

## GATHERING OF THE DAWSON CLAN



Kitty Hawk, NC April 2003

The year 2003 brought exciting events. Thanks to Larry Ward, a cousin unknown to us, for finding us through our website. Without him, The Gathering of the Dawson Clan would not have happened.



After much emailing and coming up with other cousins in Oregon, Fred and Margaret Thorngate, we came up with the idea of a "Gathering of the Dawson Clan" to be held at Kitty Hawk on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Invitations were sent out and our planning was underway! "The Dawson Gathering" took place in April, 2003. There were about 40 of us attending from the different Dawson Clans.



They came from Oregon, Texas, Michigan, Virginia, Taiwan and, of course, North Carolina. It was a great day! As Margaret Thorngate commented, "I wonder what our Great-Grandparents thoughts would have been as they looked down on us that day".

Frank Owens was kind (and brave) enough to let us use his beach house to hold "The Gathering". It is a beautiful place and plenty of space to hold everyone with room to spare.

There was a bounty of food laid out on the dining room table. We had several busy bees who worked hard in the kitchen!



Jeanne and Hugh McCain entertained those of us who were still on the Outer Banks with a lovely brunch on Sunday at their Beach house at Corolla. A perfect ending to a perfect week end!



Many Kudos to Frank and Linda Owens, Jeanne and Hugh McCain, Art and Anne Dykeman, Rod Dawson, Sybil Commander and Fred and Margaret Thorngate. Without their efforts there would not have been a Gathering of Our Clan.

## **NOTHING COULD BE FINER THAN A REUNION IN CAROLINA**

From Margaret Thorngate

And that was the title of an article in our local newspaper that I just had to borrow as it was so fitting for this article.

I want to thank all of you for making our trip from the Pacific to the Atlantic such an enjoyable experience. The weather smiled on all of us. The only disappointment was not getting any soft crabs so I guess we will have to go back at a better time.

It was great seeing old acquaintances again and meeting others and having enjoyable conversations at parties big and small...Happy Hour Friday in The Dykemans Hotel room; the delicious Sunday Brunch at Jeanne and Hugh McCain's in Corolla, and of course the Gathering of the Dawson Clan in Frank Owens "penthouse" on Saturday. It was worth climbing all those stairs.

A special treat was our VIP tour of the Wright Brothers Monument buildings by Cousin Mike Moseley who heads the restoration project. The buildings were closed in preparation for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in December of that first historic flight, but Mike was able to give a few of us a quick tour.

The reunion would not have been possible without all the legwork and labor done by Anne & Art and Rod & Sybil that Friday and Saturday, and prior days of intense preparation. Speeches of appreciation were in order but somehow they were not spoken to the group as a whole. I certainly enjoyed working with Anne via email. We are grateful to the late Frank Dawson who painted the Dawson Coat of Arms that became such an appropriate symbol for the gathering of the Clan. It was a memorable week end!