

Genealogical News

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A Tribute and Thanks to Larry "Hawk" Hawthorne

Born May 22, 1949, in Decatur, Illinois and passed away on September 10, 2005, in Decatur, Illinois of cancer.

You are probably wondering why an obituary is making the front page of a MGC Newsletter. Usually the President's column is here updating the Membership on MGC activities for the past three months. This is not an obituary, but a tribute to a wonderful human being.

"Hawk" was not a member of MGC, did not know much about MGC until recently and never attended a meeting or even got one of our newsletters. Therefore, why the front page and why the story on "Hawk" Hawthorne?

Our organization was formed to study, research, document, educate and preserve the histories and accomplishments of multicultural and multiracial persons. Our focus is on southern and eastern Ohio, but our works cover the entire United States and crosses international boundaries.

We put the word "multiracial" in our mission statement because society separates the human cultures with color designations and we, as a whole, have fallen victims of classifying ourselves and others by race and color.

Hawk did not do this. He epitomizes what the Multicultural Genealogical Center is about and he lived the life that included and

lived the life that included and crossed many cultures and races.

Hawk, a white man, saw each person he met as a human being. His usual greeting was "Hi, I'm Larry Hawthorne, but my friends call me "Hawk". You can call me Hawk."

This is how Al and I met Hawk in 1992 at the Oakland Street Market we owned in Decatur, Illinois. Ours was a neighborhood store where children waited inside for the school bus. A pre-dominantly African-American community of low to average income.

Two elementary boys were always talking about Larry or as one said, "Hawk". They told us, "He has this big motor bike and he took me for a ride. Ya, and he has this funny looking car. I got to ride in it. It is called an Edsel, boy is it funny looking. Larry said he would go to school with me tomorrow. When Hawk gets here, I'm a goin to tell him about the trip. Maybe he can give the money so I can go." These were some of the comments we would hear from the two brothers.

Al and I wondered who was this Larry, "Hawk". When he finally came into the store one morning and the two boys greeted him like a loved and trusted friend, we knew this man had a big heart and a caring nature.

Hawk had signed up to be a mentor for one child, but could not turn his back on the other brother and so he ended up mentoring both. Larry would sit at the deli counter after the boys went off to school and talk with Al and me. When Al would go to his "real" job, Larry would stay a while longer talking with me until other regular customers started to come in. Almost like a bodyguard to me, as I would have been alone in the store.

Hawk and the boys, when they visited Hawk's home, talked so much about the "doghouse", Hawk's wife Sharon asked what is the "doghouse" One day Sharon came into the store and she returned many days thereafter to sit with me during the quite afternoons. There was a task of making up variety candy bags and we would sit for hours talking as we twisted these bags into sellable product.

After we moved back to Ohio, we kept our friendship alive. We found out that both our husbands had cancer about the same time. Larry's went into remission for a short time, but eventually it came back.

(continued on page 3)

Inside This Issue:

What A Life	Pg 2
UR Lecture	Pg 2
Wallpaper	Pg 3
C & C Day	Pg 3

What A Life I've Had

Submitted by Ada Woodson Adams, his friend

I lived through the 50's when:

A piece of copper tubing nailed to a 12" 2x4 passed as my rifle so I could play cowboys and Indians. TV was black and white and didn't come on the air until 4:00 p.m. We had a cat named Elizabeth and an outhouse. Mom washed our clothes in a wringer washer and hung them on the line to dry. The milkman delivered milk to the house. Diapers were made of cotton, got washed and reused. We never locked the house because the locks were painted over. We had no a/c; just open windows. The only crack we knew about was the one in our wall. The wheels fell off the lawnmower, Dad made new ones out of wood and kept mowing with it. I could lie in my bed at night, look out the window and watch the drive-in movie on 22nd Street, without sound of course. Cars were made of steel and you could tell one model year from another. Mickey Mouse ruled.

