

Descendants of Solomon and Elizabeth Hibbert Family Newsletter

State of the Re-Union



Strength In Numbers - A Huge Success

Inside this issue:

Strength in Numbers	1
Introducing the 2010 Committee	2
School Supplies Drive	2
Two Generation Gap	2-3
5K Initiative	3-4
Not your ordinary BBQ	4
What's going on in the family	5
July Birthdays and Anniversaries	5
Name the next reunion/Letter to Dr. Gates	6

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children...to leave the world a better place...to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." ~

Ralph Emerson

The Reunion Committee would like to thank you for making the 2nd Descendants of Solomon and Elizabeth Hibbert Family Reunion a huge success. Even though almost one half of the family that attended the 2005 reunion did not return in 2007, our overall attendance actually increased because of a new flock of family members who joined the fun. Some of the new attendees included Barbara and Mavis Hibbert (descendants of Uncle Herman), Lucila Welch, Ernesto Larrier and their spouses of the "Panamanian Connection", Uncle Munoz' children from England and Jacqui an Olive Hibbert, from Hezekiah's line.

In the planning of the 2007 reunion, the Committee set forth an agenda to integrate activities designed specifically with our kids and elders in mind. We were successful in doing so with the implementation of the "Gender Retreat" and "Legends Story Time Hour". For the Gender Retreat, we paired young men and women with a few family professionals; girls separate from the boys. There, they discussed everything from prospective career paths to simply, how to be a responsible young adult. The kids left with many les-

sons. None more valuable than; "Your family has high expectation of you". After the retreat, the girls and boys were off and running as they participated in the "Amazing Race". Participants, with the assistance of family members, answered many questions which helped them learn about various individuals in the family. Congratulations to Asha Hibbert and Karin Straker who won brand new iPods for their efforts.



CJ and Daniel making quick work of their "Amazing Race" questionnaire (Above) Story Time Hour (Below)

The "Legends Story Time Hour" was a beautiful way for our young kids to relate to the family matriarchs. The kids had a blast making hats for the adults and presenting them with gifts.



There were many highlights to speak of but none more exciting than Rod Eden's proposal to Madeline Hibbert during the family portrait. By the way...she said yes! Another exciting occurrence was Marques, Andrew and Madeline meeting their brother Owen for the very first time.



Andrew, Madeline, Ruddy & Owen Hibbert (Above) - Rod on bended knee proposing to Madeline (Below)



The Committee looks forward to building on the success. We have our work cut out for us but we plan on improving the family's experience in 2010.



Family enjoying the chilly water at the Falls.

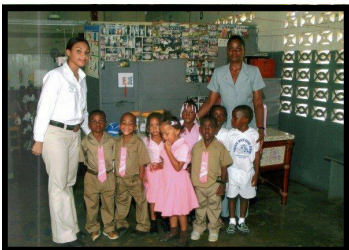
Introducing the 2010 Reunion Committee

We have decided to reorganize the committee structure. Going forward, the committee will be set up as an executive committee with sub committee members. Each executive committee member will now have a group of sub committee members to work with. This restructuring should prove to be more efficient and will give more family members a chance in assisting with the reunion. The executive committee is as follows: **Gregory Hibbert**, Reun-

ion Chairman, responsible for communications, history and finances. **Kevin Hibbert**, Gender Retreat Chairman also responsible for lodging and itinerary review. **Nathalie Hibbert**, Lodging Chairman also responsible for transportation and excursions. **Preston Neunie**, Orientation Chairman also responsible for security. **Lorna Hibbert**, Memorial Service Chairman. **Roneith Hibbert**, Family Olympics Chairman. **Dawn Hibbert-**

Wilson, Banquet/Family Portrait Chairman.

Each Chairman will utilize three sub-committee members to assist in carrying out their functions. So if you are interested in working on a committee, please contact one of the executive committee members. We appreciate everyone who lends their free time to the cause of empowering our family through organizing our beautiful reunions.



Dania Phang (Left), Principal Campbell (right) and a few of the precious students of the Pimento Walk Basic School

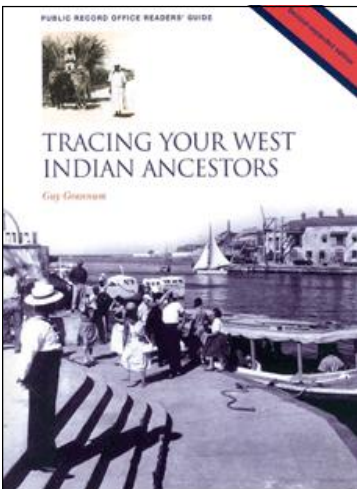
School Supplies Drive

Another mission accomplished at the reunion was the success of the school supplies drive. Through much generosity from all in attendance we were able to gather various school supplies to donate to a local school in Jamaica. On September 13, 2007, Dania Phang, Training and Development Manager of the Sunset Jamaica Grande presented the supplies collected to Principal Campbell and the children of the Pimento Walk Basic School. Principal Camp-

bell said “the supplies were well received and will be utilized by the student body to garner higher education”.

In recognition of our efforts, we received a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Principal Campbell and Clifton Reader, the Jamaica Grande’s General Manager. Mr. Reader also sent us a personal letter of gratitude to which he thanked us for our support of not only the resort, but investing in the youth of

Jamaica. The Committee was so proud we were able to accomplish this task which was the first in hopefully many good faith gestures by the newly formed Hibbert Family Foundation. We thank everyone that donated school supplies because we could not have made this happen without your contributions. We will stay in touch with the school and also look for other ways we can come together to support Jamaica and its youth.



Two Generation Gap

Why are we tracing our roots? I ask myself that question all of the time but the answer is simply put. “The more people know about their origins, the more complete they become.” With that said, we are becoming more and more complete each day.

We have done a remarkable job in uncovering and displaying “what we know” via the inter-

net and our family books. What we know is eloquently displayed as 8 generations spanning over 135 years of family members whose lives and stories explain who we are. We define ourselves from the traditions and culture that has helped mold us. We are a proud and prosperous West Indian Family from Jamaica who have continuously raised the bar for ourselves and our

children. We have a great system in place to record our history going forward, however we have exhausted the lineage that we can provide regarding our ancestry from a “recollection” standpoint. Our knowledge has settled us at 1873 in St. Catherine Jamaica, marking the birth of our oldest ancestor on record; Solomon Augustus Hibbert. (Continued on Page 3).

Two Generation Gap (continued)

As Aunt Barbara put it, Solomon and Elizabeth are our “Adam and Eve”. To this point, we have no information about the preceding generation.

Not only are we researching to identify the previous generations, we have simultaneously been researching the Hibbert name in general. Researching the name Hibbert has taken us all the way back to the Norman Conquest of 1066.

In 1734, Thomas Hibbert settled in Kingston. With the assistance of slave labor these Hibbert settlers form Great Britain at one time accounted for about 40% of all the revenue raised by the British Government. Coincidentally, we corresponded with a gentleman named Nick Hibbert Steele, a direct descendant of Thomas. Nick has been on a campaign to settle the record about his families role in slavery. He has ad-

5K Initiative

It may be to your church or a charitable organization, but we all do it. Do what, you say? We all donate money for some worthy cause. With that said, we have a proposal. Since we all have the capacity to give, why don't we pool a small portion of our resources and give to an organization that bares our family name? Because of our numbers and proven commitment, it would be relatively easy. Why would we do this? Well...one day I was researching and came across someone by the name of Robert Hibbert. Robert was born in the year 1770 in Jamaica and was a member of the Hibbert family of merchants who made their living manufacturing sugar during the years of slavery. Robert, who referred to himself as a Creole was the

vised us that if we can trace two more generation back from Solomon that we would be able to tap into the records that he has. The significance is that Solomon was born approximately two generations after the end of slavery. We have access to slave returns for several of the former Jamaican plantations owned and operated by the Hibbert family. What is our true connection to this family of Hibbert settlers? Are we direct descendants? Are we descendants of an illegitimate Hibbert? Did we adopt the name? Did our people come from West Africa? We will answer all of these questions and more.

The story in our last newsletter about Selvyn Hibbert continues. The brief overview is that Selvyn's father's name is Hezekiah Hibbert. The question about Hezekiah was that we

third and posthumous son of John Hibbert, the younger brother of the elder Thomas. Thomas, as many know built what is now known as The Heritage House on Duke Street in Kingston. With much ambition, Robert founded The Hibbert Trust. In the original scheme the trust was called 'the Anti-Trinitarian Fund,' and its object was, by a provision of divinity scholarships, to encourage learning and culture among unorthodox Christians. After reading about Robert, it inspired me. Not so much because we are interested in spreading a form of Christianity, but by the fact that this particular Trust, bares our surname and was successful in awarding scholarships and fellowships. This is where the idea of The Hibbert Family Foundation was born. The vision is that

couldn't identify with certainty, if Hezekiah was a brother or cousin to Solomon. We are still trying to make that connection however, the research team on Selvyn's side was recently successful in recovering Hezekiah's marriage certificate which lists his father as John Hibbert. We are also on the case to find our preceding generation. Remember, it is possible that John could be Solomon's father as well. We will keep everyone posted on our search and welcome any assistance or suggestion.

If you would like a record of our genealogy progress, a link called “Summary of Genealogy Search” has been posted on the family website under the “Tings” link.

our family can pool its resources to develop the Foundation which would serve many purposes. Focuses of the Foundation would be to support immediate and future family goals such as offsetting reunion costs and scholarships and represent a funnel to where we could use raised funds to support humanitarian projects in Jamaica. But to do this we need everyone's support and we have to begin somewhere? To start, the Committee has set forth an end of year goal of raising \$5,000. What did you say? That seems like an impossible amount of money for us to raise in such a short space of time? I may be inclined to echo that sentiment if it wasn't for that fact that I am able to put it in a broader perspective.

(Continue on Page 4).



The Hibbert name originated in Ancient Normandy, however before the evolution of the name which produced variations it was actually Hildebert of Germanic elements meaning “Famous Battle”.

“Solomon and Elizabeth are our Adam and Eve”. ~ Barbara James

Hibbert Family Foundation

Mission Statement

The Hibbert Family Foundation is dedicated to service the Island of Jamaica by identifying and prioritizing the Island's health, humanitarian, cultural and educational needs and creating positive transitions to assist in those deficiencies. The Foundation's strength is built on the reliance of family unity and our ability to raise funds directed to support the family's place of origin. We encourage and challenge West Indian's who have created a successful life elsewhere to give something back to the Island from which they came.



Joshua and Logan Hibbert represent the future.

“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.” ~MLK



5K Initiative (continued)

Collectively as a family, we already raised well over \$100,000. This money was given to the Jamaica Grande for rooming and banquet expenses during our two reunions. None the less, we as a family did come together and pool our resources for a common goal. To raise 5K we created a business plan that has two funding sources. The first funding sources will be voluntary yearly contributions. The second source will be fundraisers.

Voluntary Yearly Contributions: Our mailing list includes

200 households. If each household contributes \$25, we can raise \$5000. However we set realistic expectations of \$2,500. We understand that some families will give \$25. Some families may give more and a number of families may not respond. Please understand that this is by no means a mandate. No one is monitoring who gives vs. who doesn't. Regardless of such, the fund will be there to benefit everyone.

Fundraisers: We will have a series of fundraising BBQ's in areas where our family resides.

These BBQ's are designed to raise the other \$2,500.

Once we achieve our goal, the committee will begin the process of implementing proper management. An immediate goal would be to seek not for profit status of our Foundation thus making future contributions tax deductible.

This initiative is truly bold and has many obstacles, but the end result that we are striving for will dwarf the challenges we hurdled to get there.



Not Your Ordinary BBQ

We have a goal of raising \$5,000 by the end of the year. \$2,500 from family dues and \$2,500 by holding fundraiser BBQ's in the three states this summer.

The first BBQ is scheduled for July 5 at Miramar Regional Park in Florida (Flier enclosed). The contacts for this event will be Junior Edwards, Jean Sang, Dawn Hibbert-Wilson and Lorna Hibbert.

The second BBQ is scheduled for August 9th at Eisenhower Park in Long Island, New York. The contact for this event is Kevin Hibbert.

The third BBQ is scheduled for September at Red Top Mountain in Cartersville, Georgia. The contact for this event will be Gregory and Nathalie Hibbert.

These BBQ's are a great way to increase awareness about our reunions and a productive way to continue our fellowship and most of all, raise money.

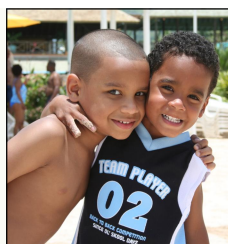
Capable? We are! We all simply need to be on the same page. So when you eat at the BBQ, please keep in mind that we have a bigger goal we are attempting to achieve. A huge component of goal setting is that the goal is realistic and attainable.

We believe we have both realistic and attainable components. The difficult part is putting it in motion. That's where we need your assistance. I have been reminded over and over about the limitations of our family and the fact that we would not comprehend and participate in such bold initiative. But we have a great level of confidence in the capacity of our clan. Our hopes is that we can begin a trend that will create fundraising events in other regions. If we as a family can begin to think of ways to join efforts to raise money, there can be a day that we would all benefit in a big way.



Deane and daughter Asha paired up in the wheelbarrow race at the 2007 reunion

From Left to right: Logan Hibbert, Nikolas Asensio with Joshua Hibbert (2nd cousins) Tanika Miller, & Myhana Kerr with Tiana Marie Harriott (4th cousins)





What's going on in the family?

Veronica Neunie aka Ninny...celebrated her 80th birthday on March 29th.

Kirk Hibbert aka Big Ricky moved up in ranks from Commander to Captain in the U.S. Navy.

Charesse James appeared on the MTV reality show "The Paper".

Andrew Neunie and Sacha Dayes will be married in Jamaica on July 27th.

Omah Sang and Nilka Alamo were engaged on May 10th.

Congratulations to **Shemar Christian** for obtaining a perfect score of 700 on the New York State Math Exam.

Congratulations to **Roneith Hibbert** for qualifying to practice law in the State of New Jersey and the District of Columbia.

Leon and Andrea Livingston were ordained on Sunday, June 8, 2008 as Deacons in their church - The Rugby Deliverance Tabernacle in Brooklyn, New York.

Congratulations to **Jimmy Hibbert and Arlene Fearon** for getting married.

Congratulations to Samantha Lawrence-Thomas

Her sporting company ,Top Notch Sportswear, LLC just celebrated their 1st anniversary -

topnotchsportswear.com

Tiny Tot News Baby Jade Edwards is 7 months and has broken ground with one tooth exposed just in time for Father's Day.

The Neunie cousins, **Nicholas** and **Andrew** are getting big already.

Congratulations and good luck to all of the Graduates of 2008. Here are some to mention.

High School:
Randi Dingle
Daniel Edwards
Meshack Hibbert
Charesse James
Akeem Livingston
Kimana Livingston

Jr. High School:
Romero Harriott

Elementary School:
Shemar Christain
Noel Nunez



Dawn Hibbert, RN was highlighted by the New York City Nurses Association.



Little Andrew Neunie - 9 months old



Kevin and Lana Hibbert (6)

July '08 Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1st Paula Goff turns 32
- 1st Jimmy Hibbert turns 77
- 2nd Christina Williams turns 8
- 2nd Rich Moncrieffe turns 42
- 3rd Orlando Quarless turns 27
- 5th Joseph Moffatt turns 8
- 5th Sue and Rich James celebrate number 11
- 5th Judi Davis turns 44
- 5th Donna Edwards turns 46
- 6th Russell Neunie turns 16
- 7th Guillermo Larrier turns 68
- 8th Judy and Sydney Davis celebrate number 19
- 10th David Williams turns 14
- 10th Ernestine Hibbert turns 42
- 10th Charlene and Donald Lyles celebrate number 9
- 10th Marcia Hibbert
- 11th Paula McGowan turns 43
- 12th Georgia Hibbert turns 37
- 13th Deshawn Morris turns 6
- 14th Rayne Neunie turns 13
- 16th Mike Young turns 45
- 16th Debbie Hibbert turns 48
- 16th Nate Drysdale turns 30
- 17th Amari Bryant turns 14
- 21st Janelle Quarless turns 24
- 21st Ernesto Quarless turns 43
- 21st Jamaia Eley turns 12
- 22nd Marcia Dyer turns 53
- 23rd Barry Hibbert turns 36
- 24th Payton Moncrieffe turns 4
- 25th Kyle Davis turns 21
- 25th Clayton & Brandon Frazier turns 16
- 25th Asha Dawn Brissett
- 26th Martina Neunie turns 10
- 26th Isaac Larrier turns 20
- 27th Jordon Hibbert turns 15
- 29th Marco Larrier turns 44
- 30th Raquel and Andrew Hibbert celebrate number 3
- 30th Michael Dyer turns 56

The secret to staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age

~ Lucille Ball



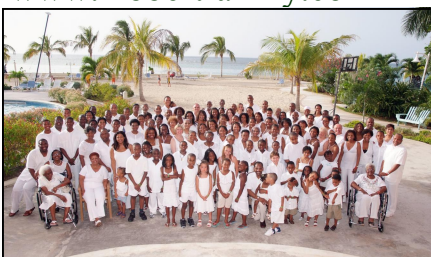
DESCENDANTS OF SOLOMON & ELIZABETH HIBBERT

Hibbert Family Reunion Committee
Hibbert Family Foundation
Decatur, GA 30035

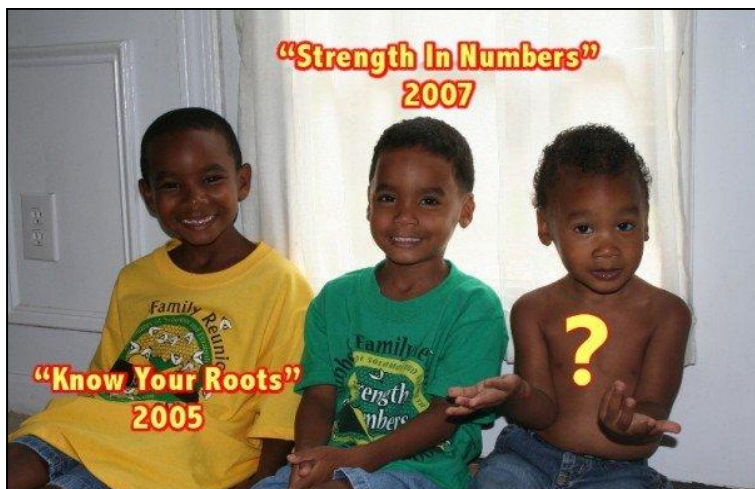
Phone:
E-mail: hibbertg@bellsouth.net

Know Your Roots '05
Strength in Numbers '07

We're on the web. Visit
www.hibbertfamily.com



Order your reunion photo album by visiting the fundraising page on the Family Website



NAME THE NEXT REUNION

Jonah has no shirt. Why? Because he's waiting for you to name the next reunion.

Contest Rules:

- Come up with a slogan for the 2010 reunion. (Must be accompanied by a short essay describing your choice).
- Entries must be submitted by email to hibbertg@bellsouth.net no later than December 31, 2008.

Letter to Dr. Henry Louis Gates

Dear Dr. Gates,

I have watched your work "African American Lives" on PBS and have been extremely impressed by the passion and detail in which you and your staff have researched and presented the historic accounts and lineage of African Americans. The stories are intriguing and also educational. I too have been attempting to trace my history and feel that the Hibbert Family's story would not only fall in line with your previous subjects, but the fact that we are of Caribbean descent would add a valuable perspective of the African American Diaspora to your program. With that said, the Hibbert Family would be honored to be considered as one of your subject families for any future works exploring this topic.

The Hibbert Family is a Caribbean family from Jamaica and we have been mildly successful in answering a few burning questions about our existence. Before we began our research, we knew little about our surname, "Hibbert", which thus has forced us to take a comprehensive approach. We explored the genesis of the name and attempted to intersect it with that of our Jamaican family. We researched the Hibbert origins from the Norman Conquest of 1066 to the 1800's, while simultaneously tracing backwards from the present to my great-grandfather, Solomon Augustus Hibbert of St. Catherine Jamaica born in 1873. Through this journey, we have uncovered many interesting facts about our family. The Hibbert Family has a rich and proud history and a very shameful one.

Similar to your scholarship, we discovered another Hibbert by the name of Nick Hibbert-Steele, a Caucasian man in London England, who was also tracing his family history and the wealth that his family accumulated from the Jamaican sugar trade. We have identified over 700 hundred family members and many others with the Hibbert surname who are also searching for their history. Unfortunately, we have a gap in our research at least two generations wide. There was a time in Jamaica, where a lot of men, left the island to go to Panama to help with the building of the Panama Canal. There are also quite a few who went to Cuba. We are now coming across young generations of Hibberts looking to be connected, but not knowing from whence they came.

From the outward appearance of our investigations, one would say that we have accomplished a great deal. We have. However embedded deep within those two generation gaps lie the most important answers to our lineage. Are we direct descendants of a European Hibbert Family? Or through the Middle Passage did we adopt the Hibbert surname from slave masters? Our research is incomplete and lacks the genealogical aspects that would provide closure. We welcome you to examine the enclosed summary and lineage, and also invite you to visit our website, www.hibbertfamily.com, to gain more insight into our plight and progress. Once you reach the website, you can gain access to our lineage by clicking on the "Family Tree" link on our home page. Once at the website hosted by Genealogy.com, you can gain access by entering "hibbert" as the user name and "*****" as the password. Upon review, please contact me directly at (404) 625-****.

I truly hope you find our information intriguing. On behalf of the Hibbert Family, thank you for your time and most of all, your consideration.

Respectfully,

Gregory S. Hibbert