

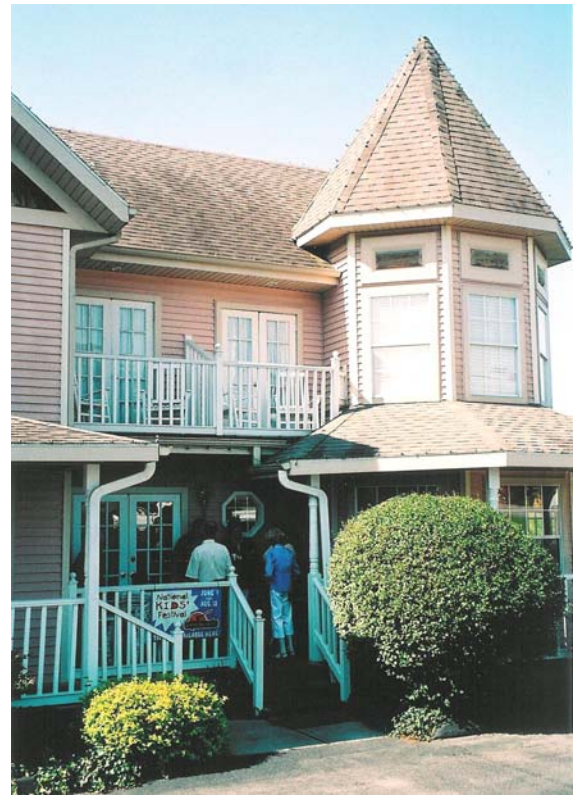
**REPORT FROM MISSOURI**

The 2006 gathering of the Nail-Ray Association was held June 8-11 in southwestern Missouri. Our hosts Tom and Lynda Plymate planned a super meeting, introduced us to the entertainment mecca of the heartland—Branson, Missouri—and then showed us the historic sites of Barton County, where Hardy Wray and his family were prominent citizens in the late 1800s. A total of 29 family members from 12 states (California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia) participated in some or all of the events.

Our “headquarters” for the get-together was the Gazebo Inn, in the heart of the Branson entertainment district, right next to Andy Williams’ Moon River Theatre.



(left to right: Bob Bruce, Katy Bruce, Wade Paterson, Lana Paterson, Lynda Plymate, Lynn Brody, Joan Morse, Mike Morse, Arnold Brody)



On Thursday evening, twenty of us were amazed by the showmanship of fiddle virtuoso Shoji Tabuchi, and on Friday evening 27 of us reveled in the star power of the Andy Williams—Glen Campbell Show.



**Andy Williams’ Moon River Theatre**



On Friday, we boarded the Showboat Branson Belle for a memorable luncheon cruise around Table Rock Lake.



**Left: Sarah Smith, Susan McGallian, and Lynda Plymate feeding the giant lake trout from the dock.**

**Below left: Lana Patterson and Janet Ross.**

**Below right: Bob Bruce, Tom Plymate, James Russell.**



On Saturday we boarded a luxury motor coach for a tour of historical sites of Barton County, Missouri. First stop was the IOOF cemetery in Golden City, where Dr. Hardy Wray and Belinda (Fox) Wray are buried. They moved from Indiana to Barton County in 1897 to live with their daughter Louisa (Wray) Arnold.

(Virginia Harris, Janet Ross, James & Clarene Russell)

(David and Kelly Meyer)

