



SWOPE NEWS



2016 Reunion 23rd July

A.E. Swope
1870-1955

Kate Swope
1870-1939



Mayme
1890-1953

Ralph
1892-1948

Elnora
1894-1997

Laura
1900-1991

Kathryn
1903-1981

Alice
1905-1985

Isabel
1908-2011

Year 2016

No 1 January

Editor Paul Swope

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SOUTH FLORIDA

Happy 2016! it's hard to believe. Where does time go? I continue to enjoy my life here in South Florida. I stay happily involved with all the amenities available at Covenant Village, a retirement community near Ft Lauderdale.

The family is doing well. I am so thankful for daughter and hubby Gregg who live nearby. Grandson Joshua also lives in the area and is now a consulting Pharmacist with United Health Care. Grandson Ben is in his 5th year at St Louis School of Pharmacy.

Daughter Kelly and Rick enjoy life in Windemere FL (near Orlando). Their daughter Sarah is presently in the off Broadway production "Standard Time". I think next year will be a BIG one for her.



I continue to paint and to be involved with the many art opportunities at Covenant. Besides my art, I now have Art with a capital A in my life. Art Stejskal is an ordained minister

and missionary in Tiawan and Philipines for 33 years. We enjoy the many activities offered here. I am truly blessed. God is good !



Jan. 4; big announcement: My Granddaughter Sarah Meahl has just started rehearsal for the brand new musical Paramour, to open on Broadway April 16. It is a Cirque du

Soleil production! Google it. It sounds most impressive.

God bless you each one for a happy and healthy New Year!

Gyanne (Germano) Smith
Ggyanne Smith
gyannsmith@aol.com

KEN COOKSEY

'2015', a year of happy celebrations!

Ken and I welcomed two new grandchildren: David and Amanda's baby 'Felicity' in April and Matt and Anoosh's baby 'Arlo' in May.

Gwen's husband, Ben, retired from the Army and earned his MBA in June.

My sister and her husband visited in August.

Family and friends surprised Ken with a party on his 70th birthday in August.

Ken's brother visited in October.

We took a short trip to Wisconsin to enjoy a Cranberry Festival in October.

We're looking forward to enjoying Christmas Day at our house with all the kids and their families. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2016.

Ken, Leslie and Gizmo dog.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE ROSS RIGGS FAMILY!

This is the second Christmas we've been without our mom, Mae. Without her presence, our lives have changed. She loved Christmas and always made it very special for all of us. We were blessed to have her in our lives and know she has been celebrating with Jesus the past two years. We're also blessed to know that one day we will be reunited with her and all our loved ones.

Our dad, Ross is doing well in a memory care unit. He has been living at the Villages of Avon in Avon, Indiana for a little over a year. Since all the siblings live in the area (except for Becky) he receives frequent visits from his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. And he still knows all of them. He loves going out to lunch with family and especially looks forward to fried chicken dinners at the Mayberry Café or Popeye's. Visitors will often hear him singing with gusto as they enter the memory care unit. We are glad he is happy and is getting good care.

If anyone wishes to send Ross a card you may address it to:

Roger Riggs

4971 West US 36

Danville, IN 46122

MIKE AND ANNA:

The Mike Riggs family has had a great year. Lots of time spent with our son Matt's three children, Gabrielle – 15, Lucy – 10 and Rylan – 8; ball games, school activities and “just hanging out together”. When we're not with the grandchildren, a lot of time is spent with our church family at Danville United Methodist Church where Mike still directs the choir. Mike got a new hip in

August 2015 which had previously slowed down our travel, but hopefully 2016 will find Mike and Anna “On the Road Again” with plans for a trip to Ireland and a River Cruise.

BECKY AND PHIL:

The Gladhill's have been taking a little more time for travel this past year. Becky sold her dance studio after 33 years in the dance business and is enjoying some of the benefits of retirement, along with grandchildren, singing in the church choir and long walks around the Minnesota lakes. Phil is a material buyer for a hardware company in the Minneapolis area and plans to retire at the end of 2016. David (Mirelez – Becky's oldest) is a Vice President at Target Corporation Headquarter in Minneapolis, is married to Alison and has 3 children: Julia Mae – 10, Ellie – 9 and Matthew 3. Dan (Mirelez – Becky's youngest son) is married to Darla and is the Regional Manager for the Marine Division at Textron in Slidell, Louisiana. They have three children: Lyllian – 16, Lucas – 10, and Lucy – 8. Dan also serves as a Commander in the Naval Reserves. The entire family will ring in the New Year on Sanibel Island and are looking forward to a fun time in sunny Florida!

