

**THE WELLS FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
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Editor: Karen Howard  
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### **GREETINGS WELLS FAMILY:**

It is hoped that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and is enjoying a peaceful and healthy beginning to 2017.

### **2016 REUNION**

We had another great reunion on September 4th, and a wonderful time was had by all. We had approximately 130 in attendance this year—not as many as for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year, but an increase in attendance from the previous few years. We had several new family members in attendance; however, a lot of our regular attendees were not able to be with us due to illness. We hope that they will all be able to attend the 2017 reunion which will be on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Everyone mark your calendars for that date.

#### **New family members in attendance were:**

Freddie Lee (Munroe) Goble; Robyn Goble Tackett; Orbin Slone; Noah Conley; Jonah Tackett; Virgil Wells; Jerry Wells; Connie Voiers; Jerry Wayne Thompson; Anthony Thompson; Margaret Darlene Moore; Cleo Owens Wells; Allen Moore; Tim Damron; Jesse Moore; Sara Moore; Liam Moore; Jessica Moore; Robert D. Walters; Winston Wells; Cindy Wells; Aric McCoart; Rebecca Witten McCoart; Morgan McCoart; and Zack McCoart.

We were really pleased to have so many new family members in attendance and we encourage everyone to try to get as many family members as possible to join us on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **NOTE**

Jim Preston, husband of the late Clara Wells Preston, for many years, tossed 100 \$1 bills to the children in attendance at the reunions for them to use to purchase auction items. Due to health problems in recent years, Jim has been unable to attend the reunion in person but has continued to send the dollar bills for the children. We appreciate Jim doing this as the kids really have fun getting the money. Following are photos showing Mary Walton tossing the money this past year and the children going for it:



### **LARGEST FAMILY**

Although many of the regular attendees were unable to make it to the reunion this year, the family of **RICHARD “DICK” AND FANNY RICHMOND WELLS** won the largest group this year with approximately 22 present. Unfortunately, we were unable to get a photo of the of the group this year. This family descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William Green Wells, and Agnes Wells Auxier.

### **TRAVELED FARTHEST**



**THARON STURGILL KERSHNER**, of Ypsilanti, MI, a member of the largest family group, traveled the farthest. Tharon is the daughter of the late James and Mildred Wells Sturgill. Her sister, Marlene Jarvis, serves on the Wells Family Association Board.

## YOUNGEST

### **ALEXANDRIA GRACE**

**RAMEY**, daughter of Jeff and Cindy Muncy Ramey, of Williamsport, KY, was the youngest Wells Family member present. Alexandria was born 5/31/2016 and is the granddaughter of Eugene and Charlene Patton Muncy. Charlene is Vice-President and Assistant Treasurer of the Wells Family Board. Alexandria descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William Green Wells, and Agnes Wells Auxier.



## OLDEST



**RACINE WELLS**, 91 years old, of Paintsville, KY was the eldest person attending. Racine was born on 3/1/25, and she is an honorary member of the Wells Board. She is a daughter of the late Colvin & Tessie Burke Wells and descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells &

Roseanna Wells Spears.

Although she was unable to make it for all the reunion, **EDITH MOLLETTE**, of Boonscamp, KY, and her daughter, Rita, stopped by near the end of the festivities. Edith wanted to have a short visit with family members who were in attendance. We felt



we should recognize Edith as she is 93 years young, and she and her husband, William, have been married for 71 years. Edith is an honorary Wells Family board member. She descends from Richard Wells through William Green Wells.

## 2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



### **DIANA BROOKE**

**WALLACE**, of Louisville, KY was the winner of the \$500 2016 Wells Family Scholarship. As Diana is attending college in Temple Terrace, FL, she was unable to be at the reunion to accept the check. However, her parents, John Mark & Patricia

Wells Wallace of Louisville, KY, were there to accept it for her. Diana descends from Richard Wells through William Green Wells and Agnes Wells Auxier.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear Cousins,

My name is Danny K. Blevins, and I was asked to serve as the president of the Wells Family Association for 2016 - 2017. I have had the privilege of meeting several of you at the many family reunions I have attended over the years, but perhaps some of you still don't know me.

I am in the George E. Wells line. My grandfather was Beecher Wells who was born and raised at Odds, KY. My parents are Phyllis Wells Blevins and the late Danny E. Blevins of Van Lear, KY. I was born in Wabash, IN, as my parents had moved there to find work in the early 1960's. We moved to Van Lear when I was about three years old.

In 1979, I graduated from Johnson Central High. My post-secondary educational background is very diverse. I hold degrees and/or diplomas from Mayo State Vocational Technical School, Prestonsburg Community College, Morehead State University, and Union College. I am a Rank I teacher with certifications in Social Science and General Science. In 1999, I completed training in the NASA "NEW" program at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA. I hold a lifetime Ground Radio Operator's License with RADAR and a General Class Amateur Radio Operator's License.

