

SWOPE NEWS

2000 REUNION JULY 16



A. E. Swope

Kate Swope

Mayme

Ralph

Elnora

Laura

Kathryn

Alice

Isabel



Volume: 1999

After Reunion Issue

July 1999

Editor Paul Swope email gswope@aol.com

HELLO TO ALL!

The 1999 reunion is over and it's time for another issue of the SWOPE NEWS. There were favorable comments made at the reunion and I believe every one was in favor of continuing the news letter. I have lots of information to put in and pictures. In the opinion of those present three news letters a year would be enough. There was a good return in the contribution pot so there are funds enough to get out larger news letters. Remember that the only ones getting this news letter are the ones on the address list. Please pass the News Letter around to others in your family whose name is not on the address list.

ADDRESS LIST

The address list is enclosed and if anyone else in your family needs to be on it let me know.

MILLENNIUM REUNION DATE

Those present at the reunion decided that the year 2000 date should be 16 July. Mark your calendars and there will be more information later.

FAMILY TREE

The tree displayed this year was over sixteen feet long. Some there indicated I did not have all of their family information included. All you have to do is get the information to me and I will get it recorded.

Remember if you have a computer with one of the family tree programs, I will be most happy to send a complete tree that you can put on your computer. Just ask. We want to make sure the work that is accumulated is not lost. The more people that have it the better.

PICTURES

There was a computer set up at the reunion showing family pictures. Not all families were represented because pictures were not available of all families. If you would like your family pictures shown get the pictures to me and I will have them on the "show" next year. If you want to drop by and see what is in the "show" just let me know.

50th Anniversary

James Ross Riggs and Mae Melloy Riggs celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary 19 June 1999. The celebration was held at the Twin Bridges Golf Club at Danville Indiana with all of their Children in attendance. In fact their Children put on the celebration. There was good attendance and a good time was had by all.

JENNIFER DUVALL

On April 13, 1999 at the University of Southern Indiana, Jennifer was inducted into the Golden Key Club of the National Honor Society. Jennifer is a Junior, majoring in

English. She is the daughter of Sue Swope and granddaughter of Grace Swope.

NOTE FROM ANN ISABEL MCKEEBY

I came to this retirement home four years ago. I made up my mind when I came here, though it was a traumatic move, to stay active, and I have! I have done several book reviews and also a series of talks based on Paul Harvey's "The Rest of the Story" and also a series on the First Ladies of the White House. These were given for an audience of about 30-35 residents.

I've been serving as a volunteer at the information desk 4 or 5 times a week. I do the devotional for the opening of our weekly council meetings. Right now I'm rehearsing for a part in a short skit we will present at one of our council meetings.

I attend Sunday School and Church in College Park and take my turn serving in the Church Library which I helped organize years ago. I love to read and get books from a Book Mobile that comes twice a month.

I play Skip Bo several evenings (6 of us) and attend exercise and Bible study classes. I walk at least 1/2 mile a day, sometimes a mile.

I enjoy my family, including 6 greats!

I doubt that I'll ever be able to come to your reunions, but I will be thinking of "y'all" and wishing you health and happiness!

Best wishes,

Anne Isabel McKeeby

March 22, 1999

NOTE FROM EDITH YOUNG BONNER

Thanks for keeping me up on the Swope News. I wish I could attend the reunion and see every one.

I lost my son, Ronald Bonner Dec 11, 1995, and my husband Miles Bonner April 13, 1997, and in 1998 I fell and broke two vertebrae in my back and had colon surgery the same year.

I've sold my home and I'm living in a retirement home in Anna, Illinois, and am improving now.

Thanks,

Edith Bonner

March 27, 1999

NOTE FROM DON GERMANO

A little update on the Germano family. I am still practicing law with my own firm in Atlanta. Sara Mac is still teaching. Son Brian is an Ordained Methodist Minister living in Augusta Georgia with his wife Trish. They have one daughter, Jennifer, age 5. Brian is working on his Doctor of Ministry at St. Paul Theological in Kansas City, MO. Daughter Amy lives with her husband Jerry Tice, also in Augusta. He is an interior designer. They have two children, Tily, age 2 and William Fuller age 5 months, our first grandson.

