



SWOPE NEWS



A.E. Swope
1870-1955

Kate Swope
1870-1939

2013 Reunion?



Mayme
1890-1953

Ralph
1892-1948

Elnora
1894-1997

Laura
1900-1991

Kathryn
1903-1981

Alice
1905-1985

Isabel
1908-2011

Year 2012

No 2 August

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OBITUARYS

Grace Swope (1916 - 2012)



Grace (Hibbard) Swope, 95, passed away Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at VNA Charlier Hospice Center. She was born August 15, 1916, in Columbus, Ind. She was an active member of the Methodist Temple for more than 50 years, and was a proud member of the United Methodist Women. Grace attended [Indiana University](#), where she met her husband, Dwight, and then later the

University of Evansville, where she earned her teaching degree. She was very dedicated to her job as a German teacher at North High School, until her retirement in 1979. She took every opportunity to learn and to travel. She also enjoyed sewing and was an avid reader, but more importantly, she loved her family and was loved and respected by them in return. Grace was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Dwight Swope; her son, David Swope; and her daughters, Donna Kay Swope and Jeanette Swope. Survived by her daughters, Sue and Joyce Swope; grandchildren, Sam Swope, Aimee Leslie, Jennifer Duvall, Matt Taylor and Amanda Taylor, all of Evansville, and Sarah Swope, of Elberfeld; great-

grandchildren, Logan Lawson, Maria Napier, Andrew Duvall, Brayden Leslie, Levi Housman, Kyle Swope and Nick Kerchief



Hugh Swope Henry, 96, of West Lafayette, died at 7:10 p.m. Sunday, June 10, 2012, at [Indiana University Health](#). He was born June 17, 1915, in Vanderburgh County, to the late Robert and Mayme Henry. He graduated from Reitz High School in Evansville and [Purdue University](#). On August 23, 1940, he married Marge Jackson in Enos. He served as a staff

sergeant in the United States Army from October 6, 1943, to January 30, 1946, in the 16th Armored Division as a tank commander in the European Theatre. Hugh was a former USDA- FSA supervisor and farm manager and retired after ten years from Purdue Agronomy Department.

Hugh Spent many years taking care of Cumberland Avenue and as a volunteer for West Lafayette Trees for Sagamore. He helped plant many trees in that area, particularly on Salisbury Street. He also served on the Grounds commission for Westminster Retirement Village where he and his wife live and served as a long time Usher for Purdue football and basketball games. He was a member of First United Methodist Church,

the Kiwanis Club, the American Legion, and was a DAV. He was also was in the Purdue Alumni Association and the MCL Koffee Klatch.

Surviving are his spouse Marge Henry, West Lafayette; three daughters, Jerilyn K. Dille, Port Angeles, Wash., Jana Maples, Largo, Fla., and Joetta Senour, Graniteville, S.C.; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Hi Paul,

I asked Mom if she wanted anything in the newsletter about Dad this time and all she could think was to have you put in the obit that you sent out earlier. As some folks do not have an e-mail and would not have seen it in June, I'll leave it up to you to put in any/all/none as you have space. It was a lovely funeral with over 150 attendees, flag draped coffin and an Honor guard at the gravesite and a 9 gun salute! (3 guns shot 3 times). Thanks.

Joetta Henry Senour

HELLO FROM JACKSONVILLE, FL.

We aren't traveling as much anymore. Driving is difficult for long distances and flying these days is such an ordeal. But we did gather up our courage and flew last month to St Louis. We couldn't pass up the opportunity to see grand daughter Sarah Meahl performing in the Summer Stock Musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie" at The MUNY outdoor theater there. We were so impressed with the huge theater, the music, the sets, the costumes and the quality performance of all. Of course our eyes were always on our Sarah as she sang and danced and made us so proud. The other reason we wanted to go at the time we did, was because our grandson Ben was in summer school at his St Louis School of Pharmacy. His school was only a block away from our hotel so he easily could meet us. He will be in his second year there this fall. His big brother, Josh now a Pharmacist in Ft Lauderdale flew up and met us at the airport in a rental car and chauffeured us while there, a real blessing. We really enjoyed the special occasion of spending time with all 3 of our grandchildren. We enjoyed our meals together, the backstage tour, and an added plus: meeting Sarah's boyfriend Rory and hearing him sing in a pre-show. Of course the climax of the trip was THE show! And afterwards, we even got in a game of Skip-Bo! Sarah also has since been in "Aladdin" and is next to appear in "Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat" (Rory will also be in Joseph). After her 3 summer stock shows at The MUNY, Sarah will head to NYC to try her luck on Broadway! Maybe some of you will see her there one day. (She graduated in May from Point Park U. in Pittsburgh)

Otherwise, we are hanging in there. Our girls and husbands stay busy, busy with their jobs and are thankful to still have same.

