

# Livingston-Watson News

## “A Millennium Reunion”

Please come!

Saturday, August 5, 2000

10:30 am

Rock Church, Livingston , Wisconsin

(Followed by a potluck at the Livingston Methodist Church in town)

Bring a dish to pass and your table settings.



Your Officers(L-R) Robert Livingston, Treas.; Mary Howe, Editor; & Barbara Henning, Pres.

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Last year a number of newsletters were returned to me with the front sheet ripped off. The U.S. Postal Service sorting machines destroyed the labels and pages of the newsletter. We are now putting the newsletter in business envelopes in hopes that this will not happen again. If you did not get your 1999 newsletter, I apologize. We did not lose your address. I am sending the newsletter later as this will reduce the costs of sending a postcard reminder of the reunion.



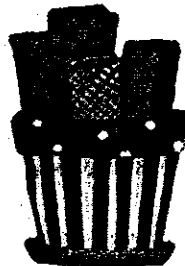
**President - Barbara Henning**  
 7134 E. Valley Ridge Dr.  
 Madison, WI 53719

**Vice Pres - Don Hill**  
 (Send 8435 W. Tonto Ln.  
 Memorials) Peoria, AZ 85382

**Treasurer - Robert Livingston**  
 (Send 610 Herda Ave.  
 Dues) Twin Lakes, WI 53181

**Newsletter - Mary Howe**  
 (Send 126 Loraine Dr.  
 News) Genoa, IL 60135  
 E-mail address howe@tbcnet.com  
 or mhowe@niu.edu

**Historian - Don Hill**  
 (Send family 8435 W. Tonto Ln.  
 info to Don) Peoria, AZ 85382



**Treasurer's Report:**

**Previous Bal. & Dues received \$535.37**

**43 Donations and Maxwell Livingston  
 Memorial were received \$630.50**  
**Total \$1165.87**

**1999 Reunion Expenditures:**

Newsletter & Postage	<203.52>
Pastor	<30.00>
Organist	<20.00>
Hall Rental '98(check was lost)	<65.00>
Hall Rental '99	<65.00>
Sound System	<48.09>
Meat & Rolls	<23.44>
Memorial Flowers	<30.00>
<b>Total</b>	<b>&lt;\$485.05&gt;</b>

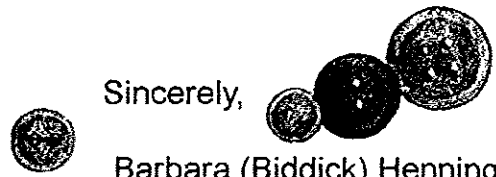
**Balance as of 3/00 \$680.82**

Greetings from our President!

Hello Everyone! What's the best part of attending the L & W reunion? Meeting new people and finding out you're related; visiting with folks you remember as a child; and the enjoying the service at the Rock Church. Last year I met Polly Simpson Myers and her sis, Nan, & found out they were good friends with my mother. My dad and the Hill brothers (Don & Harry) talked about summers past when they "de-tasseled corn" & they laughed so hard my dad had to wipe his eyes.

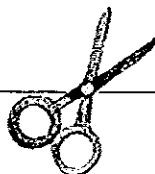
I hope that many others will come to this year's reunion & get acquainted with relatives. It's fun to hear stories about your parents & grandparents. You'll probably learn things you never knew. After all, it is a new millennium. Looking forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,



Barbara (Biddick) Henning  
 First L&W President of the 21st Century !

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 \*  
 \* **CLIP & SEND Dues or Memorials** \*  
 \* **TO: Robert Livingston, Treasurer** \*  
 \*  
 \* **Livingston - Watson Assoc.** \*  
 \* **610 Herda Ave.** \*  
 \* **Twin Lakes, WI 53181** \*  
 \*  
 \* **Single \$1.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$1.50 \_\_\_\_\_** \*  
 \*  
 \* **Donation/or Memorial \$ \_\_\_\_\_** \*  
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Ian Levingston & his family send "Greetings" from New Zealand!



