

WAGGENER COUSINS

Spring 2006
Waggener Reunion
June 2006

Reunion Co-Chairpersons: Bob Waggener, Chuck Speed, and Nancy Tice Baird
Chuck Speed, Newsletter Editor

IT JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER

Despite the fact that our able leader, Bob Waggener could not attend, the 2005 Waggener Cousin Reunion was a huge success. Chuck Speed did a superb job of emceeing the program. Dick Waggener presented a masterful Power Point show featuring the contents of the legendary whiskey chest found in Barren County, Kentucky. "Minnie Pearl", in the person of Dora Lou Waggener Hansen, was there with her corny and hilarious jokes. There were several family gatherings and many "huggin" (and a few 'kissin') cousins greeting one another.



Chuck Speed

Dora Lou Hansen

It started for Floss and me on Thursday when we left the Hampton Inn to show niece, Dora Lou, where her ancestors lived. She had never been to Martin, so we took the self-guided tour that Jim Tice so graciously prepared and made available to all the cousins. Now please understand that Dora Lou is very enthusiastic and intense— just loves everything and everybody. She announced that she was going to cry when we passed the place on Elm Street where her great grandfather and great grandmother lived. Then she was truly overwhelmed when we passed great-great grandfather Henry Gaines Waggener's farm. Next, we visited the Pleasant Hill Cemetery where great-great-great grandfather Richard W. Waggener and his brother Reuben are honored with grave markers for their participation in the War of 1812. Next, on to the Oak Grove and Public Well churches once pastored by Rev. Thomas A. Waggener, her great grandfather. The ultimate experience was when we re-traced the journey from McKenzie to Dresden to Martin that her grandfather and grandmother took when they eloped 100 years ago. The 2005 reunion is one that Dora Lou will never forget.

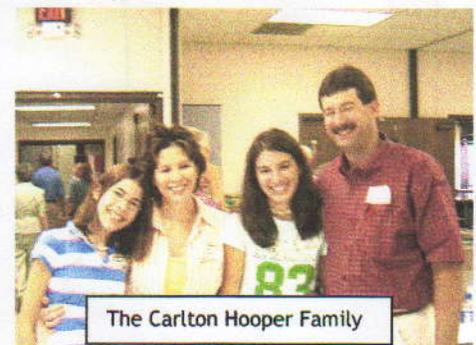


Jim Tice - Oldest

Friday morning was consumed with greeting in-coming cousins at the motel. The first were Carol and Theo Greene from Lexington, KY, then sisters Carolyn Allbright and Mary Alice Bergstrom, and Dick and Gaye Waggener. Later came Jim Tice and Nancy Tice Baird and husband Ancil, Chuck Speed, and Paul Waggener with a lovely friend, Lori. Suddenly, I realized that the lobby was full of Waggener cousins. In the afternoon, we visited the site of the reunion, the First Baptist Church of Martin and began to set things up for the Saturday meeting. There to help were some of the dedicated people who help every year, Joe and Tommie Lou Waggener, Minnie and Seldon Parham, Dorothy Coleman and Sue Hooper. Don and Patti Waggener were there to help even though they had to make an out-of-town trip on Saturday and could not attend the reunion.



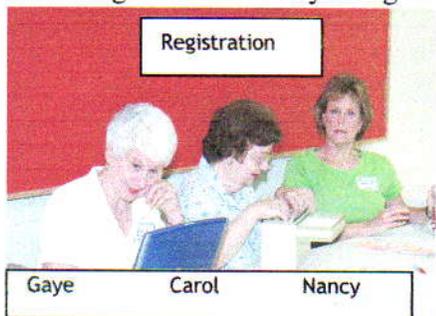
Carolyn Marv



The Carlton Hooper Family

Back at the motel, a group of about 22 assembled and drove to Reelfoot Lake for our annual catfish dinner. It was a bit sad because we really missed Bob and Joyce Waggener. They are always enthusiastic catfish eaters. Upon returning to the motel, we gathered in the lobby again to tell family stories and swap information about our ancestors.

