



The Tipton Family Association of America Newsletter

The Tipton Family Association of America
3236 Forum Blvd. #1075
Fort Myers, FL 33905

Spring/Summer 2026

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Greetings family, I hope all is well with you and your families.

First, I would like to thank everyone for your support and to the board members for working hard to make TFAA an amazing family association.

Second, have you ever wondered what would happen to your research and/or documentation if something should happen to you? Your family is not interested, you are the last member of your group, or have you wanted to just share documents with other family members?

Families are running into brick walls while trying to connect from one family member to another, because of missing documents and this seems to be because someone somewhere has a document tucked away that if shared would assist someone with breaking through that brick wall.

Please take a look at your old family Bibles, old family photos and documents and please feel free to share your "Tipton" treasures with the Tipton Family Association of America and/or share it with BYU Library family history.

Unfortunately, we are running into family trees that have NO documentation attached and trees that are just absolutely incorrect so please confirm all information and people. Is the information in your family tree correct and are there documents attached? If you need assistance, please feel free to contact us and we can provide you with resources.

Finally, we are looking forward to 2026 Reunion in Savannah, Ga that is scheduled for October 8, 9, and 10th 2026. We Tipton family descendants have been invited to walk the parade for the "Siege of Savannah" battle. Please come join us.

I will be updating you more on this event as information becomes available. We are still working out details for hotels and venues. Should you have any questions please feel free to reach out to us.

Have a Blessed and Healthy Spring and Summer,

Kathy Hoffmann, President

TFAA Committee

President - Kathy Hoffmann (president@tiptonfamilyassociationofamerica.com)

Vice President – Gary Scott Tipton (vicepresident@tiptonfamilyassociationofamerica.com)

Treasurer – Tom Vinson (treasurer@tiptonfamilyassociationofamerica.com)

Secretary – Allen Higgins (secretary@tiptonfamilyassociationofamerica.com)

Communications Director - Charles Tipton (aka Junior)

(communication@tiptonfamilyassociationofamerica.com)

Editor – Kelly Storm (editor1@tiptonfamilyassociationofamerica.com)

TFAA Tipton Research Director - Charlotte West Dade

Tipton Family DNA project Administrators - Bob Tipton and Bonnie Grant

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

October 8,9, and 10th 2026

TFAA Reunion/Conference **Savannah, GA**

Hotel for Reunion RSVP

Drury Plaza Hotel Savannah Pooler
500 East US 80
Pooler, GA 31322

Tipton Family Association of America

Please make your reservations by Sunday, September 6, 2026 to receive your group rate. Reservations made after this date will be subject to prevailing rates and availability.

BOOK ONLINE

<http://www.druryhotels.com/bookandstay/newreservation/?groupno=10183912>

RESERVATIONS BY PHONE

Reservations may also be made by calling 1-800-325-0720 and referring to your **group number** 10183912.

At Drury Hotels, we know you have enough to worry about when traveling. In addition to the great rate, our generous amenities will brighten your group's day and make your journey easier.

- Complimentary Hot Breakfast-Enjoy scrambled eggs, oatmeal, fresh fruit, potatoes, pastries, the all-important coffee and more. Hot, fresh, and , best of all, free. Free hot breakfast is served daily from 6-9:30 am on weekdays and 7-10 am on weekends.
- Complimentary Evening Drinks and Snacks-Join us from 5:30-7pm every evening to enjoy complimentary hot food and cold beverages at our 5:30 Kickback. The Hotel features a rotating menu of hot food, beer, wine, mixed drinks, and soft drinks.
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the Hotel-Get the score, check social networks, or email family members in the hotel!
- On-Site Facilities-Take advantage of the business center, fitness center, or pool while away from home. Print boarding passes, finish a presentation, or check e-mail in the Hotel's business centers.

Tipton YDNA Project

The Tipton Family DNA Project was started in 2004 to determine if and how Thomas Tipton who resided in Burke County, Georgia, from 1785 to about 1820 was related to the Tipton's who descend from Jonathan Tipton who died in Baltimore County, Maryland, in 1757. (Spoiler alert: after almost 22 years, we know that they are related, but we still do not know exactly how.)

The project officially started on 25 August 2004. At that time, there were three project administrators: Charles D Tipton, Bonnie Tipton Grant, and Mitzi Bateman. Charles D Tipton was the author of Tipton: The First Five American Generations. He was also quite active in the TFAA, acting as the editor of the TFAA Newsletters from 1987 to 1998. Charles was one of the first three men representing the main line of Tiptons taking the DNA test. He descended from William "Fighting Billie" Tipton. Unfortunately, Charles died in 2008.

