



# SWOPE NEWS



## 2004 Reunion Date & Place Soon

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-

Year 2003

No 2

August

Editor Paul Swope

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

### WHEAT HARVESTING

Since some of you have been kind enough to suggest that I write some more memories, I've chosen the harvesting of wheat on our farm.

I always thought the golden wheat fields were especially lovely as they ripened and no less when they were bundled in neat "shocks" in preparation for their final appointment with the threshing machine. Neighboring farmers helped their neighbors in harvesting the crops, taking turns.

When it was our turn, my sisters and I watched excitedly for the arrival of the great threshing machine. At last it came puffing down the lane, preceded and followed by many horse drawn wagons filled with sweaty overall clad workers. It was like a great black monster belching out black smoke as it lumbered slowly to its place beside the barn.

The men in the fields tore apart the shocks of wheat and tossed them into the wagons where they were taken to be "threshed", the golden grains being separated from the chaff. The grains filled bags that were to be emptied into the prepared bin, while the chaff formed a barn size golden stack.

It was our pleasant task to ride our horses taking jugs of water to the workers in the field.

At noon the men took turns coming to the house to eat in the dining room where there was a long table seating ten or twelve hungry men. In the yard under the trees were tubs of water, soap and towels where they could refresh themselves.

Inside the kitchen Mother with the help of a few neighbor women prepared and served the meals. There was plenty of fresh vegetables Mother had picked from the garden, fried chicken, and possibly roast beef, and several kinds of pie. All of which took several days ahead of time to prepare.

It would be several days before Dad would let us slide down the straw stack until it "settled", usually after a rain. There would be squeals of laughter as we tumbled down the stack. It was so much fun!

Sometimes we liked to play in the fresh filled bin of wheat, a practice Dad frowned on.

Mom would sometimes take some of the fresh grains, grind them and cook them into a delicious cereal, served of course with sugar and rich cream.

At the end of the harvest season the farmers took turns hosting an ice-cream social. Of course we looked forward to that. One time it was held at the county "poor house", the first and only time I visited there. I felt a little embarrassed meeting

some of the residents. I had so much and they so little.

I don't know whether wheat is harvested today anyway like I've described it, but I doubt it! Times change! But it makes a pleasant memory!

*Anne Isabel McKeeby*

### **FROM GRACE SWOPE**

I had lunch recently at Nicks. I was amazed to watch grand-daughter Aimee take orders for 9 people and not write anything down! There were no mistakes. Jennifer can do that to.

I go to the fridge and stand with the door open and wonder what I wanted!

Question: How come young people can do that and us old ones have so frequent "senior Moments"?

Getting old is certainly not for sissies! There are a lot of "bumps-in-the-road" when you get old!

My latest "bump-in-the-road" is macular degeneration. I have a reading machine. I can enjoy talking books. I can listen to the Courier being read, too, but it sure isn't as nice as it used to be!

But you know what? Enjoying the successes of grand-children makes all bumps-in-the-road not so big.

Jennifer Sue's #2 daughter graduated from USI this spring with a 4.5! Isn't that something?

This summer Jenny is trying something different, With son Andrew, nephews Logan and Brayden, and niece Maria, she's trying something different. She's trying to put structure into their summer vacations. The kids helped in planning their activities. She has a mini-school for the 4, with outings planned for special attention. The museum, the zoo, swimming etc. They just finished baseball. One place they planned to visit was Grandma, Ha-ha! So I'm stock piled pop-sicles and I'm ready for the invasion!

Grandma Sue has kept busy this summer watching the kids play baseball. That's important you know.

Sue is still at Hillcrest with various responsibilities. The official title is "Transition Coordinator". I'm not sure what that means, so I just say she's a social worker helping troubled kids.

My #2 daughter is part of the managing team at the Teachers Credit Union. Her title? She wrote it down for me – AVP&E Commerce Manager!

I'm not sure I can translate that. It's much simpler to think – "she is a – Joyce Taylor".

Joyce has had some proud moments this year. (She should be writing this.)

Daughter Amanda was awarded a free weeks camping at Camp Carson. The award was given for scholarship and good attendance.

Amanda had such a good time, she plans to save her money so she can go again next year.

(I think that means Grandmas are supposed to give cash on special occasions.)

Matthew plans to enter Ivy Tech again this year and major in Business. If Dwight were here, he'd probably say "Cool!" (Everybody else does!) Matt stays in shape working out in the gym and once-in-a-while competes in regional and national arm-wrestling competitions.

