

WATKINS NEWS

September, 1992

'92 Reunion Brings Together Family Members from Around the Nation

A total of 67 family members from around the country attended the 1992 reunion July 25 at Delta Park in Delta OH.

The oldest attendees were the two daughters-in-law of K.K., Mrs. Orra (Florence Bruner) Watkins and Mrs. Dorr (Opal Richards) Watkins. Grace Makula was the youngest.

The tally by family of those attending was as follows:

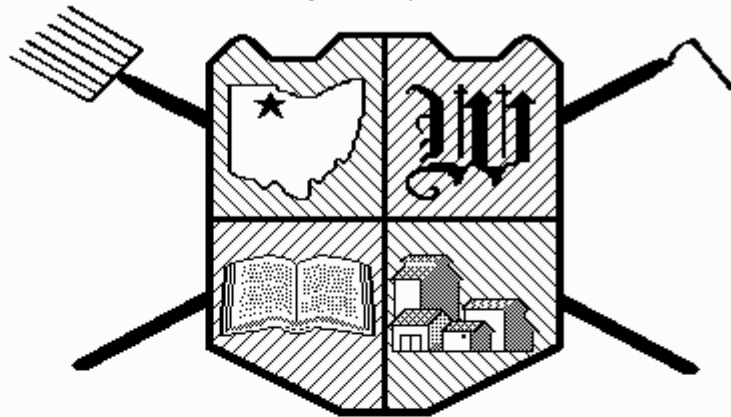
Earl: 4
Dorr: 43
Orra: 5
Opal: 15
Ross: 0

We're starting a campaign right now to get some representatives from Ross's family to the '94 gathering (they also posted zero in 1990).

A contest for kids under 18 to guess the number of jelly beans in a jar was won by Leah Griteman and Sam Makula. Thanks to Meredyth Nott for counting and bottling the beans.

Dick Watkins presided and announced that Hal Watkins was not present because he stood on his head two years ago. He is warmly invited to show up in '94 if he's recovered.

A special dessert feature at lunch was a lamb-shaped cake, which Lora Drefke made using a mold purchased by her mother, Opal Watkins Mason, around 1940. A number of people remembered the lamb cake from earlier reunions.



The next reunion was scheduled for July 23, 1994 at the same location. Dick Watkins was elected chairman, with the only dissenting vote from wife Evelyn (does she know something?).

Margaret Meister was given the office of secretary-treasurer, and Dick Estel was chosen publicity chairman (which means you will have to endure a few more of these missives).

K.K. Watkins' descendants are scattered among 18 states as well as Washington D.C., Chile and Canada. Ironically, none of them currently lives in Fulton County, although many live in northwestern Ohio. Ten states and the District of Columbia were represented at this year's gathering.

The count of the descendants of K.K. and Tillie has grown to 181: 23 grandchildren (no recent changes here), 59 great grandchildren (I think we've topped out here too), 96 great great grandchildren and 3 great great great grandchildren. Eleven of the grandchildren were among those attending.

STATES WHERE WATKINS FAMILY MEMBERS LIVE

Arizona*
California*
Colorado
Connecticut*
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana*
Kansas
Michigan*
Minnesota

Nebraska*
New York*
Ohio*
Oregon*
South Dakota*
Texas
Virginia
Wisconsin
Washington DC*
Chile
Canada
* Represented at
reunion

1994 REUNION

**July 23, 1994
at the park
Delta Ohio**



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MISSING INFORMATION

Following is a list of missing information

ADDRESSES:

Ryan Biery
Aaron Hall
Jamie Hall
Dan & Leslie (Watkins) Hankins
Kathryn Schultz Watkins
Ryan Watkins (on a traveling job with no fixed address at deadline)

NAMES:

Ryan Biery's wife (first & last)
Martha Watkins (maiden name)
Shelley Hall (maiden name)

Except for the above, both the record of K.K.'s descendants and the directory are fairly complete. Be sure to write if you know of anyone getting married or having a baby or other significant news.

Our address list was originally put together in 1988. I suspect that quite a few older "children" have reached adulthood and moved out on their own, but we don't have their addresses, so check the list to see if these young adults are on it.

When writing, please include your phone number if it does not appear in the attached directory.

A LETTER FROM HAL

Hal and Evelyn brought us up to date on their family in a letter a few weeks before the reunion. Son Mark is minister of the Garnsville Georgia Christian Church. His wife Deborah was ordained last June and works at a shelter for abused women. Mark also serves as a substitute teacher and makes commercials and educational films.

Son-in-law Jack Boyd is manager of a beverage company, and his wife Nancy manages a credit union for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Hal continues to work for the Board of Church Extension as President, and is looking ahead to retirement in mid 1995. In early August he was scheduled to preside over the World

Convention of Churches of Christ in Long Beach CA. Granddaughter Alicia Klingler was to read the scriptures and Mark Watkins to give the prayer for the opening session. Hal and Evelyn had a meeting in Chicago that conflicted with the reunion and sent their greetings to everyone.