### The Wedding of Alison & Colin Brewer

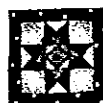
L-R Lien Levingston; Colin Brewer (son-in-law); Alison, Ian; Janet Levingston

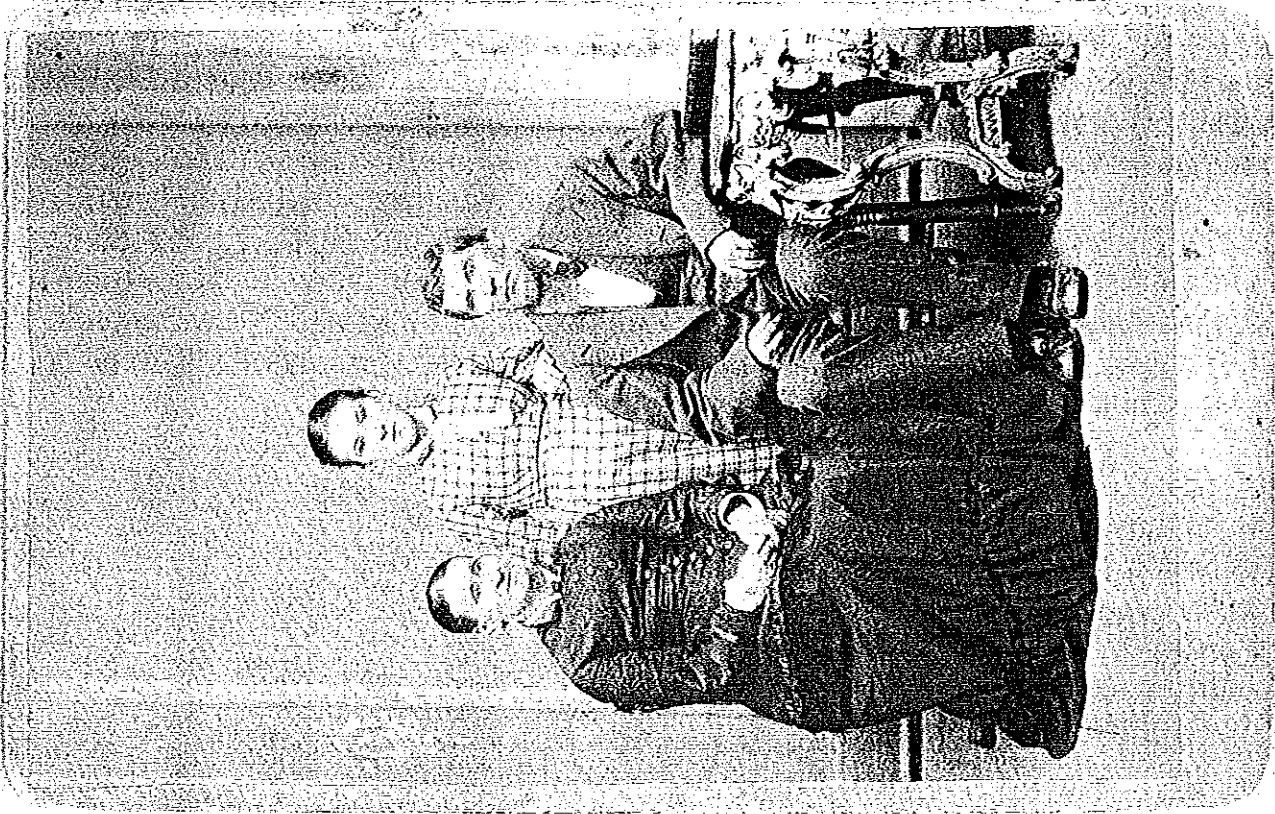
Ian was born in 1933 and raised in Dublin, Ireland. He graduated from Trinity College with a Bachelor of Arts in Engineering. He moved to South Africa to join the Natal Provincial Administration Roads Department. He married Magdalena Elizabeth ("Lien") February 6, 1960 in Natal where their first daughter, Janet Sue, was born. In 1961 they relocated to Auckland, New Zealand where Ian was employed with the Ministry of Works-Road Construction. Alison June was born two years later in Hamilton, New Zealand. Colin and Alison were married in 1991. Janet is single and works in the Bank of New Zealand. Ian retired in 1997. He sends us his best wishes "Please give my compliments to all at the reunion!" Thanks again Ian for your contribution to our newsletter!

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Carlyle & Lily Livingston of California write to say that Carlyle II was credited for the miniature supervisor in the films "Anna and the King" and "Bicentennial Man" starring Robin Williams.

