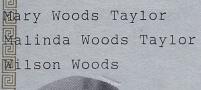
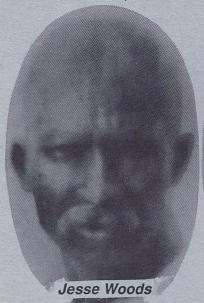
# THE WIDDES

FAMILY of Rockport, Indiana in Spencer County





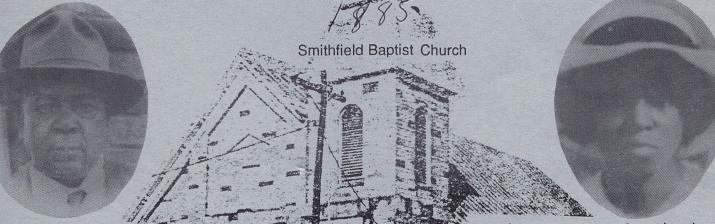






Apbelia Woods Adair Black

Queen Esther Frankli



Charlie Woods

Ollie Irene Woods William



Ira Woods

Dave Woods.

Mason Woods.

Arthur Woods

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BLACK PEOPLE OF SPENCER COUNTY

Spencer County has been home for black families since the middle 1800's. The History of Warrick, Spencer and Perry Counties, written in 1885, states there was an effort made by community leaders in 1851 to "colonize" the negroes and mulattoes, however in 1862 a resolution was heartily endorsed in favor of the coming Emancipation Proclamation which had been forecast. The Ohio River divides Kentucky and Indiana and Rockport, the county seat of Spencer County, is located on the river. I have been told many times that run-away slaves were given protection here or helped on their northern route because of this geographical situation.

The History of the Smithfield Baptist Church of Rockport gives some enlightenment to the migration here. This Church was a branch of the Rock Spring Baptist Church of Yelvington, Kentucky. During the Civil War members of that church disbanded and many of them crossed the Ohio River and settled in Rockport. In 1865, with Elder Dabney Jewel, who became the first pastor, they met and formed a congregation. Meetings were held for some time in the Rockport United Brethren Church. congregation was called 'The Wooden Shoe Church'. In 1869 they built their first church. It was a small frame structure dedicated in 1870. Brother Charles Johnson was the first clerk and the first Deacons were: Brothers Simon Brown, Abram Derritt and Charles Johnson. brick church was built for them by Philip Eigenmann. Rev. Green McFarland presided at the dedication in 1877. Elder George Fields was pastor for many years. Also serving as early Deacons were: Brothers Aaron Richardson, Sam J. Johnson, William Grimes, Abram Taylor, Simon Brown, Abram CRowe, and Charles Johnson. Brother Prince Brown served as church clerk. Officers serving when Elder Fields was pastor were: Brothers Elonzo Taylor and Ed Robinson. This brick church was remodeled in 1965 under the present pastor, Rev. Raymond Alson. The church has withstood many storms under the wise and benevolent guidance of Rev. Walter Highbaugh and Rev. Raymond Alson, both having served this congregation for many years; thereby strengthening a congregation which is very active today.

Mackey Chapel was sponsored by the Rockport Methodist Church. The building was erected after the Civil War on land donated by Mrs. Letha Mackey with the understanding that church services would always be held there. The church was very small and, after it was no longer in use, many from this congregation became members of the Smithfield Baptist Church.

The 1885 History lists a black Baptist Church in Grandview and a black secret society, "The Independent Sons of Honor" in Rockport.

The Atlas of Spencer County, published in 1876, lists several black schools:

Ohio Township: No. 1 was located on outer Washington Street

No. 2 was in Africa (a black community in the river bottoms)

No. 3 was a transitory school

No. 5 was on Hwy. 231, near Indiana Michigan Power

Lake Mill (No number found)

A brick school located in Rockport at 5th and Mill Streets

Luce Township:

The village of Eureka had a school
Kensington, known as No. 12, located near the present
Luce Elementary School. John Haines and Ben Johnson
(colored) taught in this school and it functioned for
many years until there were so few students it was discontinued and the pupils transported to Rockport.
Richland had a school from 1875. It was also used as
a church. However the school was discontinued about 1911
when most of the black families moved from Richland.