Brother Don and Sara Mac came down this spring and we enjoyed a day in St Augustine, dining on the water, etc. Their family is all well. Don and Sara Mac are in the process of building a mountain home. Maybe they will write about that.

Love to all, Gyanne Smith (Isabel's daughter)

TORNADO ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND and NORTHWEST WE GO

Well, we have had an interesting time this last month. Judy & I were on our last stop in Evansville. We had visited Ross and then were having supper with our niece, Marcia. We'd completed our meal and my cell phone rang it was a call from our son Allen. He said, "Dad, we've been hit." My reaction was auto accident but no. Winter Haven had a tornado that went through our area of the city. We left Monday morning to proceed to WH. We stopped in the panhandle short of Tallahassee because of the Tropical storm. We didn't want to drive at night in the rain. It was a good thing because the next day as we got 10 miles from I75 we really hit down pours. All of the I10 traffic had to get off at I75 since I10 was flooded east of Lake City between there and Jacksonville. We got home then Tuesday afternoon.

I had Judy get on her phone to the insurance company while I talked to Allen and relayed damage assessment to the insurance rep. The third bedroom (Allen's media room) the window blew out and there was glass all over the rug and furniture. We have been vacuuming up glass shards ever since then. The shingles blew off as well as the roof vents. That let water in to cause some water damage on the living room, dining room and kitchen ceiling. That was it on the inside of the house. We have replaced the window so the house is fairly tight for now. We have almost completed the repainting of the third bedroom. Allen went over and chose a green. It is a green green and he isn't sure he really likes it. The color previously was more blue green. There were a couple of spots on the ceiling that had water stains so we 'Kilz -ed' it and painted it. We will need to move all of his furniture and put carpet or Pergo on it.

The roof will start to be replaced this next week. The roof over the garage was stripped of most of the shingles. That meant the ceiling in the garage came down. The garage door also blew out and was bent. A lot of the insulation from the attic blew into the garage and onto the drive/lawn area. Judy's and Allen's car were in the garage that Sunday night. They both got

scratches and some small dents. The damage was enough that they had to be repaired – rather expensive also. At least Judy's car looks new since we had it done. After the roof is replaced they will redo the garage then proceed to the inside of the house.

I don't know how many of you have had large household damage claims but trying to put the large check into the bank was quite a problem. The bank had a lot of hoops that had to be accomplished before they could even accept the check. Then it was sent off to their HQ to be processed. It means quite a few days before it is deposited. Rather exasperating.

It has been hot and the week after we got home our a/c decided to go out. Wouldn't you know it was on Friday evening. Saturday the a/c guy came out and gave us the 'good' news that we had to get an all new a/c and they could put one in on Monday. That was one thing we didn't think about having to replace. We spent several days/evenings in 90 degree heat in the house. Some of us 'older' people might remember sleeping on the floor where it might be cooler. That is what I did. Allen went out and bought several box fans we could use.

We wanted to have something to feel good about so we decided to do the landscaping in the back yard we had planned for last fall/winter. It looks good.

But the real adventure began earlier and the tornado was just the conclusion.

Since this February we celebrated our 50th we decided it would be a good year to do a road trip to places we had been and re-explore our 'old' haunts. We started out the first of June driving through to Cape Girardeau, MO to visit Judy's sister, Ruth. Ruth & I were in the same class in HS at Reitz. We had a nice visit there staying two nights.

Here we had our first unusual experiences. Before starting out Judy had given me pill containers that had quite large day slots. I thought great I could put all 5 weeks of pills in each of the spaces and not have to take four pill containers – one for each week we'd be gone. The problem – I put 5 pills in each slot. See a problem here? I had a revelation in MO that hey 5 pills weren't going to take me through. Oh ----- I called my mail order pharmacy to check to see what to do. Called my Dr. and told them what local pharmacy I'd be using for a month's supply of pills and that problem was solved. Then I discovered that although I thought I'd put in my cord for my rechargeable razor. Well, that would mean shaving every other day. Another experience finished we could pack up and leave MO.

Our next stop was the Amana Colonies in Iowa. We stayed in that area two nights visiting some of the many shops that displayed the workmanship of differing individuals. There are quite a few places to

visit in the area and a person could take more than the two days we allowed.

