

Celebrating Mattie's Heritage

Live The Legacy Of Love

Family Reunion 2014
Commemorative Historical Keepsake



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EMELYN JOSEPHINE NOEL (MATTIE) 1879 - 1973

*M*attie was born in St. Lucia. She migrated to Grenada at the age of sixteen years. She was married to Brighton Edwin Noel, a Portuguese. That marriage took place in Grenada. Out of that union came eight daughters: Florence Clemencia, Sophie Veronica, Priscilla, Elizebeth Venet, Eldica Judica, Melina, Ruthann and Paulina. The family eventually migrated to Trinidad and settled in Matelot. Her first husband, the father of her eight daughters, died in 1928 at the age of forty years. All her life, Mattie prayed for the sick of the parish in French. Mattie's great grandmother was a slave from Africa. Mattie died in 1973 at the age of 94 years.

Recounted by Augustina (Sais), as it was relayed to her by her mother, Florence (Nen) Pierre, the eldest of Mattie's six daughters.



FLORENCE CLEMENCIA NOEL - PIERRE (NEN) 1-1987

Fondly known as Nen, Florence was the eldest of Mattie's eight children. She was born on May 15 1903. At the age of 18 she met, fell in love with and married Israel Pierre, who she met at a bazaar. Nen told her eldest daughter that she had dreamt of her husband before she actually met him, and it was love at first sight when her eyes encountered the man of her dreams. Israel's family were originally from France. Israel, just 20 at the time, needed his father's consent to marry Florence. In those days anyone under twenty needed parental consent for marriage. They got the consent, and their union bore twelve children, but one of them, Amos Oliver, was stillborn. These are the names of the surviving eleven children: Augustina 'Sais' Pierre-Francis, Mendez Peter Pierre, Elina 'Anna' Josephene Pierre-Meltz (deceased), Amie Mary Catherine Pierre-Sequea Cruickshank, Gertrude Angel Pierre-Daniel - Saunders (deceased), John Gideon Pierre, O Farrel Lewis Pierre, Winnifred Pierre-Charles, Whilhemina Pierre and Sarah Ancilla Pierre-Cassidy.

Nen was also very charitable in her community where she served as a midwife and assisted many women during childbirth. After her retirement from this function, she assisted in the Matelot Roman Catholic Church cleaning the altar and washing the towels used by the priest. As the aging process slowed her down, communion was brought to her house daily. Her children fondly remember her as a loving mother who danced and made jokes. But when she spoke to them, she did so only once. If she had to speak twice or three times, a blow, or any object that was in her hand or nearby was sure to follow.

It was Eldica, her sister, who first started calling her Nen. All her children soon did likewise. Her sisters called her husband Abel. In her final years Nen was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist faith. Her generation is currently over 190 and counting. She died in 1987 at the age of 84 years.



SOPHIE VERONICA NOEL (DEATH 1986)

Sophie Veronica Noel was born in Grenada W.I. The date of her birth is unknown. She was the second child born to Mattie and Brighton. Sophie grew into a lovely and attractive young lady and got married to Wiseman Joseph. She and her husband were entrepreneurs. They started a small business by opening a parlor which eventually grew in size. They were blessed with two boys; however, tragically, both children died at a very young age. This was devastating to the couple who always wanted to have a large family. The deaths of her sons was followed by the shocking and untimely death of her husband, who on his way to purchase supplies for their shop, collapsed and died. However, her abiding faith and trust in God gave Sophie the strength to move forward.

Sophie had good business sense and built the shop into a prosperous and profitable business. She was kind-hearted and sympathetic towards her customers, many of whom were in need. She often extended credit to those who did not have the money to pay for food items. Although she did not have the privilege of raising her own children, she offered support and help in the up-bringing of her many nieces and nephews. As she matured in age and managing the business became challenging, she passed on the responsibility to her niece Sais. Sophie enjoyed having a good time and would often attend one of Trinidad's biggest festivals, Carnival. Interestingly however, she never played mass. Above all, she loved God and always put Him first. She adored and loved her mother and sisters. She died in 1986 and was buried in Matelot.