All of these schools were grade schools. Later, when transportation could be provided to Evansville, the children attended Lincoln High School there and their tuition was paid.

The oneroom schools were gradually discontinued and the students transported to larger schools in the towns. Horse or mule-drawn covered wagons, nicknamed "Hoodoo Wagons" were used for this transportation from 1906 until they were replaced by motor buses around 1932-22. Parents provided transportation for their children to a high school.

An old book entitled "Records of Teachers' Examination, Spencer County, Indiana", beginning June 1883 to March 1903, lists as follows:

Prince Grimes, age 55, of Rockport, took the teacher's exam on Aug. 25, 1883-Marietta Crump, age 17, Rockport, took the exam on June 28, 1884.

J. T. Williams, took a special exam for Grandview colored school (Hammond Township, August 8, 1885).

Kitty Holmes, 20 years old, of Rockport, took the exam August 27, 1887.

Early birth records are scarce, however here are a few:

Alberta, gorn to Wesley and Sally Merriwether, April 5, 1882 Clarence, born to Henry and Elvina Pool Ray, Dec. 11, 1882 Hardin S., born to Remus J. and Rose Higdon Newton, Dec. 2, 1882 Emma, born to Lewis and Maggie Richardson Sanford, July 18, 1883 A girl born to Robert M. and Nancy Pool Murdock, Aug. 17, 1884.

The very interesting PROFILE of "Cap" Percell is attached. "Cap" was born in the community known as Africa. He doesn't know of its beginning except he remembered that Jewel Taylor's mother ran a grocery store there and he rembered the large number of houses that made up the black community. Because Africa was surrounded by farms in the low land near the river, the houses were built on stilts to keep them from being flooded during the rainy season. "Cap" left Africa as soon as he was old enough and went north of Rockport to work for George Miller at "Craw" Road, where a small community of black families lived. He thinks they called the community "Craw" or "Cray" because there were so many crayfish there.

Many of the black community use Sunset Hill Cemetery at Rockport for burial of their loved ones. However, Sandale in Luce Township is still used and Springstun was a large cemetery in Ohio Township near the present Indiana Michigan Power.

Among the businesses listed in the 1885 History are the barbers, Mc-Farland and Sanford. Grandpa and Grandma Sanford lived in a big house at the end of Main Street and Ben and his family had the barber shop and lived upstairs over it. Lewis Sanford is listed as the barber in 1902. (Their daughter, Emma, was born in 1883) This shop continued into the 1920's or 30's.

Maurice Gordon had a fish market on Third Street. Lewis Taylor always had good hominy; and Mary, his wife, was an excellent cook and catered many of the fine dinner parties for the ladies in Rockport.

Jewel Taylor had a peddling wagon and always brought fresh farm produce from the river bottoms to the townspeople.

"Isem Eastam" was a town character who wore old ragged clothes, a felt hat and heavy jacket the year around; carried a beat-up shot gun, rusty, and unloaded; always had a little dog following him and was teased by the children. He teased them too, so it was all harmless fun. Under this facade was a keen mind for mathematics and he was noted community-wide for his aptness.

Benjamin Snyder of Rockport attended the schools here, then graduated from Tufts University and was a professor there after his graduation.

Here is a small list of the early families and some of their descendants still live in this community:
Sterret, Westerfield, Tinsley, Smith, Bright, Small, Skillman, Purcell, Persell, McAtee, Lowery. Shaw, Matfield, Rust, Davis, Johnson, Roberts, Lindsey, Pinkston, Payne, Parm, Norris, Grady, Modock, McGill, Crow, Clay, Boon, McCreary, McCray, McFarland, Gills, Bushrod, Grimes, Beechum Beard, Taylors, Calhoun, Oliver, Lee, Sharp, Steward, Stone, Tally, and Thomas.

There are nine townships in Spencer County, however, my early records list the black families in Luce, Ohio and Hammond Townships. This may have been because these townships had some border on the Ohio River.

There is so much more history here of so many wonderful black families. Perhaps this very brief one will whet the appetite of some others to bring more of their history to us to be preserved.

