

LIVINGSTON/WATSON NEWS

ISSUE V

DECEMBER 1990

EARLY DAYS



Typical scene from a L/W picnic. 50th reunion photo by Mary North Allen

Lynn Skaife recalls overhearing a conversation when he was about 12 years old that may give us a hint as to how the reunion got started. Lynn's father, Elmer Skaife, and Dr. Tom Livingston, "Doc", who was visiting from New Mexico, were sitting out on the porch at the Skaife farm. They were talking about how there should be a family picnic.....

And sure enough a picnic was planned in 1923. Kathryn Rosemeyer remembers her mother, Eva Livingston Bailey, preparing it around the visit of her uncle, "Doc", and his wife, Lottie. It was held in the park, as you may have guessed. Kathryn recalls her mother frying chickens and spreading tablecloths on the picnic tables and (continued on p.2)

MEMORIALS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| ANN F. (KOVARS) ANDREW (84) Wife of Dr. Harry Andrew Harry was the son of Elizabeth M. Watson and George Andrew | 29 DEC 89 |
| JANE LIVINGSTON BREIDENBACH (69) Elkhorn, Wisconsin Daughter of Harry and Eva (Tenney) Livingston | 13 DEC 89 |
| ROGER E. GUILLES (81) Oshkosh, Wisconsin Husband of Margaret Washburn Guiles | 13 OCT 89 |
| BESSIE HILL HANNAN (101) Montfort, Wisconsin Last member of the John Hill family | 9 MAY 90 |
| THOMAS LAVERNE REUTER (38) Livingston, Wisconsin Husband of Diane Rose Allen Diane is the daughter of Rosena (Livingston) Allen and the late Murl Allen of Montfort | 19 MAR 90 |
| ROBERT RINDY ()* Grandson of Mary Livingston Frye | 5 OCT 89 |
| CHARLES W. SKAIFE (88) Richmond, Kentucky Husband of Jean Skaife Son of Elmer and Anna (Livingston) Skaife | 24 DEC 89 |
| TOM WATSON ()* Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania Husband of Dorothy Watson Son of Johnny and Blanche Watson | OCT 89* |
| ELMER WRIGHT ()* Roscoe, Illinois Husband of Mildred Hunt | APR 90* |

* Please let us know if you have these ages or dates.

(Early Days cont.) the ground. Invitation was informally by word of mouth. Everyone had such a good time it was agreed to have it again the next year. Vi Livingston recalls that she couldn't attend the first picnic because her one year old child had a bad case of the whooping cough.

From a simple picnic, the reunion evolved into a two-day affair complete with costumes, music, skits and dancing. A platform was built onto the bandstand; a piano was moved onto the stage. A woman unrelated to the family, Ann Hocking Smith, produced hometown plays and would come into town ahead of time to direct the program. Claude Watson was also involved in arranging the program.

(continued on p.4)

MINUTES - LIVINGSTON/WATSON ASSOCIATION - AUGUST 4, 1990
67th REUNION

Last minute changes did not dampen the spirits for the Memorial Service at the Rock Church. Vice-President Silas Paul (Montfort, WI) was unable to attend due to recent surgery. However, the memorials had been well prepared and Myra Hill (Stitzer, WI) graciously conducted the service without a hitch. Reverend Zimmich was called away due to a family illness. Paul Jones, a lay speaker from the First United Methodist Church of Monfort, was kind enough to attend and gave the opening prayer and benediction. The Montfort Gospel Quartet, composed of Sherry and Steven Atkinson, Kent Biddick, and Lois Clifton, inspired everyone with three selections including "Amazing Grace".

Following the service, the family gathered at the First United Methodist Church in Livingston for a potluck dinner. President Mike Greer conducted the business meeting. Family members were asked to introduce themselves and state their L/W connection. Certain attendees were recognized:

Zachary Greer (Western Springs, IL) and Matthew Purdy (Holt, MI) were the youngest, both 3 years old;

Kathryn Walker (Middleton, WI) was not the youngest;

Sara Tindall (Spokane, WA) and her children travelled the farthest, with others coming from Colorado, Maryland, and Texas;

those attending for the first time were Gertrude and Art Meier (Mission, TX), Robert Livingston and his son, Robert, (Twin Lakes, WI), and Sandy and Susie Wilkey (Coon Rapids, MN); Greta Howdle (Milwaukee, WI) and Nick Kramer (Fennimore, WI) had been coming to the reunions the longest, having attended the first reunion in 1923.