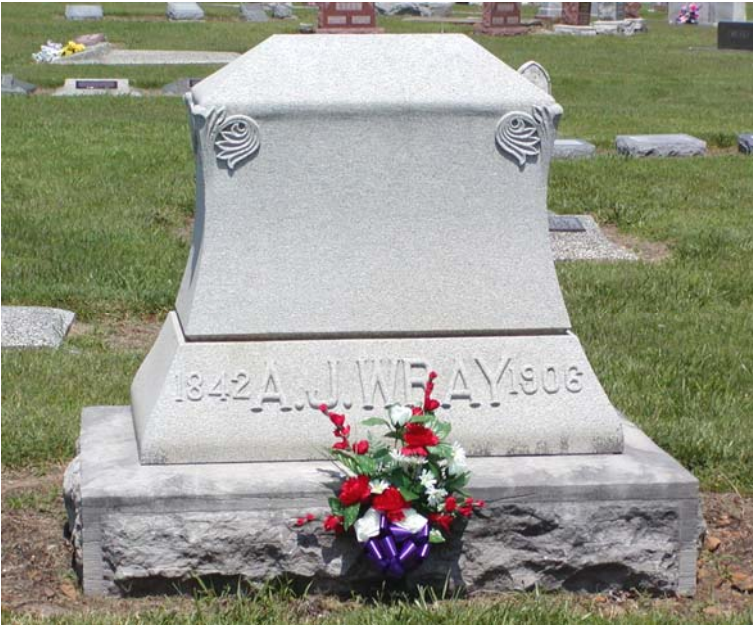


Left: Nail-Ray President Tom Plymate reads from the obituaries of Hardy and Belinda (Fox) Wray. Right: The wreath is placed by Hardy Wray descendant David Meyer and his wife Kelly.



Left to right: Arnold Brody, Lynn Brody, Joan Morse, Greta Morton, Raymond Morton, Janet Ross, David Ross, Virginia Harris, Clarene Russell, Mike Morse, David Meyer, Kelly Meyer, James Russell, Glen Rammelsberg, Pat Montgomery, Sarah Smith, Billie Lee Rammelsberg, Pete Smith, Arlene Thomas, Lana Paterson, Bill Harris, Wade Paterson, Lynda Plymate.

At Lake Cemetery in Lamar Heights, we visit the graves of Anderson J. Wray and Alfred K. Wray.



Anderson J. Wray, eldest son of Hardy and Belinda (Fox) Wray, was one of the most prominent citizens of Barton County, Missouri in the late 1800s. An attorney and judge, he also served numerous terms as commissioner of the Barton County school system.

Alfred K. Wray, second son of Hardy and Belinda (Fox) Wray, was a minister in the Congregational Church. He served as pastor of the Hyde Park Church in St. Louis and as General Superintendent of the Congregational Churches of Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. (His grave and the grave of his wife Catherine E. (Pool) Wray are marked only by small stones bearing their initials.)



In Lamar, Missouri, we visit the birthplace of Harry S. Truman, 33<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States.



Our trip back to Branson included a stop in Carthage to tour the Precious Moments Chapel, followed by dinner at Lambert's Café in Ozark—"World Famous Home of Thrown Rolls."



Our 4-day get-together concluded with worship service at the Branson United Methodist Church, followed by a "going away" buffet lunch at the home of our hosts Tom and Lynda Plymate in Springfield, Missouri.



### **NEXT YEAR — BACK TO OUR ROOTS IN NORTH CAROLINA**

Fred Rich and his mother Ann (nee Nail) will host the 2007 Nail-Ray get-together in North Carolina, where our Nail and Ray ancestors lived prior to the migration to Indiana in the 1820s. Dates for next-year's get-together are June 8-10 (and maybe another day or two). Mark your calendars! Hope to see you there!

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If you have not yet paid your dues for 2006 and want to stay on our mailing list, please send \$10.00 to...  
Nail-Ray Association (please make checks out to Nail-Ray Association)  
% Janet Morgan Ross, Treasurer  
7788 Ballston Dr.  
Springfield, VA 22153

## **Gone But Not Forgotten:**

This year we mourned the loss of five faithful members of our organization:

**Robert Elwood “Bob” Thomas** (N14728-51), husband of Arlene Thomas and son of Samuel Nail Thomas and Helen Winne Facemire, died November 1, 2005, in Columbus, IN.

**Julia Mae Smith Sherer** (N14161-a2), daughter of Myrtle Lola Cannon and Vivian Thomas Smith and wife of Harvey Collins Sherer, Jr., died March 18, 2006, Pana, IL, buried Oak Grove Cemetery, Hillsboro, IL.

