

Ligon Family and Kinsman Newsletter

SPRING 2017 EDITION



A Letter From Your President:

My Dear Cousins:

As we endure this bleak, late-winter weather, let us all remember Shelly's "Ode to the West Wind". "The trumpet of a prophecy! O Wind, if winter comes, can Spring be far behind . . .?" These gloomy days also give us time for reflection. Especially provocative is Viktor Frankl's "Man's Search for Meaning". Although inspired by the author's captivity in a Nazi concentration camp, there are yet themes of hope and meaningfulness of life. With that in mind, many of you are aware that since 2017 began, two of the pillars of the LFKA and former Executive Board Members have departed this life: Albert Clinton Walling, II - January 5, 2017 and Grace Fisher DeuPree - January 10, 2017. These were remarkable individuals who were both dedicated to the LFKA. While all of us are saddened by our loss, we are grateful and blessed to have had the honor of calling them "cousin"!

The LFKA's annual donation to the Newland House charity has been received by Lady Rosalind Morrison, who sent this message to me: "I am writing an email to you to thank you for your generous check for the community at Newland because snail mail may take too long! As always your kind gift is gratefully received by members of the community and the money is put towards giving the residents an outing to somewhere interesting in the locality. Could you try to make sure that the members of our family are aware of how much their gift is appreciated?" This year our gift was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,250. This is such a worthwhile cause and we are privileged to be able to honor our English family with this donation. A sincere thanks you to all the cousins who contributed.

Please be advised that the next reunion will be in June 2018 in Asheville, North Carolina. Once the Board decides the exact dates and venues, you will be duly notified. Also, the Executive Board has scheduled its interim meeting for August 5, 2017 in Asheville.

Although most of us cousins are only distantly related by blood, I find the comradery and the lasting friendships, which have developed to be exceptional. We are all blessed to be a part of this grand family. Truly "It Is Great to Be a Ligon!"
Johnny Overstreet, President



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

In an effort to allow for more communication & to help us save time, printing & postage, the Family Newsletter will be accessible via email. If you've received this in print but have an email, please email Whitney Eller with your email of choice: ligonfamilycommunications@hotmail.com

In addition, if you'd like to continue receiving the printed LFKA newsletter, please write to her at: Whitney Eller, 3044 Treadwell St, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466

New Members

Births & Deaths



Please welcome our newest members:

Donald Wayne Mills of 413 W. Almond St., Lexington, OK 73051 Ph: 405-527-0620 and

Lowry Rush Watkins, Jr., (Life Member) of 4949 Brownsboro Rd., Louisville, KY 40222-6424, Lwjky@msn.com



It is with a heavy heart that the LFKA announce the passing of four long term LFKA members: **James Yancey** of Austin, TX and **Robert Ligon Steele, Jr.** of Towson, MD, both passing away in 2016. Former Chaplain **The Rev. Dr. Albert Walling** (wife Carroll) of Round Rock, Texas, passing on 5 Jan 2017; and former Registrar **Mrs. Grace Lamar DeuPree** of Dallas, Texas, who passed away on 10 Jan 2017. Their friendships will be sorely missed.

We would also like to remember the spouses of LFKA members who passed away recently: **Dennis Neal**, husband to Linda Neal and **Harold Smith**, husband to Maileen Smith

*****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. Photos are a great addition too! This season's edition of "OLD NEWS" is by long standing member Peggy Fox.

Abbreviated Journal Entries of my Mother's Trip to Madresfield and Europe in 1938

By Peggy Fox



After my grandfather, William Daniel (W. D.) Ligon Jr., had researched his ancestry back to Jamestown, and before that to the English Ligons, he wrote to the 7th Earl Beauchamp at Madresfield about his discovery of the English connections. The Earl immediately invited W.D. and my 31-year-old mother, Marguerite Ligon (Page) to come to England and stay for six weeks.

On May 11, 1938 my mother and grandfather set sail on the Queen Mary. It was the golden age before the Second World War. Think Downton Abbey. They were met in London by the Earl, soon to be known as "Cousin Willie", and were waltzed around London and Windsor for the next few days, meeting the London cousins with much champagne.

"May 18, drove from Great Malvern through the lush English country side, dotted with thatched roofed cottages to Worcester and from there to Madresfield Court, begun 900 years ago, and added onto throughout the time it's been in the family. The house is filled with Renaissance paintings, Faberge eggs, the amazing library and chapel and other treasures of the house," wrote Marguerite. My mother slept in the Chinese bedroom with it's ebony walls, etched in gold, a red satin spread, and a view that looked out over the moat with it's stately swans. Dinner was served by four footmen, one behind every chair. The

honorable Richard Ligon, the earl's youngest son and Rosalind's father, was living there too. For the next days they proceeded to see the sights, among them Warwick, Stratford on Avon and Broadway. They enjoyed a house party at Madresfield where mother met Mona & Elmley, got lost in the boxwood maze, and climbed the Malvern Hills.

"On March 25, back to London with much socializing and spotting the Royal Family, including the two little princesses" stated Marguerite. They went to the theater with Beatrice Lilly in "Happy Returns". They dined with Cousin Willie at his town house on Belgrave Square. They toured Parliament with Lord Elmley who was in Parliament, then off to Paris with Elmley, his sister Dorothy and my mother and grandfather.

Mother's first sight of Paris was of Sacre Coeur, high on it's hill. They stayed at the Ritz, went to Versailles and Chartres and drank champagne every night. My mother was ecstatic. She and Lady Mona went shopping, she saw Noel Coward in a nightclub and went up and introduced herself. They went to the opera to see Hamlet and the building was so grand it took her breath away. Then back to London, where they saw Lunt and Fontaine perform; visited more historic sights, and a visit to Mona & Elmley at their country home in Yarmouth.

On June 10th, they all returned to Madresfield. My mother was given the French bedroom. They lunched with Richard and Lettice Cotteral. They had dinner with the Mayor of Worcester, and she was interviewed by the Malvern Gazette about her impressions.

On June 15th my mother and grandfather boarded the Isle de France, after what my mother always described as her "most divine trip".



Post Note: While arriving in the US to attend the November 1938 LFGA reunion, the 7th Earl Beauchamp died; just 5 short months since entertaining Peggy's family.

Honorary President: The Honorable Rosalind Morrison-Madresfield, England

President: John Overstreet
VP of Membership: Camilla Burbank
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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

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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

The Ligon Family Newsletter

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