



ELEVEN FIRST COUSINS of the Austin family attend the 2008 family reunion in Hatteras village. Honored by about 175 family members are Mona Hunter (left), Ruby Burrus, Jo Oden, Billy Austin, Avis Davis, Jesslyn Walton, Minerva Johnson, Libby Midgett, Sybil Skakle, Nacie Peele and Elise Dixon. The family now numbers 477 members. (MHG-M photo.)

#### **Hatteras Austin Family Gather for Biannual Reunion**

(Courtesy of Sybil Austin Skakle, Chapel Hill, NC)

Approximately 165 - 170 descendants of William Wheeler Austin and Mogieannah Oden gathered at the Hatteras Civic Center on Hatteras Island June 21<sup>st</sup> 2008 for their biannual reunion celebration. Ruby Austin Burrus reported that the ranks of our family have grown to 480, which includes spouses of the descendants.

The nine children- Monroe, Andrew, Lovie, Fred, Beatrice, Ernest, Nacie, Luther and Horton - of Wheeler and Mogieannah produced 38 offspring. Fifteen are still living and eleven attended. Mogieannah Austin Brown, daughter of Monroe, of Marshallburg, 93 years of age, sent her regrets. Nacie Peele, 88, son of Beatrice Austin and Leo Peele received the prize for being the oldest first cousin attendee. The youngest attendee was five and one half month old great grandson of Ruby Austin, daughter of Nacie, and Dalton Burrus.

Allen Burrus, grandson of Ernest Austin and Dare County Commissioner acted in place of his Uncle Bert Austin as master of ceremonies. Elizabeth Austin Midgett, wife of Stockton Midgett, daughter of Luther, and Cora Austin Simmons, granddaughter of Fred, Sr. and daughter of Fred, Jr., were responsible for assembling the feast all enjoyed with the help of grandsons of Beatrice, who provided fried fish and barbeque pork for the crowd.

The six family members who have died since the reunion of 2006 were remembered in a memorial service, led by Sybil Austin Skakle, daughter of Andrew. The deceased are: Virginia Austin Coke, daughter of Fred B. Austin David Fulcher Austin, son of Ernest Lee Austin, William Dale Burrus, grandson of Ernest Lee Austin William R. Johnson, husband of Minerva Austin, son-in-law of Nacie, Courtney Maria Barnett Rood, granddaughter of Beatrice Beatrice Peele Barnett, daughter of Beatrice.