Besides our grandchildren, gardening, cooking (and eating) we like to travel. We are returning to Italy over spring break. I have been studying Italian for about a year.

Because of my love of history, for about ten years I have given occasional presentations, costumed portrayals of Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Abraham Lincoln and John Wesley, to church, schools and civic groups.

Don Germano

March 1999

Pictures that Don sent were included in the family presentation at the 1999 reunion.

OLD SWOPE HOME

SWOPE HOME

What the France's remember about living at the Swope home where Granddad and Grandma lived.

This came about because of a fire that destroyed the France home on Whetstone Road in McCutchanville.

One February night in 1944, Elnora France was across the valley back of our house up a hill to Petersburg Road planning a Valentine's party with Alta Paterson (a sister-in-law). When Elnora was on her way home through the valley over the fence, up the hill, she saw that the house was on fire.

Jean, the second oldest child, was up reading and smelled smoke, ran to the back of the

house and saw the fire. She immediately got her brothers and sister (Lawrence, Ray, Curt (Bud) and Lois) out of the house and called Uncle Ralph Swope. Jim was away in World War II. Evelyn was in nurses training living in Evansville. Jean gave four long rings on the crank telephone, which meant emergency and everyone would answer. At that time, there was no fire department in McCutchanville and the well went dry. There was no electric pump, just a pitcher pump and that was in the back of the house where the fire started. Uncle Ralph and all the other men got all the furniture out of the house except the new kitchen range that was too hot and in the back of the house. Lois can remember waking up sitting by the big leaning tulip poplar tree in the front yard. She thought it was really great because right beside her was Bud's wooden box full of his farm animals. She was never allowed to play with them so this was special. Later someone took her and Bud over to the Moffets to spend the night. The house burnt to the ground.

Elnora had an old tin can (like a coffee can) filled with Indian head pennies in the hall closet. After the fire had cooled off about a week later, all went back digging through the rubble looking for all of the pennies! But it was never found. Someone else must have found them first.

The next day was the decision day! What to do and where to go. No one was living at the old Swope home so that is why and where they went. Trucks hauled all the belongings down the long lane to the large old Swope home. It was a large house with a large kitchen in the back with a pantry, stairway to the back cellar, a pitcher pump and sink to the right of the back door. There was a large coal stove along one wall where the bread was baked and for heat on those cold days and nights. The coal pile was outside and had to be carried in by buckets. In the winter, the snow had to be swept off before bringing into the house. From the kitchen was a long hall with no light in it. Grandma used to hang her coats etc.. in there. At the end of the hall was a dresser and a pot, no bathroom. A store room was in the back

at the end and a door to the bedroom. On the other side of the kitchen was the door leading into the large dining room and there was a large built-in cabinet along the wall. The upper shelves are where Grandma Swope kept her good dishes but the bottom under the shelf we could get in and hide. There was a trap door in the floor that led down to the front cellar with an outside door on the east. That is where the carbide gas generator was kept for lights before electricity. There was an outside door to the west and on this wall was the crank phone and a large window with a couch in front of it. Under the stairway was a large closet where the kids could hide. From this room was the stairway to the upstairs.

From the dining room was the door to the bedroom and to both of the front rooms (as there were two front rooms). From the bedroom there was a door to the east outside porch and a deep well on the porch. The main outside door that was used was the one that came in through the bedroom. That door was never locked so if there was a knock on the door, someone would just yell, "Come in". Well, one winter evening, Lois was taking her weekly bath in the wash tub in the dining room (the only really warm room) behind a folding screen. There was a knock on the door and someone yelled, "Come In". Mr.. Felker, a man from the church, walked in. He was quite a talker and he and Elnora talked forever it seemed to Lois. The bath water got cold and she just had to sit there quiet, afraid that he would hear her.

