

# Livingston-Watson News

“Reunion Time is Near -- Please Come!”

Saturday, August 3, 2002 at 10:30 Rock Church, Livingston, Wisconsin  
(Followed by a potluck at the Livingston Methodist Church in town)

Bring a dish to pass and your table setting.



In remembrance of all those who died this last year, may this prayer be one of tribute to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and those who served our country.

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“Almighty God, we thank you for your presence with us always. We ask you that we may become aware of your presence. Be near these who mourn their dead and let the words in our mouths and meditations in our hearts now be acceptable to you and worthy of their memory.” Prayer by Pastor Barbara Cook on Aug. 5, 2000 L/W Memorial Service

**Greetings from:**

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

**Vice Pres - Roger Thiede**  
(Send 16235 Chesterman Rd.  
Memorials) Peosta, IA 52068

**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:**

**2001 Reunion Expenditures: <410.00>**  
(Newsletter, Postage, Pastor,  
Organist, Church, Food, Flowers)

**Dues & Memorials 873.00**

**Balance as of Jan. 2002 \$1,364.48**

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Greetings from the Editor!

When departing from last year's reunion, I do not think anyone of us would believe a month later we would be jolted by the tragic events of September 11, 2001. It is such an event like this, that we turn to our faith and family in a depth that transcends our soul.

Recently, I visited "Ground Zero." Words cannot express the feelings and the magnitude of loss. In spite of such horror and death, there is a

rebuilding of lives and country. Knowing life is hard work, the struggles when faced, are the process through which our journey can be one of personal growth and enlightenment. I am blessed with a heritage that has provided me with such hope and a future.

Thank you so much for your continued support in sending memorials, donations, dues and newsletter items. Without all of your help this organization could not continue. Please send a favorite photo, recipe, story, etc. If you have a change of address or family member who would like to get the newsletter, just drop me a line.

Last but not least, I want to tell you what a wonderful president, Barbara Henning, has been to work with. Please thank her at the reunion. She is such a gracious lady who has a deep regard for the Livingston-Watson Association. Tom, her husband was always there to lend a supporting hand, too. Thanks Tom! Another "thank you" goes to our treasurer, Robert Livingston. He always has great ideas and planning ahead for another reunion celebration. Blessings to all of you!

Mary Howe

**CLIP & SEND Dues or Memorials**

**TO: Robert Livingston, Treasurer**  
**Livingston - Watson Assoc.**  
610 Herda Ave.  
Twin Lakes, WI 53181

Single \$2.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$3.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation/or Memorial \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City,State,Zip :**

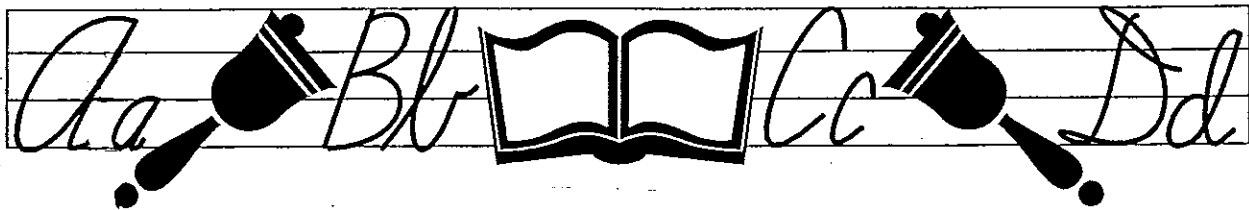
**Email:**

arcane procedures. When asked how much all this cost – building a stage, etc. He said, “I don’t remember ever being assessed dues. Patrons probably just gave their pocket change.” And, he said, “there never was any problem getting people to be officers.” Vi Livingston (Grace’s aunt) was always involved in one way or another. He remembers the Hill brothers (Harold and Don) always being at the picnics and involved. (Don Hill is the current Livingston-Watson Historian). John also took his turn as an officer many years ago.

John’s wife Grace passed away in 1997 and rests at the Rock Church Cemetery. The annual memorial service, which always was a very important part of the service to John and Grace, has taken on even greater importance since then. The traditional service has remained the same for many years – which includes a short memorial message from one of Livingston’s pastors and presenting a flower to the families that have lost a loved one during the year. In recent years John’s granddaughter Lynnette Lorch and grandson Chris Fugate have performed musical numbers at the church. John’s four daughters attend regularly and his daughter Barbara has been an officer for the last several years. John’s girls, Elizabeth Lorch, (Ridgecrest, CA) Jeanne West (La Crosse, WI), Barbara Henning and Mary Tredinnick (both of Madison, WI) bring their families and feel the connection with their mother when visiting with relatives and friends from the past.

