

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The year 2000 marks the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Nail-Ray Association. Three of our long-term officers chose this occasion to officially step down from their posts: Richard Weakley, who has served as Treasurer since 1994; Dorothy Plymate, who has served as Corresponding Secretary since 1981; and Charles E. Nail, who has served as our President since 1986. As a token of our appreciation for their many years of dedication and hard work, the association presented each of these retiring officers a personalized gift: an engraved letter opener for Dick, a Shelby County coverlet (with her name embroidered onto it by her daughter-in-law) for Dorothy, and an engraved rosewood clock for Chuck.



At the presentation on Sunday afternoon, incoming President Tom Plymate commented that he thought the gift for Chuck was especially appropriate because it was in the shape of a book. One of the things that has set our Nail-Ray Association apart from so many other family history organizations is the quantity and quality of the books we have produced. Not only did Chuck take the lead in compiling our "Where They Are Now" book on the gravesites of the first three generations of Nails and Rays, he also presided over the organization throughout the conception and production of our "Nail-Ray Family Photo Tree", our "Nail-Ray Family Stories", and our BIG BOOK, "The Families of Henry Nail & Mary Keller and Thomas Ray & Elizabeth Pearce: Pioneers of Shelby County, Indiana, Second edition". Chuck's continual encouragement, exhortations, and even badgering, contributed significantly to the timely completion of each of these fine books.

Although Dick, Dorothy, and Chuck will be officially stepping down from their offices, we look forward to them remaining active, contributing members of our organization for many years to come.

BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting was held on Saturday morning at the Shelbyville Super 8 Motel. President Charles E. Nail called the meeting to order with 37 members in attendance. After Chaplain James Russell opened the meeting with a prayer, President Nail reminisced about the organization's first twenty years, with special recognition of the contributions of Julia Sherer and her mother Myrtle Smith whom he credited with bringing this group together and Dorothy Plymate whom he credited for holding us together for two decades by keeping us in constant communication and by providing the "home base" for our annual reunion. He then noted the "new faces" who have recently become interested in our association, and he predicted that our organization can look forward to a wonderful future.

President Nail made special note of a letter recently received from a William C. Ray from Virginia. This letter included new information about three of the seven early Ray families in Wake County, North Carolina, including information about William Ray Sr., William Ray, Jr. (both of whom lived in Brunswick County, VA, before moving to Wake County) and Nathan Ray. Chuck challenged us to continue looking into this new lead on the ancestry of our patriarch, Thomas Ray.

The minutes from the 1999 meeting were read by Lynda Plymate, substituting for Dori Dvorak. Dori was unable to attend this year because she was home taking care of the newest Nail-Ray member, Benjamin Thomas Dvorak, born on May 27, 2000. Benjamin is a tenth-generation descendant of Thomas Ray and Elizabeth (Pearce) Ray.

Dick Weakley gave the Treasurer's Report which included:

Beginning Balance	\$2465.87
Income (dues, donations, and sale of books)	\$1499.75
Expenses	\$ 818.82
Balance (5/16/00)	\$3146.80

The next topic of discussion was Old Union, our ancestral church, which is currently undergoing financial stress because of declining attendance. James Russell spoke eloquently about the importance of Old Union to our organization. Members of the association were asked whether they wanted to donate money to the church to help keep it open. Dick Weakley moved that we donate \$1000 from the Nail-Ray treasury to Old Union. Lolita Guthrie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Clarene Russell moved that this donation be made "in the name of the Nail-Ray Association and in honor of Dorothy Plymate." Rebecca Markel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Terry Keller, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for 2000-2002, and they were elected by acclamation:

President -- Tom Plymate
Vice President -- Barbara Snow
Recording Secretary -- Dori Dvorak
Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer -- Rebecca Markel
Chaplain -- James Russell
Historian -- Julia Sherer
Genealogical Editors -- Janet and David Ross
Executive Board Members -- Mike Morse, Chuck Nail, Dorothy Plymate

"IT'S IN THE LIBRARY"

Tom Plymate led a discussion of how we should distribute the remaining copies of "THE BIG BOOK", our 1997 The Families of Henry Nail & Mary Keller and Thomas Ray & Elizabeth Pearce: Pioneers of Shelby County, Indiana, 2nd edition. He reported that 171 of the 203 copies received from the printer had been distributed, leaving a remaining stock of 32 copies. The group agreed that we should hold some copies in reserve for sale to individuals who find out about our organization by word-of-mouth in future years, but the consensus seemed to be that 32 copies was more than enough to meet the demand expected from that source. We therefore discussed whether we should be more aggressively trying to "drum up" additional interest in THE BIG BOOK by purchasing advertisements in genealogical publications, or whether we should try to place some of our "excess" copies in additional libraries. The group decided that the latter seemed more appropriate.