(L-R Lily, Carlyle & Robin)



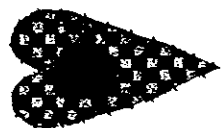
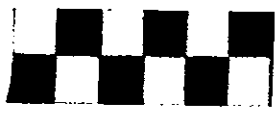


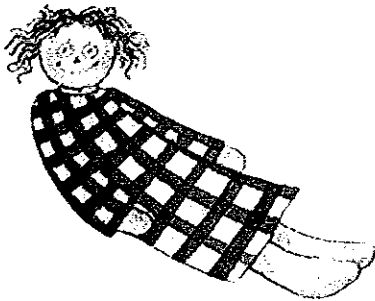
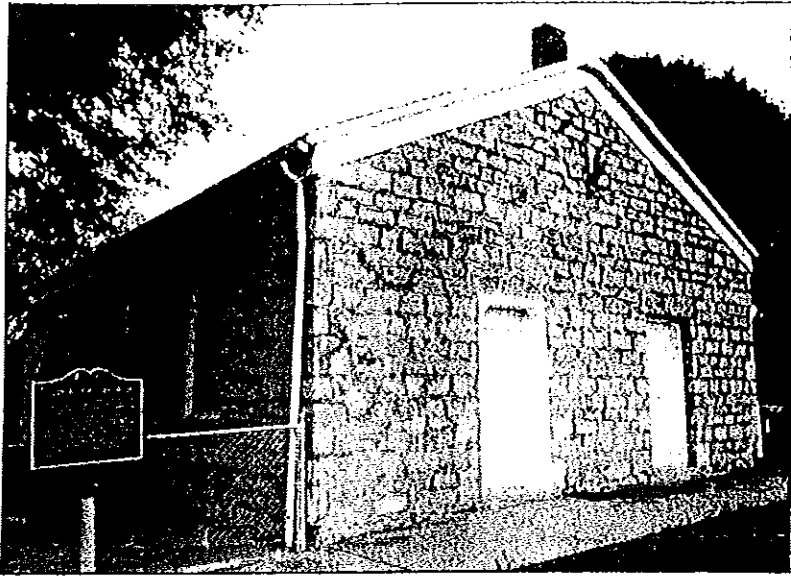
Mr. & Mrs. William Livingston & Sue



J. E. INE \* Pictoville, W. V.

Thomas Watson, Jr.





### The Rock Church

Churches often display amazing durability, and there is no finer example than the Old Rock Church at what was once the village of Martinville just outside present-day Livingston.

The walls of this church were laid in 1851, and the construction continued into 1852. The large sills and cross-sills, hewn by hand, were about one foot square. The building's floor was also laid in 1852.

The stone for the walls and the foundation were drawn from a quarry about one-half mile west of the church. The stone is an unusually hard limestone which is very

resistant to the ravages of time and weather. Most likely, the stone and other materials used for building the church were hauled by oxen, since horses were seldom used as draft animals in those days.

The lumber used in the construction was hauled by team and wagon from Galena, Ill., and Mineral Point.

Bosman Clifton deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church the one and one-half acres of ground on which the church is built.

Clifton stipulated that "the church abide by the rules and discipline which from time to time may be agreed upon and adopted by the ministers of the said church and their general conference in the United States of America, . . ."

Clifton also borrowed the funds

necessary to complete work on the church at 30 percent interest. Such high rates of interest were common in that period.

There are two entrances to the church. The south entrance was used by the women. There were three rows of seats. The middle row was divided by a piece of wood. The men sat on the south and the women sat on the north, even on cold days. The church was heated by two stoves — one on the north side and one on the south.

The church was lighted by kerosene lamps placed in brackets on the walls. Services began before the floors were laid. Attendance was so large that, at times, two ministers administered services.

The ministers were itinerants who boarded at the homes of church members, traveling by horse and buggy.

After the completion of the church building, the yard was fenced in what was called "fence plank" — posts to which five planks were attached with a sixth plank laid on top of the posts.

The east end of the building next to the public highway was used for seats by men and boys waiting for the start of services or Sunday School. Large trees stood along the fence on the east side of the church. These trees provided shade for horses during services.

In 1901, the church interior was refurbished with new studding, then lathed and plastered. The building was rededicated Dec. 19, 1901. In 1902, Robert Thompson was hired to paint the inside doors and windows. On Oct. 8, 1907, a cement porch was laid.

In 1908 and again in 1909, the roof was badly damaged in wind storms and repaired. On another occasion, the church was struck by lightning and one of its main upright posts was split.

