

# Ligon Family and Kinsman Newsletter



FALL 2017 EDITION

## A Letter From Your President:

The first message I have for the cousins is a sad one. Since the last Newsletter was sent, the LFKA has lost another Chaplain, Herschel McClurkin, who died in March. Never without a smile or a kind word, Herschel was an inspiration to us all. Also, William T. DePriest died March 25, 2017. Bill was a long time reunion / travel planner for LFKA and was so highly esteemed that he was made an "Honorary Cousin." Those of you who wish to pay your respects to Herschel's or Bill's families may wish to send a donation to Newland House in his/their memory. Bill leaves two sons: Dan DePriest 2033 Shoreline Drive, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 and Mark DePriest 1531 W. Harpeth Road, Franklin, TN 37064 and a special friend: Ms. Ann Longhurst 4500 Post Rod, Nashville, TN 37205.

Your Executive Board has been hard at work. On Aug. 5th the Board met at the Doubletree Hotel in Asheville, NC. The meeting lasted for 5 hours with a box lunch break. Reports included the following topics: -Michael Howell, Chairman of the Reunion Committee for the 2018 Reunion in Asheville, NC, June 21-23, has developed preliminary plans which will be finalized soon. - Whitney Eller is spearheading an effort to create a new web site for the LFKA and gave us an exciting demonstration. -Treasurer, Laine Ligon reported that the LFKA has \$30,680.35 in its coffers. - Also the Board honored Mardell McClurkin and Carroll Walling by asking each to serve the unexpired terms of our two beloved, and recently departed, chaplains.

Anther plug for Newland House is necessary. While donations from individual members for our last gift increased to \$850.00 (the LFKA sent \$1,250.00), we can do much better. Newland House is a retirement community started by the 6th Earl of Beauchamp in the 19th century for retired employees and clergy. This is a favorite charity of our English cousins who always appreciate our gift. Lady Rosalind's comments about our last gift were included in the Spring Newsletter. When paying dues for 2018-2019 biennium, please consider also sending a donation for Newland House.

In closing, I offer a brief poem in honor of our special heritage.

### ODE FOR MADRESFIELD

*Here strolled Waugh, an endearing soul,  
And Elgar's Enigmas did unfold.  
Was an ancient manor the allure?  
Or yet something more obscure.*

*High-minded character, charm and grace  
Abounded in this imposing place;  
A quality of life, precious and serene  
Shown forth in the Ligon's very mien!*

" It's great to be a Ligon!"  
John Overstreet, President



## New Members, Births & Deaths

Please welcome our newest members:



**Claire Alexandra Blackwell**, 6340 Oakridge Rd., Clover, SC 29710 Ph: 980-0226-7404  
Email: [claireblackwell97@gmail.com](mailto:claireblackwell97@gmail.com)

**Herbert "Herbie" Albert Blackwell, Jr.**, 4960 Spratt Dr., York SC 29745, Ph: 803-322-8319 Email: [hblackwelljr@hotmail.com](mailto:hblackwelljr@hotmail.com)

**Herbert Albert "H.A." Blackwell, III**, 1096 Ridge Runner Rd, Rock Hill, SC 29730,  
Ph: 803-465-5204, Email: [ha\\_blackwell@hotmail.com](mailto:ha_blackwell@hotmail.com)

**Tiffany Laird Blackwell Galik**, 5913 Baton Rouge Blvd., Frisco, TX 75035, Ph: 214-783-7385 Email: [tiffanyclifford@hotmail.com](mailto:tiffanyclifford@hotmail.com)

**Daniel Connard Keaton**, 2822 Marrickville Dr., Trophy Club, TX 76262, Ph: 540-330-6516 Email: [dkeatonsml@yahoo.com](mailto:dkeatonsml@yahoo.com)



It's with the greatest sadness that we announce the passing of a long time member, friend and Chaplain of the LFKA, **The Rev. Herschel McClurkin** (wife Mardell) of Alma, Arkansas earlier this year. Mardell and family be reached at:  
POBox 33, Alma, AK.

We would also like to remember an "honorary cousin", Bill DePriest of Nashville, TN who planned countless reunions for the Ligon's.

**!! \$50 DUES ARE DUE by JANUARY !!**

Please send your payment of \$50 for the 2018/19 biennium to your Treasurer **Laine Ligon: 3125 Longleaf Rd, Columbia, SC 29205**

**REUNION 2018 NEWS**

**Mark your calendars for the next Ligon reunion in beautiful Asheville, NC from June 21-23.**

Michael Howell has graciously agreed to chair this reunion and will mail out all formal reunion information at a later date.

In the meantime, the accommodations will be at the Village Hotel on Biltmore Estate with a mandatory Board Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> followed by a welcome reception. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will enjoy a family breakfast, church service at All Souls Chapel and an Asheville Trolley Tour. Our final full day will be spent touring the Biltmore House and grounds along with an evening dinner and reception.

For further information, please contact Michael Howell directly at:

michaelslatonhowell@gmail.com, 512-658-7006



**NEWSLETTER and WEBSITE UPDATE**

This will be the last newsletter emailed to you! Moving forward, the newsletter will be found online on the revised website (www.lfka.org) with the newsletter being accessible via password.

