



# Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association Family Newsletter

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Edition - 2007

## 2007 FAMILY REUNION North CHARLESTON, SC

Electric Slide @ Wannamaker Park



The theme: "Reuniting our family, recapturing our roots."

They came from far-flung places such as Germany and the Bahamas. And they came from around the country: Georgia, Maryland, California and New York. Late last month 200 members of the national Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association met in North Charleston to celebrate a three-day family reunion packed with entertainment and information. To read this newspaper article in its entirety visit the Post & Courier's website at: [http://www.charleston.net/news/2007/aug/09/gourdin\\_gourdine\\_reunion\\_back\\_roots12468/](http://www.charleston.net/news/2007/aug/09/gourdin_gourdine_reunion_back_roots12468/)

Published on 08/09/07

By Jasiri Whipper - Post and Courier Charleston, SC

### **Inside this issue:**

*President's Letter*

*Reunion Survey Results*

*Membership Committee:  
Membership Form*

*Family Genealogist:  
" Spreading Branches of  
the Gourdin-Gourdine  
Family tree"*

*Education Committee:  
Retirement*

*Special Events/Occasion:  
Birthdays  
Anniversaries  
Weddings  
Congratulations  
Etc.*

***"It Takes A Village  
To Raise A Child"***

In accordance with Article V of the By-laws for the Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association, an election of Association officers "shall be held bi-annually at the business meetings of the Association, during the family reunion.

### **2007 – 2009 Elected Association Officers**

President	Timothy Gourdine, Stafford, VA
Vice-president	Patricia Matthew, Georgetown, SC
Administrative Secretary	Doris Gourdine-Jameson, Neptune, NJ
Correspondence Secretary	Linda Gourdine- Parsons, Forest Park, GA
Treasurer	Jacqueline Rose, Columbia, MD

### **2007 – 2009 Committees and Appointees**

Chairperson, 2009 Reunion Planning Committee	Yvonne Rose, Courtland, VA
Chairperson, Education Committee	Janine L. Gourdine, Laurel Springs, NJ
Chairperson, Membership Committee	Dorothy Jenkins, Charleston, SC
Genealogist	John Gourdine, Severn, MD
Editor of Newsletter	Pamela Gourdine-Scott, Summerville, SC

## Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association, President

**Timothy Gourdine, Sr.**

I would like to introduce myself. I am Tim Gourdine, Sr. the great-great grandson of Sandy Gourdine (Goose Creek, S.C) and the son of Isaac & Mary B. Gourdine Sr (Summerville, S.C.). I am married to the former Virginia Kitt of Jedburg, S.C. with two children, Timothy R. K. Gourdine Jr & Carmen M. Gourdine. We reside in Stafford, VA. After 23 years of service, in 2004, I retired as a Lt. Commander from the U.S. Navy. I am currently employed as a contractor supporting the U.S. Government. At the 2007 family reunion in Charleston, SC; I was elected President of Gourdin- Gourdine Family Association.

It is indeed an honor to be able to serve our family in this capacity. First let me say "Job Well Done!" to the members of the 2007 Reunion Committee who hosted our 10<sup>th</sup> biannual reunion in beautifully historic Charleston, S.C. Their hard work & dedication definitely paid off and made this event an affair that will be fondly remembered for years to come. I would also like to thank the 2005-2007 Officers, Committee members and Appointees for their diligence and leadership which has brought us this far.

I extend a heart felt Welcome to the newly elected/appointed 2007-2009 Officers, Appointees, and to the family members & friends who have just joined the GFA. Welcome back to our renewing members. I look forward to establishing and/or maintaining a wonderful relationship with each and every one of you.

As stated in the GGFA, by-laws, the purpose of our association is; "To promote family unity and continuing fellowship of all Gourdins, Gourdines and extended family through family reunions and related activities. To

create a supportive atmosphere for members who strive for excellence through educational achievements and economic advancements. To publish and distribute periodic newsletters or other material of interest to the Gourdin-Gourdine family. GGFA needs and encourages your support in achieving what I coin as family goals (the purpose) just stated. I believe we are poised to successfully achieve our goals.