Tom distributed a list of the 27 libraries currently having copies of THE BIG BOOK, and another list of libraries that had been suggested as places where our book might be

appreciated. After extensive discussion, individual members volunteered to purchase copies to donate to seven of the libraries on the second list, and the organization voted to place copies in an additional six libraries at the organization's expense. After these placements have been completed, THE BIG BOOK will be available to the public in a total of 38 libraries, including 6 in Indiana, 6 in Illinois, 4 in North Carolina, 4 in the Washington DC area, 3 in Virginia, 3 in Iowa, 2 in each of Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas, and 1 in each of Colorado, Georgia, Mississippi, New York, Utah, and Wisconsin.

NEW PROJECTS

Terry Keller and Chuck Nail reported that they have started work on a video which will summarize the history of the Nails and Rays. They invited us to view what they had taped so far at Dorothy Plymate's home later that afternoon. They requested that each branch of the family record their own video "snippets" of the homesteads and land-grant sites of their ancestors, with narration by family descendants. They requested that we send our video snippets, along with relevant still photos and documentation to Terry, and his daughter will then edit and compile them into a consistent format.

Clarene Russell asked us to consider placing historical markers on Nail-Ray lands. She asked President Nail to form a small task force to determine how this is done in Indiana and to report options for us to consider at our next meeting.

OTHER FESTIVITIES

31 of us enjoyed the food, music, and frivolity at the newly redecorated Boggstown Cabaret on Friday evening. Many members considered Charlie Ketron's rendition of "Baby Face" to rival some of Terry Keller's finer performances from years past.

41 of us gathered for dinner at the Goodrich Party House on Saturday evening, where our cousins Cora Marie and Julia Lavina stuffed us to the gills with their wonderful home cooked fried chicken, roast beef, green beans, corn, mashed potatoes, noodles, rolls and pie!

38 attended Sunday worship service at Old Union United Methodist Church. Piano music was furnished by Lynda Plymate of Springfield, Missouri. Pastor Larry Odom was assisted by Nail-Ray Chaplain James M. Russell of Collierville, Tennessee.

48 attended the pitch-in dinner in the church basement Sunday afternoon, served by Virginia Fisher, Thelma Merry, and "Smiley" and Wilma Rutherford. At the Sunday afternoon program, Shelby County Historian David Craig entertained us with a story about "Shelby County's Unsolved Murder."



GREETINGS, REGRETS, and GOOD-WISHES from those unable to attend:

Mary Noonan, Palo Alto, CA: "June arrived so quickly and now it's Nail-Ray time. How I wish that I could turn back the clock to those happy years of the '80's, and once again be packing up and flying off to one of my favorite places, Shelbyville, and a certain beautiful old house on Boggstown Road.

"However, I will be there in a way throughout the week-end. I prop up all the pictures I took during those years, so I can say a fond 'Hello' to the cousins I remember so well. Then I follow you to the business meeting, and to the Goodrich Party House (that delicious homecooked dinner!) and back to sit on Dorothy's porch (I love that porch!) Then on Sunday to the dear old church and dinner in the basement; then upstairs for Shaking the Family Tree. -- I've enjoyed a great week-end and must get home again."

Lenore Stanton Ballard, Topsham, ME: To all who work so diligently in keeping the descendants up to date: Your efforts are really appreciated. The plans for this year's reunion sound so interesting and like a wonderful time was assured for all. I haven't given up on the chance that some year I just might be able to join you. - To all my relatives, I wish you well. God bless you all." (Lenore is a first cousin of our beloved Dr. Carl Bogardus.)

Cherry Ballard Page, Encinitas, CA: "Unless I get on my broom at the last minute I shall miss our Nail-Ray Reunion. Sorry -- But you will be in my thoughts and no doubt it will be a meaningful time plus happy talk thrown in. Hope the weather is the best and need for umbrellas. Thanks to all who do so much in so many ways. I am so proud of our family books. We are so fortunate. -- Greetings from my limb of the family tree. (Cherry is another cousin of Dr. Bogardus.)