I lived through the 60's when:

Lakeview High School was still open. We moved to Thrush Avenue and took our driveway rocks with us. I got to be a hippie for awhile. Missiles in Cuba brought the world to the brink of destruction.. John Kennedy was assassinated. Vietnam was tearing the country apart. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy were assassinated. Whites were murdering Blacks in Mississippi and getting away with it. We started locking our house at night. We really thought love would prevail. We landed on the moon (maybe). Our country's innocence was lost forever. The Beatles ruled.

I lived through the 70's when:

I moved to Denver and sat on a mountain top for the first time. My car burned up in Leadville, Colorado ('60 Pontiac..What a ride!). I became a college graduate. I was playing golf with a 5 handicap and regularly beat Dad. Oh yeah, I bought that first BMW motorcycle and rode it to Newfoundland and the Smokey Mountains and beyond. I became a Dink. I started my career

with Staley. Nixon was tried for impeachment. President Ford was shot at. I met my sweetie at the Dixie Truck Stop. I spoke French in Quebec. I bought my first house. I bought my first BMW car. I married my sweetie.

I lived through the 80's when:

We woke up in Creston, BC covered with Mt. St. Helen's ash. I received my BMW Motorcycle Owners of America 100,000 mile award. We played in the creek at Loretta Lynn's ranch. I built my house. I bought my wife a BMW motorcycle. My wife wrecked that BMW motorcycle. I bought my second BMW car. And my third. And my fourth. President Reagan was shot. The Berlin Wall came down. The Soviet Union collapsed. We went to Mexico and said we wouldn't go back (and didn't). I flew over Busch Stadium and saw the fireworks when the Cardinals won the World Series. We ate at Kiah's Squeeze Inn in Reno, Nevada. We rode the Bonneville Saltflats. We witnessed heat stroke in Hays, Kansas. The Dinks held the first Hard To Be Humble Rally. We watched the Cubs play ball in Mesa...several times. We froze riding in freezing rain coming home from Shakamak. Jim graduated Lakeview's last class. Greed ruled.

I lived through the 90's when:

I was made a BMWMOA Ambassador by the Board of Directors. I ended my career at Staley. We ate lunch on Fisherman's Wharf. My wife freaked at the traffic in Frisco. I went to Europe for the first time. I bought my first Grand Marquis. I got my insurance and securities license and started a new career. Jamaal came into my life and I learned about Power Rangers and remote controlled cars and Pokemon and \$100 tennis shoes..and caring. We rode the ski lift to the top of Squaw Valley and played in Lake Tahoe. I went to my first Doug Stone concert. I received my BMW Motorcycle Owners of America 200,000 mile award. I went to Europe again and took Sharon with me. We went to Canada during All Canada Weekend....we won't do that again. I bought my second Grand Marquis. Tried to ride to Thunder Bay on July 6 but had to turn back because of the blizzard. Saddam murdered countless

thousands and burned Kuwait. We attended the last Shakamak Rally. I was Prudential's top producer in the U. S. among all first year agents. My Dad died. President Clinton was tried for impeachment. I stood in awe over-looking Glacier National Park. Generally contentment ruled.

I lived into the 2000's when:

Maniacs flew airplanes into buildings. The Market crashed. I built a fence and resided the back garage. I was elected to the BMWMOA Board of Directors. I had my first surgery. And my second. We toppled Saddam and took him prisoner. I went back to Nova Scotia. I bought my third Grand Marquis. I was elected Vice President of BMWMOA. We went back to Pidgeon Forge and French Lick. I put a backrest on the R80RT so my wife could ride with me to Indiana, and she did. I spoke French in Quebec again. I became President of BMWMOA. My wife stayed with me through it all. I guess love did prevail... Larry

Written by Larry "Hawk" Hawthorne who faced death with dignity. He was born May 22, 1949 and died September 10, 2005.