I taught as a full-time educator in the Johnson County Schools for 27 years. Most of that time was spent teaching various subjects in the social sciences and general science. In addition to teaching in the public school system, I have worked extensively with the East Kentucky Science Center in Prestonsburg and the Morehead Space Science Center in Morehead, KY. I served for a number of years as a Jet Propulsion Laboratory Solar System Ambassador for Kentucky, and I co-hosted a closed-circuit television program called, "The Starguides." (This television show was produced by our own Ronnie Wells.) Presently, I work as a substitute teacher.

History and genealogy have always been interests of mine. I feel very privileged to have been the student of many great history and social studies educators. Mr.



Edward R. Hazelette, Drs. Thom Matijasic, Jack Bizzel, Victor Howard, and Stuart Seely Sprague to name but a few. I am a President Emeritus of the Van Lear, KY Historical Society, Inc. I am also the founder of the Van Lear Historical Society's quarterly newsletter, "The Bankmule." I am a past recipient of the Kentucky Historical Society's Award of Distinction and, on the national level, I have received the Leadership in Local History Award from the American Association for State and Local History. In 2008, Arcadia Publishing Company released my book, "Van Lear" as part of their Images of America series. Currently, I am working on the biography of Lt. Col. Harry T. Stewart, Jr. USAF Ret. who was one of the famous "Red Tails" of the 332nd Fighter Group.

I reside in Van Lear, Kentucky with my wife, Ida "Trudy" Butcher Blevins. Trudy is in the Mary Wells Butcher line, she being the daughter of Clarinda Hampton Butcher and the late Hubert Butcher. We have three children: Tracy Danielle, Daniel Trevor and Danni Morgan Blevins. Tracy has a degree in Sociology from Morehead State University, Trevor is currently attending Morehead State University where he is pursuing a double major in English and History, and Danni Morgan is a Junior attending Johnson Central High School.

I deem it an honor to be your president and encourage everyone to please put forth an extra effort to invite those of our family who haven't attended our reunion to please join us. The continuation of this association depends squarely upon the participation of our younger family members.

Anyone wishing to make suggestions as to how we can improve our reunions, or any of the many projects we have going, may contact me at P.O Box 336, Van Lear, KY 41265.

Yours truly, Danny K. Blevins

Thanks, Danny, for accepting this office. We know you will do a great job in recruiting our "younger" Wells family members to participate in extending the efforts of the Wells Family Association for years to come.

## RECOGNITIONS & CONGRATULATIONS

### **GRACE ELIZABETH**

**WALTON**, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Glendover Elementary, Lexington, KY, competed in an art competition sponsored by the local PTA in Lexington. She won the

contest from her school and, if she wins in the district, she will compete at the state and

then in the national. Grace is the daughter of Brad and Katherine Adams Walton of Lexington and the granddaughter of Mary Wells Walton, Lexington, and the late Manford Walton. Grace descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William Green Wells, and Agnes Wells Auxier.



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## *The Party Times*

**EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

### **LOOK WHO'S TURNING 90!**

#### **RALPH MARKLEY**

★  
Sunday  
September 25th  
1:00-4:00 pm  
★

Urbana Christian  
Conference Center  
1778 State Rte. 29  
Urbana, OH 43078



Ralph was born September 25, 1926. He served in WWII from 1943-1946, beginning at age 16. He married Magdalena (Maggie) Wells in 1949. He retired from the William Bailey Company. He enjoys gardening, woodworking and fishing. Please join his family as we gather to celebrate his 90th birthday milestone.

*The only gift requested is your presence.*

Congratulations to Ralph Markley who turned 90 on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Shown above is the announcement and invitation to the birthday celebration given by his family in Urbana, OH. Ralph's wife, Maggie, was the daughter of Sherman and Lillie Collins Wells, and they were loyal attendees at the Wells reunions until Maggie passed. Maggie descended from Richard Wells through George E. Wells and Sally Young Wells.

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**BENETTE HOWARD** of Paintsville, KY, is shown with two blue ribbons that she won at a recent **Appalachian Roots Event** held as a part of the Eastern Kentucky Agriculture Program's Kentucky Proud movement. Benette won the awards for two of her many

homemade goods, **homemade salsa** and **blueberry bread**, which she markets as **Bea's Jams and Jellies**. Benette and her husband, Donald, can be found during the growing seasons selling all kinds of homegrown vegetables and goodies at both the Floyd County and Pike County Farmers' Markets. Benette, who makes the yummy chicken and dumplings for the reunion each year, is a member of the Wells Family Board and is the daughter of Carl and Polly Wells Collins. She descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William Green Wells and Agnes Wells Auxier.