Bonnie Tipton Grant was the kit manager for her brother Donald Lee Tipton. Donald was one of the first three members representing the Georgia group. In addition to managing the account for her brother, Bonnie took her own Autosomal DNA test and was primarily responsible for the maintenance of the project website. She also established and moderates the Tipton DNA Family group on Facebook. Shortly after retiring and moving back to Florida, she was hit badly by hurricane Michael and has not had as much time to dedicate to the project as she would like.

Mitzi Bateman did not do a DNA test as a part of the project. She represented the project on several Bulletin Boards such as RootsWeb and GenForum. (For those too young to remember, these were the predecessors to social media sites like Facebook.) Unfortunately, Mitzi had to leave the project for medical reasons.

I (Bob Tipton) joined the project in 2006 as the 14th member. After the death of Charles in 2008, Bonnie asked me to join her as an administrator of the project. We are hoping to add another administrator in the near future.

Meet a Family Member



Hello, my name is Kelly Renee Storm. I am the new editor of the Newsletter. I have been a secretary for 40 years. I recently started growing my family tree, that is when I found out I was related to the Tipton Family. My mother was Donna Jane Underwood (1944-2016). Her parents were Clarence William Underwood (1916-1963) and Olive Ruth Goddard Underwood (1918-2000). Clarence Underwood's parents were John Robert Underwood and Etta Hester Tipton (1881-1924). Etta Tipton's parents were Nathaniel Tipton (1850-1923) and Rebecca Ellen Skinner. Nathaniel Tipton's parents were Isaac Alfred Tipton (1814-1902) and Diadema Malinda Jones. Isaac Alfred Tipton's parents were Jacob T. Tipton (1792-1860) and Hannah Ann Watson. Jacob T. Tipton's parents were William "Fighting Billy" Tipton (1761-1849) and Phoebe Moore. William Tipton's parents were Colonel John Tipton Sr (1730-1813) and Mary Butler. This is how I fit in the Tipton Family.

If you would like to add your information to Meet a Family Member, please send me your bio at Kelly.r.storm@gmail.com.

Road painted with the St. George's Cross in Tipton, UK

The road painted with the St. George's Cross in Tipton, UK, is part of a nationwide grassroots movement that emerged in August, 2025. This "explosion of patriotism" involved activists painting road crosses on mini-roundabouts and road junctions to resemble the English flag.



Key details regarding the Tipton and West Midlands occurrences includes:

- **Locations:** Reports confirmed that road markings in Tipton were painted to resemble the St. George's Cross as part of a "national flag round-up". Similar markings appeared across the West Midland, including Birmingham, Bromsgrove and Walsall.
- **Motivation:** The movement, often referred to as "Operation Raise the Colours" or "Operation Raise the Flag" was driven by groups claiming a desire to show national pride and patriotism.

We have had several deaths in our family since December, 2025, I have included some of the Obituaries below:



David Dean Etter

David Dean Etter peacefully departed this life on January 30, 2026, after a courageous fight with cancer. He was at home, surrounded by his wife and children.

David was born in Warrensburg, MO on October 2, 1949, the first child of Guy Franklin Etter and Mary Viola Tipton Etter. He was followed by siblings, Rebecca Ann Diesel (Marion), Joyce Etter, Martha Louise Postel (Bruce) and Paul James Etter (Joanne).

On June 3, 1972, David married Terresa Ann Yeates, and together they were gifted with four children. Susan Wynn Waisner (Scott), Sharon Elizabeth McGinley, Melinda Dawn Mann (Matthrew), and Michael David Etter (Danielle). He was blessed by eleven grandchildren: Faith Waisner Hartness (Tyler), Braden Waisner (Bri), Corinne Waisner (AJ), Lucy Etter, Isabelle McGinley, Caleb Mann, Julian Etter, Ethan Etter, Ian McGinley, Clara Mann, Hannah Mann. Three precious great-grandchildren include Grayson, Priscilla and Izayla. David was preceded in death by his parents, Guy and Mary Etter, his sister, Joyce Etter, and his son-in-law, Mark McGinley.

