

Livingston-Watson News

Be sure to visit the LWFA web site for up-to-date news all year long and use our dedicated e-mail address to get in touch with LWFA leaders!

www.livingstonwatson.org
livingston.watson@yahoo.com



2019 Issue

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News About the 2019 L/W Reunion

The 95th annual Livingston -Watson Family Reunion held last August was a big success. The weather was beautiful, and 45 family members from across the country joined us for two days filled with events. Details about the 2018 reunion are included in this newsletter, and photos from the events are posted here and on the L/W Flickr page.

Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to join us for the 2019 reunion on August 3. As in past years, we will begin the day at the historic Rock Church and Cemetery for a memorial service at 10:30 a.m. The church is located at 470 Rock Church Road in Livingston, Wisconsin.

Date: Saturday, August 3

Place: Rock Church and United Methodist Church

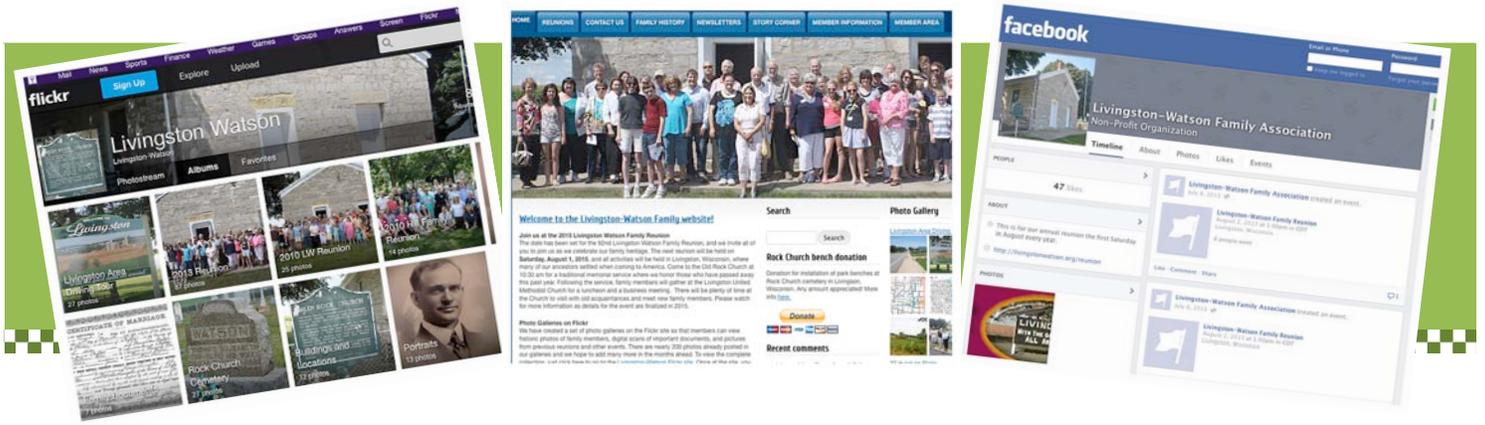
After the service on Saturday, we return to town for a potluck luncheon and program at the Livingston United Methodist Church located at 415 W. Woodward Street. We hope to see you there!



Help Us Build Our E-mail Contact List

We continue to collect e-mail addresses from members so that we can communicate with you more efficiently, share family news throughout the year, and save mailing costs. It just takes a moment—send a quick message to the LWFA address below and share your e-mail address as well as those of other family members who you would like to add to our contact list.

Livingston.watson@yahoo.com



How to Reach Us and Share News

In our continuing efforts to reach as many family members as possible, the LWFA has several online resources:

Livingston Watson Web Site (<http://livingstonwatson.org>)

This site is filled with information about our family history and special events such as the annual memorial services and reunion gatherings. You can also find copies of historical documents and newsletters. We continue to add to these pages, so if you have documents you wish to share, please contact us at:

Livingston.watson@yahoo.com.