PRISCILLA NOEL - WILLIAMS (Cilla)

*P*risilla Noel, the third of Mattie's daughters, was also born in Grenada before the family migrated and settled in Matelot. She was fondly called Cilla by her sisters. She blossomed into a beautiful young lady and was married to Victor Williams. After marriage she and her husband moved to Palo Seco in South Trinidad, where she put down roots and made a home and life for herself. Although she never had any biological children of her own, she was instrumental in guiding and counseling her many nieces and nephews who were considered to be "out of control", or in today's language, "at risk". She believed in the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child", and offered her home and support to family members in trouble. Her home was considered a modern day foster home. She was assertive and a very strong disciplinarian. Children entering her home often left with changed and positive attitudes.

Priscilla had strong religious convictions. She believed wholeheartedly in God and took her religion very seriously. She had excellent leadership abilities and pastored her own Baptist congregation. She had many followers who respected and trusted her. She was very devoted to her mother and sisters. The dates of her birth and death are unknown.



ELIZABETH VENET SANDY NOEL - MCSWEEN 1912 - 1997

Elizabeth Venet Sandy Noel-McSween was the fourth child of Mattie. She was born on April 1, 1912 in Grenada. After migrating to Trinidad with her parents and siblings, she met and fell in love with her first husband whom she met in Matelot. They had no children and were eventually divorced. Many years later, she married her second husband, Corneilus Mc Donald Mc Sween. This union produced five children: John 'Jephus' Mc Sween (deceased), Vena Mc Sween-Flaunders, Edna Mc Sween, Ann-Evelyn Octavia Mc Sween, and Rose Mc Sween-Ruiz.

Very quiet and soft-spoken, Venet loved God and was baptized in the Seventh-day Adventist faith where she remained a member until her passing. Her favorite song was *Love at Home*. Her favorite scriptural passage was Psalm 133, and her favourite food was green banana, breadfruit, and fish. She traveled a lot to visit her children abroad in Canada before finally settling in England with two of her daughters. She lived there for eight years, and went to rest on December 18, 1997.

With certainty, it will be said of her: "You have fought a good fight, you have kept the faith". We know that there is laid up for her a crown of righteousness. Venet's generation numbers 21. She was a grandmother of nine, and great grand mother of seven.



EMELYN JOSEPHINE
JOEL (MATTIE)



SOME OF ELDICA'S
GENERATION



FIVE OF MATTIE'S EIGHT DAUGHTERS. FROM
LEFT RUTHANN, ELDICA, MELINA, PAULINA
AND VENET (MISSING ARE FLORENCE (NEN),
SOPHIE AND PRISCILLA)



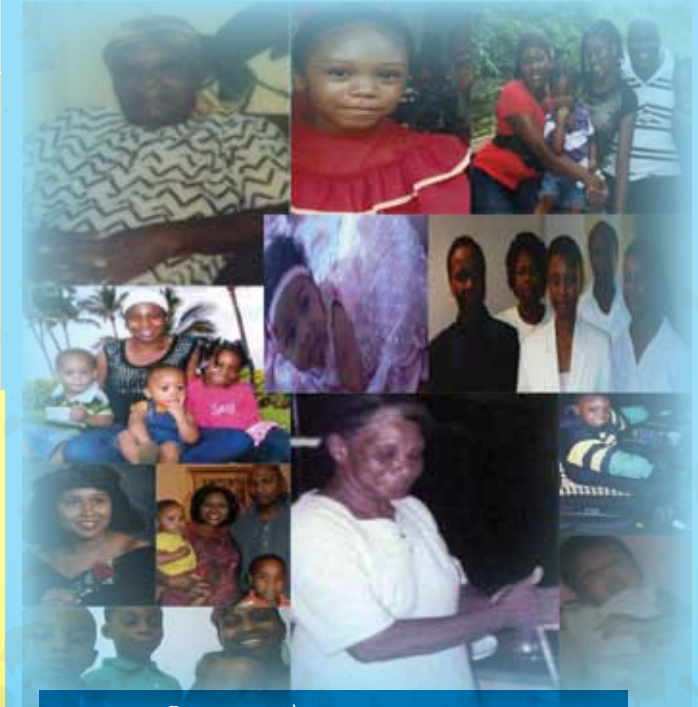
SOME OF MELINA'S DESCENDANTS



SOME OF FLORENCE (NEN'S) GENERATION



VENET'S SON JEPHUS AND HER FOUR
DAUGHTERS VENA, EDNA, ROSE AND ANN



RUTHANN'S DESCENDANTS



SOME OF PAULINA'S CHILDREN



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, PAULINA (MATTIE'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER), EDNA, (VENET'S DAUGHTER) AND MARY (PAULINA'S ELDEST DAUGHTER)



AUGUSTINA (SAIS) AND SARAH (LEFT). FLORENCE'S (NEN) FIRST AND LAST DAUGHTERS.



