



Watts Reunion Inc.

From The President

It's the holiday time of the year again, recovering from eating too much candy on Halloween, celebrating our blessings on Thanksgiving (grateful that elections are over if nothing else), and sharing the joys of love and kindness during the Christmas season. Enjoy your family and enjoy these times because in a few years we will probably look back fondly on this year's holidays when they weren't so commercialized and the true meaning of the season was realized. As with all things, Today's newfangled ideas and "pop culture" will be tomorrow's "good old days" when traditional values hadn't been lost.

Speaking of good old days and traditional values, how about the 2006 Watts Family Reunion? I thought it was a smashing success and the statement "this was the best one yet" was heard often, as it seems to be every year. I don't know what you all are doing to cause this, but whatever it is don't stop. As usual we owe a debt of gratitude to several people who work very hard behind the scenes to plan and set up the reunion, they are the officers and board members. As they would be the first to say, there are more than a few others who help them out throughout the year, and so for the sake of brevity I will end this thought by asking you to keep them in mind and let them know how much we appreciate what they do.

Planning, however, wouldn't do us much good if the people who showed up didn't do their part to add to it. Therefore I want to thank every member of our family, whether we are related by blood, marriage, or friendship, for making this year's reunion special and ask you to please continue.

Sincerely and gratefully,

Calvin Watts
President, Watts Reunion, Inc.

Which Set Are You?

by Stephen D. Bowling, Watts Family Historian

Our ancestors seem to have lacked a great deal of imagination.

For genealogists, the nightmare of name repetition has given the gift of more than twenty relatives with the names of Ambrose, William, John, James, or several other commonly used names with little or no way to sort them out.

Through the years the many “sets” of the various Watts families in Eastern Kentucky have from time to time both laid claim to and denied any connections to the other sets. Even though all the major Watts families in our section of the state are from one common ancestor (George W. Watts), colorful nicknames have been developed to sort out the various lines.

There are physical names related to the look and size of our ancestors. The Breathitt County Watts families have adopted names like the “Cedar Head” and “Red” due to the faint, red tint that many of the descendants have today. The “Slim” Wattses of Letcher County are often confused with the “Round” line, while the “Plump” line is often mistaken for the “Chubby Watts” line. The “Smiling Watts” line and the “Whistling Watts” line seem to have gotten their names from particular habits.

Quite often the place you called home was added to your family name as in the “Line Fork” or Turkey Creek set, the “Caney Set” or the “Leatherwood” set. The large “Garner Watts” family still is the largest set in Knott County today.

Perhaps the strangest identifiers of a Watts lines are those identified by their particular nature or character. There is a branch of the Watts family which moved to the flat land of Central Kentucky and is known as the “Stubborn” Wattses. The members of one set of the Knott County line are commonly known as the “Sly” Wattses.

To me, of all the Watts nicknames, the most telling comes from my own set of Wattses known as the “Woodheads”-- no explanation needed.

The most important set, however, is the “Watts Set” to which we all belong. We are one family united by the blood of our ancestors that fought, suffered and died that we might have a better world in which to live. As we go though the holiday season, we should pause to remember our father, mother, and ancestors that gave us the greatest gifts of all: life and freedom.

Make plans now for the
**2007 Watts
Reunion**

July 29, 2007

Natural Bridge State Park
Slade, Kentucky
Shelter #2

Scholarship Update

The 2006-2007 David Watts Memorial Scholarship recipient is Julius Emanuel of Pearland, Texas. Julius attended Pearland High School and was involved in Varsity football, The Boys and Girls Club of America and is in *Who's Who Among American High School Students -- Sports Edition*. He also enjoys singing. Julius is a S.A.F.E. ministry leader at the Rock Youth Church and according to his youth minister, Julius is a remarkable individual to know. Julius is attending McPherson College working in Pre-Professional Engineering. Congratulations, Julius!

-- from Connie Watts

From the Vice President

Paul and I have been blessed this year of 2006 thus far. Both of us have stayed healthy and been able to travel some. We also did a huge garden and have plenty stored away for the winter. We made two trips to the Buckeye State for granddaughter and grandson weddings. We trust that you have all been blessed as well. We have had lots of rain in our area, which made for a pretty autumn.

We have been selling copies *Watts Cooking* wherever we go. They are really going fast. Take time now to send in your Christmas order and we will be happy to mail them, so long as we receive the order by December 18. We still have Volume I of the cookbook, which sells for \$7.00, and Volume II, which sells for \$10.00. A \$3.00 shipping fee is also required for each order. These original cookbooks make lovely gifts and have wonderful recipes.

Our thanks to all of you who have helped to make this project a great success. We were blessed to give \$500 to the scholarship fund at the reunion, plus still have money left to reorder in case we need to.

Take care and May God Bless each of you during this season. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Brenda Watts
Vice President
Watts Reunion, Inc.

Here is an update on Mary Beth Watts, daughter of Charles John C. and Barbara J. Watts, and granddaughter of former Breathitt County residents the late George W. and Malvery Allen Watts.

Mary Beth Watts married Dale D. Doyle April 29, 2006, in Lexington, KY. She became a medical doctor upon graduating from University of Louisville School of Medicine May 13, 2006.

Mary Beth began her medical residency as a Pediatrician June 12, 2006, as a United States Air Force Captain, with duty station at the Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA.

Her husband Dale is stationed at Langley Air Force Base, Hampton, VA. They reside in Suffolk, VA.

‘Mater Man

We’re all familiar with Vinson Watts, the man; but are you familiar with Vinson Watts, the tomato? Vinson has been an avid gardener for years. Over the last 50 years he has grown and developed his own variety of heirloom tomato seeds. In September 2006 the Lexington Herald-Leader (www.kentucky.com) featured an article on Vinson and his tomatoes. According to the article, these tomatoes are not only flavorful, but disease resistant as well. If you would like to try some for yourself, the seeds are available from Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, www.rareseeds.com; and from Bill Best at www.heirlooms.org.

We salute Vinson for his persistence and hard work in this endeavor.

The Watts Family of Eastern Kentucky Volume IV

A Photographic History of the Watts Family

is now available!

The book is the continuation of the three-volume work produced in 2002 and contains hundreds of photographs of the Watts Family in Breathitt, Perry, Knott, and Letcher counties.

To order, send a \$48 check or money order to:

Stephen D. Bowling
1024 College Avenue
Jackson, KY 41339

Truth, Memories and Tears

Truth, Memories and Tears is a collection of poems and short story adventures written by Pat Watts. Over the years Pat has been inspired to write many of these poems and stories from personal experiences. The setting for most of the stories is in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky and his home place of Lost Creek. Pictures are included as well as a section explaining the inspiration for each poem. Pat is the son of Opal and the late Andrew Watts and the grandson of Joe and Callie Watts. If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy, it can be found on the Barnes & Noble website (www.bn.com) or by contacting the author himself at 71 South Windy Shore Drive Lexington, Indiana 47138.

Connie Watts
130 Happy Hollow
Lost Creek, KY 41348