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**LLOYD WELLS** celebrated his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on 8/30/16 at Thompson Hood Veterans Home in Wilmore, KY. Mary Walton attended the get-together. Mary provided the picture of the 91<sup>st</sup> birthday party. Pictured from left to right are: Seated, James Douglas Wells & William Lloyd Wells, and standing, from left to right, are Lloyd's "baby brothers", John Thomas Wells, Charles Bernon Wells, and Ronald Ray Wells. We send best wishes to Lloyd that he will celebrate many more birthdays!!



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**NATHANIEL WILCOX**, son of Richard and Vernita Lynn Wells Wilcox of Van Lear, KY, has been accepted to Cumberland University in Williamsburg, KY for the 2017 fall term. Nathaniel, who was a member of the 2016 State Champion Johnson Central Golden Eagles football team, has been awarded a scholarship and will join the Cumberland University football team this fall. Nathaniel is the grandson of Susie Wells, of Van Lear, and the late Alex Samuel Wells. He descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William Green Wells, and Agnes Wells Auxier.



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Congratulations to the **J.D. ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE CATS**, Prestonsburg, KY winners of the 2017 Regional Grand Championship of the Kentucky Dance Coaches Organization (KDCO) Regional Competition held at Shelby Valley High School, Pikeville, KY on 1/14/17. The Cats placed first in Jazz, Prop, Pom and Best Choreography in Jazz in the competition of dance teams from the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Kentucky school regions. The team will participate at the state competition on 2/19/17 at the Frankfort Convention Center.

Kassidy Morgan Blackburn (1<sup>st</sup> in second row), a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at J.D. Adams Middle School, is a member of the team. Kassidy is the daughter of Steve and Tina Branham Blackburn of Prestonsburg, KY, and her maternal grandparents are Hattie Rose Wells Branham



and the late Bill Dud Branham. Kassidy descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William Green Wells and Agnes Wells Auxier.

### GOOD LUCK, DANCE CATS!!!!

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### JOHNSON CENTRAL GOLDEN EAGLES WIN THEIR FIRST STATE CLASS 4A FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

After a 14-1 regular season and huge wins in all their playoff games, the Golden Eagles traveled to Bowling Green, KY, on 12/4/16 where they rolled over their opponent Franklin-Simpson by a score of 48-0 and brought home their first KHSAA Class 4A State Championship. The Eagles had played for the state title in 2015 when they were defeated by South Warren. Coach Jim Matney, who has coached the Eagles since 2004, said that the Eagles' defensive scheme was hatched the night after that 36-6 loss and attributes a lot of the team's success to many of them being on the wrestling team.

Congratulations to the Golden Eagles and especially to four of the players who are members of the Wells family: **Nathaniel Wilcox**, son of Richard and Vernita Lynn Wells Wilcox; **Marcus Wells**, son of Bernita Wells; and twins **Matthew and Alex Horn**, sons of Gregory and Tonya Collins Horn. Nathaniel and Marcus are both grandsons of Susie Wells, Van Lear, KY and the late Alex Samuel Wells. Matthew and Alex are the grandsons of Larry and Rita Griffith Collins of Van Lear. They all descend from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William Green Wells and Agnes Wells Auxier.

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### BIRTHS



**RIGGINS ROBERT MANGIAFICO** of California was born 5/11/16 at a local hospital. The proud parents are Marc and Allison Wells Mangiafico. Riggins was welcomed by his siblings, Aven Jaymes, Easton Joseph and Cutter Wells Mangiafico. The maternal grandparents are

James and Kathy Wells, and the maternal great-

grandparents are James Douglas and Doris Connors Wells of Lexington, KY. Jim Doug is an honorary member of the Wells Family Association Board. (This is a correction to the article included in the July, 2016, newsletter.)

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### KEELIE JADE SAVAGE

was born 11/8/16 at 4:37 p.m., weighing 6 lbs. and was 18 inches long. Keelie is the daughter of Niki Moore Savage and Jason Savage of Gallatin, TN. The maternal grandparents are Suzanne Patton Moore Spencer, formerly of Auxier, KY, and Anthony Moore. Keelie's maternal great-grandparents are the late Harold Lloyd and Betty Jane Wells Patton. Keelie descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells.



### SICK /PRAYER LIST

Clifford Booth, Darrell Wells, Benette Howard, Anna Wilson, Doris Wells, Roger Patton, Wanda Sanders, William Mollette, James "Jim" Williams, Stanley Keel, Patricia Womack, Lloyd Wells, Susan Adams Kendrick, James Adkins, Anita Wells, Mary Walton, Roger Delong, Phyllis Delong, Mary Ferguson, Lorraine Newberry, Genene Wells, James Brown, Jim Doug Wells, and Larry Joe Wells.

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### SICKNESS AND HOSPITALIZATIONS

**Ronnie Wells**, son of the late Herman and Jeanette Wells Wells, broke his leg last summer and had to be in a cast for several weeks.

**Buddy Sturgill** of Louisville, KY is recovering from a shoulder injury he received in a fall at his home. Buddy has been undergoing physical therapy and is receiving wonderful care from his wife, Barbara. Buddy is the son of the late James and Mildred Wells Sturgill.

**Marcus Wells**, son of Bernita Wells, underwent knee surgery for an old football injury. Marcus is a member of the state champion Johnson Central Golden Eagles Football team and is the grandson of Susie Wells, Van Lear, KY, and the late Alex Samuel Wells.

**Tharon Sturgill Kershner** has been undergoing treatment for a number of medical conditions since traveling the farthest to attend the reunion in September. We hope she gets to feeling better soon.

**Elmer Wells, Jr.**, Cleveland, OH, had to undergo bladder surgery last summer. While undergoing that treatment, it was discovered that he had an aortic abdominal aneurysm (AAA) which was repaired in August and which prevented him from being able to attend the reunion this year. Elmer talked with Mary Walton in December and said that he still does not have his strength back. Elmer is the brother of the late Herman Wells and is the son of the late Elmer and Pearl Hamilton Wells.

**Judy Childers Montgomery** of Mt. Pleasant, TN, was unable to attend this past year's reunion due to having a knee replacement. She is recovering with help from her husband, Doug. They are regular attendees at the Wells reunion. Judy descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William G. Wells and Agnes Wells Auxier.

**Patty Childers Shepherd** had some health problems last year from which she is recovering. Patty and her husband, Wedstel, live in Claypool, IN, and Patty descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William G. Wells and Agnes Wells Auxier.

**Edith Wells Mollette**, 93, spent some time in the hospital in October due to having congestive heart failure and then again in November suffering from pneumonia. After her hospitalization, she was transferred to Mountain Manor Nursing Home in Paintsville for rehabilitation. She was able to go home after a couple of weeks to be with her husband, William, who is 97. Remember them both in your prayers.

**Hope Alexander Wells Sexton** of Paintsville, KY, wife of Jonathan Sexton, had surgery at King's Daughters' Hospital in Ashland in December for a condition that she has had since a child. Hope is the daughter of Melissa Conley of Salyersville, KY and Alex and Cynthia Wells of Van Lear, KY. She descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William Green Wells, and Agnes Wells Auxier.

**Jackie Wells**, wife of John Thomas Wells, had pneumonia twice during the fall.

**Brad Longsworth** spent over a month in a Western Kentucky hospital last fall in critical condition from

cancer treatment. He is being cared for at home by his partner, Anita Wells, and son Cody.

**Richard Wilcox**, husband of Vernita Lynn Wells Wilcox, had a heart attack in November and was a patient at Pikeville Medical Center where he underwent a heart catheterization and received stents. He is at home being cared for by Vernita who is the daughter of Susie Wells of Van Lear and the late Alex Samuel Wells.

**Bonnie G. Clark** of Prestonsburg had knee replacement surgery in November, according to her daughter Leigh Ann Harmon Johnson, who said she should be in the hospital for a few days and well in about 4 weeks. Bonnie is the daughter of the late James and Hazel Dotson Clark. Hazel was the daughter of the late Anna Lee Wells Dotson, daughter of the late Charles Morgan Wells.

**Charles B. Wells**, son of the late Leonard and Carrie Music Wells, had an accident in December where his pistol went off and shot him through his right left and through the femur bone in his left leg. He is being cared for at his home in Lawrenceburg, KY by his sons, Les and Greg. Charlie is the brother of Wells Board members, Ron Wells and Lloyd Wells.

**Mike Collins** had knee surgery at Pikeville Medical Center on 1/5/17, and, according to Mary Walton, he is recovering very well.

**Clifford Booth**, 92, husband of the late Dolores "Sis" Williams Booth, was admitted to Highlands Regional Medical with some major health issues. According to Mary Walton, Clifford has been transferred to Riverview Manor in Paintsville, KY.

**Garold Wendell Wells** had hernia surgery at Highland Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg, on October 4<sup>th</sup>, and had to undergo additional surgery in Lexington on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. His wife, Carol Hall Wells, is with him giving him the care that he needs. Garold is the son of Genene Wells, Van Lear, KY, and the late Nevard Wells.

**Doris Wells Fannin** underwent surgery for removal of the lower left lobe of her lung in November, 2016, and on January 5, 2017 for removal of the upper lobe of right lung as treatment for lung cancer. According to her daughter, Doris came through the surgery very well. Doris descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells.\*\*\*\*\*

## **DEATHS**



**FRANKLIN DELANO HILLMAN**, 81, passed away on Friday, 3/6/15, at his home after a long illness. Born 5/28/33 in Coeburn, VA, he was a resident of Kingsport since 1963. Frank was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict. He retired from IBM after 30 years of dedicated service. Frank was recognized for his genealogy work which drew his extended family closer.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Dora and Luther Hillman, and nine brothers and sisters. He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Jean Hillman, of Kingsport, three sons, Jonathan Hillman of Huntsville, AL, Robert Hillman of Fort Worth, TX, and William Hillman of Denver, CO; daughter, Catherine Sullivan, of Santa Ana, CA; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; special nephews, John Edgar Hillman and Steve Willis; and special friends, Mel and Rosemary Brent.

Frank descends from Richard Wells through Richard's daughter, Elizabeth "Betsy" Wells Hillman.

### **MRS. LOU JEAN (BATES)**

**HILLMAN**, known as Jean to her many friends and family, passed away Thursday (9/3/15) at her daughter's home in California. She was 78 years old. Six months ago, she lost Frank, her husband, of nearly 58 years, as she learned that she, too, was diagnosed with cancer and had to fight for her life while mourning the man that she loved and spent her life with. For over 50 years, Jean was a compassionate and consummate nurse who helped thousands of patients through their moments of need, and it has been the honor of her family and friends to be at her side to help comfort and guide her through her grief and sickness.



Jean was born on 2/3/37 in Kentucky to the late Landis and Mary Bates; she has been a resident of Kingsport, TN, since 1963.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Franklin Hillman; her parents, six brothers, and six sisters.

Jean's legacy lives on through her children, Jonathan Hillman of Huntsville, AL; Robert Hillman & wife, Jacqueline of Fort Worth, TX; William Hillman of Denver, CO; Catherine Sullivan & husband, Jon, of Santa Ana, CA; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren that adore and love their Nana; sisters, Mary B. Holcomb of Norton, VA and Jackie Hubbard of Kingsport; and Mel & Rosemary Brent who were dear friends and formidable card opponents to Frank and Jean for over 30 years.

A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, 9/19/15, at 1 pm, for Jean and Frank at Trinity Memorial Centers Life Celebration Chapel, Kingsport, TN with committal services at East Lawn Memorial Park following.

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**DONNA JEAN WELLS BLAIR**, age 79, of West Van Lear, KY, passed away Saturday, 3/28/15, at Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonsburg, KY. Donna was born 5/6/35 in Floyd County, KY, the daughter of the late Caleb "Dock" Wells and Nancy (Wells) Wells. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Clay Blair, one son, Danny Clay Blair; a daughter, Debra Jo Blair; and a sister, Vivian Caudill. She is survived by one sister, Wilma Wells McClung of Prestonsburg, KY; one granddaughter, Stacy Lynn Hoskins, of Harold, KY; and two great-grandsons, Gregory Ryan Hoskins and Ethan Clay Hoskins.

Visitation was held on 3/30 and 3/31 at Jones-Preston Funeral Home, and funeral services were conducted at 1 p.m. on 4/1/15, in the chapel of Jones-Preston Funeral Home, Paintsville, KY, with Robert Varney officiating. Burial was in Davidson Memorial Gardens at Ivel, KY.

Wilma descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells.

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**DENISE ANN AUSTIN-**

**RAINS**, 57, devoted mother, entered into eternal life with her Lord on 11/8/15 following a long battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her family. Denise was born 10/30/58, in Paintsville, KY. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Richmond, KY and was a retired Curriculum Specialist for the KY Department of Education. She was preceded in death by her parents, Billy Ray and Laura Bernice Wells Austin and a brother, Tim Austin. Surviving are her three children, Kayla Denise Tudor (Adam) of Louisville, KY, Brooklyn Rachelle Rains of Lexington, and Austin Paul Rains of Lexington. Also surviving are a niece, Amanda Ratliff (Nick) and nephew, Brad Austin (Tiffany), all of Paintsville along with a niece, Chelsea Austin, and three great-nephews, Jaxson Ratliff, Carson Ratliff, and Will Austin and one great niece, Meghan Ratliff. Denise's children give thanks to her doctor, Dr. Rachel Harper, along with the many friends and family who sent cards and prayers over the past six years. A Celebration of Life service was held at 7p.m. on Wednesday, 11/11/15, at Kerr Brothers Funeral Home on Harrodsburg Road in Lexington, with a visitation from 5-7p.m. on the same day. A private graveside service was held Thursday, 11/12/15.



Denise descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells and Rosanna Wells Spears.

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**RALPH YOUNG JR.**, age 71, of Ashland, KY, passed away on 6/9/16 at the VA Hospital in Huntington, WV. He was born 11/7/44 in Norfolk, VA to the late Ralph Young, Sr. and Emma Jean Caudill. He was also preceded in death by his beloved brother-in-law and

favorite fishing buddy, Harold Russell, and his beloved great grandson, Connor Carl Mays.

