



SWOPE NEWS



A.E. Swope
1870-1955

Kate Swope
1870-1939

2015 Reunion July 25th



Mayme
1890-1953

Ralph
1892-1948

Elnora
1894-1997

Laura
1900-1991

Kathryn
1903-1981

Alice
1905-1985

Isabel
1908-2011

Year 2015

No 1 January

Editor Paul Swope

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RICHARD A. RIGGS, 88 of Evansville, passed away Sunday, June 15, 2014 at Deaconess Hospital. He was born May 18, 1926 in Vanderburgh Co. to James and Kathryn (Swope) Riggs .



Richard graduated from Reitz High School in 1944 serving as president of Future Farmers of America and received his BS degree from Purdue in Agriculture in 1952. He served in the Army during the Korean War teaching radio theory. He was a long time dairy farmer in Vanderburgh County. He

won the last county corn shucking contest in 1941 as it stopped due to the war and then machines took over. Richard was a dairy farm leader, from hand milking and mules to modern pipeline, selling cattle from coast-to-coast, and Canada and South America. He judged many district, state and national shows over his long career. He was a member of the Indiana Livestock Breeders Hall of Fame, past president of American Dairy Assoc(ADA of Indiana), Dairy Council IN/KY, KYANA Milk Producer with over 3000 members, board member of ADA, United Dairy Industry

National Milk Producers Federation, lifetime board member and treasurer of Dairymen Inc for 25 years, National All-Jersey, Inc, board member of American Jersey Cattle Club for 30 years, was finance chairman, bred and owned All-American winner. He received a district service award in 1986 for State Premier Breeder and Exhibitor. Richard was a lifetime member of Bluegrass United Methodist Church holding many positions including lay teacher and serving on the building and vision committee at age 85. He enjoyed visiting others and serving his community and was the first county chairman of Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP).

Richard is preceded in death by a brother Floyd Riggs and his parents.

He is survived by his wife Jeanine of 61 years; daughters, Ann White (Dale) of Boonville, Jan Weiss (Tom) of Evansville, Patty Marcum (Anthony) of Newburgh, Pastor Jeanne Winter (Sandy) of Danville, IN and Nancy Richards (Jeff) of Grandville, OH; 10 grandchildren, Gabe Weiss, Jason Weiss (Maribeth), Kara Sergesketter (Dustin), Katy Marcum, Chris Winter (Kristin), Megan Mattingly (Jalen), Brian Winter (Bre), Austin, Cameron and Evan Richards; 8 great grandchildren, Zethian and Rowyn Weiss, Henry and Maggie Weiss, Cruz and Duke Sergesketter, Anna and Allison Winter; brother, Ross Riggs

(Mae) of Danville, IN; sister-in-law, Lois Riggs of Evansville and nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 2:00 - 7:00 pm Tuesday June 17, 2014 at Ziemer Funeral Home North Chapel, 6300 N First Ave, Evansville, IN 47710 and will continue from 10:00 - 10:30 am Wednesday at Bluegrass United Methodist Church, 14240 Petersburg Rd, Evansville, IN 47725.

Funeral service will begin at 10:30 am Wednesday June 18, 2014 at the church with Rev. Doug Heiman officiating.

Burial will be in the church cemetery where the Retired Veteran Memorial Club will conduct graveside services.

VERNON GEORGE REZENDES, age 88, passed away peacefully Tuesday, July 8, 2014, surrounded by his family.



Vern was born in Oakland, CA, graduated from Berkeley High School. A true member of the "Greatest Generation", he was raised by his beloved Aunt Grace during the

Great Depression. He enlisted in the United States Navy at the onset of World War II and defended his country in the Pacific. After World War II, utilizing the GI Bill, he attended and graduated from the University of California/Berkeley.

Vern enjoyed a 41 year career with Chevron. His career gave him great satisfaction as it enabled him to live in and visit countries all over the world. He enjoyed traveling, reading, painting, watching baseball and especially – sitting on his back deck looking at all of his plants, flowers, watching hummingbirds and squirrels.