Livingston Watson Flickr Site (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/livingston-watson>)

This site serves as the main online resource for many photos and documents that pertain to our family history. We currently have albums devoted to such topics as past reunions, family portraits, important locations, and scanned documents. With your help, we hope to add many more images to our Flickr galleries so that they are easily available for all family members to view and download.

Livingston Watson Facebook Page (<http://tinyurl.com/livingston-wi>)

Like our main web site, our Facebook page is filled with posts about upcoming events and other information relating to the history of our family. We invite you to “like” the page and participate in the discussions so that you can share your ideas and stories with other family members.

We also have a dedicated e-mail address that you may use to ask questions, provide us with your contact information, share stories about your family history, or share documents or photos of interest to other members of the association: Livingston.watson@yahoo.com

If you have a family picture you would like to share, just go to the Facebook page, write a post, and share it. We also encourage you to go onto the Flickr account and load it there. Or, you can just send photos and related information to the association’s email address and we’ll do it. If you have a question about an ancestor, you can go on the Facebook page, write a post, and publish it. Be sure to check out the web site to see if there is any information there, and review the contact membership list to make contact with specific people or contact us via the email address.

We are hoping more and more of you will provide more family information and photos to expand our information on the web. Please don’t throw out any family history information –instead, send it to Jane Washburn, 5429 Westshire Circle, Waunakee, WI 53597, and she will make sure that information is shared for all to see.



Minutes From the 95th Livingston-Watson Reunion

Family members of the Livingston -Watson 95th Reunion were greeted with warm and sunny weather in Livingston, Wisconsin, for the two-day event on August 3 and 4, 2018. There were approximately 45 attendees this year.

Several family members met on Friday afternoon in Platteville, Wisconsin, to learn more about genealogy research and how to document research findings. The presentation was conducted by Eleanor Brinsko from Carlon Genealogy. The event continued into the evening as we enjoyed a catered meal and shared introductions, stories, and lots of laughs.

On Saturday, August 4, we gathered at the Rock Church Cemetery for a tour provided by five members who each highlighted a person in their family branch. Terry Olson spoke about Russell Hill, Kurt Roskopf spoke about Gladys Watson Dolphin, Kay Moen spoke about Sarah Woodward and Arch Rundell, Nancy Washburn spoke about Thomas Watson Jr., and Sue Kirschbaum spoke about Hugh Livingston.



After the tour, we proceeded into the Rock Church for the annual memorial service for those who had passed away the previous year. Don Myers read obituaries for John Gelmo who passed away in March, 2018, and John Wilkey who passed away in January, 2018. Molly Jones reported that her father Donald Kennedy passed away on December 5, 2016, and her mother, Marianne Pearson Kennedy, passed away on July 6, 2018. Also, Martha Tunall and siblings reported that their mom, Jean Thornton Galbraith Meikle Hegler, passed away at the age of 95 on October 28, 2017. Sue Kirschbaum presented a flower to each family member in remembrance.

David Allen, a member of the Rundell Biddick family, spoke at the service about how growing up in a small town had influenced his life, values and the importance of family. It was an excellent message for a family gathering. Jane Washburn provided a brief history of the Rock Church. She explained that Boseman Clifton took out a loan to build the church at 30% interest and that the floorboards in the church are original to the structure. Imagine how many of your ancestors have walked on them over the years! She pointed out that the songs that were sung at the 1927 reunion are the same songs that we have sung and still sing at the memorial service today. To give a sense of historical and social perspective, Jane reminded us that the women entered through the north door and sat on that side of the church and that the men went through the south door and sat there. Kay Moen provided her skill at playing the old pump organ. As is our tradition, a picture of those attending the memorial service was taken on the front steps of the church.

After the memorial service, we proceeded to the Livingston United Methodist Church for a potluck luncheon and program. Kevin Olson, the president of the association, provided a warm welcome to everyone. After lunch, Jane Washburn, the Secretary-Treasurer, shared a few announcements. The reference table had pictures from the 50th reunion, the program from the 3-day 1927 reunion, a picture from an early reunion featuring people who have yet to be identified, and information about Wicklow County in Ireland and Alston Moor where Joseph Watson originally lived. We are still collecting money for another bench at the cemetery. One family indicated that they wanted to purchase one in memory of their mother. If any other families are interested in purchasing a bench, they should contact Jane within a month. She informed everyone that she has moved recently and her new address is: 5429 Westshire Circle, Waunakee, WI 53597.

