

Watkins News

Number 13

April, 2000

Reunion 2000

Forget Y2K...it's time for W2K - the year 2000 Watkins Reunion, set for July 29!

This year the event will be held in Bryan OH, at Moore Park. Reunion chair Jim Watkins tells us that there is a pool, tennis courts and horse shoe pits near the shelter house, offering lots of opportunities for an afternoon of fun.

Bryan has Amtrack service for those who may wish to enjoy the comfort of the train.

All the Watkins News That Fits

Melody (Teets) and Tim Ganun and daughter Clara welcomed son and brother Lucas to the world on June 24, 1999. He is the second grandchild for Harry and Nancy Teets.

A second grandchild also arrived for Margaret Meister when Andrew Robert Wilson was born to Scott & Julie Meister Wilson on January 16, 2000, probably the first new Watkins of the century. He joins sister Emma Christine.

Florence Bruner Watkins, widow of Orra, died on July 22, 1999 age 102 years and eight months. She was buried in Wauseon Cemetery. Surviving children are Rachel Ellis, Joan Domeck; and Donald, Harold and Roger Watkins; along with many grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Opal Richards Watkins, widow of Dorr, passed away on August 3, 1999, and the age of one hundred years and five months. She is survived by children Richard Watkins, Luella Makula, and Meredyth Nott, as well as numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, and a great great granddaughter. Two sons, Dwight and Homer, preceded her in death.

All the Watkins family send our deepest sympathies to Kim and Donna Watkins and son Kirk on the loss of their son and brother, Aaron, age 15, in March, 2000.

Dick & Evelyn Watkins have moved from Ridgeville to 525 Fairlawn Drive, Archbold, Ohio 43502 .Phone 419 445 0648. Fax 419 445 0650. E mail: sniktaw@bright.net (August 3, 1999).

Megan Reeson, daughter of Jean Miller Stollberg and granddaughter of Gloria Watkins Samulson, will be getting married January 6 to Scott Kvolts.

Bob Meister, son of Margaret Miller Meister and grandson of Gloria is getting married to Kristen Welch in September.

(More News)

In an Email message Jim Nott mentioned riding the “snow train,” so we asked for some details, which he provided as follows:

The snow train is operated out of Sault Ste Marie, Canada. It runs north for a half day and then returns. It is a very popular scenic ride. One fall we took it to see the fall color. During the summer and fall they will fill over 20 passenger cars and run every day. During the winter, they have that many cars, but they only run three days a week.

A note from Ann Loar Brooks (daughter of Rachel Ellis):

I would like to report that I graduate from St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute of Theology on May 11 with a Masters in Church Ministries. I have assumed the position of worship leader/storyteller for the family worship service at Govans Presbyterian Church in Baltimore.



Keep Us in Mind When Things Change!

Drop us a line when your address changes. If you're on line, send E-MAIL to: DickEstel@att.net

The Lost Watkins

These are family members whose last newsletter (#12) came back. If you know these folks, ask them to give us an up to date address:

- David & Lois Warden
- David & Sue Watkins

Indiana Snow Storm

(This will bring back memories for those of you who have fled the midwest for the desert.)

by Jim Nott

We are still recovering from the storm (winter of 98-99). Of course, we don't mind. We can sit tight and just watch it snow. I have a blower to clear the driveway.

This is the worst in 20 years. In 1978 we had the mother of all storms. The snow plows were parked for two days because of the high winds. We had "ten and even twenty foot drifts" according to the paper. In some places the snow had to be hauled away. Front end loaders had a problem with finding buried cars the hard way. One VW was unknowingly picked up and dumped into a truck. Those buckets hold five tons of stone.

We didn't get out for several days. About the only moving transport was snowmobiles. They had front end loaders stationed at the fire stations to make a path in case the trucks had to go out. Some streets were not plowed out for ten days. We had ample supplies and utilities so we just watch TV and played games. It was a good reprieve from the regular routine of life. The boys loved it. We figured that for years after that, they

Internet Connections

This newsletter will be on the Internet at:
<http://home.att.net/~rickdemason/watkinsnews.html>.
You will need a free program, Adobe Acrobat Reader, to view it. The page will have a download connection. This page also has photos and more are added as time permits.

The photo of KK, Tillie & kids in front of their house about 1905 can be found on another site,

the Watkins gallery at: <http://www.iinet.net.au/~davwat/wfhs/photos/image-index.html>.

The exact location is:

<http://www.iinet.net.au/~davwat/wfhs/photos/cap->

Watkins Geography

In researching the Watkins line, one finds lots of people from Pennsylvania, Virginia and the Carolinas; it's hard to find those from Delaware, where our line reportedly comes from. However, these facts are put in perspective by the following, which was provided on the Internet by researcher Doris Fountain:

For those who are not familiar with geography around the waters of the early colonies, let me explain that my daughter lives in the Norfolk/Williamburg/VA Beach/Jamestown/Chesapeake/Portsmouth area of early VA and she often takes a bridge/tunnel that goes to Maryland.

Furthermore, to the south she lives within ten miles of the North Carolina line. The Potomac River on which our national capital rests is just off the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay of VA reaches almost to the Pennsylvania line near what was in 1750 Chester Co., PA.

The James River runs from Jamestown, VA, through the Richmond, VA, area, and into old Augusta Co. at Staunton, which was capital of the county of VA that extended to the Mississippi River and later became numerous states. Staunton is a short drive from the West VA line (formerly part of VA.) It is worth noting, too, that the early colonies (like later counties and states) disputed much of this territory. In books of "early settlers" of different states I have seen some of the same names for the same dates.

