



A.E. Swope  
1870-1955

# SWOPE NEWS

## 2014 Reunion Noon at Stoll's July 26, 2014



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 2014

No 2 June

Editor Paul Swope

Email [paul@swopes.org](mailto:paul@swopes.org)

Doris Catherine "Kitty" Swope  
Evansville, IN



Doris Catherine "Kitty" Swope, 76, of Evansville, passed away Thursday, March 20, 2014, at Deaconess Hospice Care Center. She was born October 26, 1937, in Louisville, KY, and grew up in Cloverport, KY.

Kitty was a loving follower of Jesus and was strong in her beliefs. She was an avid crocheter and a lover of many crafts. She enjoyed being a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Kitty also relished time sharing her wisdom, faith and love with her family.

She was preceded in death by her loving mother; two great fathers; and her loving daughter, Amanda Swope.

Kitty is survived by her adoring husband, Harlan; children, Rick Sanders, Earleen Stoneberger, Darnell Fitzsimmons, Debbie Moody and Jackie Sanders; sisters, Libby, Ginny, Connie, Donna and Betty; brother, Allen; great-aunts, Dorothy and Mildred; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Services will be 1:00 PM Monday, March 24, 2014, at Alexander North Chapel, officiated by

Rev. Eddie Naas, with burial in Alexander Memorial Park. Friends may visit Monday from 11:00 AM until service time at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Doris Swope Memorial Fund at any Fifth Third bank. Condolences may be made online at [www.AlexanderNorthChapel.com](http://www.AlexanderNorthChapel.com).

Published in Courier Press on Mar. 22, 2014

Lawrence B. France  
Evansville, IN



Lawrence B. France, 88, of Evansville, passed away Sunday, May 18, 2014, at North Park Nursing Center. He was born December 19, 1925 to the late Ivan and Elnora (Swope) France.

Lawrence was a member of McCutchanville Community Church. He served in the US Marines during **WWII**, and was a member of the American Legion. For 38 years, Lawrence worked at American General and was a 50 year member of the McCutchanville Fire Department. He was an accomplished bowler, winning numerous awards, and enjoyed reading and working puzzles.

He was preceded in death by his parents Ivan and Elnora France; brother, Jim; and, sisters, Jean and

Evelyn.

Lawrence is survived by his brothers, Raymond (Audrey) France and Curtis (Ruth) France; and, sister, Lois France.

There will be no visitation. A graveside service at McCutchanville Church Cemetery will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the McCutchanville Fire Department, 9219 Petersburg Rd., Evansville IN 47725, or to McCutchanville Community Church, 9505 Petersburg Rd., Evansville IN 47725.

Condolences may be made online at [www.AlexanderNorthChapel.com](http://www.AlexanderNorthChapel.com).

Published in Courier Press on May 20, 2014

As a little girl – I remember Lawrence and how sweet he was to me. RIP.....

Becky Riggs Gladhill

Dear France and Swope families. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Sincerely, Gyanne Smith

### **HI FROM GYANNE.**

I have just moved to south FL, 10 minutes from daughter Cindy. I love my 2 bedroom apt in Covenant Village, a very Christian community. Everyone is so nice here. I am on the top floor (5th) with pretty view and have a 16 ft by 6 ft enclosed balcony, perfect for doing art. We have 2 pools, fitness center with trainer, meal plans, craft room PLUS art studio.etc. I'm thinking I'm gonna love it here!!

My new address:

9241 W. Broward Blvd. # 3522

Plantation FL 33324

My new I Phone # (which I'm trying to learn)

954-658-0350

### **FROM TEXAS**

Texas is finally getting rain. The lakes around Dallas are still low, 11-15 feet below normal, so we still need rain. We will probably have a first cutting of hay, but not sure after that. Everything will depend on the rains.

Richard's oldest boy Ric and his youngest son Matthew (6 yrs old) are still with us. Matt is

doing better in school but still has some catching up to do before he goes into 2nd grade.

I'm working hard with my girlfriend giving clinics and trail competitions under Two Texas Women. Our web site is [www.twotexaswomen.com](http://www.twotexaswomen.com) and we are staying pretty busy. I'm still working for the county and will be moving to our precinct commissioner's office at the end of May. Still working part-time there, doing a few web sites, working horse shows as a secretary, and then our Two Texas Women events. So, I'm staying busy. I did give up some of my web sites and will eventually give them all up and move to other activities.

Richard is still trimming and shoeing horses. He also has cut down on the number of horses he is doing. Old age is NOT for wimps!!!!