David made a commitment to Jesus Christ as a child and lived his life accordingly. Given the gift of music, he began singing and leading congregational songs as a teen. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from Southwest Baptist College (University) of Bolivar, MO, in 1973. He was awarded his Masters of Music degree with emphasis in conducting from the Conservatory of Music, UMKC, Kansas City, MO in 1978, and earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, TX, in 1994.

David's career included serving as music minister in Baptist Churches in MO, IL, and TX. In 1990, the Etter family moved to Williamsburg, KY, where David joined the Music Department of Cumberland College (now University of the Cumberlands). He would spend his entire 26 year career as voice instructor, conductor of Chorale, music director of musical theater, and teacher of church music courses, among other duties.

David's involvement in First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, was constant as a deacon, choir member, Food Pantry volunteer and president of the Men's Bible Class. He also served as an officer of the Williamsburg Kiwanis Club and as president of the Captain Charles Gatliff chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Daved will be remembered as a loving father who was dedicated to God, his country and his family. He had the privilege of impacting hundreds of lives through his work at UC, as he passed on his love of the Lord and Of music.

Visitation for David Dean Etter will be held at Ellison Funeral Home on Monday, Feb 2 beginning at 6 pm. The funeral service will be held at First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, on Tuesday, Feb 3 at 11 am with visitation at 10 am at the church. Burial will be in the Highland

Park Cemetery, Ellison addition. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to “Friends of Music, University of the Cumberlands” or to the “Food Pantry, First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, KY.



Reba Carolyn Rhyner Meiller

Reba Carolyn Rhyne Meiller, age 83, passed away peacefully on February 24, 2026, in Knoxville, Tennessee. Born on October 12, 1942, in Maryville, Tennessee, Carolyn lived a life marked by creativity, faith, and devotion to her family.

Carolyn spent much of her career in the marine industry, where she specialized in designing and creating boat interiors. Her work reflected her keen eye for detail and craftsmanship. Later in life, she discovered a passion for writing novels, channeling her creativity into storytelling that brought joy to her readers.

Carolyn was deeply committed to her faith and found great fulfillment in serving God. She also loved traveling, which enriched her life with new experiences and perspectives. These passions were complemented by her dedication to family and community. She loved going on mission trips with her church and friends to share God’s love.

She is survived by her brothers Fred David Rhyne, Clyde Thomas Rhyne, and Burl Timothy Rhyne; her daughter Melissa Lynn Meiller Belandres; and her grandson Benjamin Honorato Belandres. Carolyn was predeceased by her parents, Fred Lee Rhyne and Margaret Naomi Whitehead Rhyne.

A Memorial Service will be held on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Dotson Memorial Baptist Church, 814 Dotson Memorial Road, Maryville. The family will greet friends from 10:00-11:00.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to Dotson Memorial Baptist Church, 814 Dotson Memorial Road, Maryville, TN 37801. Please designate your check to “Missions in memory of Carolyn Meiller.” Smith Funeral & Cremation Service, Maryville, 865-983-1000, www.SmithFuneralandCremation.com.

To order [memorial trees](#) or send flowers to the family in memory of Reba Carolyn Rhyne Meiller, please visit our [flower store](#).

Isaiah Bailey

Isaiah Bailey, 85, of Erwin left this earthly world on Tuesday, December 23rd, 2025 and is now walking through the best car show we could imagine. He was born in Yancey County, NC to

the late Velmar and Servilla Bailey. He was also preceded in death by four brothers, Okie, Eugene, Willard and Earl.

Isaiah loved car shows and cruising. He loved Shining cars and working on them. He loved everything about cars. He also enjoyed walking, going to flea markets and doing things with his grandson, Daygon James. He had worked at NFS for over 40 years and he enjoyed his work. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 65 years, Lynn Barnett Bailey, a daughter Angela Bailey; a grandson, Daygon James; a brother, Hosea (Linda) Bailey of Jonesborough and a sister Priscilla (Richard) Knode as well as many other family members and friends.

The family would like to give a special thank you to his niece, Kim Boone, nephews, Chad Fred, and Brad Velmer for their loving care for Mr. Bailey.

A service to honor the life of Isaiah Bailey will be held at Valley Funeral Home on Tuesday, December 30th at 6 pm with Pastor John Catts and his nephew, Darrell Bailey officiating. The family will receive friends from 4 pm until the hour of service. A graveside service will be held on Wednesday December 31st at 10:30 am in Evergreen Cemetery. Active pallbearers will be Richard Knode, Billy Boone, Chad Fred Bailey, Brad Vermer Bailey, Daygon James Bailey, and Paul Ollis. Those that would like to attend the graveside service are asked to meet at Valley Funeral Home at 10:15 on Wednesday to go in procession to the cemetery.