PERSIS AND ARMENUS, TWO OF MELINA'S CHILDREN



FIRST COUSINS IN A ROW. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, MAGGIE (PAULINA), JEPHUS' WIFE, ANNA (VENET), AMINUS (MELINA), ROSE (VENET), VENA (VENET), EDNA (VENET), MARY (PAULINA) AND JOHN (NEN)



WIDE CROSS SECTION OF MATTIE'S GENERATION AT THE **LAST FAMILY REUNION**



ELDICA ELIZABETH JOSEPH - GOITIA 1913 – 2011

On August 25, 1913 Judica was born to Josephine and Brighton Noel. She was the sixth child and fifth girl. She was born in Sutters, Grenada. When she was just three years old, in 1916, the family moved to Trinidad and settled in Matelot. She attended the Matelot RC School where her teacher misspelled her name as Eldica. This then became her name. Early in life, she dedicated her life to God and tried to be like Him, earning for herself the nickname 'Eldica the Saint.' This however does not mean that she was not a normal child, as she had what we liked to call 'a hot mouth', which often resulted in her getting in trouble with her elder sisters.

As she grew she aspired to be a nurse, which she never formerly pursued. She however nursed a few people in her life time. She also had a short teaching career, although she spent her entire life teaching. At about 19 years old she began studying the Bible, and despite opposition from her mother and sisters when she was 21 years old, she was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist church. She evangelized her three younger sisters and later, her dedicated life led another lady, whom she loved, to the Lord, without a word of prompting.

In 1936 she married James Joseph and mothered 8 children. One day, because of her sterling character, her father-in-law told her: "You could tame a lion; what a woman!" In 1971 sometime after her husband had died, she was remarried to Paul Goitia, who after an accident became her second patient. After a series of illnesses, on July 11, 2011 Eldica the Saint, The Lion Tamer, The Teacher, The Nurse, and most importantly The Mother, passed on.



MELINA PAUL 1915 - 2012

*M*elina Noel Paul was born on December 26, 1915 also in Grenada. The family relocated to Matelot, Trinidad in 1916 when she was nine months old. She attended Matelot R.C. School until she was fifteen years old. This premature end to her formal education was as a result of the death of her father when she was twelve. She left school to assist her mother, an act which engendered in her, excellent work ethics and preparation for the challenges of life at an early age.

Melina had seven children, three of whom preceded her in death: Veronica (Birdie), Augustine (Bill), and Charles. They are survived by Persis, Armenus, Lewis, and Earnest. Her generation to date is 101 and counting, and she was blessed to see her fourth generation before her death. Self-sufficient, Melina farmed the land and sold the produce to support herself and her family. She had good business sense and was very frugal with her earnings.

She was a strong and courageous person.

Gifted with her hands, she was a skilled midwife, without any formal training, and she provided both prenatal and postnatal care to **woman**. She was also a gifted massage therapist who again without any formal training, knew how to massage and knead the muscles and soft tissues of the body to relieve pain and discomfort. In addition, she grew and prepared herbal medicines (bush medicines) for the treatment of a vast range of illnesses **to support the body's healing process**. This was all a labor of love, as she never received or requested payment for her services.

Melina loved to sing and worship God. Her favorite book was the Bible, and she recited the Psalms from memory. She lived her life with an unwavering faith and trust in God. Her favorite quote was "My Life Is In God's Hands." Throughout the many struggles and difficulties in her life, she never complained, and with steadfastness, she relied on God's power to sustain her. God blessed her with a long life of 97 years. She went to rest on September 12, 2012



RUTHANN UNIZA TOBIAS 1918 - 1997

Ruthann Uniza Tobias was born on June 13, 1918 in Trinidad. She was married to John Henry Tobias on December 12, 1945. They had five children: Emmanuel (Deceased November 2005), Agnes, Margaret, Josephine, and Henrietta. Before her passing, she was fortunate to see twelve of her grandchildren. She was the priestess in the home, leading the family in morning and evening devotion. Her favorite song was “Happy the Home”, and her favorite scriptural passages were Psalms 91 and 92, which she read at every family devotion.

