

Wole Vaughn has known his family's 'Roots' all along

by Shirley Whittington
Wole Vaughn is a young Nigerian who is visiting in Midland for a few weeks. In these days of Roots consciousness, his story is an interesting one.

"The cycle wasn't broken at any point," said Wole, in a recent interview. "As a boy, I heard stories about our original ancestor, Scipio Vaughn. Thousands of black Vaughns in Africa and in the United States can trace their ancestry to him."

Scipio (a name given to him by his white owners) was captured by slavers around 1805, and shipped to South Carolina when he was in his early twenties. He was sold to Willie

Vaughn, a Camden planter whose surname he assumed. A skilled artisan and trusted slave, Scipio was hired out by the Vaughns to work as a carpenter and blacksmith. Eventually he married a Cherokee woman, and

fathered 13 children. Willie Vaughn died in 1820, and his will stipulated that the annual labour of "his negro man

Scipio" be appropriated as a fund for the education of Scipio's children. He also gave Scipio his freedom, within five years.

Two of Scipio's sons, Burrel and James, saved the money they were permitted to earn doing odd jobs, and purchased their freedom. James sailed to Nigeria where he established the Baptist Church there. Burrel returned to Liberia but how he fared is unknown.

Reunions The two branches of the Vaughn family kept in touch and they still have reunions surprisingly often. "One of my sisters," says Wole, "is working on her thesis at Columbia University. She

is getting married, and her wedding will be a reason for a family reunion. And many members of the American Vaughns went to Nigeria a few years ago for an all black arts festival."

Wole has been in Canada for two years. He has one more year to complete in an advertising course at MacWan College in Edmonton and then he plans to join his father (a retired accountant) and his mother (the principal of an elementary school) in Nigeria.

What does Wole think of Roots? "I was in Canada when it came out," he says, "but I had known for sure for such a long time where I came from

and who my ancestors were..." His remarks trail off into a non-committal smile.

The story of the African and American descendants of Scipio Vaughn who have kept in touch for so many years was the subject of a feature story in Ebony Magazine in 1975.

One of the American Vaughns has written the biography of Scipio Vaughn. Will other books be written documenting the story of two branches of the family that have never lost contact with each other? Wole Vaughn answers with a smile. "It is not impossible."



Wole Vaughn

Retiring Port McNicoll firemen honoured

Approximately 80 years of service with the Port McNicoll Fire Department were recognized at a special banquet held May 6 at the Sportsman Inn, Victoria Harbour.

Retiring Port McNicoll Fire Chief Lloyd Cameron, Captain John P. Reedy and Firefighter Robert Smith, all volunteers, had recently retired from the Port McNicoll volunteer fire brigade.

Retiring Chief Cameron had been a member of the fire department for 30 years just under 25 of which had been served as fire chief; Reedy had served for 20 years as well, and Smith was a member for 20 years service.

Cameron, who has resigned as chief but remains a member of the Port Fire Department in the position of captain was presented with a digital clock radio and Mrs. Cameron received roses.

Captain Reedy and Firefighter Smith, who had 30 and 20 years service with the fire department respectively, were each presented with engraved watches by Port Reeve Robin Talbot.

Forty guests were present at the dinner hosted by the volunteer fire department. Presentations were approved by the village council.

Lloyd Cameron was master of ceremonies for the evening and Port McNicoll's Dr. C.A. Talbot was at his

roasting best" when addressing the group. Fire chief Gordon Duggan thanked the retiring members for their devotion and work with the Port Volunteer Fire Department.

The entire village council with the exception of James Zummach clerk treasurer Alex Hancox and Mrs. Hancox were present for the special banquet.

The only remaining active members of the original fire department which was first organized in 1947 are Ernest Quesselle and Lloyd Cameron.

HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU NEED?
2,500 to 100,000

Pay off all your debts in one clean sweep and have only one small monthly payment

I'LL LEND YOU MONEY TO . . .

- Pay off a mortgage
- Combine 2 or more mortgages into 1
- Pay taxes and insurance
- Consolidate overdue bills
- Improve property
- Pay off a loan company or bank
- Purchase car, boat or cottage
- Or for any worthwhile purpose

CALL ME PERSONALLY
DUANE PATFIELD
429-3615

GREAT NORTHERN CREDIT CORP.
Box 143, Collingwood, Ontario

Wagg's DRY CLEANING & LAUNDRY COMPANY LIMITED

PROTECT YOUR FURS, KEEP THEM COOL... Free Pickup and Delivery

We store all types of:
• COATS • DRESSES • SUITS
• SWEATERS • JACKETS

REFRIGERATED VAULT, FULLY INSURED STORAGE

Ask about our guarantee of over 71 years of quality cleaning

516 Yonge St., Midland 526-5436

THE COMMISSION ON Freedom of Information and Individual Privacy

The Commission on Freedom of Information and Individual Privacy by authority vested in it by the Government of Ontario will undertake an enquiry to examine:

1. Public information practices of other jurisdictions in order to consider possible changes which are compatible with the parliamentary traditions of the Government of Ontario and complementary to the mechanisms that presently exist for the protection of the rights of individuals;
2. The individual's right of access and appeal in relation to the use of Government information;
3. The categories of Government information which should be treated as confidential in order to protect the public interest;
4. The effectiveness of present procedures for the dissemination of Government information to the public;
5. The protection of individual privacy and the right of recourse in regard to the use of Government records.

One aspect of the Study will include the acceptance of written Briefs and the Receipt of Submissions as well as a series of public meetings throughout the Province.

Persons or groups wishing to make representations to the Commission on any aspect of the Study are requested to write to the Counsel, Commission of Freedom of Information and Individual Privacy, 444 Waterloo Street, London, Ontario N6B 2P3 or to submit written Briefs with the undersigned not later than August 1, 1977.

Public hearings will be held at times and places in Ontario to be announced later and those filing Briefs or letters who wish to appear personally will be advised as to the time and place when they will be heard.

Please address all correspondence to: Counsel, Commission on Freedom of Information and Individual Privacy, 444 Waterloo Street, London, Ontario N6B 2P3.

D.C. Williams, Ph.D., LL.D. Chair
W.R. Poole, Q.C. Counsel

Keep Simcoe Centre secure FOLLOW-THROUGH IS Essential For GOOD Government TOO!

Elect

TAYLOR, George X

Your Texaco man: there's no limit to how far he'll go to help you.

Your Texaco man. He has world-famous lubricants... like Ursa, Havoline, Texaco TDH, Rando, and Marfak AP to keep your equipment moving. And he has the know-how to keep your equipment working.

Your Texaco man. He can get you the products you want, when you want them, where you want them. Call him today.

TEXACO Farm Services

Free! Write to your local Texaco Distributor listed below, for your free brochure "Your Guide to the Care and Maintenance of Farm Equipment"

Name _____
Address _____

JACK DIXON FUELS, ELMVALE 322-2034

Gord Smith needs your assistance and your vote

His top priorities in this area are the acquisition of new industry and job creation for the unemployed.

Gord is actively pursuing these goals - this is not just an election promise, it is a fact

Gord needs you. We need him.

PG

NOTICES FOR RENT LOST & FOUND TENDERS WORK WANTED REAL ESTATE PETS & LIVESTOCK MORTGAGES SERVICES COMING EVENTS PERSONAL SNOWMOBILES BOATS & MOTORS HELP WANTED FOR SALE CARS & TRUCKS

...pass it on!

All this and more from your CLASSIFIEDS