In the well, part way down, was a shelf where food was kept to keep cool (milk, eggs, etc..). In the east living room as Evelyn remembers, was Alice's baby grand piano in the corner of that large room. The two large doors between the two living rooms pushed back into the wall, one each way. There was a fireplace or so-called grate and a large bay window on the west wall. The Christmas tree

was always in this bay window. The year Jim France was in the war, the tree was left up all summer until he came home that fall. There were double large windows in both of the front rooms looking to the South. It was very cold in that old house. The only heat was the cook range in the kitchen and a warm morning stove in the dining room.

Often the pump in the corner of the kitchen froze overnight. The bedroom downstairs wasn't as cold as the ones upstairs so on really cold nights, Elnora would heat a brick or two on the stove in the dining room, wrap it in a towel and put them in the bed. The bed would be nice and warm when crawled into. When it snowed, the boys upstairs would wake with snow on the floor and blankets. There were two large rooms upstairs in the front of the house. The boys used the room on the East and Isabel's furniture was stored in the West room. There was another room up there in the back over the dining room where the girls slept. It was also cold but not quite as cold as the stairway door was sometimes left open. In the summer time, the boys would take a cot and sleep out on the large upstairs front porch

One night a tornado came through and damaged some P47s down at the airport and broke a window on the west side where Isabel's furniture was and that had to be fixed.

Evelyn remembers staying all night with Grandma and Grandpa Swope often with Marjorie and Jane McCutchan. She can remember that Granddad sat in his comfortable chair at the end of the dining room table with his pipe and read the paper. Grandma sat on the other side by the stairway. When Evelyn wanted to go uptown from Reitz High School, she would get off the bus at Franklin Street and walk up First Avenue. Then she would go to Granddad's office in the Court Building and ride home with him. But that was before we lived there. Granddad Swope lived in Evansville when we lived in the old house. It was said that he rode the clutch (kept his foot on the clutch).

There were lots of suppers with fried potatoes and stewed tomatoes. On Christmas, the oldest boys (Hugh, Bob, and Don Henry, Dwight and Bub Swope. and Harold McCutchan and adults ate first, then the cousins. The boys had to do dishes while the rest of them ate. After Grandma died and Grandpa still lived there, the M.Y.F. had a New Years party there. Elnora France went down and fixed oyster soup and chili then they played games.

When Evelyn graduated from nurses training in August 1945, she went to work at Deaconess Hospital and rode to and from work with Uncle Jack McCutchan. Sometimes she had to ride the Petersburg Bus which came out on Whetstone Road and get off at Uncle Ralph's store and walk down Petersburg Road, cutting down a path at the top of the long hill and coming out by Alice's house, then on down through Uncle Jack's pasture, passed the old barn to the house.

Granddad would often have 4th of July fireworks in the field in front of the house and always had peanuts in the hull.

The France's also moved the cows, chickens and ponies into the old barn and chicken house. There was no water at the barn so water either had to be carried from the house or let the cows go down to the pond. But in the wintertime, the pond froze over and in the summer it went dry. There was a large woods pasture for the cows and horses down a long lane past the pond

Uncle Jack had pigs and two big Percheron horses. Bob was black with some white and Ding, the bigger one, was gray. Bob was smart. Bing was not. In the spring and winter, the long lane from the road to the house would always get muddy with very deep ruts. Uncle Jack would often get stuck with his Model A Ford, so Ross would get Bob to pull the old Ford out of the ruts on his way back home.

The barn was very large with two large hay

rooms with logs from floor way up to the roof. There was a silo on the west end from the cow manger. Horse stalls were all the way down the long entryway. There was a large swing from one of the large timbers that crossed the entryway. In the back was an old horse drawn sleigh and a wheat binder.

Ross McCutchan would bring Bob and Bing up and plow the garden and work it down. There was a large garden with grapes down the middle. The plow was so big that he could hardly get it upright to plow. There were many corn cob fights in that old barn and firecrackers were dropped from inside the top of the silo just to hear the extra loud bang. As of April, 1999, this silo still stands. Just look up the hill of Highway 57 and you can see it. Some of the Catalpa Trees are still there and the circle drive is there yet.

A P47 airplane from the airport ran into Uncle Jack's house while the France's were at the Swope home. It really nearly missed the house as one wing hit a tree on one side, the other wing hit the house and the rest of the plane went down the hill into a pig pen. The pilot was not hurt.