I'm looking forward to the July reunion. I love seeing the family and I do wish everyone would try to make it.

Big hugs from Texas!!

Paula Sue Swope

Richard Ratley, Sr.

### **FROM LEISURE LIVING.**

Where the pace is slow and the residents even slower. This is about the third time I've sat down to type this but keep getting ambushed by free cell. I'm afraid I have a serious addiction I'm up to 69% but I won't say how many games I have recorded, suffice, to say quite a few! My other time consuming new hobby is crocheting. Yes Paula I finally caught on! Paula tried to teach me a few years ago and it just now made since to me. I have completed one scarf and one loosey goosey hat. I have purchased a smaller crochet hook and am in the process of making another hat. Please hold your orders because I'm still rather slow!

We are catless for the first time in many years due to the death of our big black and white spoiled cat Boo. Several years ago we were up to seven. That was when we lived in Elberfeld and they could be outdoor/indoor cats. The apartment seems very empty without our big, (20#) boy.

Our routine is about the same every weekday; we walk down to the club house for lunch around noon, visit with friends for awhile then come back for a nap. Since I've taken up

crochet I stay down once a week to join The Happy Hookers Gene, weather permitting, walks around 2 miles every day. Because there are so few men here he is quite popular with ladies stopping him to open lids, help lift something etc.

Our family seems to be doing well right now. We're looking forward to having all of Ted and Penny's family here in July. We thought it might work out for them to be here for the Swope reunion but that wasn't possible. We haven't seen our great grandsons, Zion and Leon, (Julia) for quite a while and I'm sure they've grown

We received an e-mail from Don Henry a few weeks ago saying that they were downsizing and might I be interested in taking the oil portrait of great grandpa Albert Asbury. I have the matching one of his second wife, Margaret Whitehead. Because her portrait looked out of place in our apartment I had entrusted it to Grant. Don shipped it to Grant and now after who knows how many years they are hanging side by side once more. We plan on having pictures of them at the family reunion.

We have been working to spruce up our rear patio. The wicker set needs painting and weeds need to be controlled but we never seem to find time. It's nice to sit out there in the evenings reading our Kindles. We have flowers there and in our window boxes out front and that's about all the gardening we do, we also have bird feeders both places. We don't have nearly as many birds here some hummers house finches, gold finches doves and an occasional cardinal, mocking bird or wren. I miss the woodpeckers and squirrels they were both fun to watch.

I must sign off now it's time to trudge down to the club house for lunch. Hope to see many of you at the reunion in July!

Nancy

### **RIGGS FAMILY**

Ross and Mae Riggs will be celebrating their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 26! Mom and Dad were recalling many fond memories of the "little white church" (Blue Grass United Methodist Church) on Petersburg Road in Evansville and the

community house where many celebrations were held!

Dad (Son of James and Kathryn Swope Riggs) grew up on the Jersey farm also located on Petersburg Road. Mom (Daughter of William and Clara Melloy) grew up on Pollack Avenue and attended Bosse High School. Though Dad attended Ritz High school, he asked the beautiful Mae Melloy to accompany him to his high school dance. Throughout their high schools years, Mom recalls buying a cow from the Riggs Jersey farm and participating in 4-H together. They both attended Purdue University where their love grew and where Dad popped the question!

After graduating college, Dad worked the family Jersey farm, while Mom was holding down the fort with five busy children. After receiving a job in Indianapolis with Indiana Farm Bureau, Mom and Dad moved to Danville, Indiana and began the Windridge Family Jersey Farm. They now enjoy winters in Ft. Pierce, Florida, and come back in the summer to see their 11 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren! When I asked Mom and Dad about what it takes to be married 65 years, they said, "Hard work, patience, and love"!

Looking at the wedding picture below, reminds me of lyrics in a favorite song:

*"They are faces and photographs, heads all held high, not afraid to look life in the eye. They are family with backbone, keepers of the flame, with the spirit even hard times couldn't tame. And I know this same blood is in me, as I meet their gaze one by one. The faith that sustains them is bred in my bones. I know what I'm made of and where I belong."*

I think of not only Dad and Mom or Grandpa and Grandma (Kathryn Swope Riggs), but of the generations of family, love and commitment to God and marriage and how it shapes all of us and our future generations. Thanks Mom and Dad and Happy Anniversary! Your love, support and Godly upbringing has been and continues to be an encouragement and blessing to all of us - we love you!



Maribeth Riggs Williams

### AUGUSTA, GA

Hello to all descendants of the Swope family!

