REPORT FROM INDIANA

The 2004 gathering of the Nail-Ray Association was held June 11-13 in Shelby County, Indiana. Tom and Lynda Plymate, Beck Markel, and Dick Weakley organized and hosted the entire weekend of visiting, sightseeing, and fellowship. We were thrilled to welcome five new families attending their first Nail-Ray gathering: Lynn and Arnold Brody, Diane and Perry Ives, Lana and Wade Patterson, Diana and Jack Taylor, and David and Tammy Nail and eight of their nine children!

The festivities began with a welcoming dinner Friday evening at Tom and Lynda’s farm home on the Boggstown Road. Forty-three family members converged on “the farm” from Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and California.

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Lynda Plymate’s Domed Orzo-Shrimp Salad

One of the big hits of the Welcoming Dinner was Lynda’s domed orzo-shrimp salad. At popular request, here’s the recipe…

1 16-oz. package orzo, cooked, drained
1 6-oz. can sliced olives, drained
10 oz. frozen salad shrimp, thawed, drained
8 oz. frozen tiny peas, blanched, drained
1 yellow or red pepper, chopped
1/2 small sweet onion, chopped
2/3 C. fat free vinegar/olive oil dressing (Hendricksons)
salt, pepper, garlic (optional)
parsley and cherry tomatoes for garnish

Toss together the cooked orzo, peas, olives, peppers, shrimp and onion. Pour the dressing over salad and mix well. Add salt and pepper to taste, and additional dressing if needed (don’t make salad too moist). Spoon salad into mixing bowl, packing down slightly, cover and chill thoroughly. Unmold the salad onto a serving platter and garnish with parsley, cherry tomatoes, and reserved shrimp. This recipe serves 8 people. The salad keeps well in refrigerator.
On Saturday, Dick Weakley escorted twenty-one of us on a sightseeing tour of Indianapolis. Highlights included the home of Benjamin Harrison, our 23rd President, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the Indianapolis 500.

Our tour of the Harrison Home coincided with an annual festival that included a croquet tournament on the lawn and a jazz band performing on the porch.

Saturday evening we held our annual banquet and business meeting at the Goodrich Party House in Fairland. Cousins Cora Marie and Julia Lavina Goodrich stuffed us to the gills with a delicious homemade dinner of fried chicken and mashed potatoes, beef and noodles, green beans, rolls and apple butter, and cherry pie.

At the annual business meeting, Tom Plymate described some improvements that have been made to the Nail-Ray web site over the past year. Color versions of the newsletters are now available from the web site, as well as several family bible records transcribed by Janet Ross. Our web address is http://geosciences.smsu.edu/Faculty/Plymate/Nail-Ray.htm.

The following individuals were elected to serve as officers of the Nail-Ray Association through June, 2006:

- President: Tom Plymate
- Vice-President: Barbara Snow
- Recording Secretary: Dori Rammelsberg Dvorak
- Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer: Janet Ross
- Chaplin: James Russell
Sunday was devoted to the Sesquicentennial Celebration for Old Union United Methodist Church. Founded in 1854 by Samuel Nail and Cherry (Wray) Nail and their compatriots, this “little country church” has become a focal point for the Nail-Ray Association.

The day of celebration began with a worship service led by our District Superintendent, Rev. Ida Easley. Over one hundred individuals attended one or more parts of the sesquicentennial celebration, with over seventy in attendance for the morning worship service. It certainly was wonderful to see the Old Union pews filled once again.

At noon, we recessed to the church basement for an old fashioned pitch-in dinner.

After dinner, we reconvened in the sanctuary for the sesquicentennial program. Tom Plymate presented a “Brief History of the First 150 Years” and recognized former Old Union ministers and their families. Then, former members of the congregation were encouraged to share fond memories of Old Union.

The final event of the weekend was the dedication of a new flagpole and flag for the Brandywine Center—Ray/Wray Cemetery, presented by the descendants of Gus and Emma (Headlee) Thomas. The dedication ceremony was led by Rebecca (Thomas) Markel and featured a Presentation of Colors and Salute by American Legion Post #70.