Grace Livingston was acknowledged for her handsome photograph of the Rock Church hanging in the church dining room.

Anyone wanting a copy of her photograph can write her at Box 43, Livingston, WI 53554.

Elections were held for next year's officers. Silas Paul agreed via phone to accept the position for President; Jane Knutson (Livingston, WI) accepted the position for Vice-President; and Lucy Greer and Elmer "Scoop" Thiede (Portage, MI) volunteered to continue as secretary and treasurer respectively.

Jean Skaife (Cedar Key, FL) and Kay Kramer (Fennimore, WI) shared with us their recent visit to Mound, MN to see Frank Livingston. Frank still enjoys living at home on Lake Minnetonka. He gets around quite well in his wheelchair. He keeps up on world affairs by reading the paper and watching "Nightline" every day. Of course, he relishes corresponding with all his "cousins". For those who wish to send him a note, be sure to write in large letters with a black felt tip pen. (5251 Bartlett Blvd., Mound, MN 55364)

submitted by Lucy Greer, secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT - AUGUST 4, 1990

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Balance on hand | \$227.80 |
| Dues and donations | 591.07 |
| Total | 818.87 |

Expenditures

| | |
|---|--------|
| newsletter, postage (Greers) | 268.55 |
| reunion notice, postage (Greers) | 91.12 |
| Lay Speaker (Paul Jones) | 15.00 |
| copies of Memorials and program (Myra Hill) | 10.00 |
| flowers for Memorials (Jeanne Kalish) | 24.00 |
| Gospel Quartet | 25.00 |
| Church hall and coffee maker rental | 30.00 |
| janitor | 15.00 |
| stamps, misc. (treasurer) | 8.94 |
| picnic expenses (Greers) | 43.09 |
| Total | 530.70 |

Balance \$288.17

submitted by Elmer "Scoop" Thiede, treasurer

(Early Days cont.) All ages were encouraged to participate. The children practiced their skits and routines at Grace Livingston's mother's house. There seemed to be no lack of talent. Two girls from Platteville, Doris Huntington and Jane Hill, were known for their ballet performances. Nell Livingston exercised her Irish sense of humor. Johnny Watson and Russell Hill always sang. "Pins" Livingston, the owner of the hotel, and Jack Watson paired up to form a comedy team and would quip at each other on stage.

In addition to the entertainment, there was a baseball game at the high school between the Livingstons and the Watsons.

They were usually lucky to have good weather. The food was outstanding. Everyone looked forward to Vi Livingston's delicious apple pies.

Presidents from the early years: William C. Livingston - 1st year
 Jack Watson - 2nd year
 Vi Livingston - 3rd year.

If you have any photographs or other information about the early reunions, please let us know. We can include more accounts next year.

contributors: Greta Howdle, Kay and Nick Kramer, Vi Livingston, Kathryn Rosemeyer, Lynn Skaife.

IN MEMORY OF
BESS LIVINGSTON MORROW and NELL LIVINGSTON GARNER



Bess 1885-1964

Bess excelled in the family arts. She was devoted to her family, was an excellent cook, and kept a lovely home. Her letters revealed a literary talent. Although a reserved person, she readily displayed a sense of humor. She was known for her generosity and compassion.

She met her husband, David, who was from Arkansas, when he had an occasion to stay at the Livingston Hotel. He took a liking to her and later sent her a crate of oranges. That apparently persuaded her to head south with her southern gentleman instead of attending the University of Wisconsin.



