

WATKINS NEWS

January, 1994

NEWS FROM THE WATKINS WORLD

A brief note from Ellen Hurlock in Forest, Ontario, reports that they hope to have full attendance of the Ron Watkins clan at the 1994 reunion.

Teri Estel Upshaw (great granddaughter of Opal Mason) was married to Tim Liddle on June 11, 1993 in Fresno.

Melody Teets (great granddaughter of Opal Mason) is engaged to be married in June, 1994 to Timothy Dean Ganun.

And a great grandson of Opal, Richard (Ricky) Davenport, has an April 1994 wedding date set (sorry, we don't have the bride's name yet).

ADDRESS CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS:

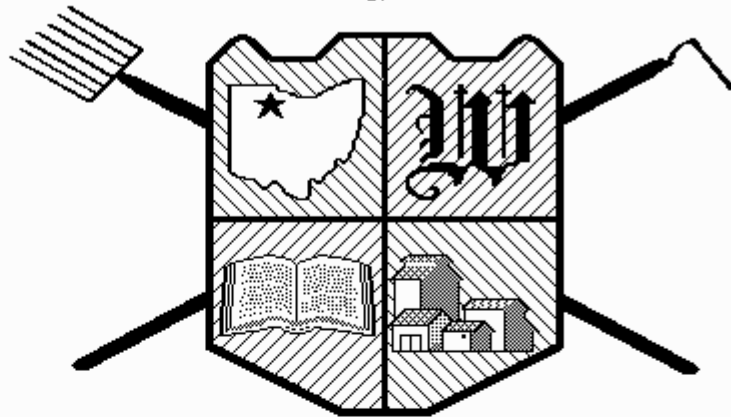
JoAnn Watkins
R #7, Box 439-21
Mission TX 78572

Herb & Carolyn Watkins
R #7, Box 439-21
Mission TX 78572

Tim & Teri Liddle
(formerly Teri Upshaw)
3931 N West
Fresno CA 93705

Rod & Jennifer Neely
48978 River Park Road # 8
Oakhurst CA 93644

NOTE: Help us keep up with each other--send us your address changes, weddings, births, deaths.



THE SEARCH FOR ANCIENT WATKINS

Until recently, most of the information we had on the Watkins genealogy came from an extensive descendants chart prepared in 1935 by John S. Good of Toledo. According to his introduction:

Wells Watkins, the oldest living Watkins of this family, at the age of 80 years, dictated from memory on June 28, 1898, the early part of this record. The later part, including the dates, was furnished by Kimmel K. Watkins, a nephew of Wells Watkins and son of James H. Watkins (b 1820). Wells Watkins said that his grandparents were of pure English stock, that they lived in the state of Delaware, that they both died in the year 1788, and had five children, four boys and one girl.

Thanks to additional information from the research done by Sue Badenhop and other tidbits of information collected by Hazel Mason Estel, we are convinced that Wells Watkins' memory was faulty, and that his grandmother not only survived her husband, but remarried. Her name was Rachel, and his was Robert, possibly John Robert. There is some indication that his father's name was John. They were probably born by 1750 or earlier. (Sue is descended from K.K.'s grandfather through Wells and James Watkins' sister Sarah.)

I have made several trips to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Family History Center, checking census records and using their computer to try to go back farther in the Watkins and other family lines.

The census for 1790 was never properly recorded, but some areas have been partially reconstructed from tax rolls. The only Watkins listed in Delaware in 1790 was a Joseph Watkins in New Castle County, who is apparently not a close relative.

(continued next page)

WATKINS NEWS

Page 2

The 1820 Ohio census shows a James Watkins in Cross Creek Township, Jefferson County and another in West Township, Columbiana County. There is not enough information to tell if this is our ancestor, but our James did get married in Jefferson County, and the two counties are adjacent to each other.

There are two main sections to the LDS files, the International Genealogical Index (IGI) and the Family History. The IGI is essentially a listing of names and birth dates, christening dates, marriages and deaths. This data was recorded by volunteers who have gone to churches, cemeteries, and other archives, and recorded the information on file. There is no way to be sure that a particular James Watkins listed in this index is the right one unless other information matches up.

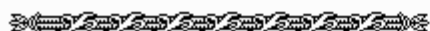
The Family History section is information that was submitted by people working on their family genealogy, and if you know some of the names, dates and locations, you can match the information with some degree of certainty.