David's kids – Sam and Sarah – are in the area, but I don't know any special news about them.

Grace

### **VISIT BY AN LST**

On July the 11<sup>th</sup> an LST (landing craft tank) came to Evansville for a visit. It is to leave on July 21<sup>st</sup>. As you know there were a bunch built here in Evansville during the years of world war two.

There have been so many people wanting to get aboard that they have had to turn people away. There is a web site that has stories about it.

<http://www.uslst.org/lst325.htm>

They have stories on this site about it being in Evansville. Evansville turnout has surpassed all other cities it has been to.

Editor.

### **LST**

Ray France says he spent time on an LST when he was in the Marines. He went from Cherry Point N.C. to Puerto Rico on an LST. They were in a war game. He says he never saw any action in the war.

### **GERMANO**

I've tried to get different ones of my family to write Paul for the Swope News Letter but can't seem to get them interested. I think they'd have a lot of interesting things to tell.

Don has retired from his office but keeps an office at home and works from there. They've taken a lot of interesting trips.

Amy (granddaughter) still teaches. Her husband, an interior decorator, has a client in Poland. He's made several trips there.

Gyanne and Charlie are both retired but plan a trip to Ireland in the fall.

Kelly (Gyanne's daughter) Rick and Sarah, their daughter, have a lovely home near Orlando. He's sort of a real estate salesman – sells malls to corporations etc. Their daughter Sarah is a talented ballerina – goes to interstate competitions and wins a lot of trophies. (Age 12)

That's my family in a nut shell!

Anna Isabel Swope Germano McKeeby

**FROM KATHRYN SOSBE**

It's been a great summer. Everyone is healthy and happy.

I'm excited about the fall semester at school to continue working toward my degree. In the meantime, I'm working on my American Sign Language skills and volunteering at the local deaf center. Beginning in mid-August, I'll be working at the center part-time and will be paid for what I'm doing now. It's a nice, short commitment that ends in December. Although my ALS classes don't begin again until October, the majority of our class meets once or twice a month to practice and laugh at each other.

Victor and I took a leisurely drive to Colorado to visit the girls and watch Sarah graduate from the University of Colorado with a double major in history and English and a minor in ethnic studies. (Don't know if you can sense my pride.) We had a very nice reception at the home of Victor's brother and sister-in-law. It was wonderful. I surprised Sarah by inviting her favorite elementary school teacher, her favorite high school teacher and her favorite basketball coach. It was wonderful to see her face. It was more hysterical to see her face when she found out that Laura and I had "stolen" a quilt her Aunt Mary made for her when she was about 8 and hasn't been without since. Mary made a new quilt for her that was supposed to be exchanged for the old, tattered version. It didn't work. The new quilt is absolutely beautiful, and Sarah is happy with both. It was great to see all of Sarah's friends. And a good number of professors paid a visit in her honor. Our favorite was Judge Jane Looney, whom Sarah has looked up to for many years. Jane has given Sarah a lot of helpful advice about becoming and being a lawyer and a strong person.

We visited a lot of friends in Colorado before heading out first to Santa Fe, N.M., then to Asheville, N.C. In Santa Fe, Victor bought me my beloved squash blossom necklace and a few other trinkets. In Asheville, we toured the childhood home of Thomas Wolfe and decided to join the Wolfe Society and buy two roof tiles for the restoration of the home. Seems some unknown person decided to torch the place a few years ago. After almost \$3 million in restoration work, the home should open again in the fall. I strongly suggest that area for a nice vacation. It's absolutely beautiful. We plan to return soon.

After a few weeks back home, Laura and Sarah arrived with a car overflowing with Sarah's belongings. It was wonderful to have them both in the house laughing. Laura stayed for a short time before flying back to college, where she was part of a leadership group for a summer camp. She's moving to a new apartment before she starts her last year of college. At the end of the year, Laura shared in the Paul Chambers Outstanding Student Organization of the Year for the Black Student Alliance, of which she is the president. She also won Outstanding Junior of the Year and completed the Albert C. Yates Leadership Development Institute. The icing was a \$1500 scholarship. She's doing very well there. Sarah and I hope to entice her out to the east coast so we can be close again.

Sarah, meanwhile, has been working very hard at the Teach for America summer workshop. She's staying at Fordham University for five weeks, teaching summer school in the Bronx by day and attending seminars and preparing lesson plans in the evening. The institute is tough. They aspiring teachers go from about 5 a.m. to midnight. Sarah said about a dozen people have left the program. It's not easy, and they were never told it would be. Sarah got her first -- and was the first teacher to receive -- a thank you note from a student. It was very sweet. She has a group of sixth graders. In her down time, Sarah is doing her best to see the museums and wonderful explorations in New York, including a Yankees game, the Empire State Building and the Guggenheim. I'm begging her to get an apartment with an extra room just for me. It's a quick train trip, so I figure we can room together on the weekends! So far, she's not going for it.

