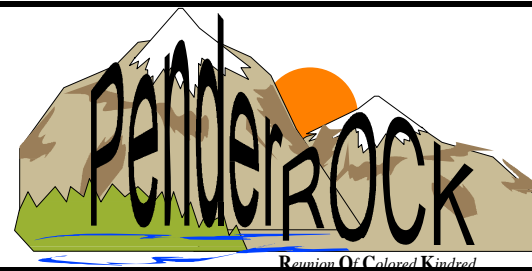


1761 - April 1997

Free Colored Persons of Pender County

Volume 1 Issue 2



PenderROCK Reunion Agenda

Friday 6:00 PM

Chill & Grill.

Relax after your trip. We'll have a hospitality room reserved. Have some hors d'oeuvres. Play cards. Listen to music. Hang out at the pool. Meet some family members. Look over the family history. free \$\$

Saturday 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

City Life.

Adults may choose to take a bus/trolley tour of DC. Have a seat and let the driver and guide show you the town. \$15 per person

Children might like to visit Adventure World -- a water theme park in suburban Maryland (about 20 miles away). Pack their swimsuits and T-shirts & shorts. We'll have adult chaperones for your children. (Don't give 'em to me if I can't spank 'em! *love, tyrone*) \$15 per person

Saturday 7:00 PM

PenderROCK Gala.

Great food. A multicolored, multicultural family in bright oranges, purples, gold & greens, burgundy tartan plaids, geometric Indian prints. A "fashion walk" for family members to strut their stuff. A talent show. Drums & tambourines. Pouring a libation to honor our ancestors. You don't want your kids to miss this! \$25 per plate

After Party.

Hang around and listen to our deejay, Oliver Jacobs. Or walk next door to the Foxtrappe nightclub. Take a cab over to the Ritz or Republic Gardens clubs. There's still plenty to do and you're on vacation!!*pay as you go*

Sunday 10:00 AM

Prayze.

Can't have a reunion without thanking the Creator. Hop on the bus, or get in the caravan headed for church. We've come this far by faith . . .

Lazy Sunday.

Some of the more greedy of us will walk down the block to Philips Waterside Restaurant. All-you-can-eat brunch includes breakfast foods like made-to-order waffles & omelets with various toppings, bacon, sausages, hash browns, seafood Creole, steamed crab's legs, oysters on the half-shell, spiced shrimp, various baked and fried fish (salmon, catfish, etc.), clams, a dessert bar to-die-for, and more. Oh, yeah! There's vegetables, too! It's really sinful; but, hey, you just left church and *you're on vacation!!!* We'll pay individually once we arrive. It's about \$23.00 per person.

Travel Plans

You Can Reach Me by Railway

Amtrak can take you from New York, Philly, or Fayetteville, NC straight into DC's Union Station. Change trains and take the Metro from Union Station to the Waterfront station at 4th and M Streets Southwest. You're now three blocks from the Channel Inn. About \$70 each way.

You Can Reach Me by Trailway

We still think it's a great idea for some brave, organized soul to coordinate renting a bus from NY, Pa, or NC. You won't need a car once you get here. Today's buses have VCRs (keeps your kids busy and out of your hair!). You can nap on the way home and not go to work looking like a zombie the next day. Think about it!! About \$40 roundtrip for a bus of 47 persons.

You Can Reach Me in an Airplane

Right into National Airport. Or Dulles International Airport (30 miles and a shuttle away). Or Baltimore/Washington International Airport (30 miles and a shuttle away). Continental: \$212 roundtrip out of Philly, \$156 out of Newark.

You Can Reach Me in Your Mind

Really *can't* go? Think about us and pray for us.

You Can Reach Me by Caravan

"Dodge Caravan", that is. Maybe you really want your own wheels. Or want to come with your kids or parents. Rent a van. (. . . and we'll borrow it to take the children to Adventure World on Saturday!) Rough prices: National Car Rental from Philadelphia is \$69.99 per day with 100 free miles per day. Additional miles are 20 cents. From New York's Lagoon, the price is \$82.99/day and 30 cents for more than 100 miles/day.

Cross the Desert Like an Arab Man

Scratch this one, folks. Research shows that we're West African, Eastern Native American, Scottish, and Irish. "Arab" is one of the few things we can't claim. (And camels are hard to come by)

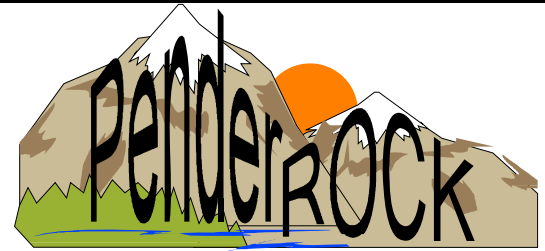
I Don't Care How You Get Here

I do, really. Get here safely and inexpensively.

Just Get Here If You Can.

Please.

**Wheeler Messick Merritt West
WALKER Jacobs Williams**



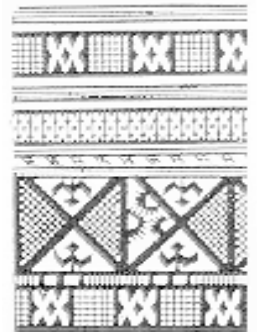
Whatcha Gonna Do?