Bess with granddaughter
Anne Morrow Cooper

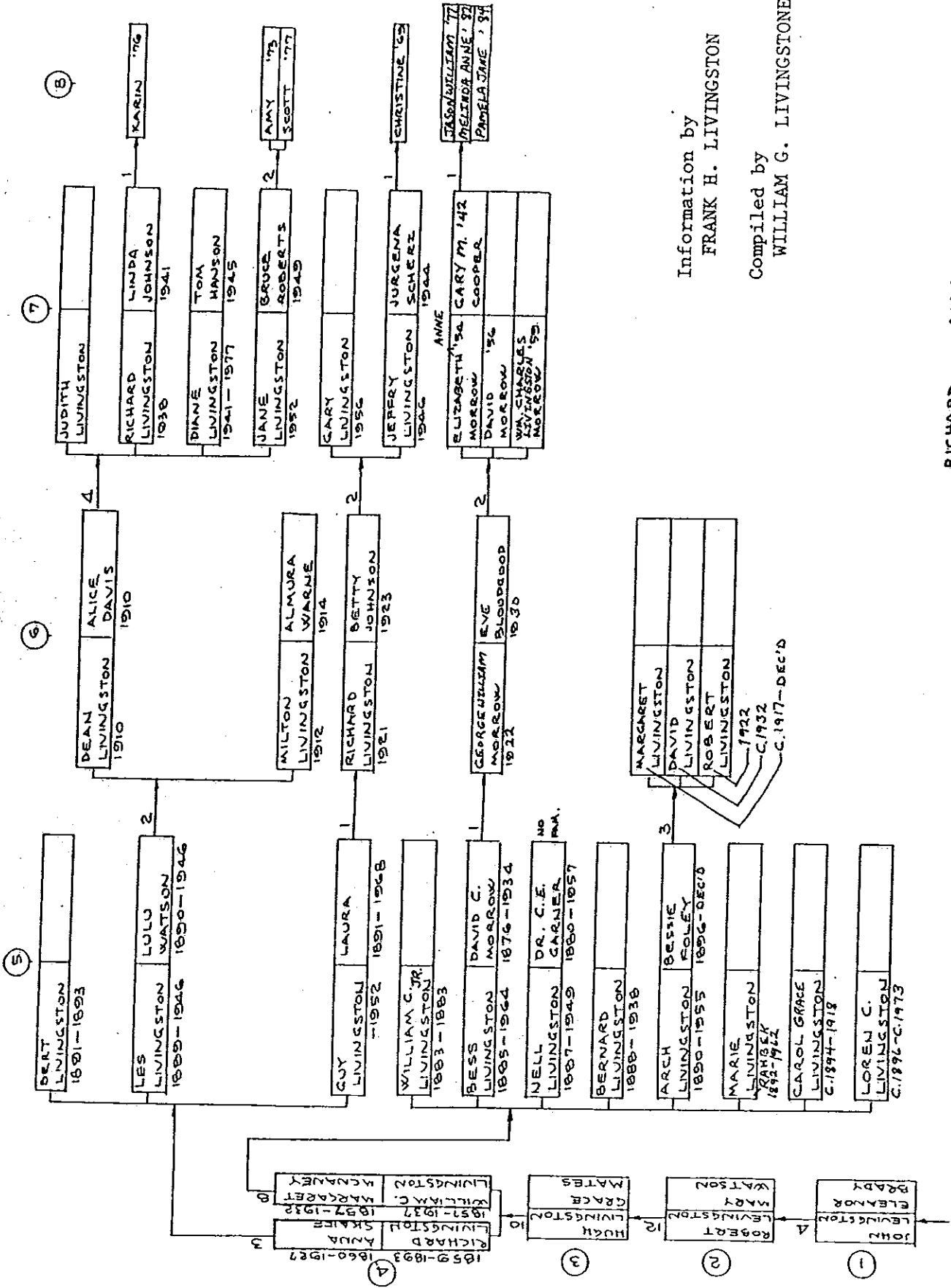


Nell 1887-1949

Nell shared some of her sister's traits of course. She too had a great sense of humor but more on the biting side. She tended to be more outgoing and gregarious and was known for telling a good story. While managing the Livingston Hotel, she was able to ply her writing skills as a stringer for the Fennimore, Lancaster, Madison and Platteville newspapers. During the Depression, she worked on the WPA Writer's Project researching materials on Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin East near Spring Green. She was also a tireless worker for the progressive LaFollette Party.