John has many memories and stories about the reunions and life in Livingston. There is usually a crowd around him listening and picking his brain about “historical” and sometimes, judging from the laughter, “hilarious” recollections.

Article written by Barbara Henning, L-W President

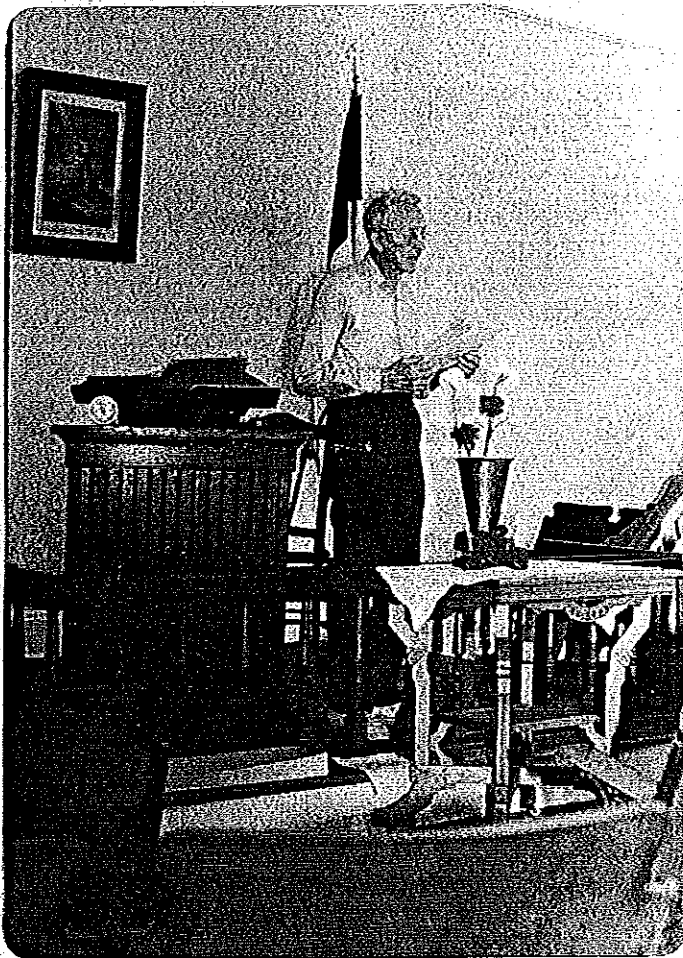


The Biddick Family (1929)  
William, John, LaMira & Richard

Rock Church Memorial Service

Livingston – Watson  
78<sup>th</sup> Reunion

August 4, 2001



*Program*

*Prelude ..... Kay Moen, Organist*  
*Welcome..... Mary Howe*  
*Livingston-Watson Newsletter Editor*

*Invocation*

*Hymn ..... "Blessed Assurance Jesus Is Mine"*  
*Page 428*

*Sermon ..... Rev. Darrel Arms*  
*Livingston Free Methodist Church*

*Solo..... Victor Johnson*  
*"Rock of Ages"*

*Memorials..... Don Hill*  
*Livingston-Watson Historian*

*Closing Hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*  
*Page 240*

*Benediction*

*Postlude..... Kay Moen, Organist*

Did you know that we are in the Bible!

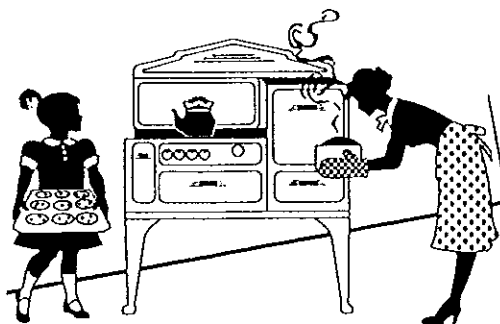
Look up 1 Peter 2:4-5, "Come to him,  
to the living stone...and like living  
stones be yourselves built into a  
spiritual house..."



Pictured is Frank Livingston reading  
memorials at the reunion service at the  
Rock Church in 1982. Each family  
member is given a flower in memory  
of their departed loved one. It  
continues to be a tradition today.  
Frank was the historian for many  
years. He lived to be 102 years old.

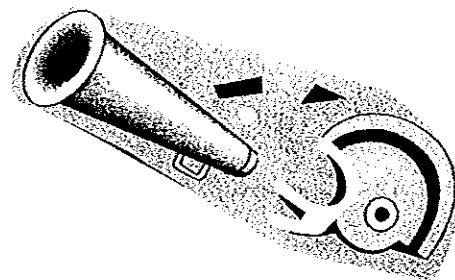
## Irish Breakfast Potatoes

32 oz. frozen hashbrowns  
1 ½ c. grated cheddar cheese  
1 c. sour cream  
1 stick oleo  
1 can cream of chicken soup  
salt and pepper  
can of French's onion rings

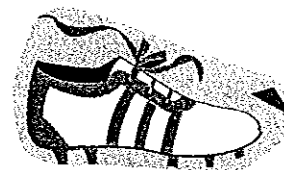


Mix ingredients in a bowl except the French's onion rings. Pour into a 9 x 13 pan. Bake 400 degrees. 45 min. - 1 hr.

