



Utley Family Update

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'Mardi Gras in Jackson'

The **2007 Utley Family Reunion** was a smashing success! The **Reunion** was held on **Saturday, July 28, 2007** at the **Old English Inn** in **Jackson, TN.**

We had masks, beads, feathers, costumes, and even a **Second Line!** And the food was fantastic, especially the **New Orleans Bread Pudding.**

The dining room was decorated with posters from New Orleans and Mardi Gras decorations. Table decorations featured the Mardi Gras color of purple, green and gold. Thanks to **Bob and Gloria Utley**, and to **Mary Jo Middlebrooks** for the table and room decorations!

Wilma Utley staffed the registration table, where everyone signed in and received their name tags. **Bobby and Sue Bates** and **Mike Carver** helped put up the long, long family tree and many of the Mardi Gras wall decorations. A big thanks to **Wilma, Bobby, Sue** and **Mike!**

Sue Bates' granddaughter, **Aleah Droomer**, and **Heather**



Carver helped with table decorations. Thanks to both of you!

Jack Carver gave the Invocation before the meal. **Glenn Rainey** welcomed everyone to the reunion to begin the program. Family updates were given by **Richard Utley (Prentyce's family)**, **Teresa Denson (Annie's family)**, **Dot Wilson (Maudie's family)**, and **Sue Utley (John's family).**

A moment of silence was observed for our three family members who passed away since our last reunion: **Luther Alan Stanley**, husband of **Eloise Utley Stanley**; **James Herbert Oliver**, husband of **Emily Utley**

Oliver; and **James Allen Utley**. There were photos of these three displayed with memorial candles on a special table.

We were pleased to have "First Timers" attending the reunion this year: **Aleah Droomer**, granddaughter of **Sue Bates**; **Liam Svetz**, **Carson Williams** and **Parker Williams**, grandsons of **Bonnie Fortner Yates**.

In New Orleans, there is a long-standing tradition of doing a "Second Line" whenever there is anything to celebrate. We did our very own "Second Line" to celebrate being together with family once again. Everyone grabbed

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Utley Family Update

A publication dedicated to continued communication between the descendants of **John Allen and Lilla Maude Jacobs Utley**.

Published bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September and November.

Deadline for submission of material is the 20th of the month preceding publication.

'Mardi Gras in Jackson' cont.

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their white napkins and danced around the room to the music of "Iko Iko."

One of the highlights of the reunion was the huge banner with the **Utley** family tree. The banner is so long that it stretched down one wall, turned the corner and went almost to the corner of the next wall. We plan to update the banner for the reunion in 2008, so if we don't have your current family information, including recent births, deaths, and marriages, please let us hear from you.

Another special project for the **2007 Utley Reunion** was the publication of the **Utley Family Heritage**

Cookbook. The cookbooks were available for purchase before the **Reunion**, and there were several available at the reunion. At the time of this printing, we have no more copies left for sale. If you're interested in a copy, let **Jackie Utley** know. If we have sufficient interest, we'll do a second printing of the cookbooks.

Following the program, the Benediction was given by **Rick Yates**, husband of **Bonnie Fortner Yates**. Before family members departed for their homes, group photos were taken by **Lynn Williams**, husband of **Jackie Utley**.

Thanks to everyone who pitched in to help decorate the room, who staffed

the registration table, who gave the family updates, who gave the Invocation, Welcome and Benediction, and to everyone who traveled distances, long and short, to attend the reunion! Special thanks go to our generous relative for continuing to support our reunion financially. We couldn't have the annual **Utley Reunion** without every one of our relatives!

The **2008 Utley Family Reunion, "And The Beat Goes On!"** is scheduled for **Saturday, July 26**, at the **Old English Inn**, in Jackson, TN.

Save the Date!

We Want to See YOU There!