At the back of the house was the outhouse, down a long cinder path under a big catalpa tree. In the summer were those big catalpa worms. This house was a three holer and before the days of soft wipes, so a Sears Roebuck catalog was always on the seat to look at and enjoy.

Out the back door of the house was a large concrete slab and a summer kitchen with a smokehouse attached where meat was cured. There was a dinner bell on one corner of this porch and two cisterns on the other. There was a large brooder house with a wood shed on end just beyond the porch on the way to the large chicken house.

There was a two car garage just beyond the wood shed and beyond that was the hog pens. When we got there, everything was in bad condition. The hog

house was about gone, the wood shed roof leaked and the barn was a total disaster. But those large timbers in the barn were as solid as a rock.

Cows, ponies and chickens had to be fed and watered before breakfast and off to school. Instead of walking down the long lane, we would cut through behind Aunt Laura and Alice's house through the pasture and come out at the top of the hill to catch the bus that Bub Swope often drove.

Reminiscence by the France Family

Curt France, Author, 1999

Lawrence France

Is on his feet and doing well after his heart bypass operation. He was at the reunion and was his old self.

Jamie Lee Loyd, daughter of John Swope, has a new arrival. Brianna Lee Loyd was born 03 July 1999. Both Mother and Daughter are doing fine.

I want to thank every one who sent me information by either letter or e-mail. Remember, if you don't send me something, your family may not be represented in the News Letter, and if there is no news there will be no news letter. The next News Letter will be about the end of the year. Information please.

I think every one who came to the reunion this year had a good time. I know they got enough to eat. Hope more of the family can be at the reunion next year.

Thanks again,

Paul Swope

email address - gswope@aol.com



Lois France, Evelyn Evans and Jane McCutchan.



Kathryn Gale Sosbe.



Floyd Riggs, Jeanine Riggs and Richard Riggs.



Mary Helen Sosbe.



Mae Riggs and Evelyn France.



If you weren't here you missed the food!



Folks stayed after to visit.



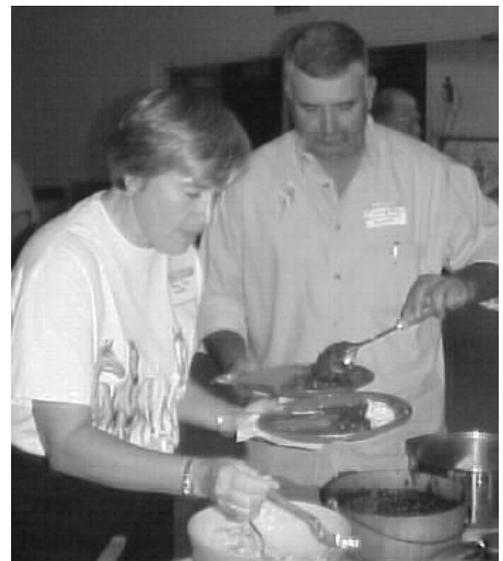
Food Food Food!!



Shoving it down!!!



More Food!



Paula and Richard from Texas.

