

Livingston-Watson News



76th Livingston-Watson Reunion!



Come to a good old fashion reunion on Saturday, August 7, 1999 at 10:30 a.m. It begins with a memorial service which is held at the Rock Church, Livingston, Wisconsin. A potluck follows in town at the Livingston United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to pass and your own place settings. Drinks are provided. We look forward to seeing you!



Left: Eldred Stewart Watson holding Dorothy Jane, Molly Rush holding Beverly Bilkey. Far right: Dorthea Hugill Dunk holding her sister, Joan. The lady in the middle with the hat on is Ruth Hanson. Can you recognize any others? "Thank-you" Beverly Bilkey of Madison, Wisconsin for sharing your treasures!

Greetings from our Officers!
 President - Sara DeLa Fuente
 3037 #B NE 57th Ave.
 Vancouver, WA 98661

Vice Pres - Barbara Henning
 (Send 7134 E. Valley Ridge Dr.
 Memorials) Madison, WI 53719

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



Col (Ret.) Arthur Meier	25.00
Polly Myers	4.00
Silas & Ruth Paul	5.00
Marilyn Pearsen	8.50
Dave Pearsen	18.50
Wayne & Maureen Peckham	10.00
Phylis Ross	3.50
Myrna Theide	9.00
Roger Theide	25.00
Reese & Estelle Walker	20.00
Nancy Washburn	3.00
Ruth Waters	4.00
Robert Watson	14.00
Jeane West	3.00
John & Sandra Wilkey	15.00

Total \$559.00

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

Treasurer's Report

Donations:

Fred & Dorie Conover	9.00
Marion Hanson	23.50
Barb & Toni Henning	3.50
Don Hill	9.00
Harry Hill	5.00
Jerry Hill	13.00
Myra Hill	9.00
Ray & Virginia Kenny	8.50
Tom & Sandee Kovacs	3.50
Carlyle & Lilly Livingston	100.00
H. Livingston & Z. Eisips	18.50
Ned Livingston	4.00
Pauline Livingston	25.00
Peter Livingston	3.00
Robert F. Livingston	23.50
Robert & Naoma Livingston	15.50
Lynnette Lorch	4.00
John & Elizabeth Lorch	3.50
John & Ann McGregor	45.00

Dues

Total \$107.50

75th Reunion Expenditures:

Newsletter, Postcard & Postage	<482.03>
Pastor G. Betry	<30.00>
Organist	<15.00>
Hall & Cleanup	<60.00>
L-W Pins	<306.00>
Pipers & Drummer	<200.00>
Programs & Memorial Flowers	<29.00>
Cake	<32.00>
Decorations, Prizes, Ham/ Rolls	<242.54>
Total	<\$1,396.57>

Balance as of 12/98 \$463.94

* 1999 *

* 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 _____ *

* *

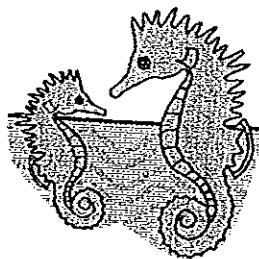
* Donation/or Memorial \$ _____ *



Greetings from the Editor!

Last year's 75th Reunion was a very special one to all those who attended. First and foremost a huge "thank-you" is extended to Reese, our past-president, and Estelle Walker for all the time they spent making our reunion a very lovely one. Another "thank-you" goes to Bob Livingston, treasurer for the wonderful idea of souvenir cloisonne pins that everyone who attended received. Bob located the Pipers and Drummer to perform at the reunion. The music carried you away. It was a real highlight to the gathering. Bob provided the Pipers with a ceremonial custom salute under the trees next to the Rock Church after they provided us with such a lovely concert of music. It was very celebrative! I want to thank those who helped with setting up and cleaning up. Most of us come some distance so there is little time to get things in place. Like a family everyone somehow finds a spot to help! Thank you, too, for sending memorials and dues to our treasurer. Bob continues to do an excellent job with the books. We were in the front page of the Rural Register News. In the following pages, I have included the write up by Peter Rabhahan, Editor. I hope that we will see you in August. Have a safe journey. Take care and God Bless.

Mary Howe



The reunion photo was sent by Vivian Dowzer. They are the descendants of Elizabeth Levingston & James Dowzer of Queensland, Australia.



Greetings from Canada!