The 2009 Reunion Committee has been established with Yvonne Rose (Courtland, VA) as the chairperson. This is probably one of the hardest jobs, within the GGFA. Personal thanks go out to Yvonne Rose for enthusiastically volunteering to establish & lead a committee in support of this event. We look forward to enjoying the sandy shores of Virginia Beach, VA in 2009.

I also would like to thank & congratulate our newly 2007-2009 elected Association Officers, Committees and Appointees for accepting their positions in the GGFA.

To the family members, we need your news, celebrations, recognitions, bereavement notices, dedication, etc., so we can all keep each other up-to-date on what's going on within the family. **We need your input.**

I believe the Gourdin-Gourdine family is well on its way and ideally structured to achieve the family's goals. But, remember we need your support and input. I look forward to speaking with you again. So, let's keep in touch, visit our website at <http://www.ggfa.org> and, **don't forget to renew your membership!** God Bless each and every one of you.

Timothy Gourdine, Sr

E-mail: tgourd2463@aol.com

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### Membership! Membership! Membership!

### Dorothy Jenkins

Membership Committee, Chairperson

### Calling all family members to join the GGFA!

We had over 200 family members register for the 2007 reunion. However, there were only 30+ that were actual members of the Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association. Since the reunion, the following members have either joined or reactivated their membership:

James A. & Rachel Johnson	New	2 years - Household
Alonzo Toomer & Family	Renewal	2 years - Household
Dorothy Jenkins	Renewal	2 years
Joseph & Rose Mary Davis	Renewal	2 years - Household
Paul & Kim Norris	Renewal	1 year - Household
Werner Franklin	Renewal	1 year - Household
Sarah Franklin	Renewal	1 year - Household
James & Rosa Gourdine	Renewal	1 year - Household
Rachel L. Philson	New	1 year
Gardenia McCray	New	1 year
Lyric Gourdine	New	1 year
Doris Gourdine-Jameson	New	2 years
Barbara A. Walker	New	2 years
Jacqueline A. Rose	Renewal	2 years
Larry & Yvonne Rose	Renewal	2 years - Household
Timothy & Virginia Gourdine	Renewal	2 years - Household
Itanya Milligan-Artis	New	2 years
Isaac J. & Janie Gourdine, Jr.	New	1 year - Household
Johnathan & Renee Moyd	New	2 years - Household
Anita Furbert	New	2 years
Florence Barnett	Renewal	1 year
Pamela Gourdine-Scott	Renewal	1 year
Henry B. Gourdine	New	1 year
Linda Gourdine-Hunt	Renewal	3 years - Household
Marian Gourdine	Renewal	1 year
Francena Wiggs	New	2 years
Jacob & Rhonda Johnson	New	1 year

I trust that this reunion has sparked a renewed love for the family and I encourage all of you to join. This is the life line of our association. If each one would reach out to another family member who is not an official member, the number could double instantly. Our goal is for each member to bring in 10 memberships this year. I think we can make this dream a reality. Remember! We're counting on your support in this effort just like we counted on you for our Reunion. Let's keep in touch. Join or renew your membership to the association. You've not let us down in the past and we don't expect you to now. Show us that good old Gourdin-Gourdine Family spirit!

## Spreading Branches of the Gourdin-Gourdine Family Tree

John Raymond Gourdin, Family Genealogist

### My dear family.

If you missed our family reunion in Charleston during July you missed out on a most wonderful and rewarding experience. Once again I want to thank our beloved Sister Dorothy Jenkins for her esteem leadership and endurance and to each of her reunion planning team for going the extra mile to ensure the success of our gathering back home in good ole South Carolina.

