

“REUNION RAP 2009”
by
Jean Ford & Emmanuel Lawrence

We're Eman and Jean from Cali-for-ni-ay
And we've got somethin' important to say.
So put down your forks and you'll hear and see
We've got the family reunion history.

The year was 1973.
Synnia Solomon said, “It occurs to me,
A joyous reunion I would like to see,
Of my mother's and my father's family.”

Synnia's Mom was a Bryson and her Dad was a Ford.
Bringing both sides together, an idea she adored.
So the planning began for 1974,
And we all thought “Who could ask for more?”

But before the planning got well underway,
Angels came for Synnia and took her away.
How could there be a reunion then? There was no plan,
But to honor her memory, we said, “Yes, we can.”

“We'll have it in Cleveland,
Everyone we'll invite.
A picnic, a dance,
It'll be out-of-sight.”

For the following year, 1975,
Parthenia Taylor said “Detroit will keep it alive.”
It was she who determined, with love for everyone
That one side descends from Hansie Solomon.

And when we think of Detroit we must not forget,
There were many there to whom we owe a debt.
Marguerite Langston and Beverly King
Were just two who helped reunion bells to ring.

The Vinsons and the Cumberlanders, don't you know,
Then took the reunion to Buffalo.
Those in Lincolnton and Hickory said “What could be fine-ah
Than to take the reunion to North Carolina?”
Sarah and Mattie Vinson, two pioneers
Kept our tradition going in those early years

And Tina Williams said,
“You don't have to convince me.
In 1978,
I will host it in Cincy.”

We went home to Macon in 1987.
Janet Bali, our host, is now home in heaven.
And let's not forget we've been to Texas too
For that, Annie Tinsley, we say "thanks" to you.
I hope you made San Diego in '98
and for that Jean Ford we appreciate.

Thanks, Janice Temple, thanks Peggy Martin,
Our Atlanta reunions won't be forgotten.
Debby Dudley and Keith Crippen too,
Thanks for Roanoke memories, 2002.
And if you were in Huntsville, Alabama,
You know Beatrice Vinson's a bad mamma-jamma.

We've been to nine states in the U.S. of A.
But that's not all we're here to tell you today,
In 1985 with every sister and bro',
We even took our reunion to Canada.

So much joy as a family, occasional tears,
Scholarship money raised over the years.
Sweet potato pie cookbook still on your shelf
Funny auctions where you bought stuff for yourself.
A family website, a newsletter too,
Even a page on Facebook for me and for you.

So many names, so many places,
So many gone but not forgotten faces.
So many more than we can mention here,
We love them all and we hold them dear.

This, our 36th reunion, has come our way.
What began as a dream is still alive today.
And you should all know, if just for fun,
Henry Ford has been to every one!

And at thirty five reunions is Uncle C.,
A man who means the world to me.
He's our elder statesman, he's a brother Ford,
And he whips everybody on the checker board.

Always remember that since the very first year,
Cousins by the dozens come from far and near.
It was Synnia's dream and I guess you might say
That her dream is the reason we still gather today

And before we close we'd just like you to hear,
We're happy to be in Florida this year.
JoAnn, Rasool, Bonnie and Annie too,
We all say a great big "thanks" to you.

And, by the way, we can't wait to know
Where, in 2010, our reunion will go.
Now thanks to you all for your big hand clap
We've come to the end of our reunion rap.