Brown small can French's canned onion rings in oven separately and sprinkle on the potatoes right before you take them out of oven.



John Biddick & Grace Watson  
as teenagers around 1940. See  
the next page for John's story!





## Livingston Watson Reunions – Past

“When we were kids was the heyday of the picnics,” says John Biddick, the record holder for the person who has attended the most Livingston Watson Reunions. John, who will be 79 at the 2002 picnic, said his mother brought him to the picnic in August 1923 when he was just a little more than 1 month old. That was the first reunion and his mother Delphia Biddick, whose maiden name was Graham and as John says, “was a Watson on the Waring side,” would never have missed a picnic. He’s proud that the only picnics he ever missed were while he was overseas during World War II.

John remembers having the most fun at the reunions when he was a young boy. He says he remembers going when he was 13 – in 1936 and having a great time. He said the activities would begin around dusk on Friday night when people from all over would start arriving. This was an annual homecoming for families from across the country. There would be cheerful welcomes, greetings and storytelling into the evening. He remembers many were teachers and they came from W. Virginia, Ohio, California and even Canada. There would be supper in the park and great anticipation for the weekend to come.

Saturday was the big day. There was a memorial service that was held right in Livingston Park. There are two memorial stones located in the park, the larger of the two is a memorial for the veterans of World War I, and a smaller stone recognizes Johnny Watson, a Livingston Veteran. Johnny died in WWI when he drowned in a harbor in France (Johnny was a 1<sup>st</sup> cousin to John’s mom, Delphia) he would have been just about 20 years old. This of course was the perfect location for a memorial service for the Livingston Watson reunion. John said the memorial service held at the Rock Church Cemetery is a tradition that began in later years. He believes it was Vi Livingston that started it.

The rest of the day and into the evening was reserved for lighter fare. He remembers Claude Watson – his future father-in-law, organizing everything: bands on the bandstand, skits, and contests for dramatic storytelling. “Why the town people even built a stage every year for these purposes,” said John. “They strung lights; it was a big deal.” He said the picnic tables would be pulled together and filled with delicious food from the town ladies. Pasty was the number one item he recalled.

“The picnics were dry – there was never any alcohol,” laughed John when asked if there was ever any beer at the picnics. “Why, in 1936 Livingston had only one tavern. Although prohibition was repealed in 1933 the Republicans wouldn’t have it – it was a long fight before there were any taverns in Livingston yet alone drinking at the Livingston Watson reunion.”

In later years he married his childhood sweetheart, Grace Audrey Watson. Grace was the daughter of Hannah Maude Livingston-Watson and Claude Watson. That of course sealed his continued pilgrimage to Livingston for the annual reunions.

John recalled when he attended the reunions as an adult the business meetings were sometimes a little “nasty.” The hotly contested items were usually about the contents of the minutes or some

## Commitment, Common Sense, and Consistency

The **Civilian Conservation Corps** was created in 1933, as part of FDR's "New Deal" to get America back to work and out of the Great Depression. Unemployed young men across the U.S. worked outdoors - planting trees, erecting bridges and dams, building earthen works to help prevent floods, and managing woodlands to reduce forest fires. The "**Triple C**" not only made a significant impact on the Nation 70 years ago, but many of us benefit from its public works and services today.

Our country would greatly benefit from the disciplines of a new "Triple C" program - a program that the various **Livingston-Watson clans** have quietly enlisted in throughout the years. It is the three C's of **Commitment, Common Sense, and Consistency**.

**Commitment is a virtue that is all too rare a commodity these days.** We live in an age of throw-aways. We throw away core values as easily as we throw away corrugated boxes. We throw away relationships as easily as we throw away re-usable containers. We abandon honesty and integrity as easy as we abandon used cars and yesterday's news. What we need as individuals and as families are some old-fashioned, non-negotiable, undying commitments. We need to re-discover some universal, absolute truths about who we are and how we are responsible for each other.

My father used to say about the Great Depression, "We had everything, but money. We weren't any poorer than the guy next door because we shared everything we had." We need to accept the fact that **the best way to take care of ourselves is to take care of our neighbor.** Remember the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" - God calls all of us to this commitment!