We left there and drove north on I35. North of Ames, IA we started seeing quite a few wind turbines. One of the many we'd see as we went west. We went on up to Grand Forks, ND and stayed two days there. We even went to our 'home' church there and drove through University of North Dakota campus. It was quite interesting to see how the city had changed and grown larger. One of the prominent features that indicated we'd been gone quite a while was how large the 'small' trees had grown on the main streets we had traveled to and from the university.

We left Grand Forks after church and a quick fast food bite and drove to Bismarck. I found if we stayed further west in ND the motels were EXPENSIVE. That is because of the oil boom in west ND and east MT. Driving to Bismarck we really had WINDS. They were quartering into our head so gas mileage really dropped off.

Our ultimate destination in the west was Seattle, WA. A veteran's organization "Pedro Rescue Helicopter Assoc" was holding its reunion there. Pedro was the call sign of the Kaman HH-43B Huskie helicopter that I flew on active duty. The association's members include pilots, crew chiefs, pararescue, fire fighters and medics that were crew members in that particular helicopter. I'm currently secretary for the organization. We were in a nice hotel and there were many stories of the 1960-1975 era that floated through the air. Those of you that are internet literate should look that type of helicopter up. It is unique. We flew local rescue as our range was about 90 miles out & back. The HH-43 had more rescues than other USAF helicopters in Vietnam. We were in Seattle five days.

After leaving Seattle we drove through the Columbia River Gorge. All along this area were more wind turbine farms. Driving from Spokane and Seattle there were quite a few more farms. Oh, did I say it was cold? We were happy we took a suitcase of warm clothes for the northwest portion of our trip. Our next destination was Yellowstone National Park. We'd worked there in 2002 – 03 – 05 & 07 so we wanted to look at the changes and 're – see' some of the sites. After that we headed to Evansville, IN and then to FL.

We drove about 7,500 miles but only saw two accidents. We went through a lot of rain outbound in Alabama, wind in ND, cold weather in Washington and Yellowstone. All-in-all quite a drive.

At 7:30 Wednesday the 25th of July we woke up to 'reindeer' on the roof. Actually it was the roofers roofing (or is that bad sentence construction). The roofing contractor said they would probably have it done today. Other homes have been taking three days

but we have had afternoon rains that have stopped them. We will see how things go.

Would say stay tuned but hopefully we will be all done by the middle of August.

Neil McCutchan

HELLO FAMILY

The reunion was wonderful! If you didn't make it, you missed out! What a great day! Vicki was able to get off work and we made her a spot in the back seat. All four of us were back together and had a great time hanging out together and with Dad! It was the best reunion!

I don't know about everyone else, but I sure needed a vacation. It was good getting back home, and I had such fun that I wonder when all us kids will be able to do it again.

We've had so much rain that it is still green in July! Can you believe? I can't, the grass looks really great. So happy to see green grass this time of year. Hay will be available and we hope a lot less expensive than last year during our drought.

Still designing and maintaining web sites, giving riding lessons, traveling to horse shows to secretary, and I work 2 days a week at the local fitness center. I guess that means I'm staying very busy. I have my own horses that I ride when I get a chance. Richard is still doing horse shoeing and will go back to driving a buss this fall for the local school.

We've had the grandkids most of the summer and that has been fun, but I was glad to leave them with their other grandmother in TX for the 13 hour trip to Evansville.

I'm looking forward to my next trip to Evansville. Not exactly sure when that will be, but I will stay longer than 4 days. That's all we stayed this time because Richard and Vicki had to get back for work. I won't take them next time. LOL

Plan to be at the reunion next year! It will be a lot more fun with more family there.

Paula Sue Swope

Daughter of Paul Gene Swope

FROM THE RIGGS

Wow! more hot, hot days ahead as we approach the end of summer. Can't believe it's time for kids to go back to school. Here in Vanderburgh County we continue to be very short of water. We've watered and consequently had a high water bill. We see many dead trees and shrubs and brown yards, but the worst is the pitiful fields and we know it is too late now for rain to do any good for the yield.

Richard spent eight days in the hospital with cellulitis in his legs, bleeding ulcers, and a very high

coumadin level. He's slowly getting better and still has to have his legs wrapped by a visiting nurse. We dare not miss the County Fair though and his daughters Jan Weiss and Jeanne Winter took him and his scooter to the dairy show at the Fair. He came home tired but happy.