Recognition gifts were given out to selected family members. The youngest attendee was Alana Roskopf and the oldest attendee was John Frederickson who was also recognized for having traveled the greatest distance to get to the reunion. It should be noted that a friendly discussion amongst the Meikle family from Oregon followed in which they shared their thoughts on who among them should earn that distinction. Kay Moen was recognized for having attended the most reunions.

James Hibbard, an archivist from the SW Wisconsin Room, was our guest speaker. His presentation centered on the steps involved when trying to solve a mystery about family histories. He spoke of clues such as a tombstone in a field, the identity of a person in a photo or a determination of where and when a photo was taken. For entertainment, Julie Lybeck spoke to us about Irish dancers and what is involved for dancers who belong to a troop. Two of her children provided a demonstration of the dance and soon had the entire room up and learning the dance! There was a photo booth set up for families to commemorate their attendance at the 95th reunion. Those pictures are all posted on the L/W Flickr site.



LWFA: 2018-2019 Officers and Committee Members

We are grateful for the time and effort that the following people have devoted to the family organization this year:

President: Kevin Olson

Vice President: Sue Kirschbaum

Secretary/Treasurer: Jane Washburn

Committee Members: Kay Moen, Don Myers

Newsletter: Dick Marchessault (Layout/Design), Jane Washburn (Editor), Nancy Washburn (Proofreader)

Website: Lance Hill, Dick Marchessault, Hannah Rudstam, Jane Washburn

Facebook: Susan Wachowski



2018 Memorials

The following family members were remembered during the Memorial Service held at the Rock Church on August 4, 2018



Donald W. Kennedy
December 5, 2016

John Wilkey
January 1, 2018

John Gemlo
March 9, 2018

Marianne August Kennedy
July 6, 2018

Jean T. Galbraith Meikle Hegler
October 28, 2017



If someone in your family has passed away, please let us know and we will recognize them at the next LWFA gathering and in the newsletter. Memorials received for 2018 were:

Donald W. Kennedy, 94, died of natural causes in Bellevue, Washington, December 5, 2016. Don was born November 4, 1932, in Vancouver, Washington, to Vesta Parker (White) Kennedy and John William Kennedy. He had one sister, Barbara, and two older half-brothers, Leo and Carol White. In 1941, Don was appointed to the Naval Academy and was in the Navy for 26 years. He married Marianne A. Pearson on May 30, 1947. Don is survived by his wife of 69 years, Marianne, and all his eight daughters, nine grandchildren, and one great grandchild. He was predeceased by his half-brothers and his sister Barbara (Kennedy) Youngerman. He is buried at Arlington Cemetery.

John Wilkey, age 77 of Coon Rapids and Alexandria, Minnesota, passed away on January 1, 2018. John was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Mary Wilkey, and his nephew, Michael Rinde. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Sandy (Rinde) children Susie and Scott Anderson, Rob and Amy Wilkey, grandchildren Alex and Paige Wilkey, John (Jay) Anderson, sister-in-law, Karen (Dan) Berke, brother-in-law John (Carol) Rinde, and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. A memorial service was held on January 6, 2018, at Thurston-DeShaw Funeral Home in Andover.

John Gemlo passed away peacefully at the age of 95 with family by his side on March 9, 2018, at Lasata Care Center in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. He is survived by his wife Mary (nee Skaife) and children Alan Gemlo, Lucy (Mike) Greer, Dawn Koeper, and grandchildren Zachary Greer and Molly Koeper. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he returned to college. He graduated from the Electrical Engineering School at the University of Wisconsin with honors in 1947. He worked for the Square D Company for 40 years. John enjoyed the outdoors and played golf and tennis, but he enjoyed camping and hiking in our national parks most of all. He is buried at Rock Church in Livingston, Wisconsin.