**Common Sense is another National treasure that seems to have been discarded.** We have become a Nation run by current thoughts and trends. Politicians govern by public polls, psychologists influence every level of society with their latest scientific theory based on the last research report, and preachers get their sermons on the internet instead of their knees. We have too often adopted the slogan "Never do anything the easy way if there is a more complicated method available." In this age of "road rage" common courtesy has diminished right along with common sense. What we need is businessmen, educators, and homemakers who employ the timeless ethics and values of **fair play, honest communication, and mutual respect** for what is right. The Ten Commandments are still effective foundations for common sense.

As we observe the contributions made by various members of the **Livingston-Watson families**, we can also celebrate the common sense lessons of life that they have passed from one generation to the next.

**Consistency is a character trait that has also lost its prominence lately.** In this mobile society of corporate ladders, job transfers, and down-sizing it's getting harder and harder to stay in one place, doing one thing! The pursuit of wealth, happiness, and the American Dream has resulted in too much poverty, sadness, and nightmares because of the lack of consistency. There is much to be said for the family that can put down roots, share their faith, and have a lifetime of influence and benefits from working and playing in one community. What we need is for "bedroom communities" to wake up to the fact that there is **no place like home!** What we need to realize is that **the best things in life are still free and can still be found in one's own backyard.**

Each of us still have the opportunity to enlist in this Millenium's New Deal Triple C's of **Commitment, Common Sense, and Consistency.** It starts today and it starts with you!

## Memorials

Joyce (Wells) Kovacs Evenson (84) died 5/3/2001. She was the great-great granddaughter of Thomas Sr. & Elizabeth (Livingston) Watson. She is survived by her husband Orville & daughter Karen, sons Thomas & Jerry & stepdaughters Betty, Joan & Annette.

Nan Ellen (Simpson) Hall (78) died 12/24/00. She is the daughter of Roy & Ethel (Biddick) Simpson & great-great granddaughter of Thomas Sr. & Elizabeth (Livingston) Watson. She is survived by her daughter Mary (Mark) Swingle.

Orville Heiney (89) died 5/5/01. He is survived by his wife Berenice (Walker) Heiney. She is the granddaughter of John & Mary Ann (Watson) Hill & great-great granddaughter of Thomas Sr. & Elizabeth (Livingston) Watson. He also, leaves daughter Nancy & sons James & Robert.

Genevieve "Gen" Livingston Howdle (89) died 4/21/01. She was the daughter of David & Margaret Livingston & great granddaughter of Robert & Mary (Watson) Livingston. She is survived by four sons: David, William (Sharon), Richard (Charlene) & Bruce (Sue).

Robert Livingston (79) died 2/2/01. He was the son of Frank & Laura Livingston & great grandson of Robert & Mary (Watson) Livingston. He is survived by his wife Marcia, and sons- Scott (Jodi), Craig (Cherilyn), Roark & daughter Blair (Charles).

Lester Mock (72) died 9/4/99. He was the great grandson of William & Mary (Watson) Frye. He is survived by his wife Imogene, daughter Linda (Leonard) and son Guy.

Sharon (Walker) Stewart Muldowney (49) died 3/7/00. She was the daughter of Jerome & Kathleen Walker & great granddaughter of John & Mary Ann (Watson) Hill. She is survived by her husband David & daughters Alycia (Joshua), Kristen (Michael) & Maggie.

Robert "Bob" Reynolds (72) died 12/8/00. He is survived by two sons & his wife Eleanor. Eleanor is the great-great granddaughter of Thomas Sr. & Elizabeth (Livingston) Watson.

Elizabeth Sipe (88) died 10/19/00. She was married to Robert E. Sipe. He was the grandson of Robert & Elizabeth (Livingston) Hershey & great-great grandson of Robert & Mary (Watson) Livingston. He is survived by daughter Mary Elizabeth Howe (Fred) & Robert J. Sipe (Lily).

Wilton "Bill" Slocum (84) died 5/6/01. He is survived by his wife Irma & children David, John, Julie, Becky, & Beth. Irma is the granddaughter of Robert & Elizabeth (Livingston) Hershey and great-great granddaughter of Robert & Mary (Watson) Livingston.

Marilyn (Simpson) Smith (77) died 7/6/01. She was the daughter of Roy & Ethel (Biddick) Simpson & great-great granddaughter of Thomas Sr. & Elizabeth (Livingston) Watson. She is survived son Ross, daughter Martha & grandsons Tyler and Nicolas Smith.

Lloyd Smith (81) died 12/12/00. He was married to Marilyn Simpson. (Please see above for details.)

Myrna (Winkel) Thiede (101) died 1/6/01. She was married to Clement & preceded her in death in 1991. He was the grandson of John & Mary Ann (Watson) Hill and great-great grandson of Thomas Sr. & Elizabeth (Livingston) Watson. He is survived by son Roger (Darlene) & Carole Priest (Philip).