Glenn and Geraldine Rainey



'First Timers' Carson Williams, Liam Svetz and Parker Williams



*'Arrrh, Matey! Good Food!'
Martha Frances Bates, Aleah Droomer,
Bobby and Sue Bates*



Table Decorations



Debbie Carver Pumphrey, Earldine Utley Carver, Eloise Utley Stanley



Richard Utley, Wilma Utley, Rebecca and Brian Love



Cousin Spotlight on Bob Utley's Family

Robert Lynn "Bob" Utley was the fourth child and second son of **John Prentyce** and **Annie Bernard Utley**. **Bob** was born on September 18, 1941 in Jackson, Madison County, TN. **Bob's** only child is his son, **Robert Jason Utley**. Our Cousin Spotlight is focused on **Bob Utley**, son of **Bob Utley**, grandson of **Prentyce** and **Bernard Utley**, and great grandson of **John Allen** and **Lilla Maude Utley**.

Robert Jason Utley

[In response to a questionnaire, Bob Utley wrote:]

My full name is **Robert Jason Utley**. I was born Sept. 2, 1970 at 5:29 p.m. in Methodist Hospital, Memphis, TN. I was told that my mother went to the doctor for checkup and was immediately admitted. I arrived soon after.

One of my first childhood memories is falling in the swimming pool and my dad jumped in fully clothed to rescue me.

I remember this about celebrating Christmas: The anticipation the night before and seeing the smiles as family members opened gifts.

Early school memory: We moved from Memphis to Shreveport, LA, when I was 3 and I started Montessori School and loved it.

The family vacation I remember best: Disney World. I was fascinated by the Magic Kingdom.

My first paying job: I had my own lawn service during the summer starting at 10 years of age.

My longest employment as an adult: I have been in the mortgage industry, both retail and wholesale, for the past 7 years.

I attended University of Florida 1988-1993, received a Liberal Arts degree. My favorite subject in school was Criminal Justice, and my least favorite was anything to do with math.



*Jenna Cavanagh and Bob Utley
Engagement photo 1999*

I first met my wife [**Jennifer Claire Cavanagh**] in February of 1996 in Tampa, Florida. We were married on October 2, 1999 in Dunwoody, GA at All Saints Catholic Church. Monsignor Kietman officiated. The outstanding memory of our wedding day is how beautiful **Jenna** looked walking down the aisle.

Our children are **Jack Michael Utley**, born August 1, 2002 and **Ansley Claire Utley**, born February 14, 2005. Both were born in St. Joseph's Hospital [Tampa, FL].

I spent from the age of 8 to 21 years of age swimming competitively. My accomplishments included: 4 time high school state champion; full swimming scholarship to University of Florida; 1989 SEC Swimmer of the Year; 10 time SEC champion; Varsity Captain; 22-time Division 1 All American; US Open Champion; Qualified for the 1988 and

1992 Olympic trials; NCAA Division One Champion in 1990; member of the US National Team in Rome, Italy and the Pan American Games in Havana, Cuba.

I don't have my memories of my **Utley** grandparents since we lived in Memphis, TN.

If my home caught fire and I could back to retrieve only one thing (assuming all people and pets were safely out) I would choose a picture of my family that they may motivate me every day to be a better person.

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*Jack Michael Utley
2002*

Cousin Spotlight on Robert Jason Utley, cont.

(Continued from page 3)

If I could give advice on how to live a happy life, I would say: "Always be true to yourself and to others, and laugh as much as possible."



*Bob, Jack and Jenna Utley
August 2002*



*Jack and Ansley Utley
2007*



*Bob L. Utley, Jenna and Bob Utley, and
Gloria Utley, October 2, 1999*



*Jack and Ansley Utley
February 2005*



Jenna and Bob Utley

Utley Family News

~Prentyce~

Bob Utley emailed on August 9, 2007, "Things are great here and the little one's are doing well except **Jack** broke his leg and had to have a full cast put on this past Monday. He is in great spirits though."

Bob, Jenna, Jack and **Ansley** have moved to a different home. Their new mailing address is 3049 Marble Crest Drive, Land O Lakes, FL 34638.

Jack>Bob>Bob>Prentyce
Ansley>Bob>Bob>Prentyce

~Abe~

Millie Hestand reports, "In the wee morning hours of August 21 our oldest granddaughter, **Stephanie**, gave birth to **Lillian Diane Winright**, our first great grand baby in Kansas City. We are overcome with joy. Mother and baby are in excellent health; we forgot to ask about her daddy, **Kyle!** **Lily** was born at 3:06 a.m. August 21, 2007, at The University of Kansas Hospital, 8 lbs. 10 oz., 20 inches long."