Marianne August (Pearson) Kennedy died on July 6, 2018, in Bellevue, Washington. She was the widow of Donald W. Kennedy her husband of 69 years. Marianne was born in Sycamore, Illinois, on April 23, 1923. She was the daughter of Alta G. (Hill) Pearson and Albin Bernard Pearson. She graduated from UW Madison and the University of Denver with a Masters in English. She served as a WAVE (Lt.jg) during the Second World War, in secure communications. Marianne was on the faculty of several colleges including Old Dominion in Virginia, SUNY Albany and Skagit Valley College. She also completed credentials to work as a school principal and was a judge's assistant in the Thurston County Courts in Olympia, Washington. She is survived by her eight daughters: Kathleen (Jay Cloidt), Donni (Jim Hines), Molly Jones (and her daughter, Hayley), Liz (Bob Kechley, son Murren), Carole Skolrud (Kevin), sons Severin (Emma & son Otso) and Tristan (Selena & son Tristan, jr.), Melinda Kasraie (sons Michael and Mark), Melissa Jacobsen (Ian, daughters Natalie and Emma Alex Lawsen), and Jenny (Ed Pike and daughter Sarah). Marianne is pre-deceased by her siblings, Kathleen, David, and Keith. We are delighted to have received our newest member of the family, Otso Skolrud, within a half-hour of Marianne's passing, on July 6, 2018. We are also grateful for the care she received in the last years of her life from Tina and Andy Florea. She is buried with her husband at Arlington Cemetery.

Jean Thornton Galbraith Meikle Hegler passed away Oct. 28, 2017, leaving family and friends who will miss her forever. Born in Fort Frances, Ontario, on March 2, 1923, to William D. Galbraith and Ellen F. Galbraith, Jean had two older brothers, David A. and William J. Galbraith. She graduated from Fort Frances High School. At age 20, she moved to International Falls, Minnesota. In 1947, she married Donald T. Meikle from St. Paul, Minnesota. Jean was a lively, wise, and witty woman. Above all, Jean excelled at being a mother, grandmother, friend, and wife. She was always ready to join the fun, give a party and listen when someone needed to talk. She taught most of the grandchildren and neighborhood kids how to swim in the back-yard pool. She loved to dance and travel and volunteered for her church and community groups, including SMART, into her 80's.

Jean is survived by her children, Susan Stoops, Maggie Meikle, Martha (Ken) Tunall, Donna (Jerry) Moss, Donald Meikle and Carla J. Nicholson. She is also survived by grandchildren, Amy (Jed) Kittell, Katie Moss, Andrew (Lisa) Tunall, Sarah Tunall, and Janelle Stoops. Jean enjoyed her older great-grandchildren Heidi, Shawn and David (Lisa). She was pleased to meet and spend time with her great-granddaughters, Maeve Kittell and Ada Tunall, in the last year.



During the long history of the annual Livingston-Watson reunion, the events of the day have started with a memorial service in the Rock Church. Here, family members who have passed away during the previous year are remembered with stories about their lives. The photos above were taken at services held in recent years. Kay Moen is always a familiar face at the old pump organ as she leads the family members in traditional hymns.

Getting to Know: John Frederickson

My name is John Frederickson and I live on the shores of Rainy River in Minnesota, overlooking the country of Canada. I'm always eyeballing Canada to see that they aren't invading us. Just kidding--the border between Canada and the United States is probably the safest border in the world.



My maternal grandparents were Reverend William Meikle and Susan Grace Livingston Meikle. My grandfather was a Free Methodist Presbyterian minister and was also a missionary to Japan for nine years. They were blessed with six children: William, Hugh, John, David, Donald and my mother Margaret.

My fraternal grandparents were Reverend Frederick Frederickson and Grace Arena Frederickson. My grandfather was a Methodist minister. They were blessed with five children: my father Franklyn, Margaret, Naomi and Fred. Ironic, isn't it, that both of my grandfathers were ministers.

