REPORT FROM TENNESSEE

The 2003 gathering of the Nail-Ray Association was held June 6-8 in western Tennessee. Clarene and James Russell organized and hosted the entire weekend of visiting, sightseeing, and fellowship!

The festivities began with a wonderful “welcoming dinner” Friday evening at Clarene and James’s home in Collierville. Twenty of the “usual suspects” converged upon Collierville from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Virginia. There we were greeted by forty-three of our Russell cousins, most from Collierville, Memphis, and surrounding areas of western Tennessee. Clarene and James had set up enough tables and chairs throughout their lovely home to accommodate all 63 (yes, sixty-three!) of us for an elaborate sit-down dinner. Each table was decorated with a beautiful bouquet featuring roses grown in James’s personal rose garden. Helping Clarene and James with the dinner were (left photo below, left to right) Clarene’s sister Jean Jordan, Clarene and James’s daughter Kathi Reisz, and Jan Russell.
On Saturday, we were treated to a tour of some of the most interesting attractions in Memphis. Highlights included Elvis Presley’s Graceland mansion, the Duck Walk at the Peabody Hotel, the Jade Exhibit at the Peabody Place Museum, and the Smithsonian’s Rock and Soul Museum. Clarene had arranged a luxurious motorcoach for our tour, and the driver (Ed, a longtime friend of Clarene and James) was able to give us some fascinating background information about Memphis and Collierville.
Saturday evening was spent at the Dunn Schoolhouse. The structure was built in 1925 as a two-room school for the African-American children in Fayette County. When the school closed in 1967, the Dunn family acquired the property, renovated the building, and has maintained it to this day as a “family gathering place.” Pictured in right photo below (left to right): Melvin Dunn Russell, Mamie (Russell) Turner, James Russell, Mike Morse, David Ray Turner, and Terry Keller. Melvin and his wife Donna were our hosts for the evening.

The evening began with a delicious dinner of fried catfish with hush puppies and all the trimmings.

After dinner, we retired to the “parlor” for our annual business meeting.
On Sunday morning, we worshiped with the congregation of the Collierville United Methodist Church. They hold their early service each Sunday in their historic sanctuary on the beautifully preserved Collierville Square.

The final event of the weekend was a farewell brunch at the beautiful Collierville Country Club.

NEXT YEAR — BACK TO SHELBY COUNTY, INDIANA
FOR THE SESQUENTENNIAL OF OLD UNION METHODIST CHURCH

Rebecca Markel, Tom and Lynda Plymate, and Dick Weakley will host the 2004 Nail-Ray get-together in Shelby County, Indiana. On Friday, June 11, Tom and Lynda will host the welcoming dinner at the Thomas/Plymate farmstead. (They’re looking forward to showing off the newly restored front porch!) On Saturday, June 12, Dick will conduct a tour of the historic sites of downtown Indianapolis. On Sunday, June 13, we’ll join the congregation of Old Union Methodist Church for an old-fashioned homecoming to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of that historic church. Mark your calendars! Hope to see you there!
Family Members Present at the 2003 Gathering

Descendants of HENRY NAIL (1771-1827) and MARY (KELLER) NAIL (1776-1857):

From JOHN NAIL and MARTHA RAY:

Through Christina Nail Berry:

- James Milton Russell (wife Clarene), Collierville, TN
- Kathi (Russell) Reisz, Dalton, GA
- Alex Reisz, Dalton, GA
- Howard Earl Russell (wife Lillie Ann), Collierville, TN
- Richard Alexander Russell, Collierville, TN
- Carolyn (Russell) Foster (husband Taylor), Collierville, TN
- Jack Russell (wife Sue), TN
- Lisa Anne (Russell) McMahan (husband Dan), Collierville, TN
- Jack Russell, Jr., TN
- Virginia Gertrude (Morton) Seward, Eads, TN
- Ronnie Seward (wife Jackie), Collierville, TN
- Paul Seward (wife Laura), Cordova, TN
- Raymond Earl Morton (wife Greta), Cordova, TN
- Janie Juanita “Neta” (Morton) Bonnette, Memphis, TN
- Alfred Morris Morton (wife Tommie), Bartlett, TN
- Wilbur Woodson Russell, Jr., Oxford, MS
- Melvin Dunn Russell (wife Donna), Collierville, TN
- Michael Kevin Russell (wife Aven), Collierville, TN
- Maribeth Russell, Collierville, TN
- Mamie Ruth (Russell) Turner, Memphis, TN
- James Milton Turner (wife Linda), TN
- Tara Ann Turner, TN
- James McHugh Turner, TN
- David Ray Turner, Memphis, TN
- Jan (Hayes) Russell, Collierville, TN
- John Woodson Russell, Collierville, TN
- Jeffrey Herman Russell (wife Sara), Memphis, 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:

- Thomas George Pylmate (wife Lynda), Springfield, MO
- Robert Elwood Thomas (wife Arlene), Shelbyville, IN
- Patricia (Thomas) Montgomery (husband Floyd), Waldron, IN

Descendant of ABRAHAM KELLER, brother of MARY (KELLER) NAIL:

- Terry Keller (wife Barbara), Dongola, IL

Descendants of THOMAS RAY (1762-1829) and ELIZABETH (PEARCE) RAY (1767-1844):

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 (guest Paul Lippert), Shelbyville, IN

From JAMES WRAY:

Through Wiley Wray:

- Barbara 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

From MARTHA RAY NAIL:

- Descendants listed under her husband JOHN NAIL, above.