I was able to find a record of the marriage of the first James H. Watkins (b. 1778) to Sarah (aka Susan) Fisher on March 7, 1805 in Jefferson County OH in the IGI. In the Family History section I found two of his brothers. There are substantial discrepancies in the birth dates in the IGI compared to Wells Watkins' recollections. However, the names of the wives match.

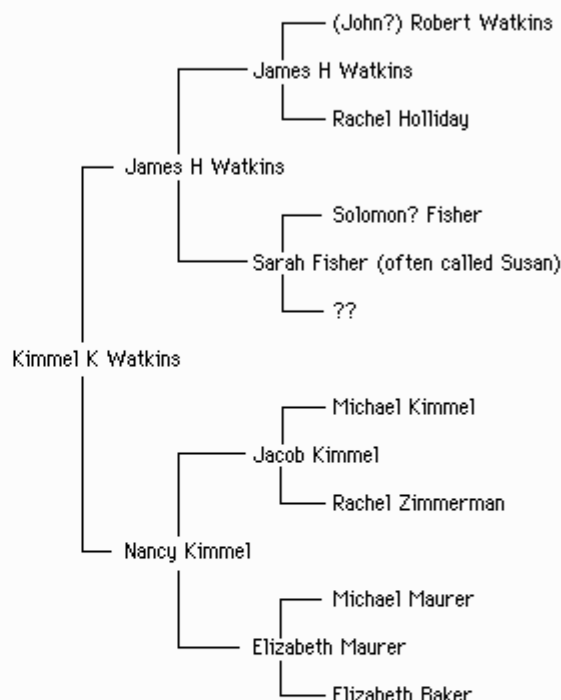
The children of John Robert and Rachel were as follows:

Name	Spouse	Birth Year	
		Our Records	LDS Record
Robert Watkins	Mary Newhouse	1776	1790
Christopher Watkins	Mary Elliott	1780?	1800
James H. Watkins	Sarah Fisher	1778	n/r
Thomas Watkins	Susan Miller	n/r	n/r
Sarah Watkins	n/r	n/r	n/r
Samuel Watkins	n/r	n/r	n/r

**Watkins News is
compiled and edited
by Dick Estel**



The parents, grandparents and great grandparents of K.K. Watkins are as follows:



The Kimmel line has been traced back to an ancestor born in 1653. Nothing is known of Sarah Fisher's ancestry and our information on the Watkins line ends with Robert and Rachel.

1994 Reunion

**July 23, 1994
at the Park in
Delta Ohio**



WATKINS NEWS

Page 3

ORIGIN OF THE WATKINS NAME

by Mary A. Schaer

The name of Watkins was first used as a baptismal name and is of Welsh origin. It is derived from Walter, nicknamed Wat, and then distinguishing those related to him as kin. (Thus Watkins = Walter's kin.) ...The "S" was added to signify the sons of Watkin. There are various spellings of the name (including Watkin and Wattkins), the most popular being Watkins.

Families bearing this name were early residents of British Hereford, Hants, as well as the vicinity of London; the counties of Gloucester, Somerset, Middlesex, Brecknock and York. They appear to be the British land classes. Watkin Watkins was the first member of this family of whom there is a definite record. He was a Welsh leader and moved to England in 1410.

The first member of the Watkins family coming to America as far as record shows was James Watkins, a direct descendant of Watkin Watkins.

James came to this country with Captain John Smith in 1607, and went with him on three voyages of discovery. He was here twelve years before the landing of the Mayflower and left three sons, John, Edward, and Francis.

The descendents of these early settlers are scattered all over the United States and are known for their simplicity, industry, kindness, thrift, independence, determination and perseverance, which has contributed largely to the founding and settling of the United States. (Does she mean US??)

From JOHN WATKINS - A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PIONEER, by Mary A Schaer. Notes in parentheses added by Watkins News editor. The John Watkins profiled in this book was born in England; converted to the Latter Day Saints church, and came to America though Boston and then to Utah in 1856. Mary Schaer apparently was a daughter by one of his three wives. Thank goodness we haven't had to deal with the genealogical complexities of multiple spouses in our own Watkins line!

Now for some speculation--could the James Watkins of 1607 be the founder of our family in America? If James was a young man in 1607, there would be six or seven generations between him and James H (K.K.'s grandfather, born 1778). I'll be trying to find evidence in the LDS library, and also will see if I can find out anything about Mary Schaer's sources on this subject.



Dick, Earl, Orra, Leslie, Ross



Gloria, June, Luella