**Floyd Edward “Buss” Montgomery**, husband of Patricia Ann Thomas (N14728-52), died April 27, 2006, Waldron, IN.

**Dorothy May Donnelly**, (R12483-33) daughter of O. F. and Lora (Wall) Thayer and sister of Lolita Guthrie, died April 29, 2006, Anderson, IN.

**Richard Earl “Dick” Weakley** (R12159-331), son of Ila May Goodrich and Francis Emerson Weakley, died May 13, 2006, Shelbyville, Shelby Co., IN.

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### **Julia Sherer and the Nail-Ray Association**

(A memorial service was held for Julia Sherer on June 4, 2006, at the Methodist Church in Tower Hill, IL. Because I could not attend, I sent these comments to be read as a memorial to her and her contribution to the Nail-Ray Association. Janet Ross)

Julia and my dad Bob Morgan were first cousins, and so I met Julia when I was a little girl---maybe just 2 or 3 years old. We would hear news of Julia, her husband Harvey, and their sons periodically, and so she became a part of my life very early. When I was about 9 years old in the late 1950s, my family took its first vacation to the Midwest, and we visited Julia and Harvey in Lexington, KY. At that time, they lived in an old mansion named Hollyrood that was located on an old horse farm. That was a real treat.

My next memory of Julia is the meeting of the Nail-Ray Family Association in 1983. The occasion was the publication of their first book on the history of the Nail and Ray Families, *Pioneers of Shelby Co., IN*. Julia had compiled the genealogical data that she and her mother Myrtle Cannon Smith had collected over maybe 75 years and supplemented it with research that had been done by other members of the family. By compiled, I mean she sorted it, organized it, and then typed at least three drafts of a 332-page book, a 25-page appendix, and an approximately 50-page index. This was before computers were in wide use, and so she typed all of these pages over and over again. When it came time to type the final version for publication, she asked that someone else do it, and the association agreed. However, when additions and corrections started arriving, she organized that information, compiled, and typed the supplement to the first Nail-Ray Book, which was published in 1985.

Work on the first Nail-Ray book and its publication brought distant cousins (fourth and fifth cousins!) from the Nail and Ray families together regularly. They found that they enjoyed getting together. So after the book was finished, they continued to meet each year up to and including this year 2006. Julia was one of the founding members of this organization, and she will be missed by all of its members.

In the late 1980s or early 1990s when computers were coming into wide use, I volunteered to type the data from the Nail-Ray books into the computer. By then several more family groups had found the Nail-Ray Association, and so the book was more than twice as large when the task was finally completed in 1997. Julia contributed more revised material than almost everyone else combined, but she was glad that she didn't have to do any more typing.

Julia's life was broader than just genealogy, though. She has been a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. Julia was active in many other organizations, including the DAR and the Methodist Church in Tower Hill. Julia has also been an amazing caregiver. After her mother died, Julia started watching over Aunt Floy, a job that continued for many years because Aunt Floy lived to be 105 years old—in part, I'm sure, due to Julia's care. More recently, Julia and her cousin Thelma Shanks had been watching over each other.

I will close by paraphrasing the dedication in the first Nail-Ray Book: Julia's work has permitted the members of her family to learn about our pioneer ancestors, Henry Nail (1771-1827) and his wife Mary Keller (1776-1857), and Thomas Ray (1762-1829) and his wife Elizabeth Pearce (1764-1844) who made the arduous journey from their old farms on Bear Creek, Rowan County, North Carolina, to Shelby County, Indiana, in the early 1820s, settling between Big Blue and Brandywine Rivers, where they cleared the forest, established farms, raised large families, moved to Illinois, and left us our heritage. Much of Julia's work was to complete and extend a “Labor of Love” begun by her mother Myrtle Cannon Smith. As Julia wished that her mom would have a special place in our hearts, I wish that Julia may also have a special place in our hearts.

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**Correspondence:** This spring 29 members sent their regrets, as well as news about themselves and their families. We acknowledge their correspondence and thank them for keeping in touch with us.