Maureen Peckham send her greetings to us from Calgary, Alberta. She is the great-granddaughter of Sam Livingston.



Greetings from Australia!

Heather Kahler from Brisbane, Australia sent me an E-mail "greeting." She corresponded with Frank Livingston. Frank sent her research on the Levingston/Livingston branches. Heather is the Speaker on Family Research. She shared that she was an Immigration Officer and took an early retirement. Now she enjoys traveling throughout the world!





Vivian Dowzer writes from Australia, " I am 90 and 4 years old. Her late husband, Silas' grandparents, were James & Elizabeth Levingston Dowzer." Vivian sent a reunion photo of the descendants of Elizabeth Levingston & James Dowzer from Queensland. (Editors note: I wonder if Heather Kahler is the lady standing with her research papers and microphone?)



"Our 75th Reunion Celebration"

by Peter Rabhahan, Rural Register, Montfort, WI

Livingston-Walker reunion continues 75 year tradition

An old area tradition played out another year last Saturday as the 75th Livingston-Watson Reunion took place in Livingston.

Dozens of members of the two families gathered at the old Rock Church for ceremonies Saturday morning.

The group filled the tiny church, which is two miles west of Livingston off county Road E. The group selected the church as a gathering place because of its historic significance. The

church was built in 1851, and is said to be the oldest extant church building in Grant County.

The Livingston and Watson families originated in the British Isles, and figured prominently in local history. The village of Livingston was named for Hugh Livingston, who was born in 1825 in Ireland and died in 1886.

"A good many of our people were miners," explained Reese Walker, president of the Livingston-Watson Association. "They came to Wisconsin for the lead mining — until they realized that farming was a better way to make a living for most."

The group formed the Livingston-Watson Association to facilitate communication among family members. Dues and donations from members cover the expenses of the yearly gathering, and also pay for a newsletter the group uses to stay in touch.

The service at the Rock Church included the singing of hymns, a sermon by Rev. Garth Betry, pastor of the Livingston Free Methodist Church, memorials to family members who have died in recent years and music.

The music was provided by members of the Zor Shrine Pipe and Drum band from Madison. The three man ensemble — a single drummer and two bagpipers —

played traditional songs, including some Celtic favorites and the hymn "Amazing Grace."

After ceremonies at the Rock Church, the group

gathered at the Livingston United Methodist Church to

enjoy a potluck lunch and swap family news.

The best part of it is the fellowship and the review of

family records," Walker explained.

Besides lunch and fellowship, the gathering featured a program that included

awards. The group annually

gives awards that recognize, among others, its oldest and youngest members and the person who traveled the far-

continued on back page



Members of the Livingston-Watson Association gather for a group picture after services at the Rock Church near Livingston last Saturday morning. The reunion was the group's 75th.



"Our 75th Reunion Celebration"

by Peter Rabhahan, Rural Register, Montfort, WI



(Continued)

Can you find the error in the article? Hint: We have a new name!

Livingston-Watson reunion

the person who has attended the most reunions. This year the award went to John Bid-
Walker said that past gatherings have included visitors from as far away as Australia and Ireland.

The group also recognizes ion in 1923 as a newborn

continued from page 1

infant," Walker said. "Except for his years of service during World War II, he's probably been to every one."

According to Walker, some of the group's members

take a keen interest in genealogy. Others simply enjoy the fellowship and connection to the past the annual reunion provides.

Walker noted that younger family members sometimes need encouragement to participate in the group's activities.

"When you're thirty-something and raising kids, you don't always have time for this," Walker explained. "It isn't till you get older that you realize it's important to make time for it."

"We have to get them interested now," Walker added, noting that the ancestors who established the reunion tradition are now gone. "You have to cultivate a core of young people who will pick up and carry on."



Three members of the Zor Shrlne Pipes and Drums from Madison were on hand to play at the Livingston-Watson Reunion at Rock Church last Saturday. ABOVE: Scottish immigrants Hugh Curley (right) and his son Jim play the bagpipes. LEFT: Drummer Virgil Houff.



INTERESTING PEOPLE IN OUR FAMILY . . .