Underground Railroad Presentation

**Thursday, November 5
6:00 p.m.**

**Public Lecture
"The Manasseh & Ephraim
Cutler Family
and the Underground Railroad"**

by Henry Burke, MGC Historian

**Ohio University
Athens, Ohio
State Room at the Baker Center**

**The illustrated lecture will be
followed by a reception.**

Tribute to Larry "Hawk" Hawthorne

(continued from Page 1)

Hawk had goals he wanted to achieve before his illness ended his days on earth. He wanted to ride his bike across country and Canada and to go the BMW National Rally held in Lima, Ohio this year. He also wanted to come see the widow of Alvin Adams, his friend, Ada. Hawk was not able to ride his bike to the Lima Rally, but his wife Sharon rode with and drove him to the Rally and then they drove the four hours to see Ada. A distance that was taking them away from Decatur and which would add more time and miles on the return trip home. Hawk wanted to visit with his friend and make sure she was ok.

Larry and Sharon asked me a lot of questions about MGC. We talked about Al's and my dream of the community of Chesterhill and the people who live there. We talked about the mission of MGC and Al's hope that the dream would not die with his death. Al

knew it could live and should live and that he was asking a lot of the people left behind to carry on the work that had been started. I told them in Al's words, "The people in this area have given much, have a lot more to offer and their history and accomplishments need to be documented and preserved so that the community will one day see and feel the pride of their achievements."

Sharon and I rode to Chesterhill, Ohio. She was given the Underground Railroad tour and some history of the village. She had a chance to see the old building, in much need of renovation, we had recently purchased to house our research center, meeting room and museum. Larry was too sick to go, but he listened to Sharon and me when we returned home.

Hawk's obituary asked that memorials to him be made to the Multicultural Genealogical Center. What a tribute of belief in our organization and what a tribute to the man we know as "Hawk". That is the kind of man Larry "Hawk" Hawthorne was!

"Hi, my name is Larry Hawthorne, but my friends call me "Hawk". YOU can call me "HAWK".

Thanks to the generous support of family and friends, Hawk's Memorial Donations total so far \$1600 toward the MGC Building Fund.

Written by Ada Woodson Adams,, MGC Vice President, but most importantly Sharon and Hawk's friend.



"Wallpaper Project"

On Friday, November 4, 2005, the Multicultural Genealogical Center, Ohio University's African-American Studies Department and Ohio University's Social Work Department will present **"The Wallpaper Project"**. This play tells *THE STORY OF OHIO, AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF EVERY DAY OHIOLANS IN THEIR OWN WORDS*.

The presentation was first presented during Ohio's Bicentennial celebration in 2003.

Location:

Chesterhill Theater
Chesterhill, Ohio

Times: 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY AND CAMPUS DAY 2005

The fourth annual Community and Campus Day will be held on Saturday, November 5, at Old Nelson Commons, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. The theme for this year's event will be: **"The Underground Railroad: Linking the Trails and Connecting the Community"**. The motivation behind the theme is to contribute to an appreciation of the scope, nature and legacy of the Underground Railroad in the Ohio River Valley.

The event will start at 12:00 noon with opening remarks by the President of Ohio University

President Roderick McDavis and end at 5:00 p.m.

Over the years members of the community have displayed artifacts, heirlooms, works of art, photographs, and given performances. The University showcases the opportunities they offer and the talents of the students.

Exhibition space is free and will be reserved on a first come basis.

Mildred Vore
MGC Secretary

The Multicultural Genealogical Center

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Visit The
MGC
Website
at

www.mgcenter.org

Future Newsletter Articles:

Triracial Groups at Cutler, Chesterhill and Zanesville, Ohio

Continuing excerpts of Dr. Richard Walker's address in
Morgan County, Ohio in 2000

Appalachian Scholars Program

By Gifford B. Doxsee, Athens, Ohio

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Membership Information

- Annual Membership runs from January 1 through December 31
- To become a member of MGC, simply fill out an application form (applications can be obtained by contacting the address below) and send it along with your dues to:

The Multicultural Genealogical Center
P. O. Box 125
Chesterhill, Ohio 43728-0125

Or bring it to the monthly meeting at The Friends Meeting House on St. Rt. 555 next to the fire station in Chesterhill. Monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month.

If you would like to take advantage of the installment plan for a lifetime membership, please contact **Vickie Lee Thurston, Treasurer**, at the monthly meeting.