I'm still excited over the awesome turn-out and participation at the Family Sharing Session on Saturday afternoon at the reunion site. To the best of my recollection over the past several reunions, the highest number to attend our family sharing get together was about 35 to 40. Well, at the Charleston reunion the room was filled to capacity leaving 'standing room only' space with an attendance of more than 50 family members. Bravo!!

The large turn-out at the session coupled with the intensity of participation was clear evidence to me that our families are very much interested in learning more about the genealogy and dispersion of Gourdin-Gourdines across the nation.

For more than 30 years I have researched and compiled genealogy and ancestral data on our extended families. And while there is much more to learn and discover about the thousands of family member that spans the length and berth of the contiguous states of our nation, there is one common denominator that I can report to you with the highest degree of certainty, and that is the origin or roots of our family.

Over those years I discovered that, almost without exception, all Gourdins and Gourdines, of African Descent, have a common origin in South Carolina. This statement is not intended to imply that there is a genetic or ancestral relationship between each of us, but only that, almost without exception, the ancestry of each descendant of a Gourdin or Gourdine family can be traced back to South Carolina.

Additionally, it is most probable that the pre-Civil War ancestry of the grand majority of Gourdin-Gourdine descendants can be traced to four of the 46 counties in South Carolina – Berkeley, Charleston, Georgetown and Williamsburg.

Of course that should be expected considering that the Gourdin patriarch, Louis Gourdin, who immigrated to America from France during the late 17th Century actually settled in the Orange French Quarters near Jamestown, South Carolina, located in the area now established as Berkeley County.

Over the years, many of our kin folks and namesakes have gone on to achieve great feats and excel in practically every area of law, business, medicine, law and sport - to name a few.

In the area of law, we need look no further than *Simon Peter Gourdine*, a native of Pineville, SC, who excelled in his field to become Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Affairs for New York City and later General Counsel for the Players Association of the National Basketball Association (NBA).

Likewise, *Ann Aleathia Gourdine*, a native of Portsmouth, VA, with roots in Berkeley County, rose to the position as Judge in the Juvenile Court of Portsmouth. Many of Simon and Ann's family still reside in the Saint Stephens area.

A renowned leader in science and business, Dr. *Meredith Charles Gourdine* attended Cornell University as an undergraduate and received a Ph.D. in Engineering Science from the California Institute of Technology. During his studies at Cornell he trained, competed and won the Silver Medal in the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki for the long jump.

As an entrepreneur, Meredith built a multi-million dollar corporation based on his ideas in the field of electrogasdynamics (EGD). Using the principles of EGD, Meredith successfully converted natural gas to electricity for everyday use. In 1991 he was elected to

Continue from Page 4

the National Academy of Engineering and in 1994 he was inducted to Engineering and Science Hall of Fame.

Our namesake is enshrined in the entertainment industry by *Jerome Anthony Gourdine*, better known as Little Anthony, lead singer of the famous Imperials.

Little Anthony and the Imperials recorded and performed numerous chart toppers as early as 1958, which included such hits as - "Shimmy, Shimmy, Ko-Ko-Bop," "I'm On The Outside Lookin' In," "Take Me Back," "Goin' Out Of My Head" and many many others. Anthony has roots on Sullivan Island, near Charleston. Some of his relatives attended the Family Sharing Session during the reunion.

For several years, Reverend *Amos Gourdine* served in the South Carolina General Assembly. He represented Berkeley County, which includes the communities of Alvin, Bonneau, Cainhoy, Cordesville, Cross, Hilton Cross Road, Huger, Jamestown, Lebanon, Ridgeville,

Shulerville, and St. Stephen. Reverend Amos and his wife, Helene, co-chaired our family reunion in Charleston during July 2001.

Another member of our family who rose to a position of prominence in politics was *Isaac J. Gourdin* who served several years as a Councilman for Prince Georges County, MD.