A fiftieth anniversary celebrations took place on Dec. 19, 1901, followed by an 80th anniversary ceremony on Oct. 21, 1931, and a 100th anniversary celebration on Oct. 14, 1951.

The Rock Church Memorial Society keeps the old landmark in repair. The Rock Church Cemetery, which contains some of the area's earliest graves, is one of the best kept cemeteries in the area.

The tiny church has been served by many pastors over the years. At least one service is held in the building every year.

Rock Church Memorial Service

Livingston - Watson  
76<sup>th</sup> Reunion

August 7, 1999



Program

Prelude..... Kay Moen, Organist

Welcome..... Robert Livingston

Invocation

Hymn..... "Faith of our Fathers" #256

Sermon..... Mr. Wayne Hull

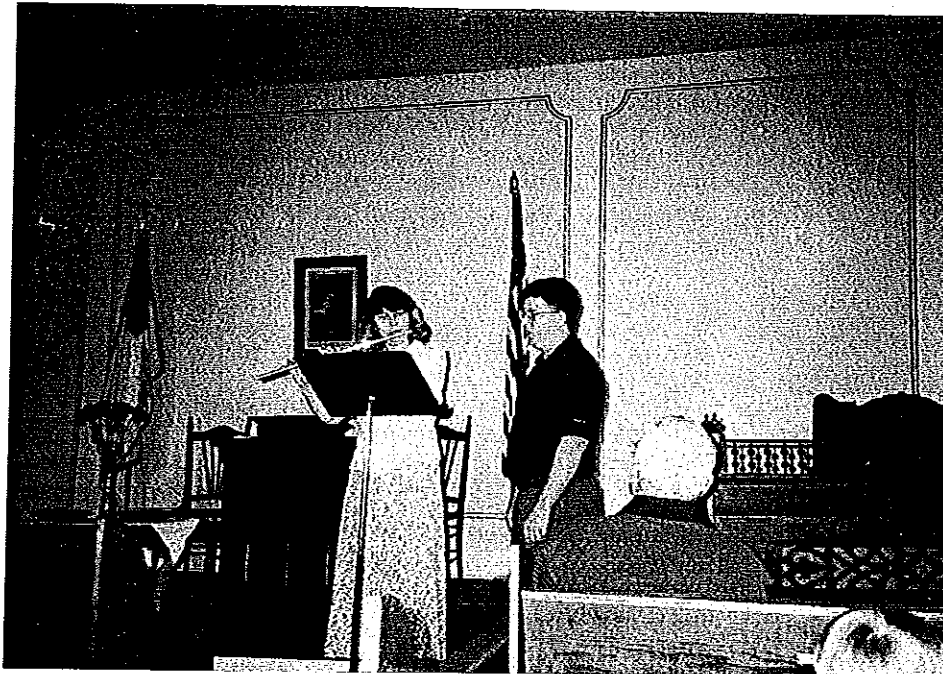
Solo..... Chris Fugate  
Hute Accompaniment..... Lynnette Lorch  
"On Eagles Wings"

Memorials..... Barbara Henning

Closing Hymn..... "How Great Thou Art"

Benediction

Postlude..... Kay Moen, Organist



Lynnette Lorch (L) & Chris Fugate (R) performed "On Eagles Wings."



## Memorials



Rosena Allen, 82, died on January 27, 1999. She was married to Murl Allen. She was the great-great granddaughter of Robert and Mary Livingston.

Alice Biddick, 93, died March 27, 1999. She was married to Ralph Biddick. Her husband was the great grandson of Thomas and Elizabeth Ann (Livingston) Watson.

Verna Bregman, 96, died November 8, 1998. She was married to Henry Bregman. She was the great-great granddaughter of Thomas Sr. and Elizabeth Ann (Livingston) Watson.

Dorothy D'Amelio, 70, died on August 14, 1996. She was married to John D'Amelio. She is the great-great granddaughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Ann (Livingston) Watson. Her son-in-law was William Gebel.

Harrison Frye, 83, died September 25, 1998. He was married to Verna Jackson. His great grandparents were Hugh & Grace Livingston & great-great parents were Robert & Mary Livingston. He is the brother to Jessica Kuder.

William Gebel, 41, died June 26, 1996. He is survived by his wife, Jamie D'Amelio and son, Drew William. His mother-in-law was Dorothy D'Amelio.

John "Jack" Griswold, 76, died February 27, 1998. He was married to Laura Bach. Jack was the son of Robert & Ada (Rundell) Griswold & Great-great grandparents were Robert & Mary Livingston.