Enclosures: Profile of "Cap" Percell; Brief History of Smithfield Baptist Church by William Lindsey, Sr.; Page from old book "Record of Teachers' Examination, Spencer County, Indiana".

Ellen Jøyde Brown County Historian

Spencer County Rockport, Indiana **19th** ANNUAL WOODS FAMILY REUNION
"KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE"
SEPTEMBER 7, 1992

The Wood \$7 Family established roots in Rockport, Indiana which is in Spencer County. This precious history is patterned after The Greatest Story Ever Told from The Greatest Book Ever Written which begins......In The Beginning, God Created....

Rosa Mealure, born December 7, 1859 and Jesse Woods, born February 26, 1850, became acquainted, married in Smithfield Baptist Church, lived on a farm, and raised a family of twelve children, namely Mary, Malinda, Wilson, Mobelia, Charlie, Ira, Dave, Mason, Arthur, Daisy, Ollie, and Queen Esther. The children, six boys and six girls attended "Little Africa School" Doing farm chores, studing by candle light and lamp light. They were a loving family that enjoyed togetherness.

With the passing of time, there were many marriages. The newly weds often chose other towns in which to live. Rockport, Indiana became "back home"to many and the small section where the Woods lived was called "Little Africa" eventually was replaced by such towns as Evansville, Indiana- Owensboro, Kentucky-Chattanoga, Tennessee, and Indianapolis, Indiana.

In 1913, a destructive flood forced many people to leave Rockport, which is on the Ohio River. Jesse and Rosa, seeking higher ground moved their remaining younger children to Indianapolis. The devastating spring flood was the topic of conversation for many years. In Rockport along the banks of the Ohio River stands a huge boulder with a painted white line marking the crest of the flood in 1913.

In Indianapolis, the Wood"s Family settled near Ft. Wayne Ave. Grandpa Jesse worked at odd jobs to support his family. The members remained close with those who had married. Indeed life was changing rapidly and there were many births. Jesse Woods died November 30,19/3 Rosa later moved in with her daughter, Queen Esther and her husband, Paul Franklin, at 819 Stillwell St. in Indianapolis. From time to time, Rosa visited friends in Chicago, Illinois. She died, May 21, 1938

Sickness and death brought families together at homes, funeral parlors, and cemeteries. Funeral services for the deceased resulted in many families later joining the church of their departed ones.

From time to time, after several bereavements, someone expressed, it is so unfortunate that our families seemingly only get together at wakes, funerals, and at the cemetery which are times of sorrow. Surely we are entitled to some happier times. Thus began the idea of planning family reunions.

The concept was started by Margaret Crocker (Barbour) daughter of Ivory Adair (son of Mobelia) Cordelia Brady (daughter of Mason)

Dorothy Furman (daughter of Cordelia) and Queen Esther Franklin.

Other family members in Indianapolis were contacted, and picnics were held on specific holidays at Douglas Park. Food, fun, games and much conversation was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attnded.

When bad weather became a problem, indoor picnics were held at Edward S. Gaillard American Legion Post Home (1974) and The Epicurean Club Home (1975)

Yes, our Indinapolis group was growing. We were having some fantastic times together. Malinda"s daughters, Irene, Madrin, and Julia living in Cleveland, Ohio were inspired by their sister Margaret in Indianapolis who was one of our founders. The Cleveland connection extended the invitation to descendents in Indianapolis to share in the Family Reunion extravaganza there. Mason"s) grandaughter Dorothy Furman and Malinda"s grandaughters, Ollie Marie, Pauline and Robbie inspired and encouraged family members in Indianapolis to charter busses for the reunions held in Cleveland.

The Indianapolis Connection has hosted the Wood"s Family Reunion and has truly enjoyed sharing ideas planning and learning who the Woods kin folks are. It"s a different world today and we are finding out where we came from.