Pinkston relatives of Clarene (Pinkston) Russell:

- Jean (Pinkston) Jordan, Memphis, TN (Clarene’s sister)
- Robert Howard and Sherry Pinkston, South Haven, MS (Clarene’s nephew and niece)
Members who could not attend the 2003 meeting sent their greetings:

Doris Barlow  
Shelbyville, Indiana  
Hope you all are well. Enjoy being together. I’m OK.

Sue Bogardus  
Warsaw, Kentucky  
I had a stint put in my heart about two years ago – not been well since. Carl’s daughter Nancy died 3/25/03; buried in Nashville, IN. I will miss being with all of you.

Hugh & Ruth Brady  
Fort Myers, Florida  
It sounds like a great meeting! Ruth spends her time in her wheel chair or her bed. We do get out to church or short trips to friends’ homes.

Inez & Bill Brown  
Zebulon, North Carolina  
Bill had a stroke 9/9/02 and then a mini-stroke 2/25/03. Doing OK now. I had surgery (breast cancer) twice in March. I’m doing OK. Maybe we can be with you next year.

Betty & Paul Cook  
Terre Haute, Indiana  
Unable to attend – will be on a wedding cruise with our granddaughter. Memphis is a great city – enjoy the good food. We will miss you all. Unfortunately, I have to report the death of three family members: brother Elwood McGrew, sister-in-law Mildred McGrew, and nephew Bill Eddington. Hope to see you next year.

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Dori & Tom Dvorak  
Clutier, Iowa  
Not able to attend this year. Nathan is in summer school; Ben is talking a blue streak; Tom is finishing his first year of electrical apprenticeship. I continue to work as a chiropractor. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Maurice Holmes  
1473 E. McKay Rd., Apt. 216  
Shelbyville, IN 46176  
(317) 398-3919  
NEW ADDRESS! He recently sold his home and has moved to an assisted-living facility.

Martin & Alice Kauzlarich  
Hebron, Illinois  
Busy raising goats. Summer is a busy season. We are fine.

Helen (Wray) & Jack Lawson  
Newport News, Virginia  
We were very glad to meet all of you last year. Jack has just had his hip replaced and is in rehab. Have a wonderful time; we will be thinking of you.

Richard Mansfield  
Beaverton, Oregon  
Can’t attend this year. In June of 2002 we celebrated my mother’s 100th birthday (Julie Pauline Smith Mansfield). She will be 101 on 6/20/03. Thanks for the newsletter. We appreciate the effort various people make to keep things going.

Rebecca (Thomas) Markel  
2455 Tamarack Tr., Apt. #14  
Bloomington, IN 47408  
(812) 339-8003  
NEW ADDRESS! Since the middle of March I have been at Meadowood Retirement Community. I really enjoy being here. I am near the campus of Indiana University. I shall miss you but I look forward to being together at next year’s gala celebration.

Cherry Page  
Encinitas, California  
I am thankful for the folks who carry on the Nail-Ray Association. I have joined the DAR (through Thomas Ray). My big “HI” to all who know me.

Lana Patterson  
Walnut Creek, California  
Lana wrote us a nice letter (which we circulated at the business meeting) detailing the trip she and her sister Lynn Brody made across the country tracing their Nail roots.

Lenore Stanton  
Topsham, Maine  
Have a grand and glorious time together. Hope I can meet you all some day. Thanks to all who work to keep the Nail-Ray Association alive.

Beverly Twiss  
Decatur, Illinois  
Received “the Big Book.” Wonderful!

Gone But Not Forgotten:

This year we mourned the loss of three members of our organization:  
Mildred McGrew, Terre Haute, Indiana (8/5/02)  
Eldon May, Kansas City, Kansas (1/24/03)  
Martha (Thomas) Whitehead, Lebanon, Indiana (4/19/03)

Lost Souls:

Newsletters to the following members have been returned with no forwarding address. If you know the whereabouts of any of these individuals, please let us know.

Eldredge, Mrs. Bradley S. (Amy)  
7265 Wyngate Way  
Cumming, GA 30040

Henssell, Mrs. Florence  
901 Essington Rd. Apt 121  
Joliet, IL 60435-8404

Merryman, Allie  
2492 Hwy 508  
Onalaska, WA 98570

Miller, Mrs. Ken  
7200 Cahill Rd. #100  
Minneapolis, MN 55435

Stewart, Jacqueline F.  
33 Morningside Drive  
San Francisco, CA 94132

White, Mary A.  
22311 Washington Rd.  
Carlyle, IL 62231

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2003 and want to stay on our mailing list, please send $10.00 to

NAIL-RAY ASSOCIATION  
Dr. Rebecca T. Markel, Treasurer  
2455 Tamarack Trail, Apt. 14  
Bloomington, IN 47408