



CAROLINE'S TRIBE

REUNION TIMES

Website: www.carolinestribe.com

Generations...Increasingly Difficult to Pass the Torch

While planning our events, we do not work in a vacuum. We do this work with full awareness of what is happening in our country and the world around us. Often, these external events influence our efforts. We feel especially immersed in history now because of the historical significance of our next reunion in Birmingham, Alabama. We are keenly aware of the efforts underway to deny, rewrite, or otherwise disavow key aspects of our history—American history. These are particularly challenging times for teachers, historians, intellectuals, and all the guardians who work to protect and preserve our culture and our past.

Even without these extraordinary attacks on culture and history, we face the same challenges all people face when trying to preserve and pass down their heritage. Across the world, each generation loses something from the generations before it. Families make choices about what they teach and emphasize while raising their children. For many years, those struggling to survive prioritized education and preparation for success so their children could have better lives. But those choices came at a cost. Much of the knowledge our grandparents and great-grandparents held about the natural world was not passed down. They knew which plants and roots could treat certain illnesses and diseases, wisdom that is now fading.

Today, some of our children are at risk of losing fundamental truths about our history. In some states, people in authority are actively working to alter historical facts. They want to retell the

narratives of American slavery and the experiences of Indigenous peoples in ways that make them appear more humane than they were. Their motivations are clear: they want to omit the brutality of American history so that the descendants of the perpetrators “do not feel bad” about the cruelty and moral failures of their ancestors. Really? How about simply telling the truth and teaching your children to be better people? What comes next? Would you rewrite the Gospels to make the torture and killing of Christ less brutal? Erase the Spanish Inquisition to soften European history.

Our intention is to stand firmly against initiatives like these. It is already challenging enough for any community to preserve its knowledge and culture from one generation to the next. When intentional falsehoods are introduced, the existing challenges multiply. We will do our best to tell the true story of our civil rights struggle as a people and to highlight the impact of Birmingham, Alabama, on that struggle. We also want to help our family understand and appreciate the role the Birmingham area played in the growth and development of our own family.

Within our family, we have always had a core group of members devoted to preserving our history and well-being. We have done work that will allow future generations to know the early details of our family's growth and evolution. How well this will carry forward remains an open question—and one we often debate.





Mental Health Care

Mental Health is real and treatable; we must let go of the stigma surrounding mental health and educate ourselves about the various types of mental illnesses. Some of the illnesses include anxiety disorders, depression and other mood disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance use disorders, eating disorders, personality disorders, schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders, attention deficit/hyperactive disorders, and disruptive behavioral disorders. Which are chemical imbalances in the brain. The treatment of choice may be therapy and medication.

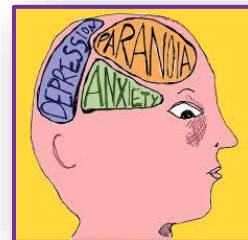
The important thing is to say something to someone if you are not feeling like your usual self. Certain situations may cause you to feel sad, no longer interested in things that you are used to enjoying, eating more than you used to or less than you used to, or even sleeping too much or too little. These symptoms may be signs of depression. Sometimes when a person is depressed and has other medical issues, they may forget to take their medications which can cause a decline in their medical health.

Mental illness can affect the person and other family members who now must become the caretaker who may have to go to work and do not want to leave that person alone. It may affect the person that has the mental illness job because they may be too depressed to go to work. Things may be put into perspective by seeking help.

Mental illness has become more common since the pandemic and help is available. You can always talk with your primary care provider if you need help.

Josephine Simpson APN, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC

Lolita Simpson-McKeller LPN





The ballot is stronger than the bullet.

Abraham Lincoln

Vote!!

“The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by human beings for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison people because they are different from others.”

President Lyndon B. Johnson

Vote!!!

“Voting is the foundation stone of political action.”

Martin Luther King

OUR FAMILY'S NEWEST ARRIVALS



Sean Alfonza Leonard Simpson



Born: August 24, 2025 @ 11:04 am

6 lbs. 11oz. 21"

+ Parents: Sean and Zakiya Simpson

+ Grandparents: Joseph and Carol Simpson

+ Great-Grandparents: Alfonza and Eloise Simpson



Family Business Adventures

Virginia Housing and Community Development Corporation

Virginia Housing and Community Development Corporation (VHCDC) is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt, non-profit community development corporation. Our tax identification number is: 20-0779486

Help us build on our progress supporting disadvantaged small businesses, acquiring, and rehabilitating distressed housing, awarding entrepreneurial scholarships, educating, and assisting first-time homebuyers, and helping low and moderate-income individuals and families build wealth. Go to www.vhcdc.org/donate to make your tax-deductible contribution. Your gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more is sincerely appreciated!