Darrel John Hershey, 52, died June 18, 1999. He was married to Margaret Maurer & four children & two grandchildren. His Great-great grandparents were Hugh & Grace Livingston, & Great-great-great grandparents were Robert & Mary Livingston.

Roscoe Howdle, 88, died October 12, 1998. He was married to Genevieve Livingston. His wife's Great grandparents are Robert & Mary Livingston.

Robert Jones, 60, died January 22, 1997. He was married to Yvonne "Bonnie" Egstad. His Great grandparents were Hercules & Elizabeth Rundell, Great great Grandparents Joseph & Jane Livingston & Great-great-great grandparents were Robert & Mary Livingston.

Jessica (Frye) Kuder, 78 died February 8, 1999. She was married to Geroge Kuder. She was the sister to Harrison Frye. Her great-great-greatparents were Hugh & Grace Livingston & great-great-great-greatgrandparents were Robert and Mary Livingston.

Maynard Myres, 84, died December 30, 1997. He was married to Polly Simpson. His wife's great grandparents were Frederick & Polly Biddick, great-great-great parents were Thomas & Elizabeth (Livingston) Watson.


Cheryle Ogden, 52, died February 12, 1999. She is survived by her husband, Jim, and four daughters. Her great-great grandparents were Robert & Mary (Watson) Livingston.

Marilyn Olson, 64, died April 24, 1999. She is survived by her husband, Robert and their six children, 14 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She is the great granddaughter of John & Mary Ann Hill, & Great-great-great granddaughter of Thomas, Sr. & Elizabeth Ann (Livingston) Watson.

Victor Schempp, 93, died in August 1998. He was married to Daisy Livingston. Daisy was the sister of Frank Livingston. Her grandparents were Hugh & Grace Livingston & great-grandparents were Robert & Mary Livingston.

Barbara Turner, 68, died March 1997. She was married to Thomas Turner. She was the daughter of Alice Biddick (see above) & Ralph Biddick. She is the great-great granddaughter of Thomas, Sr. & Elizabeth Ann (Livingston) Watson.

Amalie Watson, 92, died December 1, 1998. She was married to Rush Watson. Rush was the great grandson of Thomas & Elizabeth Ann (Livingston) Watson.



Greetings from your Editor-Mary:



This February I took the Amtrak train to visit my mother in Everett, Washington. She is now 88 years old. I had the opportunity to gather some family photos and information of my family tree. Having ties in Germany, Norway, Switzerland, and Ireland surely provides for an quest of wanting to know how I got here in America. It is connecting with the Livingston-Watson Association that has helped me to better understand my roots. I commend the organization and dedication to keeping the name alive. I have only been active since 1995. I appreciate those who have gone before and had the foresight to preserve this rich heritage.

It is exciting to see new names added to the mailing list. Daniel and Susan Stark write from British Columbia, Canada that there is a PBS TV show called "BALLYKISSANGEL." It is filmed in Avoca and Wicklow area. He writes, " it is not 'The Bold and the Beautiful', but it's Avoca!"

Thanks again to all of you who send me interesting tidbits, pictures and news about our family. It provides an opportunity to share it in the newsletter. We can all enjoy the history and adventure about our family. So, please continue to send me things to print whether they are big or small. It is all greatly appreciated. In closing a student from where I work at Northern Illinois University sang me this song, I would like to leave with you dear friends. . .

**"The Meeting of the Waters"  
by Thomas Moore**

There is not in the wide world a valley so sweet  
As that vale in whose bosom the bright waters meet  
Oh the last rays of feeling and life must depart  
Ere the bloom of that valley shall fade from my heart  
Ere the bloom of that valley shall fade from my heart

Yet it was not that nature had shed o'er the scene  
Her purest of crystal and brightest of green  
'Twas not her soft magic of streamlet or hill  
Oh No 'twas something more exquisite still  
Oh No 'twas something more exquisite still

'Twas that friends, the belov'd of my bosom were near  
Who made every scene of enchantment more dear  
And who felt how the best charms of nature improve  
When we see them reflected from looks that we love  
When we see them reflected from looks that we love

Sweet vale of Avoca! How calm could I rest  
In thy bosom of shade, with the friends I love best  
Where the storms that we feel in this cold world should cease  
And our hearts, like thy waters, be mingled in peace  
And our hearts, like thy waters, be mingled in peace

