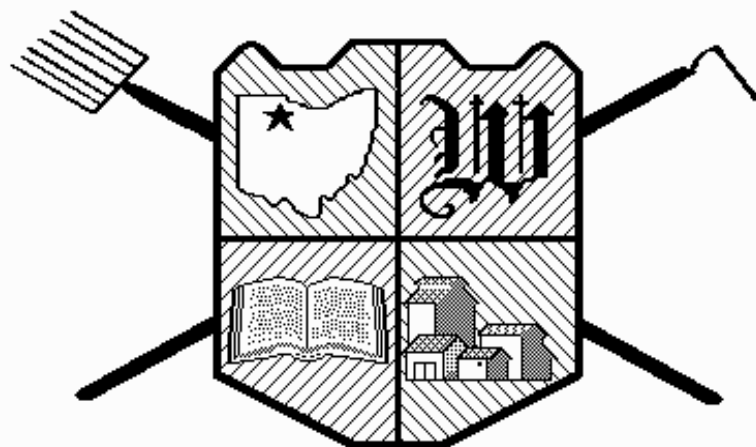


WATKINS NEWS



1990 Watkins Reunion

Old friendships were renewed and new acquaintances made when approximately 90 members of the K.K. Watkins family gathered for a reunion at Swanton Park on July 14, 1990.

Attendance at the reunion spanned five generations, including K.K.'s daughter-in-law Opal Richards Watkins (Dorr) of Ridgeville Corners, Ohio, down to one of K.K.'s two great great great grandchildren, Johnny Upshaw (Opal) of Fresno, California.

Family members came from all over the nation. "Aunt" Opal easily won the prize for the oldest person there; the youngest was Opal's great granddaughter, Grace Makula, three weeks old.

Although the day started out with a light drizzle, the rain stopped by the time people started coming, and the temperature was pleasant. This was fortunate, since it allowed the children to play outside; however, it was observed that most of the children and their clothing were headed for a bath by day's end.

Following an excellent and plentiful pot luck lunch, Hal Watkins (Orra) presided at a brief meeting which included the reading of the minutes from the first K.K. Watkins reunion back in the 60's. One event from that era was the recounting of a "brief family history" by Earl Watkins. Lнора Mason Drefke (Opal) asked to amend those minutes, since she avowed that "Uncle Earl never said anything briefly!"

The Earl Watkins family was represented by Jeanette with husband Roy Wittekindt, and by Gloria Samuelson of Omaha, Nebraska.

(Continued on next page)

Watkins Family to Ohio in 1794

The Watkins family came into Ohio from Delaware in about 1794. The new arrivals included James Holiday Watkins who was about 16 years old at the time. James grew up, married Mary Fisher, and had a son, also named James H. This James married Nancy Kimmel, and their sons included Kimmel Kyper Watkins (1859-1946).

K. K. came with his parents to Fulton County, Ohio, from Lorain County in 1863 at the age of four. He attended local schools and in 1884 he married Priscilla (Tillie) Richardson (1863-1946) who was born and raised in Swancreek Township, southeast of Delta. Kimmel and Tillie lived nearly all their married life as a farm family in Fulton County, except for four years they spent in Illinois.

They had six children. Their oldest, Laura Ethel, died at age 13. The others grew up and married in Fulton County.

Earl (1885-1969) graduated from Delta High in 1905 and taught school for many years. He married Junice Maines (1889-1944). After her death Earl married Ruby Chandler, who died in 1966.

Opal (1888-1976) married George Mason (1885-1929). They farmed in Pike and Amboy Townships, then moved to Metamora, OH, where she raised her daughters after George's death.

Orra (1892-1967) graduated from Fulton High in 1912. He married Florence Bruner. Orra was county auditor for a number of years. Florence lives in the Stow-Glen Retirement Center.

Ross (1895-1975) married Fern Sheffield. After some years of farming, they purchased and operated a flower shop and greenhouse in Delta. Fern passed away in 1986.

Dorr (1898-1967) graduated from Fulton High with the class of 1917. He married Opal Richards. They farmed in Henry and Fulton Counties in Ohio and at Waldron Michigan. Opal now lives in Ridgeville Corners.

K.K. and Tillie have had 180 descendants, two of whom were born just a few days before the 1990 reunion. Of the 23 grandchildren, 16 are living. There are 60 great grandchildren, 89 great great grandchildren, and 2 great great great grandchildren.



K.K. and Tillie Watkins' wedding photo
July 16, 1884

Cousin Who?

Did you ever wonder what to call your mother's cousin's grandchild? The little rascal is your second cousin once removed.

I once was confused and unknowing about the difference between second cousins, third cousins, and cousins once or twice removed. Thanks to my mother's interest in genealogy, which I share, I have sorted out these terms.

Your first cousins, of course, are the children of your aunts and uncles. Your children, and your cousin's children, are SECOND cousins. Their children, in turn, are third cousins (your grandchildren and your cousin's grandchildren).

The "removed" refers to a difference of one or more generations, so that your cousin's children are YOUR first cousins once removed. Your children, and your cousin's grandchildren are SECOND cousins, once removed. Your cousin's grandchildren are your first cousins TWICE removed.

Does that make it all clear, cousin?

The Editor Speaks

Actually, the editor types. But if I could speak to you I would tell you that it meant a great deal to me to attend my first Watkins reunion.

I saw my great grandparents, K.K. and Tillie Watkins, only once, when I was 18 months old. Unfortunately my memory does not reach back that far (sometimes I have difficulty reaching back to last Tuesday!) However, I grew up hearing about the Watkins uncles and aunts and cousins; and Fulton County, Metamora, Ai, Swanton, Delta and Waseon.

I grew up in California, several hundred miles from the few relatives I have who live here. Although we have had a few gatherings of all or most of the Mason cousins and our parents (Opal Watkins Mason's family), for the most part I have had little contact with my large extended family.

It was a special privilege to be in the same room with 90 people, all related to me in some way. I hope to

see you all again before too many years go by (including those who were absent in 1990).

In writing the material for this newsletter, whenever I mentioned a name, I have added in parentheses the name of the family branch; that is, the name of the child of K.K. and Tillie to whom the person mentioned is descended from.

I am indebted to my mother, Hazel Estel (Opal), for her help in providing details that I did not know or could not remember; and to my first cousin once removed Meredyth Nott (Dorr), for providing the mailing list.

Dick Estel
Fresno CA
August, 1990

Mark your calendar!
1992 Watkins Reunion
July 25
Swanton (Ohio) Park

1990 Reunion (continued)

The Opal Mason family included Hazel with husband, Bob Estel; Vivian with husband, Herb Hall; June Noever, all of California; and Lнора Drefke of Adrian, Michigan.

Representing Orra Watkins' family were Rachel and her husband, Bob Ellis of Stow, Ohio; Hal Watkins and wife, Evelyn of Indianapolis, Indiana; Joan Domeck of Mayfield Village, Ohio; and Roger Watkins with wife, Sue of Vermillion Ohio.

Meredyth and husband, Jim Nott of Ft. Wayne Indiana; Luella Makula of Waldron, Michigan, and Evelyn Watkins (Mrs. Dick Watkins) represented the Dorr Watkins family. Only the Ross Watkins branch was unrepresented.

Each of the branches of the family stood up in a group for pictures and introductions. This was followed by a photo of the "original grandchildren" of K.K., climaxed by a "head-standing" demonstration by Hal that put most of the younger family members to shame.