



Watts Reunion Inc.

Newsletter, December 2005

Editor: Jacob Sanders

From The President

Let me begin this note to you by saying thank you to all of you all who made the trip to the reunion this year. The general consensus of everybody I talked with, including Caroline and the girls, felt that this was just about the best one ever. I'm not sure if that's actually true because I just think we generally feel like the last time we saw family was the best meeting ever. This is how it should be, of course, so that we will want to make plans to see each other again. Thanks to all who were in attendance at the Watts Reunion 2005 for making it great. Also, let me quickly thank the officers and board members who work very hard behind the scenes to make sure that everything runs smoothly. Once again they came through with flying colors.

Well, it's Christmas time again. I declare it seems like it comes earlier every year. This is truly a special time of year as each one of us feels like a kid again and each day holds the excitement of anticipation. To me, one of the most amazing things about this season is how everyone extends their hand of kindness and goodwill without being asked or wondering if they are supposed to. I think about what a different and wonderful world this would be if we all would be like this for the rest of the year. I watch with pride as my children eagerly await what is without a doubt their favorite part of the Christmas season, of course they enjoy the presents and great food and treats like all the rest of us, but what they like best is when their mother takes them out to the mall where they get to take a name from the angel tree and go shopping for someone who needs someone to give them a Christmas this year. If this is a character trait of a child, may we never grow up.

Merry Christmas!

Calvin Watts
President, Watts Reunion, Inc.



Watts Reunion, Inc.
Wishes You and Yours A

Merry Christmas

And a Happy New Year!

Scholarship Report

The 2005-2006 David Watts Memorial Scholarship Recipient is Cherise Michelle Mingus. Cherise attended Central Hardin High School and graduated in the top 10% of her class with a 3.85 GPA. Cherise was selected for the Governor's Scholars Program, which gave her the opportunity to experience college life for five weeks at Eastern Kentucky University, living in a dorm and major in creative writing.

Cherise has been very active in extracurricular activities as well. Her singing and dancing talents have kept her busy. Cherise participated in the Youth Theatre of Hardin County and served on the advisory board as well. She also was the dance captain of the school show choir. Cherise has proven her leadership ability by serving as president of the FCCLA and secretary for the FCA and the Beta Club. She also serves as State Historian with the Kentucky FCCLA.

Cherise's plans are to attend Lindsey Wilson and Major in Elementary Education. Cherise is the daughter of Gordon and Cherie Mingus of Elizabethtown Kentucky and has one brother Michael. She is the granddaughter of Shafter Watts.

Congratulations Cherise, and God Bless!

-- *Connie Watts*

Christmas Without Ashford

By Stephen D. Bowling

The Christmas of 1917 was especially difficult for Hiram and Polly Watts. Two of their children were now gone. Their first loss, Adelia Watts, struggled for life from the moment of birth and died at the age of four in 1902. The pain they endured came from the vacant chair left by the death of their son, Ashford.

Ashford was one of the throngs of Breathitt County men and boys who rushed to volunteer for a chance to "Kick the Kaiser" at the beginning of World War I. Ashford enlisted in Company F, Second Kentucky Infantry along with many boys from Breathitt On April 9, 1917.

While walking his guard duty post on the night of May 12, 1917, a C & O Passenger Train exited a tunnel while coasting downhill at a high rate of speed and struck private Watts. He suffered a severe blow to the head and was dragged for some distance by the train becoming the first Breathitt County soldier to die during World War I. There would be others to follow.

His body was brought back to Jackson by Captain Brack Short, the army chaplain, a bugler, and his cousin, Roscoe Neace. Ashford Watts was buried in the Nathan Noble Cemetery near his sister. Hiram and Polly and their remaining twelve children passed the Christmas in the same ways that many American families will be passing this one- a family member short.

This Christmas, let us pause to thank the men and women of the American Armed Forces and remember those men like Ashford Watts whose loss will always weight heavily upon the heart of those who miss them each Christmas. Let us remember the sacrifices of those who are now serving to keep us free and safe.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

More Than Santa

As long as I can remember, Christmas time has been a time of joyous anticipation. It seems as though from childhood even until today, that I have always felt that there was a greater mystery in store than Santa or the many gifts he could provide.

The gifts that we exchange and the festive meals we share with family and friends are all great but they still leave me with a longing for a closer relationship with our Lord Jesus, who was born so many years ago in the most humble of circumstances that he could pay the price for our redemption.

I think of the simple Christmases we had as I was growing up and wish that we as a nation could return to those simple times and also give our hearts and souls to the Lord.

What a Merry Christmas it would be to see our Country in revival and coming to the Lord in repentance. May we all celebrate Christmas with heartfelt love for the Lord and our fellow man.

My prayer is that each of you would have the best Christmas ever and a happy and prosperous new year.

Love,



Fred Watts

From the Vice President

Watts Cooking did so well, as most of you know, so we decided to do *Watts Cooking Volume II*. After we started talking about another cookbook, we began getting calls for the old one. We had several, so we decided it would be wise to have a few more printed. That is what we did. The order has already been mailed and by the time you get this newsletter, the old one will probably be here. I called and they said they could get it to us soon.

We have completed the new *Watts Cooking Volume II*. It has also gone to the printers, but of course will take a little more time, since this is the first copy of it. We don't have a date yet, but as soon as we get one, we will get it out to our folks.

It was amazing at the number of recipes and the folks who supported us during this second volume of Watts Cooking. We were extremely blessed.

Our special thanks to all family and friends who took ads in our new cookbook. You will have a treat, because we will come by to personally deliver your *Continued on back* ▶

▶ *Continued from Page 3* copy of the new cookbook as soon as it arrives. Thank you so much for your continued support to the Watts Reunion and the education of young adults.

Our best wishes to each of you during the Holiday season. May God richly bless you and touch your life during this time of the year. Paul and I send our love to each of you and will be praying for you. When it goes well with you, please pray for us.

Brenda Watts
Vice President
Watts Reunion, Inc.

Condolences to Ida Combs and her family in the loss of her grandson, Jim;
and to John and Connie Watts in the loss of John's father, William.

Connie Watts
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