Early Saturday morning, we returned to the church to make last-minute arrangements. There to greet us was Paula Marie Ragan. She usually brings her copier to facilitate sharing pictures and documents. But this time she was



Registration

Gaye Carol Nancy

leaving to attend a funeral – just stopped in to help and to let us know where she would be. Carlton and Rebecca Hooper and daughters, Camille and Kristen, arrived early to set up the big family tree charts that so many cousins consult to figure out their lineage. Carl does a great job of maintaining those charts. Please help him keep them current. Sarah Miles Wood came early to help. Tables were marked so branches of the family could sit together and compare stories and family trees. Nancy Tice Baird, Carol Byars Greene, and Gaye Lively Waggener set up the registration table. Paul Waggener prepared for taking the official pictures. Jim Tice set up direction signs. Floss and Dora Lou and I posted dozens of pictures and family trees, as usual. Chuck,

Jim, and Dick made sure all facilities and equipment were ready and working. By 11:00 a.m. the fellowship hall was teeming with Waggener cousins, all talking at the same time. Adam Minton, grandson of Glenda Brooks Minton, searched for a playmate while Glenda was engrossed in “catching up” on news with sister, Edwina Brooks Compton. Wow! My hearing aids really got a workout. It was a delightful sight to see loved ones getting together.

About 12:30, Tommie, Minnie, Dorothy, and Mary Hooper had the food on the buffet table, so Rev. Dick Waggener blessed the food and we had an old fashioned Southern dinner with fried chicken, barbecue, garden vegetables, and super pies and cobblers, with some cakes and fresh strawberries. I sincerely thank the cook who brought that fresh-cut corn off the cob – Um-m-m! And those home-made pickles, and garden ripe tomatoes, and -- (more, but guess I better stop here!)

Chuck started the program on time and recognized the largest group in attendance (Aileen and the Butler family); the one who came farthest (Dora Lou Waggener Hansen from California); the oldest (Jim Tice, of course); and the



Largest Group - Butler Family

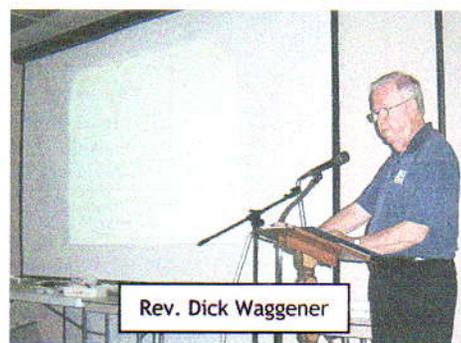
youngest (Allison Musick). Allison's Mom Dana could not attend, so her father Charles came with her and sister Reagan.. It was Dora Lou's role to “warm up” the group with her “Minnie Pearl” routine. She did an admirable job. Some of the younger



Musicks & Parhams with Youngest

folks had not heard her jokes before. We older ones laughed and groaned again because those jokes never wear out.

Dick Waggener presented a digital slide show of selected contents of the old whiskey chest owned by a cousin, Dr. Carolyn McKinley, of Glasgow, Kentucky. The compartments in this chest were used as a filing cabinet by Thompson Crenshaw, who married Martha Waggener, daughter of Richard Waggener and Caty Gaines Waggener. Two of Martha's brothers are the ancestors of most of the cousins who attend the reunion. They are Richard W. and Reuben Waggener who later settled in Weakley County, Tennessee. Crenshaw became the Executor of Richard and Caty's estate and filed several documents pertaining to the Waggener family. One document was not from the whiskey chest, but was copied at the Barren County (KY) courthouse by Dr. Bob Tice several years ago. It was a hand-written note by David Cook in



Rev. Dick Waggener

1812 giving permission for his daughter, Keziah, to marry young Richard W. Waggener, our ancestor. The David Cook note is the original kept at the courthouse and about to be thrown out (the Clerk's office converted all documents to micro-fische). Bob Tice just happened to be there doing research and asked if he could have what he could find. The original note, with the other documents Bob rescued, are in possession of Jim Tice. Thank you, Dick for a very interesting and informative program.

Sixty-two (62) cousins registered for the 2005 Reunion. I saw some others, mostly local cousins who dropped in after the meal. Chuck had revised that fantastic Waggener Cousin CD that contains so much history and genealogy and so many pictures. He even put my World War II fighter pilot combat story on it. Cousin Gene Waggoner has submitted his amazing story of service in WWII on a LST for inclusion in the CD also. Of course, there is the miraculous account of Bill Butler who was a POW and victim of the Japanese in the Bataan Death March. Also, we sold some more "suth'n" recipe cookbooks that Peggy Waggener Sample put together. These fund-raisers help finance the newsletter and the reunion expenses.