Millie also wrote, "We have a whole set of wonderful new

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*Lillian Diane and Stephanie
Winright*

Utley Family News, cont.

(Continued from page 4)

kinfolks. We can rejoice and be exceeding glad for the families of **Titus [Toon]** and **Kevin [Bieri]** that **Kate [Utley]** and **Suzanne [Utley]** are now part of. It is simply amazing that **Cindy**, away off in Denver, **Kate** in Houston, and **Suzanne** in London put these beautiful happy events together. The new grandsons were radiant with smiles during the ceremonies.

A special pleasure for me was once more being with **Charles** and **Louise Stokes** who were also our neighbors when **Larry** was twelve, in addition to having my dear brothers and children all in the same place for the first time in thirty years. Not only that, they all behaved! So easy...when all I had to do was "smile and be a guest" and not say "Who invited them!"

[**Millie** was married to **Robert Vernon Utley**. **Kate Utley** married

Titus Toon on May 6, 2007 and **Suzanne Utley** married **Kevin Bieri** on July 8, 2007.]

**Robert Vernon>Abe
Larry>Robert Vernon>Abe
Kate>Larry>Robert Vernon>Abe
Suzanne>Larry>Robert Vernon>Abe**

~Maudie~

Martha Frances and **Dan Bates** have moved and their new address is 3131 N. Highland Ave. #D68, Jackson, TN, 38305.

Martha Frances>Maudie

Sue Bates emailed a note that **Dot Wilson** has broken her arm in a fall in late August. We're all hoping for a speedy recovery for **Dot!**

Dot>Maudie

Sue also let us know that her husband, **Bobby**, is now teaching the pre-release class for the inmates who are eligible for release in the not too distant future. The class is to help the

inmates readjust to a return to society and to learn how best to deal with issues that they will be encountering back in the real world.

Plans are also in the works for him to be teaching a math class through Union University there at the prison as well.

Bobby>Martha Frances>Maudie

~John~

Misty Cupples wrote, "my brother, **Logan [Mayo]**, had a baby, on June 7th, a girl, **Brilee Jade**, one day after my birthday. I'm loving that... She is growing and happy....grandmother **Debbie [Mayo]** and great grand parents **Meme [Mary Utley]** and **Bebop [John Utley]** are tickled pink, and most of all **Aunt Misty** and **Uncle Chris [Cupples]** are ecstatic."

Welcome to the **Utley** family, little **Brilee!**

Brilee>Logan>Debbie>John

Elmer Massey 1926—2007

Our deepest sympathies are extended to **Sarah Utley Massey** and her entire family. **Sarah's** husband, **Elmer**, passed away on August 1, 2007.

This obituary was printed in the *Commercial Appeal* [Memphis, TN] on August 2, 2007.

"Senatobia - **Elmer Massey** died August 1, 2007 at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis. Visitation will be at First United Methodist Church in Senatobia at the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, August 4 at 10 a.m., followed by services at 12 p.m., with burial in Bethesda Cemetery.

Born in Whitehaven, TN on April 20, 1926, he attended Whitehaven High School. He later moved to Raleigh, TN, and graduated from Nicholas Blackwell High School in Bartlett, TN, in the class of 1944.

After graduation, he married **Sarah Utley Massey** in 1947. They moved to DeSoto County in January of 1949. There he owned and operated Plum Point Dairy Farm with his father.

He served as president of DeSoto County Farm Bureau, and he served on the Mississippi Farm Bureau Board of Directors. He was a member and officer of the American Milk Producers Association, served on the Horn Lake School Board, and was a member of the Horn Lake Methodist Church. In 1973, they moved to Senatobia, MS, where he owned and managed Lyndale Farms.

Mr. Massey served as president of the Tate County Farm Bureau for many years, and was a member of the Tate-Panola Drainage Board. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

Mr. Massey was preceded in death by his parents, **William Joseph Massey** and **Addie Bell Droke Massey**; his brothers, **William Shands Massey** and **Joseph Pendleton Massey**; and his son, **Steven Henry Massey**. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Sarah Utley Massey**; sister, **Mrs. James Edwards (Irene)**; son, **Michael Joseph Massey** and wife, **Terri Robinson Massey**; daughter, **Lynn Massey Grenfell** and husband, **James Byrnes Grenfell**. He was a loving grandfather to **Brandi Lane Massey**, **Elizabeth Massey Parker** and husband, **Eric Parker**, **Michael Joseph Massey, Jr.**, **Sarah Elizabeth Grenfell**, **Catherine Byrnes Grenfell**, **Madeline Leigh Massey**, **John Gaines Massey**, and **John Thomas Parker**, great-grandson."