She had a deep sense of commitment to family. She taught her children to appreciate each other. Many times, she took the trek to Cumana to visit Mattie and her sisters who resided there. She also took occasional trips to Matelot and Palo Seco to visit her other siblings.

Embellishing the yard with a variety of flowers was one of her favorite pastimes. She also tended a vegetable garden. She had the skill of taking the simplest of produce from the garden and transforming it into a delicious meal. One of her favorite meals was lentil and cornmeal dumpling. She also enjoyed green papaya cold slaw, fried okra and karilee, and good Bajan sweet bread.

She enjoyed listening to music and West Indies cricket and loved watching parades. Overall, Ruthann was a very kind and loving person, not only to her immediate family, but to others around her.

She departed this life on October 2, 1997, the same year with her elder sister Venet.



PAULINA JUEANVILLE 1921 - 2013

*P*aulina Jueanville was the last of eight girls; the last to be born and the last to die. Paulina, affectionately called Pauline by her sisters, was a visionary and very ambitious. Although she did not realize her dream to be a teacher, she received that satisfaction through her children.

At the age of 25 years, Paulina was married to the late Joseph Jueanville, and they had eight children: Jesse, Mary, twins Magdalene and Martha, Miriam, Joel, John and Jude. She was a faithful wife for 48 years; Joseph died in 1994. She was also a spiritual mother not only to her own children, but also to the children in her community and her church. Her extreme warmth and generosity won the hearts of many families and friends.

Paulina was both a Sabbath and Sunday school teacher. Her Sunday School students were the neighbors' children whom she effectively taught about Jesus. She was passionate about visiting the sick and making carrot juice and other homemade remedies for them. She was very gifted with her hands. Also, she was a professional seamstress, and her sewing ranged from bridal outfits to embroidery items. She could really cook and always had something to share. Paulina was an active church member and especially liked serving in Community Services, the Deaconry, and the Sabbath School. She was greatly appreciated by her children, relatives, neighbors and church family. Like the proverbial woman of Proverbs 31, she opened her mouth with wisdom and on her tongue was the law of kindness. She watched over the ways of her household, and did not eat the bread of idleness. "Her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praised her. Many daughters did well but she excelled ..."

She was a woman that feared the Lord. She shall be praised. Her memory lives on.

NEW MATRIARCHS

Mattie's youngest daughter, Paulina Jueanville, was the last of the seven daughters to depart this life. We turn our attention to Mattie's third generation for our new matriarchs. They are each of the eldest surviving daughters of Mattie's second generation - eight girls.

THIRD GENERATION MATRIARCHS 2014



NAME	BIRTH	DEATH	AGE	GENERATIONS	COUNT
Mattie	1879	1973	94	7	427+
Florence (Nen)	1909 (May 15)	1987	84	6	190+
Sophie	Unknown	1986	Unknown	1	2
Priscilla	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	0	0
Venet	1912 (April 1)	1997	83	4	21
Eldica	1913 (August 25)	2011	98	4	32+
Melina	1915 (December 26)	2012	97	5	101+
Ruthann	1918 (June 13)	1997	79	4	34+
Paulina	1921 (September 23)	2013	92	4	45+

2014

July

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20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31

August

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September

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October

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November

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December

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2015

FEBRUARY

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MAY

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AUGUST

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NOVEMBER

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MARCH

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JUNE

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SEPTEMBER

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DECEMBER

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2016

January

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February

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March

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April

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May

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29 30 31

June

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12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30

Mattie's Family Reunion International Committee Members 2014



Armenus Guy - Chairperson



AnneRose Noel - Secretary



Lewis Guy -Treasurer



Magdalene Tobias



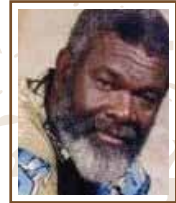
Mary Jueanville - Phillip



Arneil Seedarnee



Henreitta Tobias



Antonio Joseph



Persis Noel



Hayacinth Sequea



Thora Cupid



Petra Pierre - Robertson -
Family Tree & Data