These are just a few of our diasporas family members who are focused in the bright lights of success. Over the next couple of years, I hope to complete and publish a genealogical research project that will document the ancestral relationships of all Gourdin and Gourdine families in the contiguous United States and I will continuously rely on your inputs and updates. Below is a listing chart of families under research and the identification of the principal researchers.

If you cannot identify a family branch on the chart, please send your family information directly to me.

Let me hear from you: [JGourdin@comcast.net](mailto:JGourdin@comcast.net).

<b>A Genealogical Compendium of Gourdin-Gourdine Families in America</b> (African Descent, c1800 – 2009)		
<p><b><u>Arthur Randall Gourdine</u></b>            (b. c1881, South Carolina)            (Lead: <u>Teri Gourdine</u> (CA))</p> <p><b><u>Edward L. Gourdine</u></b>            (b. c1857, Pineville)            (Lead: <u>Dedra G. Davis</u> (IL))</p> <p><b><u>James Edmund Gourdine</u></b>            (b. c1860, Cordesville)            (Lead: <u>Miriam Gourdine</u> (WA))</p> <p><b><u>Samuel Gourdine</u></b>            (b. c1850, Charleston)            (Lead: <u>Donel Gourdine</u> (SC))</p> <p><b><u>William Gourdine</u></b>            (b. c1884, New York)            (Lead: <u>Richard Gourdine</u> (NY))</p>	<p><b><u>Benjamin Mackey Gourdine</u></b>            (b. c1841, Pineville)            (Lead: <u>Andre Battiste</u> (GA))</p> <p><b><u>Erasmus Henry Gourdine</u></b>            (b. c1832, Charleston)            (Lead: <u>Donald Fraser</u> (PA))</p> <p><b><u>Jethro Gourdin</u></b>            (b. c1838, Pineville)            (Lead: <u>Amos Gourdine</u> (SC))</p> <p><b><u>Sandy Gourdine</u></b>            (b. c1832, Goose Creek)            (Lead: <u>Timothy Gourdine</u> (VA))</p> <p><b><u>William Mackey Gourdine</u></b>            (b. c1832, Pineville)            (Lead: <u>William Gourdine</u> (SC))</p>	<p><b><u>Dublin Gourdine</u></b>            (b. c1835, Goose Creek)            (Lead: <u>Antonio Gourdine</u> (FL))</p> <p><b><u>James Gourdin</u></b>            (b. c1830, Sullivans Island)            (Lead: <u>Alphonso Brown</u> (SC))</p> <p><b><u>Robert Marion Gourdin</u></b>            (b. c1799, Williamsburg Co.)            (Lead: <u>John R. Gourdin</u> (MD))</p> <p><b><u>Walter Holmes Gourdin</u></b>            (b. 1862, Jacksonville, FL)            (Lead: <u>William Tatum</u> (NY))</p> <p><b><u>Willie (&amp; Annie G.) Gourdine</u></b>            (b. 1910, Pineville)            (Lead: <u>Raji Gourdine</u> (?))</p>

## Building Our Educational Foundation

Janine L. Gourdine

Education Committee, Chairperson

Hello Family,

My name is Janine L. Gourdine, Chairperson of the Education Committee. I would first like to congratulate all the new officers who were elected at the Charleston Family Reunion. I had a great time meeting and greeting the family. This column will be used to educate our family on many levels. The topic this month is retirement.

### **When should you start planning for retirement?**

The first day on the job. You should always pay yourself first. If you have a 401K or Retirement plan that has matching funds. Put in as much as you can. When you get raises or bonuses it will be automatically deducted by payroll deduction.

### **Social Security**

Social Security is part of the retirement plan of almost every American worker. If you are among the 96 percent of workers who are covered under Social Security, you should know how the system works and what you should receive from Social Security when you retire.

### **How do you qualify for retirement benefits?**

When you work and pay Social Security taxes, you earn "credits" toward Social Security benefits.