Bess and Nell are memorialized at the Rock Church Cemetery.

photos courtesy of Bill Morrow, Tulsa, OK



Information by
FRANK H. LIVINGSTON

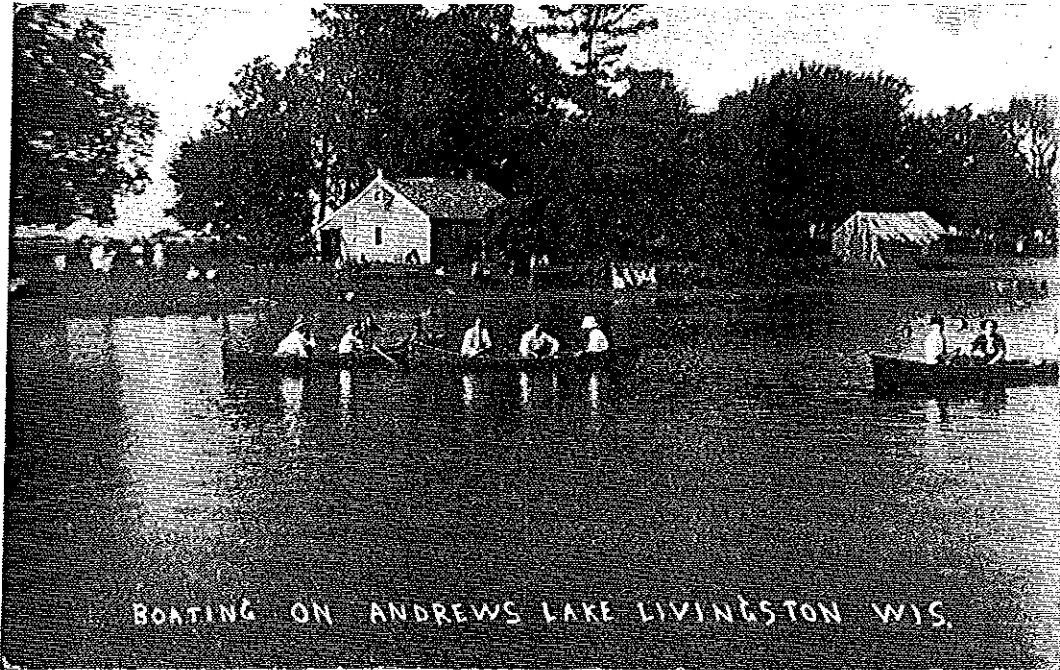
Compiled by
WILLIAM G. LIVINGSTONE

RICHARD ANNA
LIVINGSTON - SKAIFE FAMILY

SCENES FROM LIVINGSTON



Livingston Hotel



BOATING ON ANDREWS LAKE LIVINGSTON WIS.

Publication costs of this edition were underwritten by George W. (Bill) Morrow, Tulsa, OK, in memory of his mother, Bess Livingston Morrow, and his aunt, Nell Livingston Garner.

photos courtesy of Bill Morrow

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
received in memory of

Charles W. Skaife

from Lucy and Mike Greer
Betty and Dick Skaife, Highland, WI

CHRISTMAS MORNING CRANBERRY MUFFINS

1 c. fresh cranberries, coarsely chopped
1/4 c. sugar
Sprinkle cranberries with sugar and set aside.
1 1/2 c. flour
1/4 c. sugar
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. allspice
1 egg
Mix dry ingredients together. Add egg.
1/4 tsp. grated orange peel
3/4 c. orange juice
1/3 c. melted margarine
1/4 c. chopped walnuts
Combine last four ingredients. Add liquid mixture to flour mixture. Add cranberries and nuts. Bake 375 for 15-20 min. Makes 1 dozen muffins or 4 dozen miniature muffins.

submitted by Dawn Gemlo, Whitefish Bay, WI

CLAN SECRETS REVEALED!

If you attended the reunion this year, do you remember filling out some information about yourself on a small piece of paper? Have you wondered what became of all those pieces of paper? Our original intention was to play a game as an icebreaker before the business meeting. But by the time we were ready to play it, the ice had obviously been broken so we abandoned the idea. However, we did hang onto those tidbits. Here is what we learned about our clan.

"Hobbies". After tallying everyone's hobbies, we found that our clan is very wholesome, mentally and physically. The number one hobby is reading and the second is sports with golf being the most popular. Our family is creative with sewing and needlework third on the list. Gardening and geneology tied for fourth, both cultivating endeavors.

"Something no one knows about me". This brought out some interesting responses as you might expect. Can you guess who these people are?

"I like old Indian motorcycles and John Deere tractors."

"I love garage sales."

"I am a retired rural mail carrier."

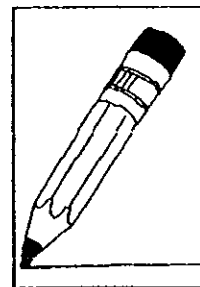
"I would like to have a shack in Tobago."