Below, left to right, descendants of Gus and Emma (Headlee) Thomas: Robert E. Thomas (wife Arlene), Rebecca (Thomas) Markel, Patricia (Thomas) Montgomery (Husband Floyd), John M. Thomas (wife Jean).
Old Union Methodist Church Sesquicentennial—June 13, 2004

1 Keturah Nail, St. James, MO
2 Naomi Nail, St. James, MO
3 Seth Nail, St. James, MO
4 Collin Clevenger, Shelbyville, IN
5 Esther Nail, St. James, MO
6 Cora Goodrich, Fairland, IN
7 Julia Goodrich, Fairland, IN
8 Julia (Smith) Sherer, Tower Hill, IL
9 Katy (Morse) Bruce, Kenney, IL
10 Bob Bruce, Kenney, IL
11 Jonathan Nail, St. James, MO
12 David S. Nail, St. James, MO
13 Mara Nail, St. James, MO
14 Tammy Nail, St. James, MO
15 Joshia Nail, St. James, MO
16 Ian Nail, St. James, MO
17 Terry Keller, Dongola, IL
18 Barbara Keller, Dongola, IL
19 John M. Thomas, Shelbyville, IN
20 Jean Thomas, Shelbyville, IN
21 Gladys (Miller) Lovinggood, Martinsville, IN
22 Marie (Miller) Clark, Martinsville, IN
23 Floyd (“Buss”) Montgomery, Waldron, IN
24 Patricia (Thomas) Montgomery, Waldron, IN
25 Rita Teal, Shelbyville, IN
26 Cara Parker, Shelbyville, IN
27 Rebecca (Thomas) Markel, Bloomington, IN
28 Dory Pike, Shelbyville, IN
29 Rev. Glen McGuire, Richmond, IN
30 Carol McGuire, Richmond, IN
31 Rev. Larry Odom, Muncie, IN
32 Thelma Merry, Shelbyville, IN
33 Linda (Merry) Simmons, Shelbyville, IN
34 Kirt Fuchs, Wilkinson, IN
35 Rev. Ida Easley, Rushville, IN
36 Clarene Russell, Collierville, TN
37 James M. Russell, Collierville, TN
38 Janet Ross, Springford, VA
39 Arlene Thomas, Shelbyville, IN
40 Robert E. Thomas, Shelbyville, IN
41 Melanie Thomas, Shelbyville, IN
42 Ann (Williamson) Ferguson, Pittsburgh, PA
43 Norm Ferguson, Pittsburgh, PA
44 Thomas G. Plymate, Springfield, MO
45 Lynda Plymate, Springfield, MO
46 Mary Ann (Nail) Williamson, Montgomery, TX
47 Frank Williamson, Montgomery, TX
48 Dan Greenberg, Indianapolis, IN
49 Char Cochran, Indianapolis, IN
50 Charles W. Cochran, Indianapolis, IN
51 Rolland S. Nail, Indianapolis, IN
52 Joan Morse, Kenney, IL
53 D. Michael Morse, Kenney, IL
54 John Greenberg, Indianapolis, IN
55 Billy Wayne Lingenfelter, Greenfield, IN
56 Mary June (Lingenfelter) Runion, Greenfield, IN
57 Jack Taylor, Alderson, WV
58 Diana Taylor, Alderson, WV
59 Judy (Branson) John, Columbus, IN
60 Wade Patterson, Walnut Creek, CA
61 Lana (Nail) Patterson, Walnut Creek, CA
62 Ruth (Lathom) Derrel, St. Paul, IN
63 Barbara Snow, McLean, VA
64 Michael Risley, Shelbyville, IN
65 Rachel Risley, Shelbyville, IN
66 Rebekah Risley, Shelbyville, IN
67 Mark Risley, Shelbyville, IN
68 Peggy (Montgomery) Risley, Shelbyville, IN