The number of credits you need to get retirement benefits depends on when you were born. If you were born in 1929 or later, you need 40 credits (10 years of work).

If you stop working before you have enough credits to qualify for benefits, the credits will remain on your Social Security record. If you return to work later on, you can add more credits so that you qualify. No retirement benefits can be paid until you have the required number of credits.

### **How much will your retirement benefit be?**

Your benefit payment is based on how much you earned during your working career. Higher lifetime earnings result in higher benefits. If there were some years when you did not work or had low earnings, your benefit amount may be lower than if you had worked steadily.

Your benefit payment also is affected by the age at which you decide to retire. If you retire at age 62 (the earliest possible retirement age for Social Security), your benefit will be lower than if you wait until later to retire. This is explained in more detail below.

**NOTE:** *Each year, about three months before your birthday, you receive a Social Security Statement. It can be a valuable tool to help you plan a secure financial future. It provides you with a record of your earnings and gives estimates of what you're Social Security benefits would be at different retirement ages. It also gives an estimate of the disability benefits you could receive if you become severely disabled before retirement, as well as estimates of the survivor's benefits Social Security would provide your spouse and eligible family members when you die.*

### **Full retirement age**

The "full retirement age" is 65 for people who were born before 1938. But because of longer life expectancies, the Social Security law was changed to gradually increase the full retirement age until it reaches age 67. This change affects people born in 1938 and later.

### **How do you sign up for Social Security?**




You can apply for retirement benefits online or you can call the toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213. Or you can make an appointment to visit any Social Security office to apply in person.





For more information, visit the Social Security website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

**SPECIAL OCCASSIONS/EVENTS**

**Correspondence Secretary**

**Linda Gourdine-Parson**

<p>NEWBORNS</p>	<p><b>Jay N. Collier</b>, was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September to Eric &amp; Francis Collier, Jr. Jay is the great x 4 grandson of Sandy Gourdine.</p>
<p>BIRTHDAY'S</p>	<p><b>Mary B. Gourdine</b> (spouse of belated Isaac Gourdine, Sr.), of Summerville, SC, will be celebrating her birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. Isaac was the great-grandson of Sandy Gourdine (Goose Creek, SC).</p>
	<p><b>Timothy Gourdine</b>, who resides in Stafford, VA will be celebrating his birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. He is the great-great- grandson of Sandy Gourdine (Goose Creek).</p>
<p>ANNIVERSARIES</p>	<p><b>Florence Barnett</b>, who resides in Goose Creek, SC, will be celebrating her birthday on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December. She is the great granddaughter of Sandy Gourdine (Goose Creek, SC)</p>
	<p>~~~~~  <b>Jacob &amp; Rhonda Johnson</b>, who resides in Goose Creek, SC, celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and renewed their vows on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. Rhonda is the great-great-granddaughter of Sandy Gourdine (Goose Creek, SC).</p>
<p>Going Home</p>	<p><b>Moyenda &amp; Reggae Anwisy</b>e, who resides in St. Louis, Missouri, will celebrate their Wedding Anniversary on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. Reggae Anwisy is the great-great-great granddaughter of Sandy Gourdine.</p>
	<p>~~~~~  <b>Henry Gourdine</b> departed this life on August 31, 2007 in St. Stephens, SC. He was born in the Lifeland area of Pineville, SC on April 12, 1918 to the late Edward L. Gourdine and former Josephine Judge. He was married to the former Sealie McKelvey. Henry Gourdine was the grandson of William Mackey Gourdine (St. Stephens, SC).</p>

 <p>Engagements</p>	 <p>Congratulations</p>	 <p>Weddings</p>	 <p>Newborns</p>
--	--	---	---

**2009 FAMILY REUNION**

The Gourdin-Gourdine 11<sup>th</sup> Bi-annual Family Reunion for 2009 will be held in

**Virginia Beach, VA**

Chairperson: Yvonne Rose

***From the Desk of the Editor***

The purpose of our newsletter is to keep friends and family updated on the events in your family's life and to share across the miles.