He was preceded in death by his loving Aunt Grace and Uncle Joe Duarte, his parents Tillie Ignoffo and George Rezendes.

Vern is survived by his wife, Judith; children Kris Cook of Martinez, CA, Suzie (Danny) Manuel of Ocean Springs, MS, Laurie (Richard) Galle of Martinez, CA and Michael Rezendes of Tacoma, WA. He was also blessed with 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren and many other loving relatives and friends.

Connolly & Taylor Funeral Home in Martinez, CA will be handling funeral arrangements. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The Hospice of the East Bay, 3470 Bushkirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

MAE M. RIGGS Danville, Ind.



Mae M. Riggs, 85, Danville, passed away September 15, 2014. Born on January 27, 1929 in Evansville, she was the daughter of William C. and Clara M. James Melloy. Mae graduated from Bosse

High School in Evansville and attended Purdue University for Home Economics. She married James Ross Riggs on June 26, 1949. Mae was a member of the Danville United Methodist Church. Survivors include her husband, Ross; sons, Michael (Anna) Riggs, Roger (Renda) Riggs, Roy (Katie) Riggs, all of Danville; daughters, Rebecca (Phil) Gladhill, of Minnesota, Maribeth (Jay) Williams, of Avon; brothers, Boyd, Bruce, Carl Melloy; 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Her parents and brother, Ross Melloy, preceded her in death.

Calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2014 in the Danville United Methodist Church and also on Friday, September 19, 2014 from 10 to 11 a.m. with services immediately following at the church. Contributions may be made to the Danville United Methodist Church Building Fund 820 W Mill Street, Danville, IN., 46122.

Additional calling will be from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 20, 2014 in the Blue Grass United Methodist Church with the service to begin at 3 p.m. Burial will follow in the Blue Grass Cemetery. Contributions may be made to the Blue Grass United Methodist Church Building Fund 14240 Petersburg Rd Evansville, IN 47725. Baker Funeral Home, Danville, is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at www.bakerfuneralservice.com

AUGUSTA, GA

Peace to all in 2015! We hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. Our family has been able to enjoy a few family gatherings this year. In July all of our GA family was able to meet most of our FL family (my Aunt Gyanne, cousin Kelly and her husband Rick) to see Kelly and Rick's daughter, Sarah Meahl, perform at the famous Fox Theatre in Atlanta, GA. She was the stunt double for Ariel in the Broadway Musical Version of *The Little Mermaid*, and also performed other parts in the show. It was the first time any of us in GA had seen Sarah performing live, and it was very exciting! The show was very well done with colorful costumes, creative sets, and very talented actors!

This fall we enjoyed seeing my son, Fuller (10th Grade) perform with his local dance performing company in the ballet *Sleeping Beauty*, and in Dec. as the Prince in *The Nutcracker*. Our daughter Lily is a senior, so this year has been all about trying to prepare for college! She has been accepted to both her top choices. Please join us in praying for financial aid and scholarships to work out so that she can attend the one we feel the Lord is leading her to. Thank you! She continues to volunteer to teach ESL (English Second Language) classes to internationals here in Augusta, and loves it! One of her students gave her a Thanksgiving card on which he had written, "Happy Thanks Given." We smiled, but it is true - we should not forget to give thanks for all of our many blessings!

We celebrated Thanksgiving with my parents in their mountain house with their cute new puppy, Skye. We also were able to get together with them, my brother Brian, and his daughter Jennifer in Atlanta right before Christmas. Jennifer gave birth on 12/27/14 to a beautiful daughter, Hannah Lynne, so now I'm Great-Aunt Amy (that makes me sound so old!) We're very thankful for a safe delivery, and look forward to meeting our newest family member soon!