He graduated from Raceland High School Class of 1964 and served proudly in the U.S. Navy. Ralph worked at Kentucky Electric Steel in Purchasing for 33 years. His favorite things to do were fishing, golfing, gardening and

spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Stella Rose Delawder Young; his daughter, Tammy Jean Young Simpson and husband, Timothy; a son, David Wayne Young and wife, Misty; his grandchildren, Gregory Allen Mays, Aleata Ward, Tiffany Michelle Fox, David Ryan Fox, David Ethan Young and Haley Morgan Young Jr; great-grandchildren, Lucas Allen Mays and Owen Ryan Mays; siblings, Jack (Patty) Young and Jerry (Karen) Young; Sisters-in-law, Elizabeth Russell, Janie (Wesley) Collins, Udell Salyers and June Delawder; Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews and Cousins.

Funeral services were held on Monday, 6/13/16 at 12:00 Noon at Steen Funeral Home-13th Street Chapel and will be officiated by Pastor Jeff Ferguson. Burial followed in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Northeast with military rites performed by Kenova American Legion Post #93. Visitation was on Monday morning at the funeral home from 10:00 AM until service time at 12:00 Noon.

Ralph descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells.

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**ERIC NEWBERRY**, age 40, of Van Lear, KY, passed away Friday, 9/23/16, at Paul B. Hall Medical Center. Born 12/16/75 in Floyd County, he was the son of Terry and Linda Richmond Newberry of Van Lear.



In addition to his parents, he is survived by his companion, Regina Lemaster, one son, Grayson Newberry, and his grandmother, Lorraine Newberry, all of Van Lear, KY.

Funeral services were conducted by Roger Goble at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 9/27/16, in the Phelps and Son Chapel with burial following in the Auxier Relocation Cemetery, Auxier, KY. Visitation was held from 4-9 p.m. on Monday, 9/26.

Eric descends from Richard Wells through William Green Wells.

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**WILLIAM DUDLEY  
"BILL DUD" BRANHAM,**  
79, passed away Sunday,  
9/25/16 at Highlands  
Regional Medical Center.

Bill was born 5/10/37, in  
Ashland, KY, the son of the  
late Woodrow Roscoe  
Branham and Willa Mae  
Bingham Branham. Bill was  
a member of the

Prestonsburg Community United Methodist Church, was  
a former Coal Operator at Triple B Coal Company, and a  
member of the Board of Big Sandy Health Care. He was  
an avid fan of University of Kentucky and Prestonsburg  
High School sports.

Bill is survived by his wife, Hattie Rose Wells Branham;  
two daughters, Lisa Lane Branham Kimbler and her  
husband, Ed, of Hager Hill, KY and Tina Lynn Branham  
Blackburn and her husband, Steve, of Prestonsburg; five  
brothers, Roscoe Branham and wife, Phyllis, of  
Prestonsburg, Donald Branham of East Point, Gary  
Branham and wife, Sharon, of Prestonsburg, Woodie  
Branham and wife Debbie, of Prestonsburg, and Paul  
Branham and wife, Debbie, of Versailles, KY; three  
grandchildren, Adam Logan Kimbler, Kassidy Morgan  
Blackburn, and Jeri Marie Stambaugh; and two great  
grandchildren, Kayleigh Marie Stambaugh and Bradon  
Paul Stambaugh.

Visitation was from 5pm-9pm on 9/27/16 with funeral  
services being conducted at 2pm on Wednesday,  
9/28/16, at Community Methodist Church with Rev.  
John Carwell officiating. Burial was in Gethsemane  
Gardens, Prestonsburg.

Bill's wife, Hattie, is the daughter of the late Chester and  
Ernestine Wells Wells, and she descends from Richard  
Wells through George E. Wells, William Green Wells,  
and Agnes Wells Auxier. Bill and Hattie were loyal  
attendees at the Wells Family Reunion each year.

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**DONALD REFFETT,**  
age 75, of Van Lear, KY,  
passed away Sunday,  
10/30/16, at King's  
Daughters' Medical Center  
in Ashland. Born 6/27/41  
in Johnson County to the  
late Zack Reffett and Kitty  
Salyers Reffett. He is  
survived by his wife, Julia  
Porter Reffett; two sons,  
Ronnie Reffett and Eugene Reffett, both of Van Lear;  
one brother, Paul David Reffett, of Lawrence County;  
two sisters, Linda Reffett of Stambaugh and Joyce  
Powers of Wittensville; and four grandchildren and one  
great grandchild.



Visitation was held at the Van Lear Freewill Baptist  
Church after 5 pm on 10/31 and all day on 11/1. Funeral  
services were conducted at the church by the Rev. Paul  
Wayne Browning on 11/2/16 with burial following in  
Highland Memorial Park, Staffordsville.

Donald's wife, Julia, descends from Richard Wells  
through his son, George E. Wells.

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**GEORGE KEITH WELLS,** age 63, of Lexington, KY,  
formerly of Paintsville, Kentucky, passed away Friday,  
11/4/16 at the U.K. Medical Center, Lexington, KY.

George was born 6/25/53 in Johnson County, Kentucky,  
son of the late George Milton and Thelma Louise Setser  
Wells. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in  
death by his wife, Teresa Gail Daniel Wells, on  
12/16/10.

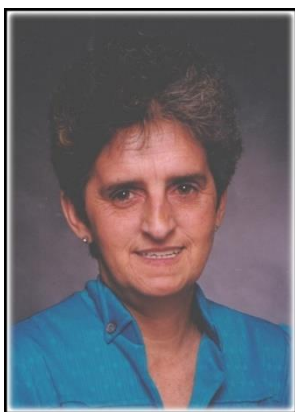
He is survived by two sons, George Christopher Wells of  
Whitehouse, TN and Paul Keith Wells of Lexington,  
KY; one daughter, Laura Ashley Tackett, of Paintsville,  
Kentucky; two grandchildren, Hawthorne Gable Wells  
and Maxwell Emmerson Tackett; and three sisters,  
Sharon Zaretskie of Pennsylvania, Judith Hornback of  
Lexington, Kentucky, and Pam Moreland of Richmond,  
Kentucky.

Funeral services were conducted at 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, 11/9/16 in the Jones-Preston Funeral  
Chapel. Burial followed in Lakeview Memorial  
Cemetery, at Staffordsville, Kentucky. Visitation was at  
the Jones-Preston Funeral Home Tuesday, 11/8/16 from

6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. until time of service.

George descends from Richard Wells through his son, Moses Wells.

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**TONNA LEE DAWSON**, age 71, of Van Lear, passed away Thursday, 11/17/16 at her home. She was born 11/20/44 in Portland, OR, to the late Haskell Collins and Elizabeth Elkins Collins. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Raymond "Buddy" Dawson {2/26/95}. She is survived by her son, Rodney Dawson and wife Regina of Paintsville; one brother, Ray Griffith and wife Nadine of Morehead. Four grandchildren and five great grandchildren also survive.

Funeral services were held at 1pm on Sunday, 11/20/16 in the chapel of the Phelps & Son Funeral Home with Larry Blair officiating. Burial followed in the Honeycutt Cemetery at Van Lear.

Tonna descends from Richard Wells through Moses Wells.

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**VIOLA DELONG MCGEE WILLIAMS**, 89, of Springfield, OH, passed away November 19, 2016, at her residence. Viola was born in Paintsville, KY, on January 11, 1927, to the late Marion Wash and Dora Felty Delong. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her siblings, Lucy Walton Keel, George Delong, Cletis Delong, Frank Delong, Charles Delong, Allen Delong and Bill Delong. Viola is survived by her sister, Margaret Lyman Bohman, of California and many nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.



Viola was a member of the Grace Missionary Baptist Church and was a member of Eagles Aeries #397, VFW Post 1031, and the Moose Lodge.

Services to honor Viola were held on Friday, November 25, 2016, at noon at the Richards, Raff & Dunbar Memorial Home with Rev. Orbie Estep officiating. Burial followed in Rose Hill Burial Park, Springfield, OH.

Viola descends from Richard Wells through the Auxier line.

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**ANNICE WILLIAMS MUSIC**, age 79 of Boonscamp, passed away Monday, 11/21/16 at Pikeville Medical Center. Born 8/1/937 in Johnson County, she was the daughter of the late Lee Bernard Williams and Alta Mae Wells Williams and the sister of the late Deloris "Sis" Williams Booth. She is survived by her

husband, Dola Music; one son, Jason, and his wife, Amanda Music, of Louisa; one granddaughter, Brookelyn Madison Music; one brother, James Williams, of Paintsville; one sister, Eula Mae McGinnis, of Carter County; and one niece, Sherri Delong, of Martin County.

Visitation was held at Phelps and Son Funeral Home from 6 pm-9pm on Tuesday, 11/22/2016, with funeral services being conducted by B. Joe Hill at 2 pm on Wednesday, 11/23/16, in the chapel of Phelps and Son Funeral Home. Burial was in Highland Memorial Park, Staffordsville, KY.

Annice descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells and William Green Wells.

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**BRENDA BAILEY COLLINS**, age 68, of Flat Gap, KY, died Saturday, 11/26/16, at her residence following a long battle with cancer. Brenda was born 2/13/48 in Paintsville, KY to Prudence Cottle Bailey and the late Arville Bailey. Brenda was a retired teacher for the Johnson



County School system and a member of the Flat Gap Baptist Church.

In addition to her mother, Brenda is survived by her husband, Mike Collins, two daughters, Kelly Amanda Johnson and husband, Chris, of Flat Gap, and Erin Collins Buchanan and husband, Brad, of Winchester. Also surviving are four grandchildren and two brothers, Wade Bailey and James Bailey. Visitation was held Monday, 11/28, from 2 P.M. until 9 P.M. at the Preston Funeral Home Chapel and for two hours prior to funeral services at 1 P.M. Tuesday at the Flat Gap Baptist Church with Robert Blanton officiating. Burial followed at the Skaggs Town cemetery at Flat Gap. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be made to the Flat Gap School Booster Club by contacting the Preston Funeral Home.

