

BLACK FARMERS & AGRICULTURALISTS ASSOCIATION



& THE LAND LOSS FUND

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PRESS RELEASE – RESEARCHER FROM TEXAS UNIVERSITY VISITS TILLERY

Tillery, NC, USA - Waymon Hinson, Professor and Director of the Department of Marriage and Family at Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX, and his wife Charla visited with the Open Minded Seniors (OMS) on Tuesday, June 28 as part of his initial meeting with Gary R. Grant, President of the Black Farmers & Agriculturalists Association (BFAA) and the Tillery Farms Project from the New Deal era. Hinson has been communicating with Grant for the past year as he prepares for research interviews with African American farmers across the South, from Georgia, Alabama and North Carolina in hopes of “finding some common themes of struggle and themes of resilience among the farmers,” says Hinson.

Hinson and Grant feel that such research is of great value and will reveal information about the African American farmer’s family background, struggles farmers have confronted, health issues and how they actually were able to succeed or not.

Hinson says the specific goals of the research project are 1) to explore the sociocultural and political context within which the African American farmers are found, examining the multiplicity of factors which impinge upon their ability to farm; 2) to organize the multiplicity of themes in the stories of the farmers; and 3) to organize the multiplicity of themes in the stories of the families of the farmers.

During the Waymon and Charla Hinson’s visit, they were presented with a cake in honor of their 35th Wedding Anniversary from the BFAA organization, toured the “History House” at the Tillery Community Center, toured the Tillery Community, and held a “Wreath Laying Ceremony” at the sarcophagus of the late Matthew and Florenza Moore Grant on the Grant Family Farm in Tillery.

“This ceremony is to recognize not only the struggle, leadership, tenacity and determination to bring justice for Black farmers across the country of the Grants, but all African American Farmers in their

struggle for justice and especially those who died prematurely.” The Grants have the oldest Civil Rights claim against the USDA for race discrimination.



PHOTO CAPTION

Pictured at the tomb of the late Matthew and Florenza Moore Grant are their children (left to right) sons Bruce K. Grant, Gary R. Redding (grandson), Gary R. Grant, Charla and Waymon Hinson, daughters, Evangeline Grant Briley and Gloria Grant Olds, with Professor Waymon Hinson and wife Charla Hinson (center) at the “Wreath Laying Ceremony” on the Grant Family Farm. While the day was rainy, the event was attended by some 20 community residents and three generations of Grant decedents.