For anyone who'd prefer their newsletters to be mailed, please expect no changes! If you'd prefer to receive your newsletter in print, please contact your VP of Communications, Whitney Eller:  
**3044 Treadwell St, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466**  
**843-693-4347**  
**ligonfamilycommunications@hotmail.com**



**British Cousin News**

We recently connected with Lady Rosalind Morrison who updated us on the well being of our British cousins.

Currently, Sir John Cotterell (our honorary VP of the Association for the UK) is very ill and Rosalind will alert us as soon as she has varying news of his health.

Regarding her children and grand children she states, "the cousins are all doing well. Sarah & Adrian Scopes (daughter) Rose, aged 23, gained a First at Edinburgh & is working at Madresfield sorting out the archives. Their son Hugh, aged 21, is working hard (we hope!) at Exeter University & is in his last year. He is hoping to join the army.

The 4 Chenevix Trench (children): May aged 14 is at school close by, as is Evie 11 & Max 9. Jack has just gone to Eton for the 1st time & is settling in well".

Finally, something of interest about Lady Rosalind is that she was recently elevated to Vice Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, thus representing The Queen in the County. This is a great honor!!



**A Friendly Reminder**

Please keep in mind that should you ever visit England, please remember that you can always secure a group tour through [tours@madresfieldestate.co.uk](mailto:tours@madresfieldestate.co.uk) or Telephone: 01684573614

However, please refrain from knocking on the door requesting a tour. Madresfield is a private estate and visitations to the home are by invitation only, even to us American cousins.

\*\*\*\*\*OLD NEWS\*\*\*\*\*

*The Ligon Family and Kinsman Newsletter welcome your input! Do you know any historical facts about our family history or have any interesting or humorous Ligon tales to tell? If so, please email your editor, Whitney Eller at [ligonfamilycommunications@hotmail.com](mailto:ligonfamilycommunications@hotmail.com). Photos are a great addition too!*

## ***Newland House or 'The Beauchamp Community at Newland'***

**Every Christmas, the LFKA sends a small monetary contribution to Newland House in honor of our British Lygon Cousins and the legacy they have left behind. Historically, the LFKA has asked that the members donate to add to our small financial gift of \$1000. We need your help again and realized many members do not know much, if anything, about Newland House! Taken from the [www.beauchampstleonard.org](http://www.beauchampstleonard.org) website, learn about how your ancestors started this retirement community and how so many locals have reaped the benefits of it for over 150yrs!**

“At the beginning of the 1840s Charlotte, Countess Beauchamp, began working on plans for the building of Almshouses for the poor of the parish. Her husband, John Reginald Pindar, 3rd Earl Beauchamp was to carry out her wishes and when he died in 1853 he bequeathed her dowry of of £60,000 (2.5 million in today's money) so that the vision of this remarkable woman could be realized. However, it was through the untiring work and vision of Frederick Lygon, second son of the 4th Earl, that the Almshouses and church were finally built. Frederick, who became the 6th Earl in 1866 was a leading Tractarian (Anglo-Catholic) described as 'the ecclesiastical layman par excellence. His vision for the Almshouses & Church was to be a 'Gothic Heaven' the perfect union of Frederick's unbounded imagination, his Anglo-Catholic principles, his deep spirituality and his Victorian philanthropy. The Countess Beauchamp laid the foundation stone for the Beauchamp Almshouses on the 22nd October 1862. The architect of the Almshouses and St Leonard's church was P C Hardwick, who also designed Charterhouse school. The Revd James Skinner was the first Vicar-Warden from 1861-1877 and the driving



Frederick Lygon

force in having the church completed to such exceptional standards of quality. The Beauchamp Almshouses were dedicated and St Leonard's church consecrated on the 21 July 1864. Reports in the local and national press lauded the event as a triumph of Anglo-Catholic ceremonial."

**If you feel led, please send your check made out to the LFKA and send directly to our Treasurer: Laine Ligon, 3125 Longleaf Rd, Columbia, SC 29205 Write "Newland House" in the memo area of your check.**

**Honorary President: The Honorable Rosalind Morrison-Madresfield, England**

President: John Overstreet  
VP of Membership: Camilla Burbank  
VP of Communications: Whitney Eller  
Secretary: Denise West  
Treasurer: Laine Ligon  
Registrar: James "Jim" Hancock  
Historian: Michael Howell  
Honorary Historian Emeritus: Jean Whittington Pigott  
Chaplains: Rev. Herschel McClurkin, Rev. Chris Epperson

**Board Members**

Martha Jayne Ligon-Carter	"Sandy" Ronald S. Ligon, Jr.
Toni Curtis	Becky Mauldin
Kelly Anne Ligon Fisher	Deborah Pigott Moore
Peggy Fox	Alice Scheer
Nita Helmer	Ann Thruston

**Ex-Officio Board Member**

Past President: R. Laine Ligon

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*The Ligon Family Newsletter*

Whitney Eller, VP of Communications  
3044 Treadwell Street  
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina 29466