If you do not live in Virginia, the classes are still excellent information if you currently live in an apartment and desire to own a home one day. Alternatively, you may mail your company or personal check to:

Virginia Housing and Community Development Corporation
445 N Main St., #1574
Suffolk, Virginia 23439-0016

Thank you!!!

If you have any questions please contact James R. Taylor, President at (757)-671-8333 or Katrina Taylor, Vice-President at (757) 656-1029.



IVERY KELVIN BAKER--

AFLAC...We have all seen the commercials and billboards with the duck. Did you know we have a cousin in the business? The company motto is, "We help cover what health insurance doesn't so you can focus on recovery." AFLAC specializes in:

Accident

Dental

Hospital

Life

For more information contact Ivery Kelvin Baker at (706) 662-5178; ivery.k.baker_inc@us.aflac.com; ibaker1073@aol.com; Kevin is a sole proprietor; he has been in the business for over 20 years and can help individuals, small and large businesses. His coverage area spans most of the southern United States.



FAMILY LAND COMING UP FOR SALE!!

We have always been staunch supporters of keeping land and real estate that is owned by us in our family. As we grow from one generation to the next, this becomes more difficult to do. We are pleased to announce that land in our family will be coming up for sale in the coming months.

This parcel of land is about fifteen acres, which was purchased as a part of the original 240 acres by John E. Simpson in the 1940's. The parcel of land that will be sold is undeveloped and is in Salem, Lee County, Alabama off County Route 134. We will be working with the family member owning the land to ensure the land is sold to family members who share our interest in continuing family ownership.

If interested in purchasing a parcel of this land contact Glenn Simpson via email at gsimpson01@aol.com, put "family land sale" in the subject line. Please make sure you reach out to make your interest known by June 30, 2026.



2027 Caroline's Tribe Family Reunion Update:

1. Reunion will be held in Birmingham, AL
2. Friday, July 2 through Sunday, July 4, 2027
3. Reunion venue: **Vulcan Park and Museum**, 1701 Valley View Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209

Annual Spring Fund Raiser



We are blessed as a family organization to sustain our work with just one fundraiser each year—and it takes place every spring. It was not always this simple. Like many family groups, we once relied on frequent fundraising efforts to meet our goals. Over time, however, our most generous supporters naturally began making their primary contributions in the spring. We simply followed that pattern, and spring has now become our traditional season of giving.

Each year, we encourage family members to contribute whatever they can, whenever they can, and only if they are able. Every gift—large or small—is deeply appreciated. This annual newsletter announcement is our one and only request for contributions, and we approach it with gratitude for all who continue to support the work we do.

If you would like to give this year, please make checks or money orders payable to Glenn Simpson and mail them to: P.O. Box 3680, Phenix City, AL 36868-3680.

Donations may also be sent via Zelle. Please email Glenn for the appropriate contact information.

Your generosity keeps our family's mission alive, strengthens our reunion efforts, and ensures that our shared legacy continues to grow. Thank you for giving from the heart. at gsimpson01@aol.com for Zelle instructions.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Thank
you ❤️



WHAT IS THE "SAVE ACT"???

If you listen to President Trump and the Republican party, the SAVE ACT is necessary to stop non-citizens from voting. However, if you listen to the Democrats, non-citizens voting is not a problem. Instead, Democrats claim the SAVE ACT is about voter suppression and Republican's effort to steal the 2026 mid-term elections and beyond.

So, who is right? Would the SAVE ACT protect elections from being stolen by non-citizens, or is it voter suppression? Is there really a problem with non-citizens voting?

The Brennan Center for Justice reviewed election results in forty-two jurisdictions for non-citizens voting. They discovered thirty cases out of 23.5 million votes, which is .0001%.

Consistently, the conservative think tank Heritage Foundation, which claims non-citizen voting is a problem, could only show eighty-five cases of non-citizens voting in the 21 years between 2002 and 2023. The lack of evidence by both conservative and liberal organizations of non-citizens voting, suggest other reasons for promotion of the SAVE ACT. <https://www.npr.org/2024/10/12/nx-s1-5147789/voting-election-2024-noncitizen-fact-check-trump>

MOTIVES

On March 9, 2026, speaking to House Republicans about the SAVE ACT, President Trump said, "It will guarantee the midterms. If you do not get it, big trouble." Simultaneously, Trump called on Republican governors to create more Republican U S House seats by gerrymandering. Also, Trump is fighting to eliminate mail-in voting and on-line registration. Many election deniers blame easy access to voting during COVID for Trump's 2020 loss.

<https://thehill.com/homenews/house/5776058-trump-republicans-save-america-act-midterms/>

The Republican party has a long history of voter suppression schemes since the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Voter suppression tactics were instrumental to the success of the Southern Strategy, in which Republicans took control of Southern states. Conservative Paul Weyrich said in 1980, "I don't want everybody to vote" and "As a matter of fact, our leverage in the elections quite candidly goes up as the voting populace goes down."