We're seeking talent for the banquet. Yes, there'll be prizes!! Got a song to sing? Wanna perform a work of poetry or prose? Tap Dance? Ballet? Jazz Dance? (Please, no Macarena! and if we *never* see the Electric Slide again, it'll be too soon!!) (okay, we'll do it later)

Please indicate on the response form what talent you'd like to perform. Include your phone number. If we get more responses than we have time, we'll choose performers so that we get a good mix of song, dance, monologue, etc.



Family members are strongly encouraged to wear attire that reflects part of their cultural background. This includes men, women, and youths. Think of the beautiful robes, shirts, and dresses available in **West African** Kente cloth. Or the mud-cloth vests that have become popular. Kufi hats. Cowrie shells. White cotton and linen with gold embroidery. You'll look great!



You may choose to represent your **Eastern Native American** heritage by an outfit that approximates the deerskin attire of the Iroquois, Siouian, and Algonquian people who lived in North Carolina. Fake suede is a good material to make these outfits from.



Patterns are available in fabric stores. Feathers and beads can be found at many large craft stores like Michael's or MJ Designs. Wear a few blue beads. They were considered special and hard-to-get by the Virginia and NC people. (The early English figured this out and brought cheap, blue beads from Europe to trade with. But they never brought too many -- they wanted to keep the "price" high. Sound familiar?)

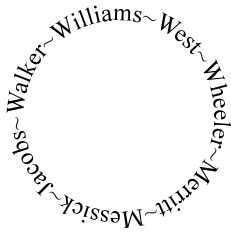
Don't forget your **Scotch-Irish** heritage, Walkers!! Each clan (family group) in Scotland has its own special tartan (its own pattern of plaid). You can find the Walker family tartan material on the Internet (<http://www.house-of-tartan.scotland.net/house/tfinder.htm>). It's expensive (\$51 - \$65 per yard). If you find a cheaper plaid with a burgundy background; hunter green, gold, and dark navy stripes, we'll pretend its authentically from Scotland.



Five prizes will be awarded for the most original, authentic, beautiful outfits.

Saturday Banquet is a Gala Affair

Adopt a Deceased Relative



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Well, first of all, they're easier to get along with than the living ones!! (smile) They never complain, don't require expensive Christmas gifts, don't call collect, and cannot be dragged into an argument.

Plus, they have a lot to offer.

What? They can teach you about yourself. Here's how: Pick a deceased person in your family tree – a great-great-grand-something. Or your grandmother's favorite uncle. Or a distant cousin who died in 1900. Find out as much about that person as you can. Ask the older family members what they remember about them. Ask Tyrone Goodwyn what information he has on them in the family history. What did they look like? Collect stories about things they did, to give you a feel for the kind of person they were. Would you have liked them? What was their family structure? Were they an only child, or one of many? Father live in the home, or single mother? Did they marry? How many times? Children of their own? Did they raise other people's children? What were their likes and dislikes? Where are they buried?

Okay, now you think you really know this person? Step Two: Look at the significant dates in their life. (Birth. Marriage or relationship. Military service. Their parent's death dates. Their own death.) Think about them. How do you think they reacted to their parent's demise? How old were they when they lost their last parent? Why do you think they married? Love? Social expectation? Nothing else to do? Did they want to go into the military, or were they drafted? What business did they leave undone back home while they went to fight? How did they feel about that? Why did they choose that particular mate? Was the person just close by? "Color-struck"? Because their brothers and sisters were marrying into the same family?

Lastly, what was happening in the United States while your friend was living? Did they have an opportunity to vote? How did they feel about that? Were they alive when all-Black Rosewood, Florida was burned? Did they hear about it? Read about it? *Could they read?* Were they living in North Carolina when the Black section of Wilmington was burned in the late 1800's? Did that scare them? Were they in danger? Were they living when the western-NC Cherokee were rounded up and marched to Oklahoma? What impact did that have to Indian-like people in the eastern part of the state? Did some of the hiding Cherokee hide with them? Did the NC Black Codes of 1829 restrict their family's ability to hunt for game and sell produce across county boundaries? Did that mean less food to eat?

Now you've got it! If you *personalize* an ancestor, you understand that American history is not just about "other folk".

Those dates and events in history class had meaning for your people; and have meaning for you. When you take the time to map out how your friend reacted to the events around him/her, you will naturally reflect on how *you* react to the events around *you*. That is the gift that your ancestors have for you. It's a learning.

Young people can especially benefit from adopting a deceased relative. Their learnings can be applied to term papers, and to the decisions they make as they define themselves.

When we pour a libation to honor our ancestors at the PenderROCK Gala, have your adoptee already chosen. Pick someone that your oldest relative remembers. Fill in the knowledge gaps with the family history and your own library research. It would be nice to pick someone who had no children. This ancestor is less likely to have people sitting around remembering them. You can do that for them, so that their name and their lives will not be lost. Be their friend. It's a two-way street.

Old Photos?

Include them in the 1997 PenderROCK video. Bring your pictures to the reunion and our videographer will insert them into the video. Look for pre-1950 pictures of your ancestors. The videos are being professionally made and will be available for sale. What a great way to share your photos!

PenderROCK
c/o Tyrone Goodwyn
41 U Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
or tsgood1@AOL.com