The builders continue to start new homes behind us and when we see patio furniture and a grill show up at the house, we know it has been sold and is lived in. Our Blue Grass Church project of building a new church continues to progress with earthwork and sewer being done and actually footing and concrete blocks showing up. There has been lots of big equipment and lots of pickup trucks at the site.

We continue to be concerned with the Reorganization Plan pushed by the City Commissioners and County Commissioners as they look to control us and use our assets for their advantage. We see no advantage for us and believe this will be used to raise taxes for both the rural and city citizens! Researchers have determined that the Louisville and Indianapolis mergers that the backers point to have NOT resulted in the savings they try to tell us about! Please, anyone who lives in Vanderburgh County, help us defeat this attempted takeover by voting NO on the Reorganization Plan this November!

We always find the Summer Olympics interesting as we see many areas of sports that we usually don't get to see. Whether it's gymnastics, swimming, basketball or beach volleyball, we know we are seeing some of the best athletes in the world! Go USA!

Didn't know we closed the Black Buggy down! It is still a good idea to get together, visit, and eat out. Surly we can find another place where we can get caught up with one another.

We were pleased to add another great-granddaughter to our family as Crus Finley Sergesketter was born July 2, 2012 to Kara (Marcum) and Dustin Sergesketter, weighing in at a fighting weight of 7 lbs. and 12 oz. Pat and Anthony Marcum are proud grandparents. Kids, grandkids and now great-grandkids continue to be involved in activities, sports, school, etc. which is a good thing but also makes it harder for all to get together. We appreciate that we still enjoy and try to get together. We wish all a good autumn!
Jeanine and Richard Riggs

FROM CLIPPINGER ROAD

Angel and I are still going. Angel will be 9 years old in October. I don't even want to talk about my age in October. Angel and I go down to see Evelyn and Tuffy most every evening. Tuffy rules the roost and Angel is a little scared of him. Angel likes to take a

walk in the field, different from her little fenced in back yard. She minds well and I don't have to have a leash on her for the walk.

The Swope reunion for this year is past, and all went well. We had it at the Black Buggy on Saturday noon and on Tuesday they closed their doors for good. We must have had left a good impression on them. The paper says the new owner is turning the building into offices. So that leaves us looking for a place to have next year's reunion. Anyone have any ideas?

Vicki got up from Texas this year for the reunion. This is the first time in several years my children have all been together at the same time. They all sat around the kitchen table, with their computers, and had a big time. They fussed at each other just like old times. Vicki hitched a ride up with Paula and Richard.

Vicki is still working as a pricing clerk at a grocery. Karen has moved jobs to General Finance, doing about the same thing. John got tired of the union not finding him work, so he retired. Paula is still boarding horses, giving riding lessons, working at the local fitness center, and building web sites.

Megan is on a destroyer hitting the ports in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. I think she is seeing a lot of that part of the world. Will just got back from his two week training deployment. He is still in the Army Reserve. He didn't get to the Swope reunion because of the deployment. Will is also working at Buehlers IGA on First Avenue.

Jamie came to Evansville to visit the week before the reunion. She had a work conflict and could not come the week of the reunion.

That's about all from here, Paul

HELLO FROM KAREN SWOPE!

I haven't written an article in awhile. I guess I should update everyone on the changes around here.

I had to change jobs because the company I was working for moved operations to Cincinnati. I was offered a transfer but didn't want to leave Evansville. I was only off a week before I started a new job. I am making more money and getting bonuses and I like it real well. It has all turned out for the best so far.

Megan started her first deployment for the Navy in March and was supposed to be gone until the end of October, but they have already extended the deployment. Right now I have no idea when the deployment will be over. She is getting to see some of the world that she probably would have never seen if she weren't in the Navy. She has been to Palma Spain, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi.

Will is still in the Army Reserves and does his once a month drills. He just finished two more weeks

of training in Virginia. He got a job at the IGA close to our house and within two months they made him a cashier manager. He bought a Mustang with his Army bonus and it is his baby. He keeps it cleaner than his room for sure!

Had a great time at the reunion. I got to have Vicki stay at my house while she was up here and we had a great time. We always have fun when Paula comes up and it was so good to have all four of us kids together again.

It would be nice to see more relatives come to the reunions. I know there are some folks that live close that could come. We need to get together when we can because none of us is guaranteed tomorrow!

Ya'll take care! And I hope to see you all at the reunion next year!