My parents were Franklyn and Margaret Frederickson. They were married on March 10, 1933, in St. Paul, Minnesota, by my maternal grandfather. I always tell people that I was born on March 12, two days later, which is not true. It was two years later.

My father was born on November 27, 1906, and my mother on July 6, 1911 in Osaka, Japan, where my grandfather was serving as a missionary. My parents were blessed with five children: Kay, Bob, Jean, Will, and me.

I am the first born of Franklyn and Margaret Frederickson, born on March 12, 1935, in St. Paul, Minnesota. I attended elementary school in various places in Minnesota as my father was employed as a forester by the federal forest service, state forest service and Boise Cascade Corporation. When entering fourth grade, we moved to International Falls, Minnesota, where I presently reside. I graduated from the local high school and Bemidji State College. Previous to attending college, I served in the army and, after my service, I attended college but didn't apply myself and quit. I then worked in various jobs in the local paper mill. After a number of years, I returned to college and graduated with a B.S. in education from Bemidji State College. I then taught school for seven years. I later returned to International Falls to help my mother who had some serious health problems. In 1992, I had a heart attack and was no longer able to work as a substitute teacher, so I retired. After that I volunteered to drive people to medical appointments and was also an advocate for the office of ombudsman to nursing home patients. Presently, I belong to an amateur choir, attend church regularly, and also attend the Memory Café. The Memory Café is for those whose spouses or relatives have dementia or Alzheimer's disease and for those interested. I made it to the 95th Livingston Watson reunion along with many others from the Meikle family. We hadn't attended since we were children.

Memorial Bench Project for Rock Church Cemetery

Due to several families purchasing a remembrance bench for their loved ones, the Livingston Watson Family Association has fulfilled the Rock Church's request for new benches. Over the years, members of our organization have purchased 7 benches! We have had such good reports from the groundskeepers as to how well the benches stood up to Wisconsin winters. They reported that they frequently see people using them. If in the future, you wish to remember someone from your family, contact Jane Washburn at jawwisc@gmail.com to make arrangements. They could always use a few more benches around the church building. Thanks everyone for your wonderful donations to enhancing the Rock Church cemetery.



REMEMBER TO . . .

- Send obituaries of passing family members; they will be recognized at the next year's reunion
- Pay your membership dues
- Look for your family history records and send information to Jane Washburn
- Look for any old photos of the reunions
- Share any newsletters that are not currently on the web site
- Post news on the organization Facebook page

Blast From the Past

We love getting old family photos that help us to remember the people and places that are important to the history of our family. Each year, we try to include a few of those photos in the newsletter.



Bess Hannan



Mary Ann Watson Hill



Thomas Watson and Wife

Blast From the Past



Children of Alta (Hill) Pearson
Marianne, Keith, Kathleen and David



Bess Hannan's Home in Montfort



John and Mary Ann (Watson) Hill Farm

Livingston/Watson Association Information

Preserving Family Records

Has a loved one moved or passed away and you are busy going through their belongings? If you come across any Livingston/Watson information and don't want to keep it, please send it to Jane Washburn at the address below and she will add it to the archives. The Southwest Wisconsin Room lets us keep our family records there free of charge. The records are stored in a protected, temperature controlled area to keep them safe.

Membership Dues

The family association charges a membership fee to help cover costs of the reunions. Membership involves a modest charge of \$5 for a single person or \$10 for a family including spouses and children residing in the same household. The membership year runs from August 1 to July 31 each year; however, if you join after April, your dues will cover the next year's membership.

There are several ways to pay your dues:

1. By Paypal: Go to the Livingston Watson web page and click on the "Join" button and follow the instructions
2. By Mail: Please send the check payable to the Livingston Watson Association and send to the treasurer:

Jane Washburn
5429 Westshire Circle
Waunakee, WI 53597

3. At the reunion

In addition to paying annual membership dues, you can also use any of the above methods to send a donation to the family association to help defray costs of other projects, such as the purchase of benches to be placed at the Rock Church and supplies needed to organize the files stored at the SW Wisconsin Room. Please consider supporting the family association.