Prepared by
Bettie Dowdell
(Ollie)s daughter)

e it Remembered, That on this 12 day of March. 1874, the following Abarriage Diense ANA. TO-WIT: SPENCER COUNTY. KNOW YE, That any person empowered by law to solemnize marriages, is hereby authorized to join together as Husband and Wife, Soll Prosa & Perteries, and for so daingf this shall be his sufficient authority. In Testimony Whereof. J. & Michards ou , Clerk of the Spencer Circuit Court, horeunto subscribe my name, und affin the Seft of said Court, at Rochport, that 12. day of March 11874 Be it further Remembered, That on this Q. day of May, 1874, the following Certificate was filed in my office, to wit: INDIANA, TO-WIT: SPENCER This Sections, That of joined in marriage as Husband and Wefer Just and Mora @ Verkins, on the 15 th due of Ma

Sewis Flaylor (8) Be it remembered, that on this 16th day
Seure Sugar of Movember 1903, the following Marriage
Mary Words (0%) License was Issued, to-wit:
STATE OF INDIANA, to-wit : SPENCER COUNTY.
To all who shall see these presents, Greeting:
KNOW YE, That any person empowered by law to solemnize Marriages. Is hereby authorized to join together as Husband and Wife Lewis Gaylor and Mary Wood or
and fee on doing this shall be sufficient authority
In Testimony Whereof, I, John & Haines Clerk of the Spencer Circuit
Court, hereupto subscribe my name and affix the seal of said Court, at Rockport,
this 16th day of Hovemburgo 3
John & Haines Clerk
Be it further remembered that on this 23rd day of Nov Eurol 1900, the following Certificate
was filed in my office, to-wit:
STATE OF INDIANA, to-wit: SPENCER COUNTY.
This Certifies, That I joined in Marriage as Husband and Wife, My Lenns Gaylor
and Mrs Mary Word 21, on the 16, day of Nov 1903
Bldin G. J. Flance B.
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Mulinida Woods  Be it Remembered, That on this 28th day  Mulinida Woods  Marie To The Sollowoods
Mulisida Woods of formber, 1894, the following
Marriage License was issued, to wit:
INDIANA, TO-WIT: SPENCER COUNTY:
TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING
Know ye, That any person empowered by law to solemnize marriages is hereby authorized to join together
as HUSBAND AND WIFE Julius Saylor and Mahrida Novda
and for so doing this whall be his sufficient authority.
In Testimony Whereof, I. That January aurtur, Clerk of the Spencer
circuit Court, persunto subscribe my home and affir the Seal of
day of Vi o Muver , 1892
ist Januagaerhien clerk.
Be it Further Remembered, That on this day of Delle 1894, the following
Certificate was filed in my office. to-wit:
INDIANA, TO-WIT: SPENCER COUNTY:
This Certifies That I joined in my riage, as Husband and Wife fillies Janley
and Malinda Woods on the 29th day of November 1894
1 (1/1/10/14/10/1/1/1/1/10/10/10/10/10/10/10/10/10/1

Milson Wards  BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the 12th day to  By Jan 1811, the following Marriage
Darry Nollandarries Escoto was loved, to-uti
Indiana, To-wit: Spencer County:
TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING
KNOW YE, That any person empayored by law to colemnize marriages, is hereby authorized to join tagether as
. Heatend and Wile, Mason Modes and Tury Holland services
and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.  In Testimony Whereas, 1, First Busins All Miles Spines Streets
Court, hereuilto pubeeribe my name, and affix the seal of said Court, at Rochport, this
1200 day of Jan [180]
- John Daumgantrur. Clerk.
BE IT FURTHER REMEMBERED, That on the T day of ferriang 1901
the following certificate was filed in my office, to-wit:
INDIANA, TO-WIT: SPENCER COUNTY:
THIS CERTIFIES That I joined in marriage as Husband and Wife, Wilson Woods
and Daisy Hollandsworth the 12 th say of January 1901
1 P Town Klin
House Stan Could BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 24 Lay
Mobilia Assistance Dicense was fessed, to-wit:
Mobilia Aford & (Corfs) License was foowed, to-wit:
Indiana, To-wit: Spencer County:
TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:
KNOW YE, That any person empowered by law to solemnize marriages, is hereby authorized to join together as
Hasband and Wite, of lung Dlan (Col.) and Mobiled Mode Col
and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.
In Testimony Whereof, I Secure . Gierk of the Spencer Circuit
Court, hereulito subscribe my name, and affix the seal of said Court, at Rockport, this
Marian
Way Helmity 14.
BE IT FURTHER REMEMBERED, That on this 25 day of May
the following certificate was filed in my office, to-wit:
INDIANA, TO-WIT: SPENCER COUNTY:
THIS CERTIFIES, that I joined in marriage as Husband and Wite, Harry Dean
and Mobelia Woods on the 25 may of May
Rev GW riser