FROM LEISURE LANE

I'm trying to type this and keep our 20 lb cat from getting on the keyboard. He thinks I'd be better spending my time petting him! We did finally get him (and the Apt) free of fleas. (Knock on wood). How an indoor cat gets fleas is beyond me, but we sure were fighting them for over a month.

We celebrated Gene's 84th birthday last week with a supper at Grant and Carlas. Had some very good ribs and birthday cakes for Gene and one for Ella, who will be 6 this week.

Our bad news is that our house on S.E. Browning Rd is still on the market. We put it up in June and had hoped it would be sold by now. Our grandson Logan, who has been staying in the house so it wouldn't sit empty, is buying a house of his own on the east side of Evansville. It would sure be nice if our house sold before time for him to move.

We enjoyed the family reunion in July but the Swope clan must have been too rowdy for the Black Buggy because it closed down right after we were there. It would have been nice to see more cousins there, some of us don't even know the younger cousins. Logan found out that his math teacher at Ivy Tech last semester was his second cousin Ann Riggs. (Richard and Jeanine's daughter). It was good to see Paula Sue and her husband Richard, who come up from Texas every year and this year they brought Vickie with them. We don't get to see her often enough and enjoyed having her visit home. .

The big news here on Leisure Lane is the opening of the new Dollar General Store at the end of our block. On a good day I can even walk down! It may prove to be a little too convenient!

I read in the paper last week where a writer who said "It's not my world anymore". Some days that about sums up my feelings. Love and best wishes to all

and if you happen to know someone who's looking for a house.....Nancy

FROM JOHN

Wow, what an exciting year this has been!! I started January off by going down to Tallahassee to visit my son JP and his family.

They were expecting by the end of January or the first part of February and I wanted to be present for the birth so I could help out. Aimee gave birth to Asher on the morning of January 26th. I'm glad I was there, I feel like I was able to help quite a bit!

By March though, it was time to come home and start looking for work. Well, there wasn't any and by the end of June my unemployment was going to run out so I started inquiring about my retirement. I found out I had enough years in that I could retire with full benefits so that is what I did!

I wasn't retired long when my buddy Doug asked me to help him build an apartment in his pole barn for his dad. So, for the next two and a half months, we worked our butts off out in the heat of that barn. We worked a lot of long hours too, sometimes 12 hour days! But we got it finished and his dad moved in on the 7th!

June 16th, JP earned his Masters from St. Leo University!! Congratulations JP!!! June came and my daughter Jamie decided to come home for a visit. I was real excited to see her, it has been a long time. She was going to bring her son but he decided he didn't want to make the trip. Jamie and I got to spend the whole week together. I sure do wish our kids wouldn't move so far away!!!

July was also our family reunion and I was so glad Sarah and her daughter Maria came this year. Also, my uncle Dan & Aunt Mava made it. It is always good to see them. But the one I was happiest to see was my little sister Vicki!!!! It is rare that she gets to come home.

Finally, the first weekend in August, JP invited me to play golf with him and his buddy Mox on a Robert Trent Jones course in Muscle Shoals Alabama!! Well, I just couldn't say no! LOL It was a beautiful course. I just don't know why they have to put so much water on those courses!!

Well, that's about it for me. I hope everyone had a great time at the reunion and I hope to see more show up next year!

John Swope

FROM THE EDITOR

REUNION

The Black Buggy Evansville has closed their doors and went out of business. If anyone has ideas where to have the reunion let me know and I will check it out and line it up.

See the web page at www.swopes.org/reunion.htm there are pictures. I have put some of the 2012 reunion pictures on the web site. If you would like to see more pictures or print some pictures ask me for a CD of the pictures.

ADDRESS

We have been trying to keep all the addresses up to date. If you want the latest list let me know and I will get you one. Please try and keep the list up to date. If any of your family needs to be added let me know.

ACCOUNTING

The Swope News letter costs approximately \$180 a year to print and send. The donations at the 2012 reunion were \$130.25. If we don't have full 8 pages it is somewhat less. We have \$784.70 in the checking account so we can operate a while.

Anyone wishing to audit the check book and account is welcome. If you would like a copy of the account sheet I can email it or snail mail it to you. I will have a copy of the accounting sheet at the reunion.

NEWS LETTER

We are still on a three a year news letter cycle. They go out April, August and December. I always need articles of family interest to keep the family up to date. Please get them to me in a timely fashion. We can have up to eight pages without additional postage required.

If anyone wants the job of editor I will gladly give it up.

It seems that we get less input for the news letter each time for publishing. If there is not more interest shown I will suggest that we quit publishing it.