ROGER AND RENDA:

Roger is retiring December 31st after 41 years in the veterinary pharmaceutical business. He is also the financial chairman at church, which has been especially busy with the new building addition, and looks after Ross relative to his financial and medical needs. Renda retired from being a teacher's aide about seven years ago when we started having grandkids. She keeps and entertains our two grandsons two days a week and is active in various church groups and “keeps the home fires burning”! Doug (son) is a Project Manager for an environmental engineering firm in Indianapolis and Megan (wife) is the Executive Assistant to the CEO at the local hospital. We have two terrific grandsons, Oliver (7) and Nolan (3). Emily (daughter) is a clinical data base designer for a drug discovery company and Brandon (husband) is a high school math teacher. They are expecting their first child in July 2016. Roger & Renda plan to spend some time this winter in Florida relaxing with family & friends.

ROY & KATIE:

Roy had both knees replaced over the summer and then retired! He has also made a long career in the Veterinarian Pharmaceutical Industry, working for Eli Lilly. Much of his work took him into many different countries. He's is currently doing some consulting work for other companies. Roy and Katie are now enjoying 2 little granddaughters of Levi and Brittany; Stella 3 and one year old Maizie. Levi sells seed corn and enjoys working with farmers, but is also continuing his music career : The Levi Riggs Band.

The band has had several songs ranked in the top 40 on the country western charts. Dr. Sara-Ruth Riggs (daughter of Roy and Katie) is living in Cincinnati, Ohio and works as an Occupational Therapist in a Children's hospital. Lauren (Roy and Katie's daughter) is married to Joey Baugh and lives in Nashville where the two of them are furthering their music careers and also are members of the Levi Riggs Band. Micah (Roy and Katie's youngest) is a college student who had been studying all over the world – particularly in Latin American countries.

Maribeth and Jay:

Maribeth is Ross and Mae's youngest and is married to Jay Williams. Maribeth is a Music specialist in the Avon School District. She has been teaching vocal music for 25 plus years. Maribeth also plays flute and piano. Jay is a computer software designer for a group of doctors in the Indianapolis area. Jay also plays trombone in a local group of musicians. They have 2 children; Grant (17) who is a junior and Faith Kathryn (15) who is a freshman. Both attend Avon high school and are involved in the marching band and several other musical ensembles. Grant plays a trumpet and Faith Kathryn plays a flute. The Avon Marching Band recently won 2nd place out of 95 bands who participated in a national band competition at the Hoosier Dome.

We are all thankful for a great heritage and our grandma Kathryn Swope Riggs, who passed down values of faith, family and strong character. Blessings to all of our extended family as you move into the New Year.

THE RIGGS

HELLO FROM TEXAS

It has been a very wet and warm fall. We are still green but we know cold fronts are coming!

I spent Christmas with my family in Indiana and had a grand time. Actually spent about 3 weeks at my Dad's and was able to see a lot of my sister (Karen) and brother (John).

It is now January and Megan (Karen's daughter/my niece) is here and I'm trying to teach her everything I know about horses. LOL I'm sure it isn't much, but I'm introducing her to many people in the industry and I'm hoping she will learn from them, also.

I'm still giving lots of riding lessons and working horse shows as a secretary. I love meeting people and seeing all types of horses.

Looking forward to warmer weather! I've always hated winter! At least in Texas the winter is a little shorter than Indiana!

Love you all and look forward to seeing you at the family reunion.

Paula Sue Swope

FROM PHILADELPHIA

Hi all. I hope you had a good holiday season and all the best for a wonderful 2016!

News from the Philly family is pretty much the usual. Our children, Jake and Julia, are doing well, working hard and raising their kids.

Our daughter-in-law, Lorie is an ESL teacher in the Philadelphia area. Ted and I feel particularly fortunate that our children, and therefore our grandchildren, all live within a mile of our house. Our three grandchildren, Nancy and Gene's great-grandchildren, are doing very well.

Our oldest, Zion, is making the usual adjustment to middle school, realizing that he has to crank up the work a notch or two to because he's no longer in elementary school. He continues to play soccer on one of the area's best youth soccer teams that has a national ranking. We are very loyal attendees to his games, and love to watch him play. Besides being an agile athlete, one of his strengths is his great speed, and no one can catch him as he runs down the field to make a goal.