Present for part of the sesquicentennial celebration but not included in the group photo:

Arnold and Lynn (Nail) Brody, Lewisburg, WV
Tony Clevenger, Shelbyville, IN (Photographer)
Larry and Jennifer Earl, Shelbyville, IN
Scott and Mary Jo Earl and two sons, Shelbyville, IN
Connie (Holzhausen) Goode, Shelbyville, IN
Shawn Goode, Shelbyville, IN
Paul and Louella Holzhausen, Shelbyville, IN
Brett Jackson, Shelbyville, IN
Rev. Stewart and Jane Pier, St. Paul, IN

Color Guard from American Legion Post #70:

Frank Bronson, Shelbyville, IN
Don Dwelly, Shelbyville, IN
Russell Browning, Shelbyville, IN
Russell Cutsinger, Edinburgh, IN
John Helkine, Fairland, IN

High-quality color prints of this group photo can be made by downloading and printing the digital image file from the Nail-Ray web site (http://geosciences.smsu.edu/Faculty/Plymate/Nail-Ray.htm). For those who do not have the capability to download and print a digital image file, prints can be ordered at cost ($3.00 for 8”x10”, $2.00 for 5”x7”) from…

Nail-Ray Association
Janet Morgan Ross, Treasurer
7788 Ballston Dr.
Springfield, VA 22153
OLD UNION CHURCH HISTORY BOOK

As part of the sesquicentennial celebration for Old Union Methodist Church, Tom Plymate and Rebecca Markel updated and expanded Dorothy Plymate’s 1987 “History of Old Union.” Their new 98-page book, “Old Union United Methodist Church, 1854-2004,” includes numerous photographs (twenty-four of them in color) showing the church, its ministers, and its congregation over several decades. It also includes appendices on “James Wray and the Early History of Methodism in Shelby County” and “The Nail-Ray Association” and an alphabetical listing of 529 individuals who have been members or constituents of Old Union at some time during the past 150 years. Tom and Beck presented a copy of this book to each household represented at the sesquicentennial celebration. Additional copies may be purchased for $15.00 + $3.00 shipping. Send orders to…

Tom Plymate
5225 S. Timberlake Dr.
Springfield, MO  65804

OLD UNION COMMEMORATIVE TILES

As mementos of the sesquicentennial, we are selling commemorative tiles depicting Old Union Church as it appeared before removal of the belfry. These tiles are available framed either in wood (natural alderwood or matte black) or wrought iron, suitable for use either as wall hangings or trivets. Cost is $20.00 post-paid, with the net proceeds to benefit the Brandywine Center Cemetery Maintenance Fund. Send orders to…

Tom Plymate
5225 S. Timberlake Dr.
Springfield, MO  65804

STATUS OF NAIL-RAY PUBLICATIONS

At the business meeting on Saturday, June 12, 2004, Tom Plymate and Janet Ross discussed the status of our organization’s publications. We have now sold all 205 copies of our 1997 BIG BOOK, “The Families of Henry Nail & Mary Keller and Thomas Ray & Elizabeth Pearce, 2nd Edition.” Our 1993 “Nail-Ray Family Stories,” and our 1994 “Where They Are Now—The First Three Generations of Thomas Ray and Henry Nail” are also out of print. We still have a few copies of our 1993 “Nail-Ray Family Photo Tree” (available from our Treasurer for $25.00 post-paid).

We decided it is now time to start planning for a third edition of “The Families…”. We expect this new edition to be distributed on CD rather than in paper format, allowing us to integrate the photos and family stories with the genealogical data into a single unit. We have not yet set a target date for publication, but it’s now time to start collecting new information to be included in this third edition.