"In 1986, I walked from Chequamegon Bay, WI to Beloit, WI (339 miles) in 11 days with 43 of those miles on the first day."

Good luck!

L/W KIDS

R O T O L E N E R U
E F N K I O S I O N
U N U C V I L Y C I
N F A M I L Y C K S
I S C O N C H D C U
O M I L G U N T H O
N W A T S O N R U C
D E V I T A L E R E
J A Q B O M K Z C I
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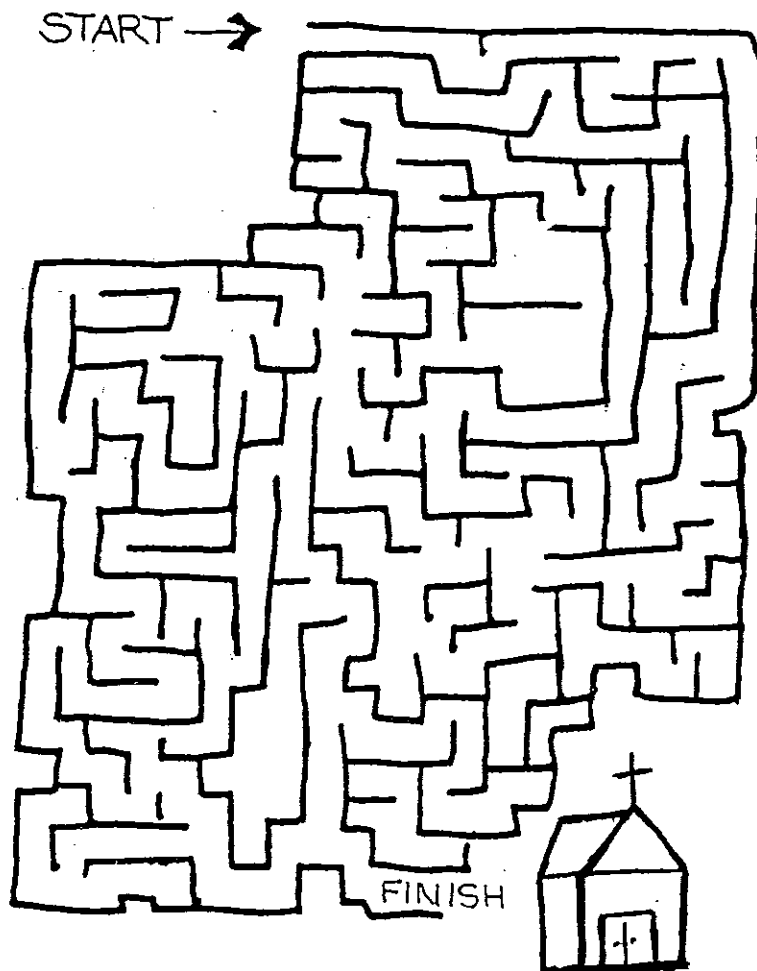


FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS:

- Livingston
- Watson
- Wisconsin
- Rock Church
- Family
- Relative
- Cousin
- Aunt
- Uncle
- Reunion

Begin at "start" and find your way to Rock Church for the Livingston/Watson Family reunion.

submitted by Ivy Shelton,
Richmond, KY



A big THANK YOU to last year's officers:

President Mike Greer
Vice-President Silas Paul
Secretary Lucy Greer
Treasurer Scoop Thiede

***Memorial information should be sent to 1991 Vice-President:

Jane Knutson
Livingston, WI 53554

***Family information - past & present (recent marriages, births)
should be sent to: Don Hill

3459 Pontiac Dr.
Carlsbad, Ca 92008

***Dues and Donations:

Annual dues \$1.00 per person
\$1.50 per family

please make checks out to the Livingston/Watson Association,
mail to treasurer: Elmer "Scoop" Thiede
3520 Woodbridge Lane
Portage, MI 49002

***Change of address and/or mailing list for \$2.00

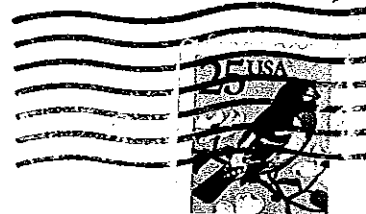
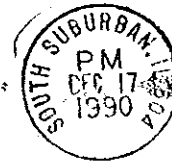
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