Charles & Wrods  BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 27, day  Cirla D. Taylor.  Bixcase was issued, to-wit:  Indiana, To-wit: Spencer County:
TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:
KNOW YE, That any pergon empowered by law to colemnize marriages, is hereby authorized to join together as Muchand and Wife, Charles K Miras. and Virla & Taylor.
and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.  In Testimony Whereof, I, Le Laine. Clerk of the Spencer Circuit
Court, hereunte subscribe my name, and affix the seal of said Court, at Rochport, this
BE IT FURTHER REMEMBERED. That on this 30 day of Administration 400 2.
the following certificate was filed in my office, to-wit:
INDIANA TO STEE SPENCER COUNTY:  PAIS STEELES, That I joined in marriage as Hesband and Wite, Charles Hollands
and Levels D Taylor on the 27 day of large auf 10 902
Minster of the Gospel.

### Jesse and Rosa E. Woods Family of Rockport, Indiana

	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Death</u>
Jesse Woods	2-26-1850	11-30-191 <b>3</b>
Rosa E. Mealure Woods		5-21-1938
Mary Woods Taylor	1-19-1875	11-14-1909
Malinda Woods Taylor		8-16-1935
Wilson Woods	2-27-1878	no information
Mobelia Woods Adair Black	4-5-1880	11-13-1953
Charlie Woods		10-2-1957
Ira Woods	6-7-1883	10-16-1979
Dave Woods	6-23-1884	12-21-1976
Mason Woods	6-7-1887	8-31-1947
Arthur Woods	2-4-1890	4-23-1952
Daisy Woods Thompson	7- <b>/2</b> -1891	7-15-1913
Ollie Irene Woods Williams	7-2-1896	8-31-1953
Queen Esther Franklin	8-11-1898	11-10-1970

Jesse Woods, colored, fell from a window in the third story of the Odd Fellows building in Indianapolis, Sunday, to the ground and was instantly killed, his neck being broken. The remains will arrive here this, Thursday, morning and the funeral will be conducted from the Second Baptist Church at 2 o'clock. Woods formerly lived here and was janitor at the school building for several years. (Rockport Journal, Friday, December 5, 1913)

Mrs. Malinda Taylor died last Sunday evening. She is survived by her husband, Julius Taylor, to whom she had been married more than forty years. Nine children are left to mourn her passing. Funeral was held at the Baptist church Tuesday afternoon, Rev. A. T. Hardy officiating. Burial at Sunset Hill. (August 16, 1935)

#### **Gasoline Explosion Causes Death of Little Colored Girl**

And Severly Burns Her Mother

July 18, 1913 records show

Rockport, IN

Courthouse

Rosanna, the six year old child of Mason Woods colored, living on Madison Street this city was badly burned from a gasoline explosion on Friday evening about eight o'clock and the little girl dies from the effects of the burns three hours later. The child's mother (Bertha Taylor (Woods) had filled the tank on a gasoline stove and while holding an open bucket which contained gasoline attempted to light the stove. In some way she dropped the match into the gasoline which immediately ignited, filling the room with flames. Mrs. Woods threw the bucket of gasoline out the back door just as the child was entering the room, the oil and flames spead all over the child and it ran into the back yard enveloped in flames Jacob

Kessner saw the child and ran to it and tore its clothes from its body, burning his hands badly in so doing. The child was parched, but it seemed to be conscious almost to the last. A short time before it died it said: "I am going to die, Let us sing, we are going to heaven." After the mother threw the bucket of gasoline out of the room she ran into another room, jumped into a bed wrapped herself in the bedclothes and smothered the flames. She was badly burned on the hands, arms and lower limbs. (Rockport Courthouse recorded Bertha Taylor Woods died from this accident December 14, 1913. This story was copied from the Rockport Journal July 25, 1913)

#### **Our Colored People**

Anna Clark, Cor.