Always trying to keep up with his big brother is Leon, who has made a nice adjustment to kindergarten. He comes home with lots of stories, many of which are in the category of tall tales!

One story we know rings true, that Leon recently shared with us, was that his school principal, a towering 6'4" over Leon's small but strong five-year-old stature, reminded him not to run in the hallways. Leon enjoys any contact he has with the principal, and they are already great friends! Basketball season starts for both our grandsons and Leon is a tenacious and determined player. Ted will help with the coaching for his team.



Our youngest grandchild, Jake and Lorie's daughter Sevi, turned one at the end of November. At 13 months she is walking, exploring, and delighting us all with her wonderful personality and endearing smiles. Julia's boys adore her and love to entertain her with their various antics, making her laugh, and intriguing her with their Lego structures. They recently introduced her to Duplo, using Leon's zoo set, and she was delighted.

Ted continues the drive to Delaware each day and it hasn't improved in the almost 3 years since he started. (I still haven't adjusted to the late dinners.) I am enjoying my second year of retirement, with a small part-time job with my former school district as a photographer! I cover events at various schools, write them up, and they're posted on the website along with the photographs. I also volunteer one morning a week helping struggling students in 4th and 5th grades.

That's an overview of what's going on here in Philly where the weather had been unseasonably warm in December, and now we are experiencing winter as we know it. Love to everyone there.
Penny Glackman.

CLIPPINGER ROAD

Another year has passed and I am still here. I have a folder on my computer titled "Obituaries". It is for family and friends. I find there are a lot more names in it than people I still know and see.

Life goes on, Mom used to say "old age is hell". Some days I am inclined to agree, but the days I function well I'm not inclined to give up. Still get the Swope news out, keep up with my high school graduation reunions, and try and keep up the Swope Family Tree.

Talking about the Family Tree, I would be happy to send a copy of what I have to anyone wanting a copy of it. You would also need a copy of the program "Family Tree Maker", it is available to purchase on the internet. There is a free version called "Family Tree Builder". I haven't tried it but it sounds good.

Paula was up from Texas over Christmas and was staying here with me. Of course when she is here the other kids are here a lot visiting with her. Makes a house full most of the time, but I love it. My dog Bella and her dog get along as well as can be expected.

Paula, Karen and John are doing fine. I'm not going to do a write up for them; they must do it for themselves.

That's all from here.

Paul

HELLO FROM THE LAWTON'S:

Kim and Tim; John and Kathleen; Kyle, Shalee and Brooklynn

Happy New Year! I am looking forward to 2016. 2015 was a very busy year for my family. Tim and I relocated to central Florida and began to settle into our new life. We visit Disney World about once a week, I joined a local Church and we are making friends. I was able to concentrate on some craft projects that wanted to try. I also continued to take pictures. My love of photography is a trait I inherited from my grandfather. So far, Retirement is well, fun! But for 2016 I am going to try a part time job. Guess where.....yep, Walt Disney World! More about that as it develops.

Our family has grown too! We have welcomed our first Grandchild and a new daughter-in-law to the Lawton family. Brooklynn Ann Lawton was born June 12 and we were all at the hospital. There is nothing to compare watching Kyle walk out and tell his dad he was a dad. Oh and she is beautiful! She is already getting used to having Grandmas camera in her face. Kyle and Shalee are still in Evansville where he teaches middle school math and Sha works in a Doctor's office.

John and Kathleen were married in a very small ceremony November 7. It was beautiful and special from the dolphin sunset cruise to the

surprise fireworks. They shared all the things they love in life as a celebration of their new life together. They have settled in Naples Florida about 3 hours from us. John is an accountant now and Kathleen is a homemaker right now.

I spent lots of time in 2015 traveling, don't think that will be the case in 2016. But its quality not quantity, right? I spent time in Evansville visiting Mom, McKayla and her family as well as that beautiful baby and my son and his wife. Sorry I missed everyone else.



The Lawton's wish everyone the best in 2016.
Love, Kim

FROM THE KAREN SWOPE FAMILY

I was so happy to have Megan home for awhile when she got out of the Navy in September. She stayed with me until January 4th when she drove down to Texas to stay with Paula until she starts school. I tried to tell her that there are schools here she could go to. But, she has always wanted to go back to Texas so that's where she is now. I really enjoyed her company while she was here and miss her tremendously now.