NEW ARRIVALS AND OTHER NEWS:

Steven and Ann Loar Brooks became parents for the third time when Catherine Hannah was born on December 11, 1991. She's the 6th grandchild for Robert and Rachel Watkins Ellis.

Joan Watkins has two new grandsons, Andrew born to Brian and Debra Domeck, and Wesley, son of John and Ann Domeck. We don't have the birthdates.

Jeffrey Watkins has married Carrie Zimmerman, the first daughter-in-law for Roger and Sue Watkins.

A new great grandson for Kathryn, widow of the late Leslie Watkins, is Grant Biery, born to Ryan and his wife, whose name we are still seeking.

Since our family tree information was collected, Leslie and Kathryn's daughter, Leslie Watkins White, lost her husband Thomas. Leslie has a child by Thomas, Blair White, Kathryn's third grandchild. Leslie is remarried to Don Hankins. No other details are available.

The newest member of the Watkins clan is Nettie Jo, born June 9, 1992 to David and Sue Watkins. Nettie makes an even dozen grandchildren for Herb and Carolyn Watkins.

Philip and Nelly Watkins, missionaries in Chile, had a boy on April 27, 1991, Stuart Ethan. He's their fourth child and the 11th grandchild for Herb and Carolyn Watkins.

As you can tell by the address, David and Sue Watkins have returned from Chile and live in Greenwood Indiana.

It seems that Arizona, especially the Phoenix area, is becoming an alternate center for Watkins cousins. Roy and Jeannette Wittekindt have made their permanent home in Glendale, although summer weather sends them north with their trailer. Bob and Hazel Mason Estel have been spending several months each winter with their motor home near Phoenix. The thought of Californians heading south to escape the "harsh Golden State winters" is a subject of much amusement to their children, especially Linda who

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lives year around in Duluth (an Indian word for "place to store frozen meat outdoors"). Dick doesn't laugh as loud after spending a very enjoyable week there in 1991. Bob and Rachel Watkins Ellis have a summer address in Ohio, and a winter residence in Tucson. Gloria Watkins Samuelson and daughter Margaret Meister visited Arizona last winter and Margaret is considering a move there. Maybe we'll be holding our reunions in Arizona some day!

A WATKINS COOK BOOK

Margaret Meister is planning to put together a Watkins family cook book. She'd like you to send your favorite recipe to her. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of producing the book. Margaret will be sending you more information on this later.

GREETINGS FROM RACHEL

We received a letter from Rachel Ellis who sends greetings to everyone. She and Bob were unable to attend the reunion due to a visit by daughter Ann Loar Brooks, husband Steven and three small children.

NEWS FROM RON WATKINS

A letter from Ron and Pauline Watkins in La Canada Flintridge CA brought us the address for David and Lois Warden in Canada, and some corrections to other addresses for their family. Son Ryan, who was living with them, is now on a traveling job in Ohio, and didn't have a permanent address at the time of the letter. Some of the younger members of Ron's family had a mini-reunion in Canada early in August.

THOSE "OTHER" WATKINS

A notice five or six years ago in one of the Fulton County newspapers asking for information on Watkins family members eventually put Hazel Mason Estel in touch with a distant cousin, June Ganshorn and her husband Earl. June and Earl exchanged visits with the Estels in Ohio and at the Ganshorn home in Etna Green, Indiana, in 1990, and paid them a visit in California in Summer of 1991. Bob and Hazel spent a night with June and Earl during their trip to Ohio in July of this year.

June is the granddaughter of Christopher Watkins, a brother of the first James H. This makes her a third cousin to K.K.'s children and a third cousin once removed to the grandchildren.

During the reunion this year a woman walked in to the picnic shelter and asked if anyone there had information on Watkins ancestors. Sue Badenhop of Lexington KY, was visiting relatives in Delta and had brought their kids to the park to play when she saw our banner. Sue was raised in the Delta area, and is now a professor at Kentucky University. Our common ancestor is the first James Holiday Watkins, K.K.'s grandfather. Sue had her laptop computer containing her Watkins genealogy data with her and sat at a table entering information provided by Hazel Estel and Margaret Meister. The exact relationship is still being investigated.

OCCUPATIONS

Don Hall joked that every Watkins descendent is supposed to be "a teacher or a preacher." In fact there are a lot of people in these professions, and probably more people who are missionaries or ministers than in the average family. Without any survey, just from casual conversation or personal knowledge, I have listed the following professions followed by descendants and spouses:

Airline attendant	Forestry
Attorney	Gas company
Banking	Health care
Beverage industry	Insurance
Chiropractor	Law enforcement
Civil engineering	Military
Computers	Minister/pastor/missionary
Construction	Oil production equipment
Education	Real estate
Farming	Retail sales
	Social services

I know this is only a partial list, and I will update it if people provide more information.

ODDS AND ENDS

Eloise Watkins Griteman mentioned that Dorr and Orra had the unusual skill of being able to wiggle their ears. Her daughter Neah (one of Dorr's great grandchildren) also has the ability. How many of the rest of us have inherited this special trait? Maybe there'll be a contest in '94.

Is there anyone who can claim 100% attendance at every K.K. Watkins Reunion?