Mrs. Nanie Shirley's funeral was held from the Smithfield, Baptist church Thursday at 2 p.m., Rev. Walter Highbaugh officiating. Burial at Sunset Hill.

The 75th annual thanks giving service of the Odd Fellows and H. H. of R. was held at the Smithfield Baptist church Sunday afternoon. A large number from Evansville attended. A good program was rendered.

Mrs. Alma McCreary attended the funeral of her grandmother, Mrs. Rose Woods, in Indianapolis Wednesday.

Mrs. Ada Richardson of Indianapolis was the guest of her mother, Mrs. Leah Taylor, Thursday. (Rockport Journal, Friday, June 3.

#### **Our Colored People**

Mrs. Ruth Rounds and children of Owensboro are spending the week with her mother.

Mrs. Carrie Mount of Kentucky is visiting her son, Fred.

Mrs. Ada Richardson and daughter left Sunday for Indianapolis on a visit to Charles Richardson, who has employment there.

Mr. Waddy of Evansville has again returned to Rockport to reside.

Mrs. Morgan returned to her home in Booneville Monday.

Miss Medora Powell of Mischawaka, W. G. M., of the O. E. S., made her official visit to the lcoal chapter Monday evening. While here she was entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kindle on Main street.

D. R. Cunningham visited his brother, George, in Evansville Tuesday.

Mrs. Mary Taylor continues ill. Her niece, Miss Marguerite Taylor is nursing her.

Rev. I. Harrington has resigned as pastor of Smithfield Baptist church and returned to this home in Kentucky.

Mrs. louis Sanford, Miss Lottie Taylor, Mrs. Altha Mahone, Mrs. Chas. Dean and Walter Gibson are on the sick list.

Mrs. Addie McCrea and family, Mason McCrea, and wife have moved to the Wallace farm near Sunset Hill. (Rockport Journal, April, 15, 1921)



#### Woods Family Reunions

T 1' T 1'	1074
Indianapolis, Indiana	19/4
Indianapolis, Indiana	1975
Cleveland, Ohio	1976
Indianapolis, Indiana	1977
Indianapolis, Indiana	
Indianapolis, Indiana	
Cleveland, Ohio	1980
Cleveland, Ohio	1981
Indianapolis, Indiana	
Indianapolis, Indiana	
Cleveland, Ohio	
Cleveland, Ohio	
Indianapolis, Indiana	
Indianapolis, Indiana	
Aurora, Illinois	
Cleveland, Ohio	
Indianapolis, Indiana	
Aurora, Illinois	1991
Cleveland, Ohio	

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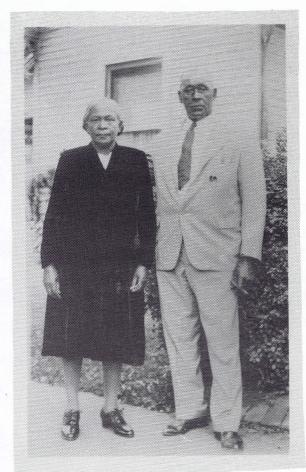
## FAMILY PICTURES



ROSA WOODS AND SON, IRA



Charlie Woods married
To Viola



Mobelia Woods Adair Black



DAVE AND EMMA Woods

13



MASON AND COllie Woods



AREHUR AND Rebecca Woods



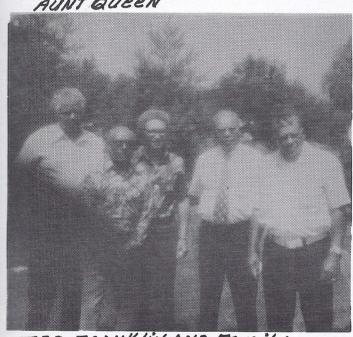
Bertha Woods



AUNT FRANCES AND AUNT QUEEN



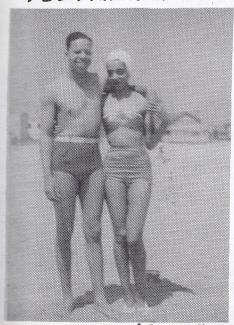
GILBERT AND IDA FRANKLIN



TED FRANKlin AND FAMILY



RUDY AND THEIMA FRANKLIN



EUGENE AND DORIS



GLENN'Sug'FRANKIN



Wilma AND Romiloa FRANKLIN



Charles A. Williams



Bettie Dowdell, Melissa, Rosemgry, Elvor Jr, Charles Hopper



Ollie Woods Williams AND QUEEN Esther FRANKlin



This is the garage crew at West Ninth. Standing, left to right: Frank Weber, Lou Rape, George VonStaden, Frank Donahue, and Joe Singleton. In front,

left to right: Charley Williams, Warren Robertson, Ross Wood, Lawrence Spanler, James Stainbrook, and R. Radican



IRA AND FRANCES WOODS



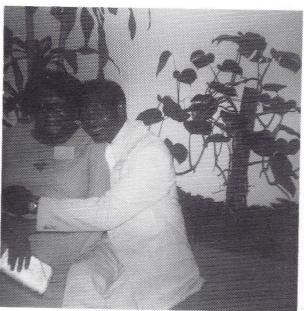
FRANCES WOODS, daughters, Berthalice and Rosa Woods



FRANCESS. WOODS AND FAMILY (Chattanooga Tennessee)



DOROTHY AND DAVE W. Woods



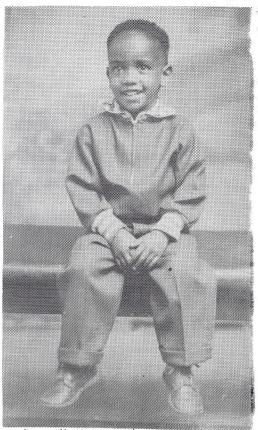
DOROTHY FURMAN AND BROTHER ERNEST JOHNSON



Dee Ann Percell Character, Judge Carl J. Character Atty. Den Character Floyd, Atty. Lawrence R. Floyd Darla M. Character, J.D. Jasmine India Daughtery. Amani Solange Floyd, Kiyon Rajan Floyd.



HENRY C. WOODSTR, HENRY S. WOODSSR, BIQN Che WOODS, Jean Woods



William "TUTU" Woods

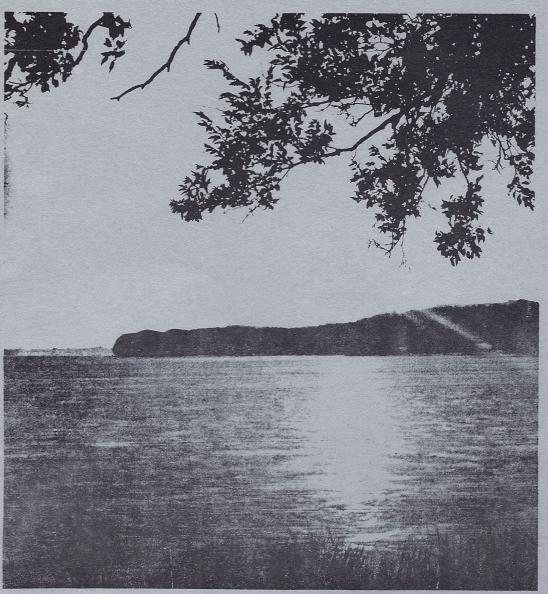


Phylander Woods



The Hoods Family acknowledge a very special thanks to Mrs Becky Middleton Spencer Co. Bublic fibrary Brd + Halnut

Rockport, In 47635



19th Annual WOODS 1992 FAMILY REUNION in Cleveland, Ohio.

Sunset, Ohio River

his booklet is dedicated to all members of the Woods family that are living and our dearly departed loved ones. Bless Queen Esther Franklin for preserving precious family records and information for us to enjoy. Bless Ira Woods for taking family photographs so we could see some of our past generations. Bless Bettie Dowdell Williams for writing eloquent pages about our family history and sharing it with us. Bless Ernest Johnson for sharing the only picture of Jesse Woods. Bless all of our family members past and present for keeping our family reunion together and proudly showing future generations form where we come. Thank you and God Bless all of you. See you in Heaven

Forever Henry C. Doods II Becie W. Doudell