Please submit updated data for your family using the enclosed “Family Group Record” form from Ancestry.com. If possible, tie each new group sheet to an existing person listed in the 1997 Nail-Ray book, and put that person’s Nail or Ray number on the sheet. Also, please spell out all month names with at least three letters (Mar., May, Jun., Jul., etc.). Please send completed group sheets, along with any additional photos and/or family stories to be included in the new edition, to…

Janet Morgan Ross
7788 Ballston Dr.
Springfield, VA  22153
jmorganross@juno.com

NEXT YEAR — MADISON COUNTY, IOWA

Billie Lee and Glen Rammelsberg and Dori and Tom Dvorak will host the 2005 Nail-Ray get-together in Madison County, Iowa. We will be tracing the family of Barnabas Ray, who moved from Shelby County, Indiana, to Madison County, Iowa, in the 1850’s. We’ll also get a chance to see some of the sites made famous in the Meryl Streep/Clint Eastwood movie “The Bridges of Madison County.” Dates for next-year’s get-together are June 10-12. Mark your calendars! Hope to see you there!
Nail-Ray Family Members Present at the 2004 Gathering

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

From JOHN NAIL and MARTHA RAY:
Through Christina Nail Berry:  
James M. Russell (wife Claren), Collierville, TN

Through Nathaniel L. Nail:  
David S. Nail (wife Tammy), St. James, MO  
Mara Nail, St. James, MO  
Jonathan Nail, St. James, MO  
Ian Nail, St. James, MO  
Naomi Nail, St. James, MO  
Keturah Nail, St. James, MO  
Esther Nail, St. James, MO  
Seth Nail, St. James, MO  
Joshua Nail, St. James, MO

Through Perlina Nail Steward:  
Julia (Smith) Sherer, Tower Hill, IL  
Janet (Morgan) Ross, Springfield, VA

Through Nathaniel L. Nail:  
David S. Nail (wife Tammy), St. James, MO  
Mara Nail, St. James, MO  
Jonathan Nail, St. James, MO  
Ian Nail, St. James, MO  
Naomi Nail, St. James, MO  
Keturah Nail, St. James, MO  
Esther Nail, St. James, MO  
Seth Nail, St. James, MO  
Joshua Nail, St. James, MO

Through James Nail:  
Lynn (Nail) Brody (husband Arnold), Lewisburg, WV  
Lana (Nail) Patterson (husband Wade), Walnut Creek, CA  
Diana Taylor (husband Jack), Alderson, WV

From SAMUEL NAIL and CHERRY WRAY:
Through Rebecca Nail Thomas:  
Charles W. Cochran (wife Char), Indianapolis, IN  
John Greenberg, Indianapolis, IN  
Dan Greenberg, Indianapolis, IN  
Thomas G. Plymate (wife Lynda), Springfield, MO  
John M. Thomas (wife Jean), Shelbyville, IN  
Melanie Thomas, Shelbyville, IN  
Rebecca (Thomas) Markel, Bloomington, IN  
Robert E. Thomas (wife Arlene), Shelbyville, IN  
Patricia (Thomas) Montgomery (husband Floyd), Waldron, IN  
Peggy (Montgomery) Risley (husband Mark), Shelbyville, IN  
Rebekah Ann Risley, Shelbyville, IN  
Rachel Lynn Risley, Shelbyville, IN  
Michael Montgomery Risley, Shelbyville, IN

Through John William Nail:  
Rolland S. Nail, Indianapolis, IN  
Mary Ann (Nail) Williamson (husband Frank), Montgomery, TX  
Ann (Williamson) Ferguson (husband Norm), Pittsburgh, PA

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 Mary Ray Goodrich:  
Julia Lavina Goodrich, Fairland, IN  
Cora Marie Goodrich, Fairland, IN  
Richard Weakley, Shelbyville, IN

From JAMES WRAY:
Through Wiley Wray:  
Barbara (Borland) Snow, McLean, VA

Through Jordan Wray:  
Adriene Diane (Warner) Ives (husband Perry), Ft. Washington, MD

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 SUSANNAH RAY BASS:
Through Frances Bass Thayer:  
Lolita (Thayer) Guthrie (husband Merle), Bowling Green, OH  
Carla (Guthrie) Sanner (guest Bill Hall), Bowling Green, OH  
Julie Sanner, Bowling Green, OH

From MARTHA RAY NAIL:  
Descendants listed under her husband JOHN NAIL, above.
Members who could not attend the 2004 meeting sent their greetings:

Inez Hodge Brown  
Zebulon, North Carolina  
I’m sorry Bill and I will be unable to attend the reunion this year, but our thoughts will be with you. We are enjoying the newsletter.