As you can see, life is good. I hope all is well with everyone.

Love  
Kathy

### **SCHLOTTMANN**

We have been busy baking. It is a big time in Riesel, TX as we are having the fair again this month and all the German recipes are coming out of the closet.

We have been busy selling pies, cakes for the 1st United Methodist Church in Riesel and being the Secretary I have been kept busy trying to keep up with everyone.

We also had the most successful Tadpole Fishing Event again with over 2,200 kids attending. M&M Mars candies helped us, as well as Coca Cola being our biggest contributor besides Wal-Mart.

Love doing all this and Manfred is getting better by the passing months so all we can ask for now. Wanted to be there at the reunion but not in the budget this year. Hello to all and love to hear from everyone.

Hot, Hot, Hot down here but the yard and the flowers are so beautiful.  
Jo Sosbe Schlottmann

### **THE DUNBAR FAMILY**

What a busy summer we have had. Where to begin? I guess I will just start at the beginning.

The week after school let out Megan went on a mission trip with Old North Church. They went to a settlement in Kentucky and rebuilt a porch for a single mother raising two kids. They also had enough time to make her a sidewalk. The week after she got back, she went to Texas to visit and stayed down there until Paula came up for the reunion.

Eric, Blake and Andrew all played baseball for Scott league and had a lot of fun. What a chore juggling them between all their games.

June 14<sup>th</sup>, all the boys were outside catching lightning bugs. Andrew, the 4 year old, fell with his jar and cut his right palm to the bone. He had to have surgery on the 20<sup>th</sup> to reconnect tendons and nerves. We are doing therapy at home and also going to a therapist twice a week. We are hoping to get all motion back. But, right now there is so much scar tissue the tendons aren't sliding correctly. The doctor is talking about possibly going through another surgery to free up those tendons from the scar tissue. We are

praying he doesn't have to go through another surgery.

Now, on to much happier news. Megan participated in the Vanderburgh County 4H Fair horse shows. She ended up winning 7 first places, 2 second places and 1 6<sup>th</sup> place. She also won Key Point, which is overall grand champion in the junior division. She is showing in State on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

It's hard to believe summer is almost over already and school starts on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August.  
Karen Dunbar



Magen Yoder and her Fair Trophies.

### **FROM FRANCES**

Each of the boys called last week. Kevin is in Tikrit at an air base. He said they live in an air conditioned building now. His unit is helping guard the air base.

Kerry is at camp Anaconda. His unit is still hauling fuel.

David is at camp Doka, Kuwait. None of them has any idea of when they will return to the states.

My sister and brother-in-law from Baltimore, MD stopped in on July 24<sup>th</sup>. We had a nice visit catching up on all the kids and grand kids.

From Audrey France

## **FROM THE EVANS**

I talked with Lois and she said her arm was broke and couldn't write (a good excuse, it's not). She had a back tooth break off when she was on vacation and has now had the root pulled.

I've had cataract surgery, Wednesday July 23, I stayed all night with Janice and came home Thursday. No Problems. Only in time I'll have the lower eye lid operated on as its turning in and the lashes are scratching my eye, making it feel like something is in my eye. The Dr is having me use a narrow piece of tape and pull the lower lid a bit down.

Janice is in Chicago this week end, on an appraisers meeting. She will have new blades put on her ice skates.

I'm still quilting, Audrey embroidery cross stitch squares, she sews them together and I do the quilting.

Haven't heard much that's going on at Jean's. Michael is a life guard at the city pool this year 12:30 to 8:00. And also teaching swimming in the morning.

Andrew is playing baseball with the town team and then both boys will do swimming and baseball next year up in high school.

Jean and the boys will fly in August 26 and go back Monday September 1. I have jobs waiting for the boys.

From Evelyn Evans

## **PAULA SUE SWOPE AND RATLEY FAMILY IN TEXAS**

Hello All! Not much going on down here. HOT is the only word I can come up with. I hope it is cooler wherever you are.

I just LOVE reading about Aunt Isabel's memories. They are so interesting. I have asked Dad to write about his Dad's (Ralph Swope) store. I'm very excited that he is actually doing so. I keep adding things for him to write about! I wish more people would write down their memories. We can put them all into a book, wouldn't that be something? Our children, grandchildren, etc would be able to read about our lives.