Please keep **Sarah** and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Newsletter Heroes

The “*Utley Family Update*” is an ongoing project with ongoing expenses. Although some newsletters are sent via email, the majority still must be printed and mailed through the postal service. With frequent postage increases, help is needed.

All contributions, large or small, are gratefully accepted.

Any money not used for the newsletter will be applied toward family reunion expenses.

Thank You to these Newsletter Heroes!

Glenn and Geraldine Rainey

Ben Usinger

Wilma Utley

Lynn Williams

Utley Family Reunion in the News!

The **2006 Utley Family Reunion** was featured in the February/March 2007 issue of *Reunions Magazine*. The two page article described the reunion theme, decorations, activities and fun. Photos featured family members studying the long family tree banner, looking at Utley family calendars, and reminiscing.

The September/October 2007 issue of *Reunions Magazine* featured our Utley Family Heritage Cookbook as part of an article on family reunion cookbooks. Our cookbook and cookbook order form were given prominent placement in the article.

Utley Family on the Web

The **Utley Family website** is available at www.utleyfamily-tn.org. We try to update it with reunion photographs and family news. The family newsletter is archived online at the website. In the future, we hope to have a searchable database with our **Utley** ancestors, so that other **Utley** researchers as well as our family members can access it. Thanks to **Rebecca Williams Love** for keeping the website up and running.

If you have an email address and would like to receive the **Utley** newsletter by email, please let us know. Not only will you receive your newsletter sooner, but it will save on the cost of paper, ink, envelopes, and

postage. With the ever-increasing postal rates, each newsletter becomes more and more expensive to print and to mail. We truly appreciate all of our Newsletter Heroes for their help with these expenses.

If you'd like to have your name added to the email list for the **Utley** newsletter, contact **Jackie Utley** at JUtleymail@aol.com.

If you have family news or family photos you'd like to share online, please send them to us. We'd love to use the website as a quicker way to share family news, so that you don't have to wait for months to receive the next newsletter.

Nov/Dec 2007 'Utley Family Update'

The November/December 2007 issue of the “*Utley Family News*” will honor our veterans and active service men and women. If you or a family member have served in the military, or are serving, please let me know. I'd like to publish name, branch of service and war or conflict, if any (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, etc.) Photos will be most welcome.

As always, we'd like your family news—births, deaths, illnesses, engagements, marriages, new jobs, different home, school/church/civic activities and honors, fun vacations, and anything else you'd care to share with our family. We'd love to share your photos too!

Our Cousin Spotlight will feature the children of **Louise McLemore** and **J. T. Buck**—**James, Mike, Tom** and **Eric**. If you have any memories or stories about these four, please share them. As always, photos are great! You can email them or mail them to the address on the last page of this newsletter.

The deadline for the next issue will be October 20th. Please submit your family news, military information, and Cousin Spotlight memories and stories before then.

Thanks!

*Today's
Family News
will become
Tomorrow's
Family History*

'Mardi Gras in Jackson 2007'



Entire group



The Cousins



The Fours



The Fives



The Sixes



Utley Family Update
 c/o Ms. Jackie Utley
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 Jackson TN 38305-2839

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Reunion wrap-up, Utley family news, Reunion photos and more

*Celebrations: Utley Family Birthdays and Anniversaries
 in September and October 2007*

SEPTEMBER

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| Emily Oliver | Jill and Scott Fourreau | Laura and Joe Montes |
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| Kailia Grace Utley | John Luke Barrett | Holly Lauren House |
| 5 George Utley | 14 Rickey Carver | 27 Ted Wilson |
| 7 Debbie Pumphrey—55 | Michael Fourreau | DeLaine Dabbs |
| | 15 Jacob Allen Buck | |

OCTOBER

- | | | |
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