Will is still living at home with me. He is still working at Raben and is still in the Army Reserves.

It was also fun having Paula up here during the Christmas season. She, Megan and I did a lot of shopping and had fun just hanging out together.

I am still working at Springleaf. It pays the mortgage. I sure wish I could afford to retire!

That's about all I have. Y'all take take care until we see each other again.

God Bless.

OOLTEWAH TN

Hey family! Jamie here, writing from Ooltewah TN. I am doing well. I have been with my boyfriend, Damon, for almost two years now. We are currently delivering office depot and staples packages for express courier and he is still in the roofing and remodeling business. My son Blake is

a senior this year at Marion County high school in Jasper, TN and working as a bag boy when he's out of school. He got his license and a truck over the summer! Brianna graduated from home school last year and is currently taking college courses and is planning on joining the military as soon as she turns 18. Trouble is doing well. He is definitely my grumpy old man... Turned 16 in October. He has a new best friend rowdy, who is a Chihuahua.
Jamie Loyd

FROM AUGUSTA, GA

Happy New Year to all of the Swope descendants! We hope you had a wonderful holiday and will have a blessed year in 2016. We enjoyed having our daughter, Lily, home for her longest break since she left in August to attend Covenant College as a Freshman. She loves her school and did very well this past semester. Our son, Fuller, also enjoyed his break and spent most of his time disc-golfing. I wonder if that's a sport that's popular in other parts of the country? Early in December he wowed us dancing the role of Arabian for Nutcracker as seen in this picture, and he's just received word that he'll be dancing the three lead male roles in his ballet company's spring performance! He'll also be busy with such high school Junior year milestones as taking the SAT, visiting colleges, and going to prom.

In December our family was able to visit with extended family both here in Augusta, as well as in Atlanta, including helping to celebrate my great-niece Hannah's first birthday. This is a picture showing her receiving and wearing a "white elephant" birthday hat which has jokingly been passed around for years amongst the



Germano/Smith clan. We all sign and date it; it was even signed by Anne Isabel Swope Germano McKeeby on her 100th birthday (of 103). My

husband, Jerry, received for Christmas the gift of DNA testing through Ancestry.com. We can't wait to see what it reveals! By the way, did you all realize that the Swope family is descended (WAY WAY WAY back in the lineage) from German

Jews? If anyone has any ancestry information, it would be very interesting to know more about our common background.

Amy for Jerry, Amy, Lily, and Fuller Tice

HELLO FAMILY!

I finished my 6 years in the Navy in September. I had a lot of fun and saw a lot of places but ultimately it just wasn't the life for me. I headed back to Indiana to spend the holidays with my Evansville friends and family. Right after New Years I moved back down to Texas with Aunt Paula and Uncle Richard.

I am looking at schools down here and trying to figure out what I want to do with the rest of my life now that I am a free woman. While here I've started riding horses again and am just trying to learn everything I can from Aunt Paula and all her equine friends. I hope to see you all at the reunion in July!

Megan Yoder

BEST WISHES FOR 2016

Best wishes for 2016 from Evelyn France! I have a new great grandson.



Jackson Lucas McCandless born July 31, 2015 in Vanderburgh County. "Jax" is the first child of Celena and Adam McCandless of

Oakland City Indiana, and the 3rd grandchild of Brenda and Brad McCandless of Princeton Indiana. He gets lots of loving attention.

Evelyn.

LEISURE LIVING

Greetings from the old folks at Leisure Living, I guess since they called to cancel church this cold, snowy Jan. morning our car doors were frozen shut when Gene went out to try and start it. So far today we've been busy taking Christmas decorations down and packing them up. We had family here for Christmas and have decided that this may be the last year we try to host. It gets a little harder each year. I can remember the huge family Christmas parties at Grandpa and Grandma Swope's and what fun we kids had.

There aren't too many cousins now to remember. It takes us a while to get my Santa collection all boxed up and our Christmas Village that Laurie made us several years ago takes some extra care also. Space is a problem here and we have to do a lot of planning to get everything put up and leave room for a tree also. Each year we say that we will not do as much next year but then when it comes we hate to omit anything.

