken did not have any children. Martha Aiken Gregory had 1 child and Janie Aiken Carter had 1 child. James Aiken, Jr. married the former Annie Houston and they bought land in the Gardner area and reared 2 sons Joseph and William. Joseph and his wife Evelina never had any children but William on the other hand married the beautiful girl next door the former Maybelle Singleton. Like Abraham, William and Maybelle were blessed because they are the parents of present Aiken family. This union was very, very productive. They reared (14) fourteen children, (3) three of which preceded them in death.

Maybelle was the only child of the late Joseph and Ida Singleton. However, she had lots of uncles, aunts, cousins, and extended family. She was a quiet person with a big heart. She was a very dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother who were always there when we needed her even when she wasn't feeling well. Maybelle passed away in August 1959 and William passed away in June 1988. We are all forever grateful and truly blessed to have had the time we did with them both.

After the untimely death of Maybelle, the family decided to have a big family dinner to honor William on Father's Day. Everyone was asked to bring a covered dish. The dinner was such a success that it became an annual event that eventually became the Aiken-Singleton Family Reunion that was opened to all our friends and it continued to be that way through the years.

The last serious talk William had with his children was the fact that he wanted them all to put a home on Aiken Place and to keep the land in the family. He would be indeed proud to know that most of them have done that and the others plan to have one there in the near future.

We have come this far by faith leaning on the lord. We will always keep God the head of our lives and will continue to believe that the family that prays together stays together.

This family is continuously being abundantly blessed with offspring so numerous that an accurate count is not known at this time.

William and Maybelle's children are: Marion, Janie, Laura, Anna Belle, Martha, James, Joseph, Ida Mae, Charlotte, Elease, Evelina, Almetha, William Jr. and Peter. Of the offspring Marion, Martha, Charlotte, Anna Belle and Janie are deceased.



Singleton Family History

Off of the southern South Carolina and Georgia coastlines are several neighboring islands, including Pinckney, Fripp, St. Helena, Hilton Head and Daufuskie, while Beaufort, Bluffton, and Savannah were considered mainland towns. On these islands are where members of the Singleton Family lived. The members of this family include native islanders and descendants of native islanders, spanning over seven generations. Although, an exact date is not known, Sambo Singleton, the earliest known descendant of the Singleton Family settled in what is presently known as the Gardner area of Hilton Head Island many, many years ago. It is believed that Sambo had several other relatives on the island as The Singleton Family roots were traced back to the mid 1700's as verified through U.S.Census reports and collected data.

Sambo, the great-grandfather of Daniel Singleton and Maybelle Singleton-Aiken was married to Sarah Singleton and they had two sons: Benjamin and Robert (Bob). It is unknown if Bob married or had children; however, Benjamin, the eldest son, married Rena Singleton and they were the parents of several children: Joseph, Charley (Papa Charley), David, Viola, Annie and Mary. There were also two grandchildren, John and Martha who were reared in the household. The siblings were very affectionate and loving towards each other and they grew up working and tending the family land.

As the siblings entered adulthood, they all settled and remained on Hilton Head except Viola, who relocated to Beaufort with her husband. To our knowledge, David, Viola, Annie and Mary were not blessed with any children; however, "Papa Charley" and Joseph both married and had one child each. "Papa Charley" spent his entire life on the Island taking care of his home and family, tending his crops and land, fishing and enjoying life with his family."Papa Charley" was a very hard worker who always provided for his family and loved ones. He married the beautiful Henrietta Robinson Singleton of St. Helena Island and they reared one loving son, Daniel. His brother Joseph married the adorable Ida Singleton and they raised a beautiful baby girl, Maybelle, who is the mother of the present day Aiken Family. Daniel and Maybelle were first cousins but were raised like siblings due to their very close relationship and family ties. They both happily married and had large families of their own.

In the early 1890's, Rena Singleton (Daniel & Maybelle's grandmother) passed away leaving her husband Benjamin to care for the family, their land, and the children. Approximately in the year 1896, Benjamin married his second wife, Sarah, and they were blessed with the following children: Willie O'Neal Singleton ("Baker-Bread Man") who was born in 1897 and passed away in 1975; Bell Prudence Singleton (Simmons), who was born in the early 1900's and passed away in 1978; and Abraham Singleton (Uncle Abraham) who was born in 1909 and passed away in 1996.

Willie O'Neal (Uncle Neal) married Rosa Smith Singleton of Hilton Head, SC. She was born April 2, 1902 and passed on May 16, 1981. They were the parents of two children, Thelma Singleton Green and Melvin. Thelma, who is 85, currently resides in Savannah and is the oldest known living descendant of the present day Singleton family. Melvin's untimely death in 1985 was the result of a job related accident. Thelma has one son, Willie T. Green who currently lives in Atlanta with his family. She also has numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren living in the Savannah and Atlanta areas. Melvin was married to Celia Singleton and they have one daughter Melquita