After looking over the last newsletter from January, I realized that as the parent of two teenagers, my family's year revolves around the school year instead Jan. - Dec.! With them being so busy, it's hard to find time to get together with extended family. We were able to spend several days at Christmas with my brother Brian, his wife Trish, their college-age daughter Jennifer, and my parents at my parent's new mountain home in Sky Valley, GA. We had a wonderful time! It is lovely up there, and we look forward to spending some time with them there again this summer. Also this summer, we are excited to have a mini-reunion of most of our FL/GA family in Atlanta, GA. We are gathering to see my cousin Kelly's daughter, Sarah, perform at the famous Fox Theatre as the stunt double for Ariel in the Broadway musical version of *The Little Mermaid*. She's a very talented "triple threat" dancer, singer, and actress, and we know she'll soon be on Broadway itself!

My children, Lily (17) and Fuller (15), have the opportunity to dance at their high school, a public magnet school dedicated to the fine arts. Fuller

also decided to join a local dance performing company last fall, and we had the pleasure of seeing him perform roles in the *Nutcracker*, as well as one of the leads and another role in *The Roar of Love*, a ballet based on C.S. Lewis' The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Besides dancing, he enjoys spending time creating music on the computer, and rooting for any Oregon Ducks sports team. He can't wait to get his driver's license in Sept.! Lily is excited to finally be a Senior in the fall, and we'll soon be looking at colleges, etc. She's been volunteering lately with a group here called The International Link, which offers English as a Second Language classes to internationals (mostly Chinese). Based on that experience, she's considering becoming an ESL teacher! She loves languages. She's spent the past year teaching herself (for fun) mostly Mandarin Chinese, but also Russian, Arabic, Icelandic, and sign language, as well as taking Spanish at school. She has pen pals in China, Ukraine, Mongolia, Vietnam, and Israel. We're excited that her pen pal from China is visiting the U.S. this summer, and will be spending a week with us in July. Lily's other interest is art. She's been working hard to earn money for a trip to France and Spain that she'll be taking next summer after graduation with her art class from school!

I help my husband, Jerry, at his interior design office most days. The economy seems to have picked up some, and we stay busy! He was thrilled recently to find out that the VA offers free tombstones for Veterans. A marker for service in the Civil War was able to be placed on his great-great grandfather's grave, which had been unmarked for 108 years! Sometime this summer I want to look at the Swope website/movie of the McCutchanville cemetery. Thanks, Paul, for the info.

Have a fun reunion in July. Pass on any interesting stories from that in the next Swope newsletter! I enjoyed reading in the last one about the way that Penny (Glackman)'s class of Merion Elem. School raised more than \$3,000 in a week for typhoon victims. Nancy from Leisure Living, I love that your cat was named Boo Radley, and that you wanted to try my grandmother's recipe for "Forget" cookies. Go for it!

Amy Germano Tice (Anne Isabel's youngest granddaughter, Don's daughter)

### **HELLO FROM THE NORTH SIDE OF EVANSVILLE!!**

I got to take my 2<sup>nd</sup> annual trip to Virginia to visit with Megan May 16<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>. She actually got to take leave while I was there so we got to spend the whole time together. If you are friends with me on Facebook you got to see the pictures. I had such a good time that I did not want to come back.

Megan went on temporary duty on the USS Donald Cook the end of January. The ship was leaving for Rota Spain where it will be stationed as its home port now. She got to see a lot of places. I'm just going to name some because I know I won't remember all of them. She went to Madrid while in Spain. She got to go celebrate at Carnival de Cadiz. She was in Crete Greece, Augusta Bay Italy, Catania Italy, Sicily Italy, Romania in the Black Sea...I was terrified when she was there, but she got to see Dracula's Castle in Transylvania. Then she went to Israel and was in Hafia, The Dead Sea (she got to float in it) and Jerusalem. Then she went to Rhodes Greece, I got all kinds of gifts from the places she went. They flew her back from Athens Greece. She is very glad she volunteered for the temporary duty on the USS Donald Cook. Her ship the USS Porter will be heading to Rota Spain as a home port in 2015.

Will has changed jobs and is now working at Firestone. They have more opportunities and they will train him to be a mechanic which is what he wants to do. The last place did not offer that, if he wanted to be a mechanic he would have had to get the training himself. He has only been there a couple of weeks, but so far he likes it. He is still in the Army Reserves and they will be sending him for a 1 month training this summer in California.

I guess that's about it since the last newsletter. I hope to see all of you at the Family Reunion!!

Karen Swope

### **FROM CLIPPINGER ROAD**

I keep getting on everyone else to write for the news letter so I guess I have to.

