



**CROOKED TREE
VILLAGE REUNION
NEWSLETTER**

**November/December 2007
Volume 1, Issue 2**

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CROOKED TREE VILLAGE REUNION 2008

Biography of Randolph Tillett,

By: Linda Crawford Elul

Randolph Tillett, also known as Bra Dolph, was born on the 25th of November, 1900 in Crooked Tree Village to Elvina and Alfred Tillett. He attended the Crooked Tree Baptist Primary School and married Beatrice Nicholson, also a Crooked Tree resident. The couple went on to have ten children: Osmond, Lucinda, Norman, Louise, Gerald, twins Mordant and Morlene, Wilbert, Adeline, and Randolph Jr.

Randolph raised his family in the



Church, and wished to instill the love of God in each and every one of his children.

A well loved member of the Crooked Tree Village Community, he was a member of the Crooked

Tree Baptist Church in his early days.

However, in 1931, he left the declining Baptist Church and actively led a campaign to bring the Nazarene Church to Crooked Tree. Through his

successful campaigns, Randolph learned more about the world of the Church, eventually becoming a transitory lay preacher-at least until the Nazarene Church sent an Official Pastor to fill the role.

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Sam Tillett

It is with deepest regret that I inform you of the sudden passing of Mr. Samuel Tillett, one of our colleagues, who was on the Belize Planning Committee, for the Crooked Tree Reunion 2008. Sam is survived by his parents, Mrs. Gloria Cruz Tillett and Mr. Clifford Tillett, his wife and children, brothers and sisters of Crooked Tree Village.

Sam was taking the lead on the Clean-up Campaign to prepare for our Reunion to be held in Crooked Tree Village, June 2008. He was certainly commended for his dedication and contributions to making this project a success.

On behalf of the US Planning Committee and the Belize Planning Committee, we express our sincere condolences to his family. Our prayers are with his family during this difficult time. Please join us in sharing in their time of bereavement.

Respectfully,

*Mrs. Linda Crawford Elul
President, Planning Committee
Crooked Tree Village Reunion*

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Because of his overall love and devotion to the people of Crooked Tree, he was elected the first chairman of the Village Council of Crooked Tree Village. His position allowed him to help many of the Villagers who were experiencing difficulties with obtaining lease papers and survey permits for their land.

Randolph was also a great help to Village Residents who were affected by hurricanes-- he would travel to Belize City and organize monetary and other types of aid for those whose homes, land, or possessions had been destroyed in the various hurricanes.

Randolph was the first resident Justice of the Peace at Crooked Tree, as well as the Village's official Registrar of births and deaths. Mr. Dolph also became the first in Crooked Tree to get a Chiclero Contract with the Belize Estate and Produce Company, a contract which allowed Mr. Dolph to harvest the milk and sap from Sapodilla trees, which the Belize Estate and Produce Company would in turn use for the manufacture of chewing gum.

Apart from his duties in the business and political worlds of Crooked Tree, Randolph performed a great service to the future generations of his village by becoming the Village's first School Manager. As a Manager, he was instrumental in obtaining the supplies that Crooked Tree's School desperately needed from the Belize Education Department.

For his primary business, Randolph worked as a leather tanner and was known for his sturdy shot bags (weather

and waterproof bags which men used to store bullet, file, etc.) and wallets (which were used not for the Villagers, but rather slung on the backs of the Village horses). In his spare time, Mr. Dolph was also active in various farming projects, which he loved to do above all.

At 61 years of age, Mr. Dolph was stricken with heart disease and eventually succumbed to his illness in September, 1966 at the age of 66. Randolph's contributions to the Community were instrumental in founding many of the important institutions and reforms that are still in effect in Crooked Tree Village until this day, for which he will always be remembered. He passed his love of God to his children and, as seen in the success and kindness of his ten children, his warm-hearted spirit has left a lasting legacy in Crooked Tree Village.

THE FOUNDING AND ROLE OF A VILLAGE COUNCIL

By: Louise Crawford

Crooked Tree Village Council was founded in the 1950's after Hurricane Janet. The Government of Belize found it very difficult to deal with each individual person's needs and concerns, so as a means of delegating responsibilities, the Village Council was formed. In the early days, Mr. Randolph Tillett served as the first Chairman of Crooked Tree Village. The Village Council consists of seven elected members who are voted for by

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About Us

By: Nadine Gillette Herrera

The US Planning Committee and the Belize Planning Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis to plan the activities for the Reunion to be held in Crooked Tree Village on June 27, 28 and 29, 2008. The Committees has been making significant progress in developing the activities to support a very successful planned Reunion. Here are some Highlights on the Agenda that the Committee focuses on:

(A) We are discussing to submit a request to the Minister of Works to repair the Roads in time for the Reunion. Mrs. Shirley Codd has agreed to oversee this task. The US Planning Committee will also participate in this endeavor.