Valley Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mr Isaiah Bailey. (423) 743-9187

Hosea Bailey

Hosea Bailey, 82, went to be with the Lord on Thursday February 12, 2026, at the Johnson City Medical Center, Johnson City, TN.

Hosea was born on January 1, 1944, in Yancy County, NC, the sixth son of the late Velmer and Servilla Harris Bailey. He was preceded in death by five brothers: Okie, Willard, Earl, Eugene and Isaiah Bailey.

Growing up in Lost Cove, NC, as a young man, Hosea moved to the Lamar Community in 1958, where he became a strong part of his community. Hosea graduated from Lamar High School in the class of 1962, where he played basketball and was a part of the FFA Club. While not in school, he helped with farming work throughout the community, particularly with Ben Ervin, who became a father figure in his life.

In 1966, Hosea was drafted into the US Army where he served in the Infantry B 5th Bn 32nd Artillery at Fort Riley, Kansas, until he was discharged in 1968. He loved to be a part of the American Bowling Congress under the Junction City-Fort Riley Bowling Association during this time, where he served as Team Captain.

After returning to Jonesborough, Hosea worked for WETB radio station for several years, where he met the love of his life, Linda Kay Huffine Bailey, in 1969. The couple was married on May 27, 1969, at Antioch Baptist Church in Johnson City, TN.

Hosea's greatest life mission was to be a father and a husband, which he excelled at beyond any measure. They were blessed with two sons, Chad Fred and Brad Velmer. Everything Hosea did in life after their birth revolved around his family.

In 2005, Hosea retired as a highway inspector from the Tennessee Department of Transportation after thirty years' service.

He will be remembered for his love of daylilies and flowers of all kinds, which he planted all around his property. In addition, to these flowers, Hosea planted tomatoes, cucumbers, and other veggie plants each year, giving away more than the family consumed.

In his last years, the best of his days was spent as Pa to his grandchildren, Blaine Tyler, and Patsy Kate, who were the light of his world.

Those who survived, Hosea, included his wife, Linda Kay Huffine Bailey; sons, Chad Fred Bailey and Brad Velmer Bailey, daughters in law, whom he loved as daughters, Ashleigh Elaine Cline Bailey; two grandchildren, Blaine Tyler, and Patsy Kate Bailey; sister and brother-in-law, Pricilla and Richard Knode; sister-in-law, Nellie Lynn Bailey; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services will be at 7:00 pm. Sunday, February 15, 2026 at Dillow-Taylor Funeral Home with Paster Pete Tackett officiating. The family will receive friends from 5-7 pm, prior to the service.

Graveside Services will be held at 11 Am, Monday, February 16, 2026, at Mountain Home National Cemetery. Anyone who would like to go in procession to the cemetery is asked to meet at Dillow-Taylor by 10:30 am.

Pallbearers will be Chad Bailey, Brad Bailey, Marty Keys, Billy Boone, BJ McKay, and Alan Cline.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Herb Peterson, Harry Miller, David Keys, Keith Ervin, Richard Knode, Bobby Cline, and Danny Mack Keys.

Other than celebrating the lives of the above, there is a lesson to learn from looking at Obituaries of individuals. What information can be gleaned from an Obituaries?

- Individuals full name, date of birth and location, date of death and location.
- Spouses name and sometime date of marriage and location.
- Children's names
- Were the individual attended high school, college, and military service.
- Hobbies, careers, church attendance, and volunteer service.
- Sibling's names, in laws and other family members.
- Pallbearers, location of services and dates, and who spoke.

Note from the editor

Hello, my dear family,

My name is Kelly Storm, and I am the new editor of our newsletter. One thing I have learned is that I cannot do this without your help. Please send me any ideas, obituaries, pictures, and things you would like to learn more about. I hope you enjoyed learning about some interesting cousins and how obituaries can be a great source of information.

Tipton-Haynes

STATE HISTORIC SITE

2620 S. Roan St., Johnson City, TN

<https://www.tipton-haynes.org>

Events 2026

Sorghum Festival and Breakfast

- Saturday, September 19, 2026
- 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Stories from the Pumpkin Patch

- Saturday, October 10, 2026
- 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM

A Walk in Their Boots

- Saturday, November 7, 2026
- 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Visions of Christmas

- Friday, December 4, 2026
- 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM