

April 2004

Family reunions, Chi Ka Sha great ways to share

Our Chickasaw heritage is so much a part of us as a Nation. I think of Spring, and then think of the many family reunions that are being planned. Visiting those family reunions is a great pleasure to me. A favorite memory I have from the Summer of 2003 is visiting the Walker family reunion and the family's annual horseshoe tournament. They had fun, and so did I.

My travels with the Chickasaw Nation have placed me in contact with members of my family that I had never met before. Working for our Chickasaw Nation Ambassador, Mr. Charles Blackwell at Pushmataha House in Washington DC, is Mr. Daron Carreiro. To our great surprise, Daron and I discovered that we are cousins. He is a descendant of the Eli Perry Goforth family. Eli Goforth and his family donated the Interprise cemetery in Johnston County where many of our relatives are buried.

In Texas, I also met a Ms. Connie Almand who is also a descendent of Eli Perry Goforth. She and her family still have original allotment land near Interprise Cemetery. My plan is to introduce these two cousins that have never met.

Many families have done a better job at staying together, and are not as scattered as my family. The Great Depression and other events have caused us to be moved to a variety of places across the United States. Finding family members has been a great pleasure as I have called many of you. The state California has many Chickasaws living there who are our family members.

One family story I have always tried to clear up is the Goforth family tie to the Maytubby family. Our families have a joint cemetery in the Choctaw Nation located near Kenefic. I had the pleasure of meeting with original enrollee Alice Maytubby Townsend before her death. Alice said that we were related. She remembered stories about my great-great-grandfather, Solomon Goforth. Any family member of the Goforth or Maytubby clan will tell you that we are related, but we have yet to identify how that relationship can be verified. Someone out there reading this may be able to help us solve the family mystery.

These family relationships are very important. I encourage you to stay in touch. If your own family does not have a annual family reunion, plan on attending the Chi Ka Sha Reunion June 24-27 at Kullihoma. At one time, there were at least three Legislators that I could trace family roots with through the Mosely family. As some would say, we are all related.

So, I look forward to seeing you this summer at the family reunion. You can come to Kullihoma in June, or Tishomingo in October for the Annual Festival. We will have good food and fellowship.

Another event that has turned into another reunion is the Cultural Evening, September 28, sponsored by the Chickasaw Foundation. You will enjoy a great evening that will include good food, good fellowship, and a cultural education.

My email address is jparker@mailclerk.ecok.edu. I would like to hear from you.

See you this summer!
Judy Goforth Parker, PhD, RN