(B) The Belize Committee will be engaged in a Clean Up Campaign of our Village. The Campaign will be advertised for one month prior to the Reunion. The weekend before the Reunion a contest will be held judging who the winners are. The winners will receive 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize. Each winner will receive a prize reward for their efforts and contribution to the Clean-

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“Village Council”

the residents of the village. The Members of the Council are the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and a Councilor. The Chairman, arguably the most visible and active member of the Council, is responsible for investigating the concerns from the residents of the Village, and relaying those concerns to the appropriate Ministers of the Government who are held accountable for the district. The Village Council has monthly meetings to hear and discuss the needs of the Village, in which they must consider the most effective means of representing the people of their Village. As a non profit community organization, the qualifications to be a member of the council are fairly simple: you must have resided in the village for a least one year preceding the election and you have to be at least eighteen years old. Previously the length of their term of service was two years, but recently it was changed to three years.

Rudolph Crawford (better known as “Pa Rude”) is said to be the person that served the longest as Chairman of Crooked Tree Village Council. A well-respected member of the Crooked Tree Village Community and a devoted family man, “Pa Rude” became chairman in 1983 and served for 19 years. Before he became chairman, he had served as a member of the council for several years. During his years of service, he made a lot of connections with various business people. Many of these

business people looked to Rudolph in an auxiliary capacity, and they trusted him with their products on consignment. Even though he is not currently serving on the council, he is still willing to assist the people of Crooked Tree in all of their various activities. For example, “Pa Rude” also referred to by many as a ‘local lawyer’ of sorts because people go to him to get advice. He always makes his best attempts to talk to the people of Crooked Tree and point them in the right directions in an effort to resolve any problems they might be having.

Currently, George Guest is the Chairman of the Village.

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up Campaign.

(C) The Planning Committees has suggested adding many other social activities for the children on Saturday. The activities will include Horse back riding, having a clown doing face and balloon painting, sporting activities such as lime and spoon, sack race etc.

(D) The Planning Committee plans to have the following items on sale- Kis Kis, Fly brush, bowl etc. Also CD’s for Local Recording Artist will be on sale.

(E) The Planning Committee has finalized the food Menu that will be served at the events. The Menu includes the food

items for Friday evening “Meet and Greet” event, Saturday Cricket, Picnic and sporting events, Saturday night dinner dance and Sunday brunch immediately following the Worship Service. The Planning Committee has already identified approximately 20 ladies from Crooked Tree who has offered to assist us with the cooking.

(F) The Planning Committee plans to involve all the Local Pastors in participating in the Worship Service on Sunday. Dr Elmer Gillet will be the Guest Speaker at Worship Service. The Planning Committee asks that we pay special tribute to our ancestors as Mrs. Chris Gillett dedicates the song “Somewhere Around God’s Throne”.

(G) The Planning Committee plans to use some portion of proceeds from sales at the Reunion to make a contribution to the Crooked Tree Library. Also, we will be collecting donations for the Cancer Society; the President of the Cancer Society will be speaking at the Friday night event.

While the Planning Committee in

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"About US"

the US and Belize is hard at work to make the Reunion a major success, here is how you can contribute in helping us; please register today. By registering and paying your Reunion dues early will give the Planning Committee enough time to complete planning the events of the Reunion and prepare to accommodate the number of attendees.



THE CT PLANNING COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

MR. JAMIL KERR LOSKOT

FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PHOTO ALBUM COLLECTIONS!!

&

MARTY CASADO

FOR FEATURING THE REUNION WEBSITE ON BELIZENEWS.COM AS WEBSITE OF THE DAY

CT REUNION 2008 NEWSLETTER

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Belize:

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Sherolyn Crawford	Edward Gillett	Joel Westby
Wilda Crawford	Morna Gillett Shephard	

BRING YOUR FAMILY TREE POSTER BOARD TO THE REUNION AND ENTER IT FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE!

IF YOU HAVE A GOOD "HERITAGE" STORY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE FOR THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SUBMIT IN PUBLISH-READY FORMAT!



REGISTER EARLY

**PAID REGISTRANTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
SUBMIT 2 PHOTOS FOR THE ALBUM. DUE TO SPACE, ONLY
THE FIRST 1,000 PHOTOS WILL BE ADDED.**

**DEPOSIT DEADLINE DECEMBER 15, 2007
FINAL PAYMENT DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2008**

QUOTE OF MONTH

*"The world is round and the place which may seem
like the end may also be only the beginning."*

-- Ivy Baker Priest

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