Aunt Nancy gave me some of Grandma Swope's diaries and I've been typing them up so more people can have access to them. It is a slow process, but I'm working my way through them. I'm hoping to get them on CD's for anyone that would like to have them.

I'm still working at the local college in the Library Computer Lab. I sure have a lot to learn about libraries, filing books and so forth. I really didn't think there was much to it, but I'm learning differently. I am finding there are more and more places on the internet that are set up for educational research. There is just so much to learn when you start a new job.

We've kept the grandkids a few times since the last Swope News was printed. We sure do love to have them, but then we are so glad to see them go. \*smile\*

Richard and I had a lot of fun at the family reunion. We ended up cutting our Evansville visit short; Richard got a call Sunday morning before the reunion that his father had passed away, so we headed back to Texas early Monday morning. We got to see more family at the funeral, but isn't it a shame to gather only at a wedding or a funeral? Richard and his brother presided over the funeral, Richard doing the sermon and his brother giving the eulogy. It was a nice gathering. Both of Richard's boys made it to the funeral. Tim flew in from Fort Belvoir and Ric taking time off from his job at the prison.

I want to say that I'm very proud of my niece, Megan! I know how much time it takes to get a horse ready for a show and how much practice it takes. Congratulations, Megan! I hope you give your Mother a BIG hug for her support; you couldn't have done it without her.

I'm planning to be up sometime around Christmas. Hopefully, I'll get to do some visiting!

Love and Best Wishes to all our family,  
Paula Sue & Richard Ratley

## **COOKSEY**

I'm always slow and late for things like writing for the family newsletter but here goes, at least a little.

Leslie and I feel so incredible lucky. God has looked over us and helped us launch four lives from our home after divorce and second marriage entered our lives. It's not easy being step-parents and we worked hard at raising kids and keeping our marriage sound. There were times, as you might imagine, with four teenagers and two of us working at tough jobs, that we were pushed us to that point where you can't take it anymore. But we made it, and almost every day Leslie and I have a conversation that goes "Remember when the kid

were struggling with ..... Thank God that's behind us."

We are now so proud of our kids and are rewarded with two grandchildren who are absolutely adorable. In order of age, Sara (22), Matt (23), Gwen (24), and David (25) deserve incredible credit for taking hold of their lives, establishing goals, carrying high morals, sticking to difficult tasks, and becoming responsible young adults.

Recently, Leslie and I have been making new goals of becoming happy and active empty nesters. Chicago is a untapped resource in our lives and we are busy investigating the Museums and library's, the jazz joints and the theaters, the festivals and the fine restaurants, the orchestras and the ball fields. I often take a Metra train to Chicago and ride the various trains and busses that permeate the city finding new and interesting places to investigate in detail later. I have a book titled "Twenty enlightening walks in Chicago" that I intend to accomplish during the next year or so.

Wisconsin (our 12 mi. away neighbor) is also beckoning. We are studying and visiting the festivals, the lakes and rivers, the canoe streams, the resorts the incredible little towns full of appealing antique shops, unique restaurants and unusual stores.

Leslie is still working but over the years has risen to manager at Rust-O-Leum paint company and has a nice block of vacation time that she can spread over three and four day weekends. It's my job to find activities we can do. I love it and am getting better at it.

By the way, at the last reunion Leslie and I visited an antique shop in downtown Evansville and found a large copper pot adequate to make apple butter in. We have a fire pit. Jeanine and Richard Riggs supplied us with a recipe (thanks cousins) so if are near Chicago, give us a call and we can make some Apple butter together.

I feel so lucky to be part of the Swope family. My aunts Elnora, Mame, Kathryn, Laura, Isabel, were so important in my life and shaped in a way hard to describe but makes me proud. My mother and Dad, Alice and Clarence Cooksey were strong wonderful people: thank you all, thank you all, thank you all, Someone will probably notice that I left out my Uncle Ralph in the above. I'm sorry to say that Ralph died just before I was

born, but I do have at least one thing to thank him for.

Sincerely;

Ralph Kendal Cooksey

**JP AND AIMEE SWOPE**

Tallahassee, Florida

Hello to all the Swopes, McCutchans, Frances, and so on and so forth!

