

Watkins News

Number 12

February 1999

News of the 1998 Reunion

About 40 family members attended the 1998 reunion in Delta OH. The family voted to send flowers to Opal Richards Watkins for her 100th birthday on March 7. Opal married Dorr Watkins on November 15, 1922, and is the mother of Richard, Homer, Luella, Meredyth and Dwight.

In attendance were: Bob & Hazel Estel (California), Gloria Samuelson and Margaret Meister (Nebraska), Jim, Gayle, Jessica, Stephanie and Andy Hall (Missouri), Jim & Meredyth Nott and Phillip Nott; David & Haviland Watkins (Indiana), Sue Badenhop (Kentucky), Pat Watkins, Neal, Nate, and Brendan Enrick; Dick & Evelyn Watkins; Robert, Amy Isaac, Leah & Christian Griteman; Jeff & Ann Short; Kim, Donna, Kirk, and Aron Watkins; Jim Watkins (Ohio); Ralph Watkins (Maryland); Luella Makula (Michigan); Janet K. Bowen (Washington).

Kim Watkins and Jim Watkins were elected co-presidents for the next reunion. Both live in Bryan, OH so the rumor was that the next reunion may be held in Bryan. That reunion is scheduled for July, 2000.



Dorr and Opal
Richards Watkins



Watkins on the Web

Genealogical research has taken a quantum leap forward with the arrival of the World Wide Web. There are hundreds of genealogy research sites, including the Watkins Family History Society, at <http://www.iinet.net.au/~davwat/wfhs/>

Founded in 1995, this coalition of Watkins researchers has been formed to collect and organize genealogical data on Watkins families world-wide. Obviously, this kind of effort will take a long time, and involve many people from around the world.

One thing we learn quickly is the size of the effort to track down Watkins relatives. World-wide there are an estimated 130,000 households with the Watkins surname and some 400,000 people with the name. In the United States alone, there are an estimated 70,000 Watkins households with an estimated total population of over 200,000.

By entering specific names or places, you can connect with others researching the same family line. We found three people who are descended from and doing research on the Robert and Rachel

Watkins family (great grandparents of K.K.); none have been able to go back any further than our own research.

In addition, by getting on the Email list, you'll receive information about famous and infamous Watkins from around the world. For example, from the web site: <http://www.iinet.net.au/~davwat/wfhs/famous.html> you can learn about Major Tasker Watkins, Lieutenant, 1/5th Bn. The Welch Regiment, British Army Campaign World War II.

On 16 August 1944 at Barfour, Normandy, France, Lieutenant Watkins' company came under murderous machine-gun fire while advancing through corn fields set with booby traps. The only officer left, Lieutenant Watkins led a bayonet charge with his 30 remaining men against 50 enemy infantry, practically wiping them out. Finally, at dusk, separated from the rest of the battalion, he ordered his men to scatter and after he had personally charged and silenced an enemy machine-gun post, he brought them back to safety. His superb leadership not only saved his men, but decisively influenced the course of the battle.

Later Sir Tasker Watkins achieved rank of Major, and received the GBE .

Of course, not all ancestors are worthy of discovery:

From the Gloucester City Quarter Sessions indictments for 1725 (reported in "Gloucester ale-houses" by Arthur Dodd and Philip Moss, 1985) "Constables of the East Ward to present Susannah Watkins and Martha Williams for entertaining of inmates."

All the Watkins News That Fits

Opal Richards Watkins will turn 100 years old on March 7. A small family party is planned. Birthday greetings can be sent to Opal at Fairlawn Haven, Lutz Road, Archbold OH 43502.

From Karl Watkins : Jo and I are moving. Our new address: P.O. Box 158 Big Stone City, SD 57216 605-862-8281. Jo is Pastor of Parkview United Methodist Church in Milbank SD. I am Pastor of Tabor United Methodist Church in Big Stone City, SD. Merle is a junior in high school. Rachel is a freshman at Kent State University. Mikael is a junior at South Dakota State University.

Patty Leary, daughter of June Mason Noever, was married to Bobby Marshall on September 6, 1998 in San Diego.

Melody (Teets) and Tim and daughter Clara Gannun are set to welcome a new baby in June.

From Craig Domeck: Thanks for all the effort with the Watkins news...I am Craig Domeck, Joan Watkins Domeck's oldest son. My wife, Jenni and I live in Orlando FL with our 3 sons --Chris (16), Justin (13) and Luke (10). I am currently a National Director for the Campus Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. I have just completed a one year sabbatical and received my MBA from Rollins College here in Orlando.