Jewell Byland  
Orlando, Florida  
Charles Byland died on August 31, 2002. Sorry I haven’t let you know before.

John & Linda Chesser  
1391 South S.R. 446  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
NEW ADDRESS! We’ll be with you on Sunday.

Alice (Byerly) Kauzlarich  
Hebron, Illinois  
Would like to keep in touch with the Nail-Ray group via e-mail (ilflatlander@direcway.com). I keep thinking one of these days I will get to the reunion in June! The last and only time I got to the reunion was when it was in Kenney, IL. I am starting to get back into genealogy.

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Helen (Wray) & Jack Lawson  
Newport News, Virginia  
Your June weekend sounds wonderful; will be thinking of you all. Jack is to have his other hip replaced and hopes to recoup in time for our family beach week. Have a super time and good weather.

Pat Lorentzen  
Santa Barbara, California  
My best wishes to the Nail-Ray folks. Unfortunately, once again we won’t be able to attend the reunion, but please give my best wishes to all.

Dick Mansfield  
Beaverton, Oregon  
So sorry that we will not be able to attend the Nail-Ray Annual Meeting again this year. My mother, Julia Pauline Smith Mansfield, died on August 31, 2003. Thanks for the newsletter and the information. We appreciate the effort various people make to keep things going.

Norman G. Morris  
1901 Taylor Road  
Columbus, IN 47203  
NEW ADDRESS! I hope you all have a great reunion in June!

Marlo and Dee Nelson  
Avon, Minnesota  
Sorry we are unable to attend, but we enjoy receiving the newsletter. Thank you!

Stanley and Mary Noonan  
Sonoma, California  
Mary would like to be joining you at the Boggstown Inn Cabaret – Sorry to say, she is restricted to a wheel chair and is in a convalescent hospital in Sonoma, California, but she sends her best to the Nail-Ray membership.

Bethany Roberts  
22 Allen Rd. Box 231  
Brookfield, MA 01506  
NEW ADDRESS! Sorry we can’t come.

Ann Sims  
Conroe, Texas  
I have some original Nail family pictures, some of which I do not know who they are. If I am unable to attend the reunion in June, I’ll send copies with Janet (Ross) and perhaps someone will recognize some of the people.

Lonnie H. & Betty C. Smith  
Jacksonville, Texas  
Regrettfully, we will be unable to attend the Nail-Ray reunion again another year. We have reached the age where one long trip each year is our limit. The last of September, Lon and his brother with wives have a reunion at Maggie Valley, NC. Hope you have a good attendance and all will enjoy the time together. We certainly enjoyed the two we were able to attend.

Lenore (Ballard) Stanton  
Topsham, Maine  
Best wishes to all for a wonderful reunion. Thoughts and prayers will be with you.

Carol Varian  
Plano, Texas  
Thanks for the newsletters!

Gone But Not Forgotten:

This year we mourned the loss of four members of our organization:  
Charles Byland (died August 31, 2002)  
Julia Pauline (Smith) Mansfield (died August 31, 2003)  
Doris LaDean (Richardson) Alcott (died May 20, 2004)  
Devron Byerly (died May 30, 2004)

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:

Terry L. Nail  
524 N. Gardner  
Wellington, KS 67152

N. E. Obermeuller  
R. R. 1, Box 118  
Venton, IA 52349

Mrs. W. Fon Porter  
3002 Settlers Trail  
Saint Charles, IA 50240

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2004 and want to stay on our mailing list, please send $10.00 to…

Nail-Ray Association  
Janet Morgan Ross, Treasurer  
7788 Ballston Dr.  
Springfield, VA 22153