First, I would like to apologize for not taking advantage of these newsletters sooner. My grandpa has worked very hard to try and unify our family and I have not jumped on the boat. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me at any point in my life, that I have in my own selfishness and pride never given the proper respect and thanks that you deserve. In a time when family is a foreign word, I am learning how important and precious it is to have family that loves, takes care of, and believes in staying close in heart. This is not the nature of my soul but I do want to change it. I will be writing an article for each newsletter to come or as long as my Grandpa will allow me to. For the sake of space in the letter and just for fun, I am going to write in parts. My goal is to let anyone who desires to know about my life the chance to read about it. Since I am also learning the great importance of history in helping us make better choices for the future, I am going to begin with the beginning, or more like the beginning of my adulthood. If you desire to know about my childhood, you can talk to my grandpa, Paul, or my dad, John.

I hope you enjoy!

In 1995, I graduated from Mt. Vernon Senior High School in Indiana. That summer I decided to attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. My main focus was to be a great wrestler, whatever that means?! The focus on wrestling and lack of it on school produced a much better, stronger wrestler but it also produced a wrestler on academic probation with a 1.5 GPA. With little to no good study habits I decided that college was not for me and joined the US Air Force on a split second decision coming home from work at five in the morning. I met the recruiter at the door that morning at 7:30am and told him I wanted to "jump out of planes". That is how I started my Air Force career.

I blew through basic and then began the Indoctrination course for the Air Forces's Special Operation Forces, my job was to be a Combat

Controller. It was a very intense course that was ten weeks long. Aimed strictly at weeding out the men or boys that could not work as a team, had the tendency to quit, and would be more of a liability than an asset in combat. The class that I graduated from started with 90 men and finished with 9!

From there we were off to complete what's called the Pipeline training which is a series of schools including Combat Dive School, Airborne Jump School, Survival/SERE School, Air Traffic Control School, HALO/HAHO Sky-diving School, and Combat Control School.

I will continue my history in the next newsletter.

To let you know, Aimee, my wife is currently working for American Homepatient as a home health nurse. I am going to Tallahassee Community College and will transfer to Florida State University next year to pursue a Business Management degree. I am a teen minister for the Tallahassee Church of Christ.

([www.thetallahasseechurch.org](http://www.thetallahasseechurch.org)).

We are very happy as we learn how to be married, stay faithful to God and to each other. We look forward to seeing everyone at next years reunion.

End of Part 1 of "JP Swope's Article"

#### **FROM PAUL**

I guess I better get a little something in before we close this. I haven't been up to much. Working on a Reitz reunion, the Swope reunion and the McCutchanville School reunion. Evelyn tries to keep me on the straight and narrow. Don't know how successful she is.

Paul Swope

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#### **FROM THE EDITOR** **REUNION**

The reunion turnout was small again this year. Been looking for suggestions to bring more excitement to it. The colored shirt idea seemed to go over well. I'm sure we will do that again next year.

One suggestion has been to have the reunion at Burdette Park. They do have air conditioned buildings and there are lots of things for the younger generation to do and that may attract more families. I would very much like to hear

comments on Burdette Park. Reservations have to be made quite a time in advance so let me know soon. The cost would be some higher.

If there are other ideas for a location or date please let me know and we will see what can be done. Just let me know.

#### **OAKHILL CEMETERY**

The monument company promised to have the new markers in place by September 12<sup>th</sup>. Yes they have been ordered. Nancy Glackman, Evelyn France and I ordered them June 17<sup>th</sup>. There was a 12 week delivery before they would be set in place.

There will be two double stones 10" x 18" x 36". The double stones will be for James Asbury Swope and his wife Jane Hull Swope, and the other for Albert Asbury Swope and his wife Sara Ann Swope. There will be two single stones 10" x 14" x 20". The single stones will be for Edward B. Swope and the other for Henry E. Erskine. The Civil war memorial stone now in place for A. A. Swope will be reset backed up to his new stone.

As soon as the new stones are set in place I will take pictures and send them out attached to an email.

There are three old stones that will be removed. Anyone that may want them will have to let the monument company know next month. If no one wants them the monument company will break them up and use them in foundations for other stones.

#### **E-MAIL**

I send out periodic emails to everyone I have email addresses for. If any one in your family has an email address that I don't have get it to me.

#### **ACCOUNTING**

There is a page with this years accounting as a page in this news letter. I set up the physical year from one reunion to the next. Anyone wanting to look over things is welcome to do so.

#### **NEXT NEWS LETTER**

In keeping with our decision to have three news letters a year, the next news letter will be published in December. Remember to get your family articles and memory articles to me between now and December.

Check the mailing list for other family members you think should get the news letter.

Check the address, advise of changes.