Eleanor Neumayer, Gaithersburg, MD: "How many times I have thought of you and the Nail-Ray reunions that I have attended and met so many delightful cousins! Time passes, however, and we all undergo changes and my life has had its share. Between having arthritis and a severe low-vision problem, I am quite limited, but manage to muddle along somehow. I have several friends who are especially good to me, taking me on errands and the supermarket. And help is available for laundry and housecleaning. "Much as I'd love to come to the reunion, there is no way I could manage it, so I'll ask you to carry my best wishes for a memorable occasion and my greetings to all who attend. Greetings and love to all."

Jean Fenimore Porter, St. Charles, IA: "Next week will be the big reunion. How I wish I could be there. Once again I'm sending my check in honor and loving remembrance of my darling grandmother, Sarah Jane Ray Hoover."

Esther L. Read, Winterset, IA: "As my mother passed away in 1987 and my health is such that I could in no way travel to attend your reunion, my wish is that you remove my name from your mailing list. I appreciate your past communications and invitations to the reunion. I am sure it would be nice to attend and meet relatives."

Ray Ballard, Carmichael, CA, also asks to be removed from our mailing list: "My main concern and interest in family history is the Ballard genealogy... My goal is to compile and update the valuable collections I have (on that family)... Although I am now retired I have not made much progress. ... I want to cut back on my time following too many of my lower priority interests, so please discontinue my name on your mailing list. Thank you for all your hard work continuing with the Nail-Ray Association and for being such good examples for me to follow."

Bethany and Don Roberts, Warren, MA: "If we retire in a couple of years, we hope to come to a June reunion."

Alice Kauzlarich, Marshall, NC: "Another year of 'no show' for us. Will it never end? Now the farm is keeping us away from the reunion. You would think raising Boer goats would be easy. Ha! Not so! I don't think we'll be doing this long!"

Dr. Mark Thomas, Brownstown, IN (Rebecca's nephew): "Sorry, we will be out of state on the weekend of the reunion... I truly appreciate the job you do and hope that my family can attend next year."

Gene and Dolores Leach tell us they have a new address: 504 Kleinbeck, Farmersville, IL 62533-0174.

Jill Knitl, Casselberry, FL: "Maybe if everything is settled down next summer, we will be able to come to the reunion." She reports that she has found on Internet a Danny Ray who lives on the land William Ray received as a land grant. He has traced back to Daniel Ray, who was possibly a son of William. "Seems quite likely that he is, since the land is the same, in Wake County, NC, along Mocassin Creek."

Danny Ray, Zebulon, NC, a few days after we had heard from Jill, wrote for our Nail-Ray Book.

Helen Wray Lawson, Newport News, VA, writes that on the same week-end as our reunion, her family will be participating in an annual "Relay for Life" observance in their city in which each family carries lighted candles in sand bags marked with names of their loved ones who have cancer or have died from cancer. The Lawsons' candles will bear the name of Helen's father, Robert Isom Wray.

Pat Lorentzen, Santa Barbara, CA: "We won't be attending the get-together but want to wish all of you a friendly hello. Genealogy has taken a back seat in our lives this year because of our involvement with the Amtrak Coast Starlight Guide program. Perry and I are the coordinators-schedulers who give an on-board narration between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. We thoroughly enjoy the experience and ride the train sometimes as many as three times a week."

A note from **Sue Bogardus, Warsaw, KY,** tells that she will not be with us this year because of a chronic rhinitis which is making her miserable right now. She says she feels "very close" to all of us (as we to her) and will miss being with us this year.

Letters were read from our Canadian cousin, **Patricia Ballard-Anderson, Vancouver, BC, Canada.** Excerpts of those letters, read in their entirety at the meeting are reproduced here for all to enjoy. (Patricia and her brother Dan were born in Indiana--consequently, Hoosiers, too.) She writes: "Before I lost my mobility due to bone cancer in 1992, I had worked as a graphic artist most of my life: layout design, illustration, cartoons, etc. What's really bothering of late is essential tremor, as it has ruined my ability to draw, and at this moment even makes writing difficult."

She sent us with her letters two of her sketchings, one of the Ballard home here in Shelby County, Indiana (which stood directly north of the present Plymate farm, two roads back), and the other a sketch of the front door and colored glass window of the Old Union Church, with Nail family markers from the cemetery across the road superimposed. (The Ballards were descendants of both Thomas Ray and Henry Nail.) She writes, "The execution of this composite drawing of Old Union Methodist Church and cemetery, details were inspired by my cousins Dorothy Plymate and Cherry Page. I'd like to extend my gratitude to them for their personal efforts of recording examples of our heritage as proclaimed by membership in the Nail-Ray Association, and further their sharing of the above mentioned photographs with me. . . The drawing of the Heistand/Ballard farmhouse was done from a photograph taken by my Aunt Nancy (Ballard) Bogardus. She had written across the photograph, "The house on Ma's farm." This was sent to me by my cousin, Dr. Carl Bogardus."