On a final note, on Christmas morning Lily handed me a booklet she'd made up of poems she'd written and artwork she'd done during the past year. It's titled *Memory Trails II* (honoring the first one which was published by my grandfather, Guy G. Germano)

She's dedicated it:

for *Meme* (her deceased great grandmother, Anne Isobel Swope Germano McKeeby)

for *Charlie* (her deceased great-uncle Charlie Smith, Gyanne's husband)

for *Melissa* (my deceased best friend from childhood)

- with love.

That meant so much! It reminded me that although time passes on steadily year after year and those whom we love may be far away from us physically, they are still close by - for they live always in our hearts!

Love to all from Amy Germano Tice (Anne Isobel's youngest granddaughter, Don's daughter)

FROM BRIAN GERMANO

This is Brian Germano (grandson of Anne Swope-Germano-McKeeby). I just wanted to let



you know for the Swope newsletter that our daughter Jennifer gave birth to a baby girl yesterday (Dec. 27). Hannah Lynne Prosba was born at 5:33pm, 7 lbs, 7 oz, 19 inches long at Kennestone hospital in Marietta, GA. I think that would have made her Anne's Great-Great Granddaughter. Mother and father (and new grandparents Trish and I) are doing well.

HELLO FROM THE LAWTONS!

The Lawton's have seen some changes for 2015. Tim and I have relocated to Florida. I retired from Bristol Myers after 33 years. My retirement gift was a camera I am sure my Grandfather would have loved to use. I only hope to learn to use it and eventually share some photos like he would have taken. The move to Florida and change in

lifestyle is going well. I miss our son and his wife (Kyle and Shalee) in Evansville . They are expecting their first child in July. WOW!!! I will be a grandmother! We miss our other son and his fiancé (John and Kathleen) too; they will be getting married in November 2015. We are extremely excited about these events.

Short and sweet! Happy New Year to all!!!

Kim

FROM DANVILLE INDIANA

Happy new year to all! As we reminisce over the years, there are many events that shape our lives and keep us connected as family. Thanks to Paul Gene, for keeping this connection going. And as generations change, those of us born into this family must endeavor to sustain that connection.

Ross and Mae Riggs thought this was very important. And as Kathryn's oldest granddaughter, I sensed grandma thought this was very important to her as well.

As with any family, our year has been filled with many joys and sorrows. The Christmas of 2013 brought our entire family together at mom and dad's house. When the house was built some 25 years ago, they had a vision of a big family gathering for holidays and family functions. We are all so glad they had this vision, since there were 39 of us to eat dinner and celebrate our Lord's birth. Most of the family lives nearby in Indiana, but some family traveled from Louisiana, Ohio, Minnesota and Canada.

Grandma Kathryn's influence resonates each holiday, from the plum pudding to gathering around the piano to sing carols and even dance! We were all thankful for this opportunity, especially because Mae had been suffering with various health issues since July of 2013. And, like Grandma Kathryn, she was the queen of Christmas!

Even with health issues, Mae and Ross were able to go to their Florida home one last time during the winter of 2014. They enjoyed many of their friends from Florida. Dad played shuffleboard, organized tournaments and of course there were weekly card games, mom's ceramic classes, water aerobics and just enjoying the warm weather.

After returning to Indiana this past spring, mom's health took a turn for the worse. Never the less, Mae and Ross celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 26th with the majority of the family present for the celebration.

Mae fought a courageous battle with cancer. She went to her heavenly home on Monday evening, September 15th. The celebrations of her life, both in Danville and Evansville were uplifting and brought us together to thank God in all circumstances. Pastor Jeanne Riggs Winter (Richard and Jeannine's daughter) officiated at both services, which made it even more special.

Dad has since had various health issues and is currently in and out of the hospital, rehab and assisted living. Please send any cards or letters to:

Ross Riggs

C/O Roger Riggs

4971 West US 36

Danville, IN 46122

Ross and Mae have many blessings, beginning with a love for each other and their Lord, 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Each has unique talents ranging from engineers, singers, executives, teachers, occupational therapists, artists, famers, business owners a Naval Commander, musicians and most importantly moms and dads. We are truly thankful for our family, jobs, community and the God that is in control of it all.