Our family is doing fine, Gene and I are staying out of the hospitals and nursing homes and around here(Leisure Living) that's pretty darn good! Our oldest daughter Meg is doing okay in her nursing home, but M.S. is no fun any time! Her son Logan brings her for supper every other Sunday and we try to make it out to visit sometime during the other week. Ted, in Philly got a start in Ancestry.com for his last birthday and has really become interested in researching his roots. I'm not sure that Penny knew how time consuming all this research can be. They spend a lot of time enjoying their three grandchildren, Julia's boys, Zion and Leon and Jake's daughter, Sevi. We're lucky, Sevi's mother keeps us up to date on her progress with frequent e-mail pictures and little videos.

Grant semi retired from B.K.D. accounting this past year. He only works a four day week and no weekends. He and Carla keep busy with Ella and Gavin. We got to see Ella in a play that their school put on in Dec. It was 1001 Dalmatians, and we enjoyed it! Their family is putting in a swimming pool, should be nice next summer but it's sure a mess right now. Katie is still in Bloomington and didn't get down over Christmas because she had fallen and hurt her back. She's doing better and is planning to be down this month if all goes well. Laurie and two friends have opened a new business close to downtown Evansville. They're running a Doggy play care. This is something I wasn't aware there was market for but they are doing well. They do only day care and grooming but hope to be able to do some boarding at a later date.

I try to keep busy, I have church and Sunday school and United Methodist Women and all they involve and my weekly Happy Hookers group. We have five active members and several who work at home. Don't get the wrong ides; we crochet hats for the school clothing bank and

several other groups. I have also joined a book club that our local Library is sponsoring. Gene and I are both avid readers and I have really been enjoying the club. It is nice because it gets you out of your rut in reading choices. On New Year's Eve we were both absorbed in reading on our Kindles and missed the celebration on TV. I think we could do an ad for Kindle "Grandpa and Grandma enjoying their Kindles" Think we could sell it? Gene is still able to walk two or more miles every day. he's had no more complications from his Leukemia and chemo treatments but his Dr. has him in for regular checkups. He has a lot to do helping me do the things I can't do for myself plus all the regular household chores that require doing. He also has our animals to tend, our pretty cat, Butterscotch who we adopted from Meg when she went into the nursing home and three back porch stray cats who we feed. The Siamese cat that we've been feeding for over a year and was spooked by everything has finally decided to make friends and Gene is proud that he has allowed him to pet him. Quite a turnaround! The others are a tabby who would come in if we invited her. I'm sure she has been a house cat at some time. She has a half grown orange kitten with her. He is a handsome boy but quite untamed. I would love to find a good home for the mother cat, she would make someone a very nice pet but I'm not sure we could even catch her wild offspring.

We'll be celebrating our 65yr. anniversary this month. Gosh that makes me feel even older if that's possible.

Well, I've typed on this off and on all day and it's now getting close to time for Dawnton Abbey so I guess I'll call it quits for this time so till the next news letter, good bye to all you Swopes from these old folks at Leisure Living.
Nancy

FROM THE EDITOR

REUNION

The reunion this year, 2016, is set for Saturday noon July 23rd. The place will be the same as last year, Stoll's Country Inn on 41 just south of 64.

Last year there were about 21 in attendance. Stoll's require that we have 25 people to insure that the room is private. Although they did not put other diners in the room this time, they may if we don't have 25.

See the web page at www.swopes.org/reunion.htm there are pictures. I put some of the 2015 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 \$120 a year for two issues to print and send. If we don't have full 8 pages it is somewhat less. We have \$745 in the checking account. Things were a little hectic this time and we never got around to collecting any money for the mailing. With the money we have I see no problem.

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 mails it to you. I will have a copy of the accounting sheet at the reunion.

NEWS LETTER



We have decided to a two a year news letter cycle. They will go out in January, and then August after the reunion. 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. I receive some pictures for the news letter. I try and put them in but when they go in they must be black and white. Printing them in color would be cost prohibitive. If you would like to see them in color you can see them on the web site at "News Letters".

If anyone wants the job of editor I will gladly give it up. All you need to do is ask.

I now have News Letters printed and stapled at the UPS store. It is easier that way and they can print it cheaper than I can, although they went from 6 cents a page to 10 cents a page. Remember if you have missed an issue all are on the Swope web site. I still print the address mailing sheet, I may figure out a way they can print that too.

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. Then there is a problem of closing the checking account, who gets the money left?