Not much going on here. Angel and I are coexisting with no problems. We are both getting older; Angel has a white face now. She is 10 years old now.

I still keep up the McCutchanville Church web site plus the McCutchanville Cemetery, Reitz 1946, and The Swope Site. The Church site is the most time consuming because we decided to start putting the sermons on it. I keep the latest four on it.

I'm on the Reitz 1946 Reunion committee. We met once a month and get to eat and meet with old friends. We meet at the Hadi Shrine Evansville Indiana and they have a good buffet.

I had an extra car parked here for a while when Karen was visiting Megan. I took Karen to the airport, that way she didn't have to pay for long term parking.

I still make the Trustee meetings at the church. I don't do much work anymore, getting to damn old. Still help making decisions. The large refrigerator in the kitchen I think needs replaced. It is 40 years old and keeps having problems.

That's it from here.

Paul Swope

### **A LAWTON FAMILY UPDATE:**

The Lawton's are celebrating this spring! Our daughter in law, Shalee, graduated from Ivy Tech and our son graduated from the University of Louisville. Both graduated with honors!! John also got engaged this spring. Tim and I are very happy for all of them. Both young families are exploring the next steps in their futures.

Tim and I continue to enjoy our Florida home, Tim a little more than me since I am still working. He spent this past cold winter there! LOL

We hope to transition to Florida full time soon.

Hope everyone is well!

Take care,

Kim Lawton

### **WHETSTONE ROAD**

I miss my next door neighbor and brother in-law Lawrence. His homestead was his from birth until just last fall.

Lawrence lived his entire life in a home next door until six months ago when a hospital stay landed him in a nursing home for rehab. He was content and enjoyed those around him. He was pleased to win a few times of bingo and games.

He was a caring son of his mother who lived to 102 years, taking her on car rides as often as she required, three and four times a day!! I miss watching for more movements next door, a 63 year watch.

Farewell Lawrence. It is sort of lonely in McCutchanville on the hill now. He will be missed. I still look out my south window and all I see is a home much too empty now.

Evelyn

---

### FROM THE EDITOR

#### REUNION

The reunion last year was at Stoll's and it seemed to go well and everyone seemed satisfied. There were 30 in attendance. I have talked to Stoll's and we have a reservation date of noon Saturday July 26 2014. Get there between 11 and noon and we will chow down at 12. Stoll's is just south of I64 on hwy 41. If we have 25 people or more the room will be private. The room will hold 100.

See the web page at [www.swopes.org/reunion.htm](http://www.swopes.org/reunion.htm) there are pictures. I have put some of the 2013 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 \$769.02 in the checking account, with the \$0.03 a month interest, 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

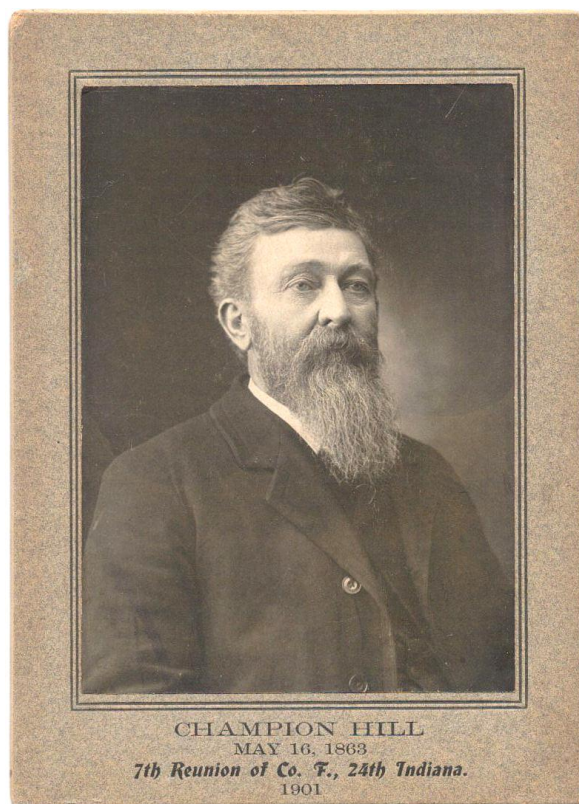
We have decided to a two a year news letter cycle. They will go out in January, and June. I always need articles of family interest to keep the family up to date. Please get them to me in a timely fashion. We can have up to eight pages without additional postage required.



If anyone wants the job of editor I will gladly give it up. 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. I still print the address mailing sheet, I may figure out a way they can print that to.

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?



A. A. Swope