Richard Elmore

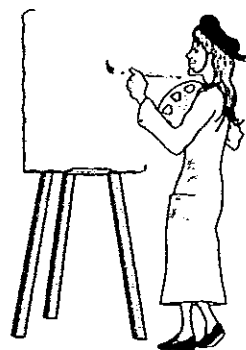
submitted by Don Hill

Richard married Jacqueline Livingston, daughter of Ken and Ruth Hanson Livingston and great-great granddaughter of Hugh Livingston and Mary Ann Fitzsimmons. Richard attended the UCLA after moving from New York City. He became a stunt man in the movies. Richard was Sonja Heinie's partner in dancing pairs for most of her movies. Richard was a stand-in for many famous movie stars who appeared as lead men in Sonja's movies. He was, also, a stunt man for many other leading movie stars including Clint Eastwood.

Bill O'Donnell

submitted by Don Hill

Bill was on of the top harness horse drivers in the world. He holds the record for the mile (1:48:02). He has won over \$70 million is purse money and has won every major harness race in the country including the Habletomin and Little Brown Jug. He was the son of Ann & John McGregor. Ann and John have their own stable of race horses for harness events at Los Alamitos race track. John was a professional hockey player in Canada. Ann's father, Raymond Livingston and grandfather Robert Franklin Livingston were both active in raising thoroughbred horses for harness racing.



Edith Livingston & Yourii Alexandrovich Moshchansky (George A.M. Livingston)

submitted by Carlyle Livingston

Edith Livingston, daughter of Hugh & Mary Burns Livingston, was the granddaughter to Hugh and Grace Livingston. She, like her brother Orville, was a rural school teacher and headed to Milwaukee with him. She attended Layton Art School. She became an art teacher. Edith married Yourii, another art student. He was born in 1893 in Ervnakovo, Russia and educated in Simbirsk near the Volga River. He earned an engineering degree in St. Petersburg (Leningrad) and was sent to America by the Czarist government in 1915 to inspect shells purchased in America. When the 1917 revolution occurred he could not return to his homeland. In 1921 he earned an engineering degree at the U. of Kansas and became an American citizen in 1923. Since Yourii's name was so hard to pronounce, he changed it to George Livingston! He worked in the USSR for Bucyrus-Eurie Co. from 1925-32 in the Stalin regime. Both Edith and Yourii were accomplished artists. Yourii authored a children's book called "The 24 Ivans." Years later he became legally blind and used a pair of binoculars to do his drawings. Edith loved to travel and continued with her love of art. They are survived by three children--Peter, John, and Polly--and three grandchildren.

Pioneer spirit and railroad mark Livingston's past

Like many Midwestern towns, the Village of Livingston owes its beginning to the advent of the railroad.

In 1878, the Chicago and Tomah Railroad was seeking to purchase land to link Galena with Lancaster. The railroad, which had already advanced to Rewey, purchased land from Hugh Livingston.

When the railroad was built along the ridge where Livingston is today, a small group of buildings sprang up along the tracks. At first, the people called the small collective "Dublin."

Livingston would have none of this, and soon after the final spike was driven and a depot built, a plaque was unveiled with the name "Livingston" upon it. The year was 1880.

Interestingly, Hugh Livingston had actually changed the spelling of his name from "Levingston." It is uncertain exactly when and why he made the change. But it is certain that his story is one of adventure and fortune. In many respects his story is similar to the stories of many of the immigrants who settled southwest Wisconsin.

Hugh Livingston came to the United States from Ireland in 1848, the year Wisconsin achieved statehood. He traveled through Milwaukee and settled in Crow Branch, two-and-a-half miles southwest of Livingston.

At first, Livingston mined with relatives in Crow Branch. However, Hugh and his brother, Sam, caught gold fever and left for California in March of 1850.

After two years in California, Sam and Hugh split. Sam worked his way north to Calgary, Canada, where he founded a settlement. Hugh headed back to Crow Branch by foot.

Among the stories told of his journey is one about a \$50 loaf of bread.

Livingston was deprived of many of the life's finer things while crossing the plains. One

fused saying she only had a little flour to feed her family. Hugh offered her \$50 in gold, but she still refused saying that she couldn't eat the gold.

Hugh found sustenance elsewhere and arrived back in Crow Branch with \$2,500. He started purchasing land in the area until he had accumulated nearly 1,000 acres. It was from this spread that the railroad purchased the land on which Livingston is now located.

Hugh married Grace Mates in 1853 and the couple had 10 children: William ("Pins"), David, Jennie, Grace, Robert ("Trap"), John, Mary, Elizabeth, Richard and an infant that died.