Wishing all of you a happy, healthy New Year!

Becky (Riggs) Gladhill



Mike, Roy, Roger, Becky, Maribeth, Mae and Ross

HELLO FAMILY FROM TEXAS!

I spent Thanksgiving with Richard and family in Texas. My friend from Mississippi came over for 10 days with horses and we had a great time riding and visiting. I then took off to spend Christmas and New Year's in Indiana with my Dad

(Paul Swope), sister (Karen Swope), brother (John Swope), niece (Megan Yoder-on leave from the Navy) and nephew (Will Yoder). I was also able to spend time with my Aunt Nancy and Uncle Gene.

What a great visit! Spent 18 days in Indiana and had great time! Did not care for the cold temperatures and looked forward to getting back to warmer weather in Texas.



Dad, John and I went up to Ellettsville and visited with family on my Mom's side; Uncle Dan Rogers and his family. Loved seeing everyone!

2014 has been a good year. My riding buddies all got together and went to the Dallas Symphony Brass Christmas Concert. Great night!! My business partner (Val) and I went to San Antonio for 3 days. Saw the Alamo (of course), one of the missions and the Japanese Gardens. Wonderful time. I have lived in Texas since 1973 and had never made it to San Antonio. The River Walk was wonderful all decorated with lights for Christmas.

Richard is still working as a horse shoer, although he is slowing down more each year. I'm going to secretary 9 horse shows in 2015 and work with Val (business partner as Two Texas Women). We will do several horsemanship clinics and trail competitions. I'll be giving riding lessons again all summer and have been asked by www.circlestarpetresort.com (Circle Star Pet Resort) to give riding lessons at their facility.

It has been a wonderful year and I'm looking forward to 2015. Hoping to see all the family at the reunion. Richard and I will be there!!! Love to all my family!

Paula Sue Swope

HENRY FAMILY

Here is an update on the family of Hugh S. Henry. My husband Walt and I spent Christmas with Mom (Marge Henry) in West Lafayette, Indiana. She is 99 now and doing pretty darn good for that age! Her sight is failing and so is the hearing, but her mind is good. We were joined for a day by my daughter Caryn and her hubby Mike Davidson, so that Mom could see her pregnant with our first grandson. He will make the 4th great-grandson for Mom! Sisters Jerilyn Dille (Washington state) and Jana Maples (Florida) and I (South Carolina) make trips as often as possible to see Mom and make sure that she is well taken care of at Westminster Village! They do a great job, by the way! I know her days are lonely and she misses Dad.

Would enjoy hearing from any of you. Her address is,

Marge Henry
2741 Salisbury Street C-13,
West Lafayette, IN 47906.

Grand children and Great-grandchildren (Elisa Dille Macfadyan, Evan Dille (Jacob and Markus), John Maples (Jace), Caryn Senour Davidson and Kaylan Senour are all doing well in their respective endeavors.

Hope this finds all of you in good health for the New Year.

Joetta Henry Senour

THE COOKSEY'S

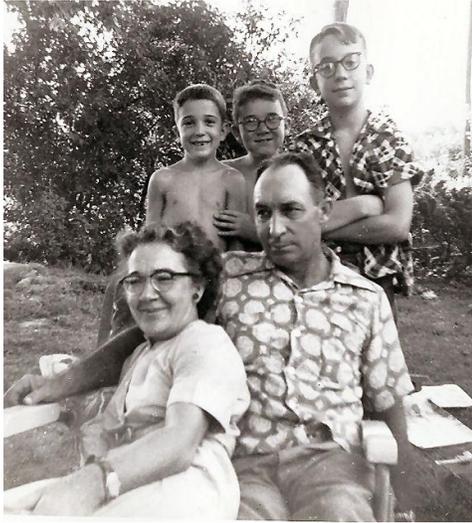
It's been a long time since my brothers and I have been together or have had Paul Gene add any news to the Swope letter.