Gloria Watkins Samuelson and daughter Margaret Meister have abandoned the chilly winters of Nebraska, moving permanently to the Phoenix AZ area.

(Email addresses deleted from this section; address will be posted only by permission and will require a password. Details will be forthcoming.)

Ask and You Shall Receive

If you'd like to have a copy of any of the earlier newsletters you may have missed, just let us know and please include a 33 cent stamp. The latest edition of the family tree list or the directory are also available for the price of a stamp. If you're online, they can be sent as a Word Perfect or Microsoft Word file or as plain text (formatting of the family tree will probably get messed up in plain text).

Back in Time

In our genealogical research, we have traced the Kimmel and Blake lines back to the 1600's. The Blakes are ancestors of Priscilla (Tillie) Richardson Watkins, while the Kimmels of course are in KK's line. Now we have gone back to the late 1500's on another line, the Eddy family.

The last Eddy in our ancestry is Camilla (Camille?), the wife of Richard Blake, great grandparents of Tillie. The family has been traced back seven generations to William Eddy, born at Bristol, England probably between 1558 and 1564; and died November 23, 1616. He matriculated at Trinity Hall, at the University of Cambridge, and there received the degree of B.A. in 1583. He was vicar of the church of the parish of Cranbrooke, County Kent. William is Tillie's 8th great grandfather.

His son Samuel (1608-1689) was the first to come to America, along with his brother John, leaving the port of London on August 10, 1630, arriving at Plymouth Harbor on the 29th of October, 1630 (old style), after a very stormy twelve weeks at sea. Samuel married Elizabeth Savery, who bore five children. He was a tailor. Both Samuel and Elizabeth are believed to lie in the Eddy Cemetery in Swansea Village, MA.

This information comes from a book, *The Eddy Family in America*, by Ruth Story Devereux Eddy, published in 1930; and was provided by Linda Insley of Findlay, Ohio, a descendent of K.K. Watkins's sister, Nancy Ellen. Nancy married George Blake, a cousin of Tillie.



No. 1

1. Ethel, Opel & Earl Watkins, late 1888-early 1889

2. Charlels Kimmel Mason (1916-1919), son of George & Opel Watkins Mason

3. Hazel Mason, Fall 1919

4. Kiersten Leigh Morales, born 4/8/98

5. Johnny Dale Upshaw, about 1990

6. Michael William Liddle, Spring, 1998

7. Lnora, Vivian, Hazel, June (front) (about



No. 2



No.3



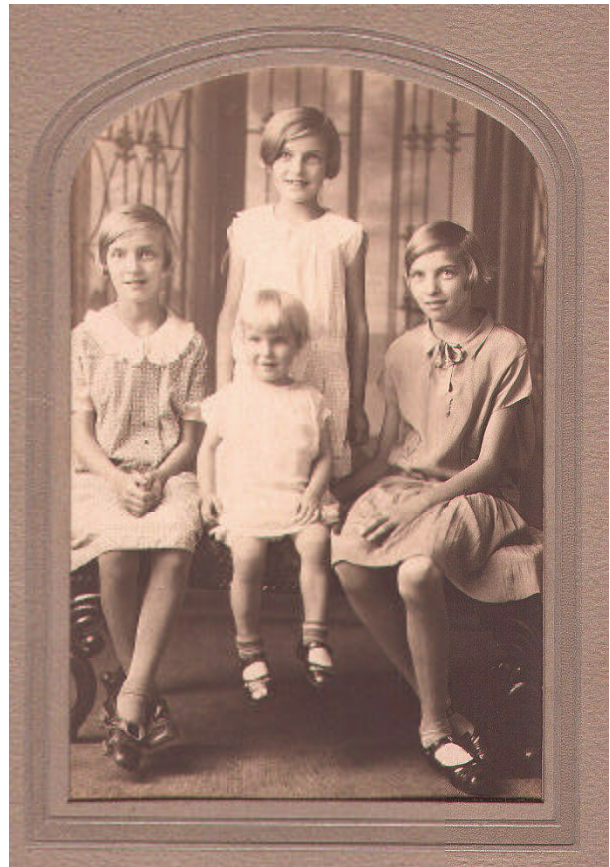
No. 5



No. 4



No. 6



No. 7