This sentiment was reiterated in 2019 by former Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell. In his opposition to making election day a federal holiday, McConnell called it a "Power Grab" to keep Democrats in office.

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2019/01/mitch-mcconnell-admits-that-republicans-lose-when-more-people-vote/>

The SAVE ACT (HR 22) was
Representatives in April 2025
goes beyond verifying your

WHAT DOES THE "SAVE ACT DO?"

passed in the U S House of
but stalled in the Senate. It
identity to vote and requires

proof of citizenship instead. Therefore, the question becomes, what qualifies as documentary proof of U S citizenship?

According to the "SAVE ACT", the following documents are acceptable forms of proof of citizenship.

- 1) Valid U S Passport
- 2) Certificate of Naturalization.
- 3) REAL ID - only if it indicates U S citizenship (most do not). Only five states offer enhanced driver's licenses that may qualify as proof of citizenship.
- 4) Official U S military ID card along with service record that shows the place of birth as the U S.
- 5) A valid federal or state government issued photo ID card if it shows the U S as the place of birth.
- 6) If a government issued photo identification that does not show place of birth, it must be accompanied by additional documentation, such as, a certified birth certificate (state registered with authorized state signatures, parent's names, date, and place of birth as the US).
- 7) In addition to proof of citizenship, the SAVE ACT would require the appropriate documents to be presented in person at the election office (not the DMV, mailed-in or online).

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/119/hr22/text/dhg-408869>

It is estimated that the "SAVE over twenty-one million have ready access to a certificate, or other required

WHO WOULD BE IMPACTED by the "SAVE ACT"

ACT" would disenfranchise eligible voters who do not passport, valid birth documentation.

First, over 50 percent of Americans do not have a passport. To get a passport would cost almost \$200, which is equivalent of a poll tax.

Secondly, most married women changed their last name so, it does not match what is on their birth certificate. Therefore, they need even more documentation to validate their citizenship.

Third, many driver's licenses (even with REAL ID) will not qualify as proof of citizenship. As stated above, many married women and students away at school will be disproportionately affected.

Fourth, the requirement to present documents in person at the election office will place a hardship on many older voters, those with disabilities and in rural communities where the election offices could be long distances away.

<https://www.voterparticipation.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/SAVE-America-Act-by-the-Numbers-March26.pdf>

<https://factually.co/fact-checks/politics/who-affected-by-documentary-proof-photo-id-requirements-save-america-act-3e5e36>

[SAVE Act Threatens Voting Freedoms for Millions of Americans - Democracy NC](#)

REPUBLICAN STATE'S RESPONSE

Several states, including Florida, Mississippi, South Dakota, Utah and Tennessee, have implemented their own voter restriction laws consistent with the SAVE ACT. As a result, even if the SAVE ACT does not pass at the national level, it will still be much harder for citizens in these states to register and vote.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Caroline's Tribe has always advocated voting in EVERY election. We warned of the possibility of losing our right to vote if enough Americans took the right to vote for granted.

Now that we are here, we must be even more diligent and make sure that we have the right documents to prove our citizenship BEFORE the next election. Make sure that you have a certified copy of your birth certificate. Consider getting a passport if you do not already have one. If your name has changed, access the legal documents that verify the change. Make sure that your driver's license is valid and if you have moved, that the address is up to date.

Before each election, verify your voting status to make sure that you have not been purged or that your polling location has not been changed at the last minute.

Lynett Robinson-

Those We Lost



Alvin L. Swan



August 10, 1971, to March 22, 2026

Alvin L. Swan is the son of Elmer and Jan Swan Jan is the daughter of Theodore "Ted" Williams, Ted was the only son of Odessa Mae Reese and Jimmie Reese. Jimmie was the son of Taz and Carrie Simpson Reese

Willie Reese



Willie Reese was the son of Will Reese who was the son of Taz and Carrie Simpson Reese

Rev. Bobbie Lee Hodge



March 28, 1946, to December 18, 2025

Bobby Lee leaves behind his devoted wife, Rosa Nell (Simpson) Hodge

Mary Lilly



January 14, 1952, to January 5, 2026

Mary Lilly was born to Cary Cecil Grant and Mary Ester Reese Grant

Jane Florence



November 10, 1955, to December 19, 2025

Jane was born to Dan Majors, and Minnie Coleman Majors

Evangelist Vanessa Foster



September 19, 1959, to December 25, 2025

Vanessa was born to Solomon Reese Sr. and Gladys Reese

A NEWSLETTER ABOUT STRENGTHENING FAMILY TIES

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