My brothers and I were able to spend some



time at my house this summer at a retirement village called Saddlebrook Farms. It is located just north of Chicago in Grayslake, IL. Attached are a

couple of pictures. One of our family years ago (Mom, Alice and Dad, Clarence) and another picture of Randy, Steve and I taken this summer. I'm the handsome one! Actually, in the recent picture Randy is on the left (middle child), I'm in the middle (the youngest) and Steve is on the right (the eldest). My brothers and I are all retired teachers. Steve still works as an organist in a large church near his home in Winchester, Va. Randy and Denise live in Peoria, IL.



My wife, Leslie and I have four children and 8 grandchildren in the area. (Ages 3-15 yrs). The boys, David and Matt and their wives are both

expecting new babies this spring, God willing. David and his wife Amanda lost their baby, Nathaniel, last February. He was still born.

I keeping busy these days' playing cards and visiting grandchildren. I like playing bridge, poker and canasta, but haven't found anyone that knows how to play Clabber, yet. If you are ever in the area, stop in and play Clabber with me. I still remember how.

Leslie and I took guided tour through the Canadian Rockies last June and hope to plan another trip soon.

Happy, healthy new year to all!
From Ken Cooksey (Alice Swope's youngest)

FROM CLIPPINGER ROAD

There's bad news from here. My 10 year companion has problems. The vet says she can't last too much longer. After she goes I'm too damn old to get involved with another dog. She was a wonderful companion, but that's all for dogs.
Paul Swope

FROM LEISURE LANE

We don't have much news from here on quiet Leisure Lane.. Our big item to report is our new great granddaughter, Seville Rose. She is our oldest grandson Jake and wife Lori's first child. She was born Nov. 30. We have two great grandsons Zion10, and Leon who are our granddaughter Julias children. Unfortunately they all live in Ardmore,Pa. We hope they can all make the trip to Indiana next summer.

Our daughter, Meg is in a nursing home for therapy after she was hospitalized because of repeated falling incidents due to her M.S. We're boarding her cat "butterscotch" and enjoying every minute of having a cat in the apt after being catless for over a year. Gene says my disposition is much improved since she is here. We have also been feeding two strays on the back porch for several months {against Leisure Living policy}. One is a big seal point siamese and the other a long haired tabby and white. They are both very untrusting but manage to eat the food and drink the water that we put out twice a day. We've been worried about them during the extreme cold weather we've been having and have fixed them a straw filled covered box retreat they can use. We think someone may have moved away and left them to fend for themselves.

Gene has undergone a round of cemo this fall and early winter. He had been diagnosed with a form of chronic leukemia several years ago and was told at that time that it might not bother him for twenty years but his hematologist who has been monitoring his blood decided he needed treatment now. He has tolerated it well, hasn't been sick etc., just gets tired easily. We think he's done with cemo unless it should flair up again sometime in the future. We consider ourselves very blessed.

We had Christmas here with all our Evansville family on the Sunday before Christmas. We had eight adults and five children. It was quite cozy. We made it to the beautiful service in the old church on Christmas eve. It was good to hear the organ again and the candlelight service was heartwarming. No matter how often you hear the Christmas story it never grows old! I woke up Christmas day with a

"bug". I suppose Santa left it for me but, I believe I'd rather have had coal in my stocking!

We keep active at church and here in our community but are limiting our travels to closer to home these days. We seldom venture out at night anymore.

Gene and I will celebrate our sixty fourth anniversary the end of this month. If we're still around next year we're contemplating a big celebration for our sixty fifth.

The best wish I can make for everyone in the family for this New Year is for good health, we don't appreciate it until we get older!

Nancy

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 25 2015. Get there between 11 and noon and we will chow down at 12. Stoll's is just south of I 64 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 there are pictures. I have put some of the 2014 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 \$853.95 in the checking account, with the \$0.04 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. 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?