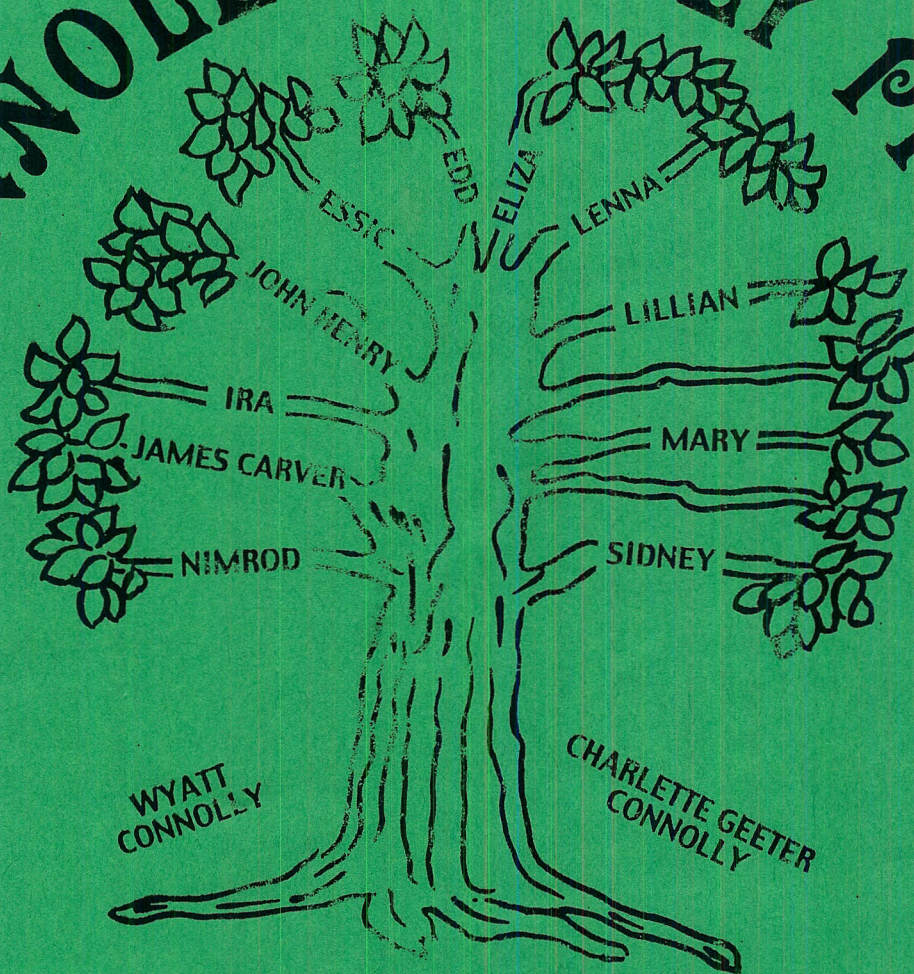


# CONNOLLY FAMILY Picnic



Arkabutla, MS  
July 5, 2003



## **FAMILY PRIDE**

God created the heavens and earth. He created Adam and Eve. Each day we all give thanks and praise that God's will be done.

We thank him for our forefathers, those He has taken to be with Him. We are thankful that they are looking over our family and continue to strengthen the Connolly Family and carry on its tradition of PEACE, LOVE AND HARMONY.

We want to give special thanks to Lillian Blackburn Denton who started the Family Reunions during the 1960's in Memphis, Tennessee. The first reunions were often held at the home of Lillian and Elmore, Sr. in their backyard. Elmore knew how important family was to Lillian so he supported her hosting of the reunions which included families from Illinois, Missouri, California, Michigan, Utah, Kansas, Texas and Mississippi just to name a few.

As the gatherings continued to grow, Lillian's brother, Clarence Blackburn along with their cousin, Althea Conley Brown, also assisted with hosting the Family event.

One of the biggest reunions we had was in Memphis, Tennessee in 1976. The Family Reunion was held at the Shelby County Democratic Club. Fun was held by all and the family sang in unison what has become the family national anthem, "We Are Family!" (a song by the group Sister Sledge.) Other family favorites were "It's A Family Affair" by Sly and The Family Stone, and the Ojays, "A Family Reunion."

James Earl Jones, the son of Ruth Connolly Jones, was in attendance at the 1976 reunion in Memphis, Tennessee. James Earl's father, Robert Earl Jones and his half brother Matthew Earl also attended the reunion that year. After the festivities were over, everyone ended up at Lillian and Elmore's home.....ironically, where it all began. The next day we all were apart of a caravan to the "Home House" in Arkabutla, Mississippi (Tate County) where James Earl was born.

Our relatives in other cities also began hosting the Family Reunions. In Michigan(Wellington) Ozella, Bessie, Ruth, Thelma, Helen, Hubert (H.B.) and others were the family organizers of this reunion.

The Franklins, Gloria, Ira, Mary, Mildred and others, later hosted the reunion in St. Louis, Missouri. In Chicago, Illinois Theo Haywood along with Lottie Smith, Hugh Lawrence and others helped to host the reunion. In Los Angeles, California, our family reunion was hosted by Blanchie, Josie, Jean, Marvin and many others.

Here we are today, July 5, 2003 in Arkabutla, Mississippi to continue the family tradition that Lillian and Elmore began, yet another Connolly Family Reunion sharing Peace, Love and Harmony!!

## CONNOLLY FAMILY REUNION

### Organizers:

Yvonne Denton Lester (Memphis)

Terry Connolly (Michigan)

**\*\*Please support your relative James Earl Jones. His biography, *Voices and Silence* has been published. It is filled with family history and facts. ☺**



In Recent Memory of Maxine Conley Allen

May She Rest In Peace, As She Lived In Peace.



THE CONNOLLY FAMILY  
Love  
Peace  
&  
Harmony