Please keep the union of the Gourdin-Gourdine Family together by sending in your birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, engagements, birth announcements, & graduation, or any other information that you would like the family to know.

**KEEP US INFORMED**

Pamela Gourdine-Scott



# Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

**Join today. Don't delay another day that's the only way to have a say!!!**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Descendent of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Optional)

Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home/workphone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile/Cell \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
(Optional) (Optional) (Optional)

**Your membership includes:**

Membership card, quarterly newsletters, and voting right at the family reunion business meetings.

**Membership Type**

Check one:

Individual (1 year) \$15.00

Household\* (1 year) \$20.00

Individual (2 years) \$25.00

Household\* (2 years) \$35.00

\*List full name of Household members: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of person who encouraged you to join: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks /money orders payable to: Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association**

Return form to:

Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association  
P.O. Box 6036  
Columbia, MD 21045

**(Reproduce form as needed)**

## 2007 FAMILY REUNION SURVEY

Hip! Hip! Hooray! From the looks of things, in the final analysis, this has proven to be one of the best reunions in the history of the Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association. In spite of several issues the planning and execution was outstanding. Survey sheets were provided for attendees. The results are as followed:

- a) 5% attended only one reunion and 95% attended two or more
- b) 10% between the ages of 18–29, 20% between the age of 30–50, 60% from 51 years or older  
And 10% unacknowledged.
- c) 5% were males and 95% were females
- d) 75% would attend another reunion, 5% would work on the state level  
And 5% would hold a national office.
- e) 50% were clear on site location for the various events
- f) 75% were satisfied with finances
- g) 75% were satisfied with events
- h) Additional comments; “Outstanding job!”, - “Had a Ball!”  
Request for workshop and requested one on black history.  
Issues were noted with the Comfort Inn as the second hotel site.

Kudos to The Charleston Planning Committee for doing such a fantastic job! We are putting the final touches on the closing out of the books and rapping up all other needed business. At the August meeting funds were used from the account to recognize the committee and program participants. A CD was given to each committee member that attended.

I was very pleased with the news coverage in the Post and Courier by Jasiri Whipper and slightly disappointed by the Chronicle after getting some of the details confused. Nevertheless, the final chapter is about to close on this square of events. However, I'm delighted that Timothy Gourdine of Stafford, VA was elected as the new international president of GGFA. He was very instrumental in making the dream become a reality. Hats off to the Charleston Planning Committee, especially, cousin Tim for making the 2007 Reunion one of the best ever held.

Submitted by:  
Dorothy “Sekayi” Jenkins  
Chairperson of the 2007 Gourdin-Gourdine Family Reunion

## Contact Information

The Gourdin-Gourdine Family Quarterly Newsletter is intended to disseminate information about and among the Gourdin-Gourdine extended family. The newsletter is published quarterly during January, April, July and October under the direction of the Executive committee of the Gourdin-Gourdine Family Association. Articles and announcements are always welcome and encouraged.

All submissions must be received by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each publishing month to be considered for publication. The subscription rates including postage are \$8.00 for one year (4 issues) and \$12.00 for two years (8 issues). Family members and friends that are current on their membership dues will receive the newsletter as a part of their membership in the Family Association. Please address newsletters correspondence as follows:

**Mail:**

**Gourdin-Gourdine Family Quarterly**

**P.O. Box 153**

**Goose Creek, SC 29445**

**Attn: Pamela Gourdine-Scott**

*E-Mail: [pgourdines@hotmail.com](mailto:pgourdines@hotmail.com)*

Family Web site:

**[www.ggfa.org](http://www.ggfa.org)**



*Gourdin-Gourdine Family Quarterly  
P.O. Box 153  
Goose Creek, SC 29445*



Friend's Name

Street Address

City, State Zip Code