No	Name	Address	CityStZip
	-----MAYME SWOPE	HENRY-----	
01	Cornelia Henry	1100 Erie Apt 612	Evansville, IN 47715
02	Hugh & Marjory Henry	2741 N. Salisbury #1203	W. Lafayette, IN 47906
03	Mary Lou Henry	520 Leicester Cir.	Louisville, KY 40222-5023
	-----RALPH H. SWOPE		
04	Harlan & Kitty Swope	803 Cardinal Drive	Evansville, IN 47711
05	Kathy Speicher	1303 Mary Street	Evansville, IN 47710
06	Margaret Swope	2916 N. Bedford	Evansville, IN 47711
07	Ted & Penny Glackman	517 E. Spring Ave.	Ardmore, PA 19003
08	Nancy & Gene Glackman	10122 S.E. Browning Rd.	Evansville, IN 47725
09	John & Beth Swope	5811 Hartman Road	Mt. Vernon, IN 47620
10	Karen Ann Yoder	Rt. 1 Box 1599K	Athens, TX 75751
11	Vicki & Ronnie Nobles	111 Bedford's Bend	Gun Barrel City, TX 75147
12	Paula Sue Swope & Richard Ratley	11691 C.R. 1200.	Malakoff, TX 75148
13	Grace Swope	2100 Jefferson Ave.	Evansville, IN 47714
	-----ELNORA SWOPE	FRANCE	
14	Curtis & Ruth France	11235 Pocahontas Road	Marine, IL 62061
15	Lawrence France	8918 Whetstone Road	Evansville, IN 47725
16	Evelyn Evans	8640 E. CR 200 N	Otwell, IN 47564
17	Evelyn France	8924 Whetstone Road	Evansville, IN 47725
18	Lois France	2510 Glen Hill Drive	Indianapolis, IN 46240
19	Ray & Audrey France	1592 N. County Rd. 900 E.	Otwell, IN 47564
	-----LAURA SWOPE	McCUTCHAN	
20	Doris Dauble	2285 State Rd. 580 Apt. 304	Clear Water, FL 33763
21	Harold McCutchan	3800 Skunk Run	Mt. Vernon, IN 47620
22	Marcia M. McCutchan	P.O. Box 816	Mt. Vernon, IN 47620
23	Jane McCutchan	5737 Tribby Lane	Evansville, IN 47710-4311
24	Marjorie Hart	21315 Mullan Road	Frenchtown, MT 59834
25	Jack & Mary Kramer	21315 Mullan Road	Frenchtown, MT 59834
26	Neil & Judy McCutchan	1740 Terry Cir. NE	Winter Haven, FL 33881
27	Ross & Joyce McCutchan	1313 Main Street	Mt. Vernon, IN 47620
28	Kathryn Gale Sosbe	511 E. San Rafael St.	Colorado Springs, CO 80903
	-----KATHRYN SWOPE	RIGGS-----	
29	Thelma Riggs	5805 Tribby Lane	Evansville, IN 47710
30	Floyd & Lois Riggs	13940 Petersburg Road	Evansville, IN 47725
31	Richard & Jeanine Riggs	13701 Petersburg Road	Evansville, IN 47725
32	Ross & Mae Riggs	642 N. 200W	Danville, IN 46122
	-----ALICE SWOPE	COOKSEY-----	
33	Kendal Cooksey	560 Fair Hill Road	Libertyville, IL 60048
34	Randyl Cooksey	914 N. Sheridan Road	Peoria, IL 61606
35	Steven Cooksey	501 Loudon	Winchester, VA 22601
	-----ISABEL SWOPE	GERMANO McKEEBY-----	
36	Isabel McKeeby	7290 Lester Rd. Apt. E49	Union City, GA 30291-2324
37	Don & Sara Germano	435 Dix Lee Dr.	Fairburn, GA 30213-3613
38	Cindy Bibliowicz	257 SW 159th Lane	Sunrise, FL 33326
39	Kelly Meahl	11006 Lake Katherine Circle	Clermont, FL 34711
40	Rev Brian & Patricia Germano	2501 McDowell St.	Augusta, GA 30904
41	William & Amy Tice	3004 Bransford Rd.	Augusta, GA 30909
42	Gyanne & Charles Smith	5019 Brighton Dr.	Jacksonville, FL 32217-4816
	-----COUSINS-----	-----	
43	Debra & Mark Payne	1036 Covert Ave.	Evansville, IN 47714
44	Edith Young Bonner	610 Annavista	Anna, IL 62906
45	Jack Swope	P.O. Box 177	Cloverdale, IL 46120
46	Kathryn Mann	P.O. Box 853	Blytheville, AR 72315
47	Robert & Lovye Young	1300 Hathaway	Evansville, IN 47712
48	Ruth Schellhase	1925 E. Gum Street	Evansville, IN 47714
49	Loretta Marie Heyen	2447 South 8 th Street	Terre Haute, IN
50	Autumn Swope Taylor	6 Rollingwood Lane	Sandy, UT 84092-4803
51	Nancy Swope Smith	R.D. 3 Box 234	Tyrone, PA 16686