Hugh Livingston died in 1886 at age 62. He lived to see the village named after him grow in the early years of the 1880s.

With the opening of mines southeast of Livingston, the area began to flourish. There was considerable work available in mining, or in the business of provisioning the miners. Many men walked to and from their jobs along the railroad tracks. This led to a few incidents in which men were killed by the train.

With Montfort Junction just four miles north and Crow Branch just a couple miles to the south, Livingston became a center of activity.

Some of Livingston's early buildings were moved to the community from other nearby burgs. For instance, the first high-front building in Livingston was moved from Annaton and was used as a saloon and restaurant.

The James Allen family lived in the building and Mort Allen was the first child born in the village.

The Waring Hotel followed and soon the depot was built. Next, Joseph Allen's store was moved to Livingston from Martinville.

A hardware store operated by Lange and Runkel and Wagner's Tavern soon followed along with more homes. Other early businesses in Livingston were: W.T. Skaife's Meat Market and Restaurant, Muehler and Gundlach's Hardware Store, Dr. J.G. Cocklin's office and Drug Store, dentists Dr. Carter and Dr. F.B. Rundedell, the Woodward and Carter General Store.

The Stitzer and Livingston Telephone Company was incorporated on Jan. 30, 1902 with the switchboard located in the back room of the hotel.

Many of the early buildings in Livingston were destroyed by a fire in 1914, but most businesses were rebuilt. Livingston was incorporated in 1914.

Today the importance of farming to the Village of Livingston is reflected in its motto: "With the good earth all around."

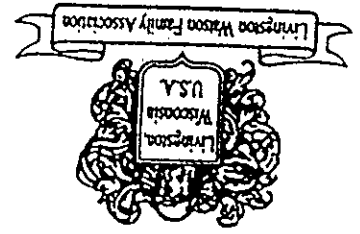
Hugh Livingston is buried in the churchyard of the Old Rock Church just a few miles outside the village that bears his name.

Livingston's colorful past is celebrated kept alive by the Livingston-Watson Association, a group dedicated to the preservation of the area's history and its founding families. The group held its 75th reunion this year.



Livingston's founder Hugh Livingston (1824 - 1886)

During this journey of more than 2,500 miles, Hugh carried with him only his firearm and money belt. He asked the farm wife if she could buy some, but she re-



John & Cheryl Lemanski
Rt. 1, Box 71
Fennimore, WI 53809

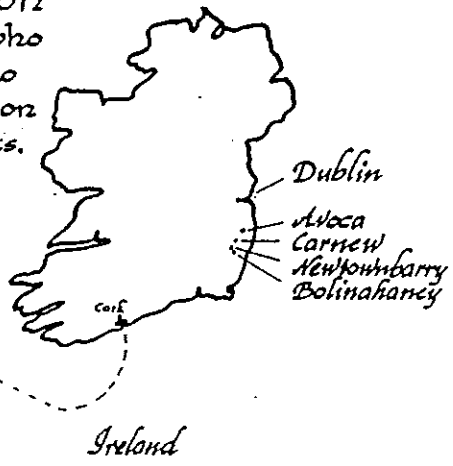
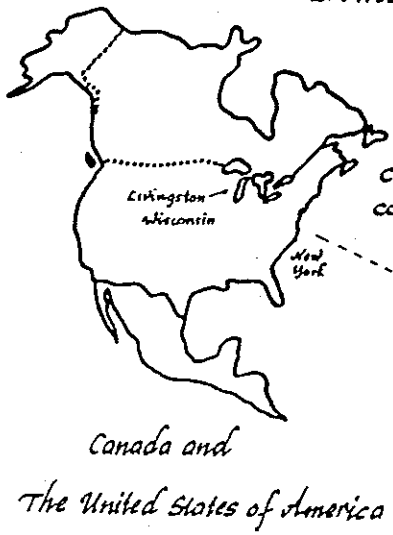
To:

Livingston-Watson Assoc.
Mary Howe
126 Loraine Dr.
Genoa, IL 60135



Livingston-Watson Family

This book of pedigree Charts of the Livingston and Watson families is dedicated to Frank N. Livingston who devoted his lifetime to collecting the information contained in these charts.



Copies of the book of Livingston-Watson family charts are still available from the author, William Livingstone. The cost is \$12.00. Send your order to:

William Livingstone
598 Northshore Blvd. E.
Burlington, Ontario L7T1X2, Canada