After the crowd dispersed, conversations continued over light snacks in restaurants and family get-togethers in homes and motels. The reunion is an excellent way for families to stay connected.

Alf Waggener

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Amazing isn't it, how fast time passes? Wonder if the lives of our ancestors were as fast paced as ours? Do you think their birthdays were as close together as ours? Although much about their lives was vastly different than ours, I'll bet they too, wished that time could be slowed down. Although science has produced technologies to prolong the time available to us, it is up to each of us to determine how we use it.

How better to use your time than to attend the next Waggener Cousins Reunion. It will be 23 and 24 June, same times and same place. Same promise of delicious food, wonderful location and more importantly, the company of outstanding Cousins. What more productive use could be made of your time? Oh, yes. Don't forget that you may meet some cousins you don't know. If you haven't attended one of our Reunions, don't fret. Reunion 2006 will be the best one yet!

SOMETHING NEW IS BEING ADDED

When you come to Martin this year, be sure and visit the Pleasant Hill Cemetery. If Jim Tice's plan comes to fruition the first thing you will notice will be a new much needed entrance marker listing the graves known to be there. If you know of others not listed, please be sure and give their names and particulars to Jim. Thanks Jim, for all your work to honor our ancestors. A tremendous job well done!

THE FOURTH EDITION OF OUR GENEALOGY AND HISTORY CD will be ready for "purchase" at the Reunion.

We, who put this CD together, hope that you and your family enjoyed reading the three previous editions about some of your relatives and their experiences. We sure did.

Most of you know that Cousin Alf Waggener flew air cover in a P-38 over the D-Day landings at Normandy during World War II. You have probably already his story in our CD. But did you know that Cousin Gene Waggoner was there at the same time, ferrying troops and equipment in an LST (Landing Ship Tank)? We are proud to include Gene's account of his experiences in this version of our CD. Be sure to read it. Certainly there were other cousins at Normandy. And undoubtedly Bill Butler was not the only cousin who served on the Pacific Islands. Please share the experiences of all our WW II Veteran-Cousins with us. As a matter of fact, we would like to include all cousins who have served in any of our armed services

Please do all your Cousins a big favor and encourage the other members of your family to give us a summary of their experiences. They need not be about life during wartime. Although we owe Alf, Gene and thousands of others a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid, we are very interested in recording experiences during other periods of all our lives. Once you put the first words on paper, you will be surprised how fast the memories flow. One of the many remarkable things about our brains is that we seldom forget the pleasant memories we all have. How about sharing some of yours with the rest of your cousins? Don't worry about polishing your words. We will be glad to do that for you.

Meet us at Martin, TN for The Waggener Cousins' Reunion on June 23-24, 2006

If you plan to stay at The Hampton Inn at Union City (731-885-8850) and haven't made your reservations, please do so soon. Late June is a popular time for weddings in West Tennessee and The Hampton Inn is a popular place for receptions.

We plan to assemble at The Hampton Inn during the afternoon of June 23 and once again have a delicious catfish dinner at Boyette's that evening. If you haven't been able to come with us before, please try to this year. The fish is delicious but the conversation and tale swapping are better. We will probably leave for Reelfoot around 5:30pm and eat about 6:00pm or so. If you can't meet us before, come anyway and join us at Boyette's. There is more than enough catfish to go around. Did I mention that the catfish is delicious??

Saturday morning we will gather again about 10:00 at the First Baptist Church in Martin to renew relationships and meet newly found cousins. Please bring pictures and stories about your family and ancestors to share and be prepared to take home many fond memories. After a second-to-none lunch prepared by many of the best cooks in Tennessee and a short program, we will return home determined to attend again next year.

Attendance at the Reunion is free. Just bring a favorite covered dish for the lunch and come prepared to have an enjoyable day. If you live out-of-town and prefer to not bring a covered dish, you can chip in with the rest of us out-of-towners to buy the meat entree. Our "purchasing agent" is Chuck Speed.

*If you would like to enjoy a few hours with a great group of people - - to whom you are related - - please put **Attend Waggener Cousins Reunion 2006** on your calendar. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, be sure and contact us at any of the e-mail addresses below.*

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