"My best of times to ALL at the N/R meeting. May God bless you at your going out and your coming in."

Hope to see you for our 21st annual get-together **June 8th-10th, 2001.**

If you have not yet paid your dues (\$10) for 2000 and want to stay on our Mailing List, please send them soon to NAIL-RAY ASSOCIATION, 2442 W. Boggstown Road, Shelbyville, IN 46176.

FAMILY MEMBERS PRESENT, 2000

The family of HENRY NAIL (1771-1827) and MARY (Keller) NAIL:

From JOHN NAIL and MARTHA RAY:

Through Christina Nail Berry: **James M. Russell** (wife **Clarene**), Collierville, TN
Through Perlina Nail Steward: **Julia (Smith) Sherer**, Tower Hill, IL
Janet (Morgan) Ross (husband **David**), Springfield, VA

From SAMUEL NAIL and CHERRY WRAY:

Through Rebecca Nail Thomas: **Dorothy (Thomas) Plymate**, Shelbyville, IN
Thomas G. Plymate (wife **Lynda**), Springfield, MO
John M. Thomas, Shelbyville, IN
Rebecca (Thomas) Markel, Shelbyville, IN
Robert E. Thomas (wife **Arlene**), Shelbyville, IN
Patricia (Thomas) Montgomery (husband **Floyd**), Waldron, IN
Peggy (Montgomery) Risley (husband **Mark**), Shelbyville, IN
Rebekah Risley, Shelbyville, IN
Rachel Risley, Shelbyville, IN
Michael Risley, Shelbyville, IN

From OBADIAH NAIL:

Through Warren Nail: **Charles E. Nail**, Noblesville, IN
Through James A. Nail: **Lillian (McGrew) Guthrie**, Bloomington, IN
Opal (McGrew) Bolin, Casey, IL
Helen (McGrew) Shepherd, Portland, OR
Mary Ann (McGrew) Freels, Albany, GA
Lawrence E. McGrew (wife **Louise**), Oregon City, OR
Betty (McGrew) Cook (husband **Paul**), Terre Haute, IN
Leana (Shepherd) Hoogerwerf, Yuma, AZ
Charlene Mitchel, Portland, OR

Descendant of Abraham Keller, brother of MARY (KELLER) NAIL:

Terry Keller (wife **Barbara**), Dongola, IL

The family of THOMAS RAY (1762-1829) and ELIZABETH (Pierce) RAY:

From HUDSON RAY:

Through Barnabas Ray: **Billie Lee (Alcott) Rammelsberg** (husband **Glen**),
Blairstown, IA
David Walter Ross (wife **Janet**), Springfield, VA
Through Mary Ray Goodrich: **Richard Weakley**, Shelbyville, IN
Julia Lavina Goodrich, Fairland, IN
Cora Marie Goodrich, Fairland, IN

From JAMES WRAY:

Through Wiley Wray: **Barbara (Borland) Snow**, McLean, VA
Through Cherry Wray: Descendants listed under her husband SAMUEL NAIL, above.

From GILLY RAY BYERLY:

Through Elizabeth Byerly Hill: **Katy (Morse) Bruce** (husband **Bob**), Kenney, IL
Dallas Michael Morse, Kenney, IL
Joan Morse, Kenney, IL
Through Samuel Bluford Byerly: **Ruth (Kirby) Brady** (husband **Hugh**), Seymour, TN

From SUSANNAH RAY BASS:

Through Frances Bass Thayer: **Lolita (Thayer) Guthrie** (husband **Mearl**), Bowling Green, OH

From MARTHA RAY NAIL: Descendants listed under her husband John Nail, above.

GUESTS:

Rev. and Mrs. Larry Odom (Larry and Ruby), Muncie, IN (Pastor of Old Union U.M.C)
David Craig, President, Shelby County Historical Society, Shelbyville, IN
Charles and Wanda Ketron, Knoxville, TN (Charlie and Hugh Brady are cousins.)
Rome and Betty Nail, Columbus, MS
Maurice Holmes, Shelbyville, IN

SERVERS at the Sunday dinner:

Virginia Fisher, Thelma Merry, Wilma and Marion ("Smiley") Rutherford