Brenda's husband, Mike, is the son of the late Carl and Polly Wells Collins and descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William Green Wells, and Agnes Wells Auxier.

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**JERRY TODD CAUDILL**, age 44, of Hager Hill, KY, passed away Friday, 1/27/17 at Highlands Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg, KY. Todd was born 10/3/72 in Pikeville, KY, the son of Jerry Thomas and Jennifer Webb Caudill of Paintsville, Kentucky.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by one son, Jerrod Tyler Caudill of Hager Hill, Kentucky; one sister, Crystal Jewell Trimble and husband Eric of Lexington, Kentucky; one niece, Addison Lane Trimble of Lexington, KY; and one aunt, Lucy Reffett of Grayson, KY.

Funeral services were conducted at 12:00 Noon, Monday, 1/30/17 in the Jones-Preston Funeral Chapel with Steve Rose officiating. Burial was in the Highland Memorial Park, at Staffordsville, Kentucky. Visitation was at the Jones-Preston Funeral Chapel from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Sunday, 1/29/17 and 9:00 a.m. until time of service.

Jerry Todd descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells.

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**DARRELL ALLEN ALEXANDER**, best known to family and friends as **"Bud"**, age 84, passed away Sunday, 1/29/17 at his home. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Gwendolyn Wells Alexander. He and Gwen resided and raised their daughters in Prestonsburg before moving to Lexington, KY a few years ago.



Bud was born in Campton, KY on 5/1/32 to the late Willard and Enid Neatherly Alexander. After serving in the United States Navy, he spent a career in the gas and oil industry. He also served as a Shriner, Mason, a Kentucky Colonel and was an avid Harley Davidson rider. Bud was a charter member and long-time captain of the Floyd County Emergency & Rescue Squad.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three daughters, Kim Alexander, Lexington; Kara (Sam) Huffman, Cincinnati; Kelli (Everette) Alexander-Meador, Lexington; grandchildren, Stephen (Courtney) Boyd, Samantha Huffman, Nathan Huffman, Seth Alexander-Meador; and great-grandchildren, Ethan, Ava and Nolan Boyd.

Everyone who was lucky enough to know Bud/Bops/Popsi/Paupu has nothing but wonderful stories to tell about him. He was everything that everyone needed him to be, and he was good at being all of it. He loved each of his girls like she was the most precious girl in the world. He looked at every grandchild like he or she was the most amazing gift life had given him. He had immeasurable pride in his grandsons and his "favorite" granddaughter. When his great grandchildren came along he still had amazing amounts of love to share. He had so much love in his heart, and he showed it and gave it away freely because he was just a wonderful man. Being blessed to know him was enough, but getting to witness his relationships with those around him was more than anyone could hope for out of life. Seeing a man who loved his whole family so deeply and so well is truly something special. Real, unconditional love.

A Life Celebration for Bud will be Saturday, 2/4/17 from 1 until 3 PM at Clark Legacy Center, Brannon



Crossing, Lexington, KY. In lieu of flowers, contributions are suggested to the Floyd Co. Emergency & Rescue Squad, PO Box 681, Prestonsburg, KY 41653.

Bud's wife, Gwen, descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells.

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### **MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

Bob Hutchinson gave \$500.00 to the Association in honor of Joshua Wells.

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### **EDITOR'S NOTES**

- 1) As always, if any you have news about your families that you would like to share with your extended Wells Family, please send it to me at the email or mailing address shown above or to Mary Walton at [wmary582@gmail.com](mailto:wmary582@gmail.com).
- 2) **SCHOLARSHIP:** Remember, if any of you have a child or grandchild who will graduate high school this spring and will be attending college in the fall, the Association awards a \$500 scholarship each year. The check is presented to the winner at the Wells Family Reunion. Applications must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee by 8/1/17 for this year's scholarship. Applicants must be able to show how they descend from Richard Wells and must have attended at least one Wells Family Reunion. Request applications and instructions for completing to either your editor at the above address or to Mary Walton.
- 3) Jim Preston has had a number of the 2015 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Group photos framed for the Association to sell. The price is \$70. We will have them at this year's reunion; however, if you would want one shipped to you rather than waiting until the reunion, let me or Mary Walton know.
- 4) Those of you who attended the reunion last year will remember that we ran a video of the grave tour that Mary Walton, Don McFaddin, Susie Colburn, Charlene Muncy and myself took in

**June. We visited several different cemeteries where our Wells Ancestors are buried. Unfortunately, most of the sites are in real need of work.**

**Susie has added music to the video and will make copies of it if you would like to see the gravesites. The cost is \$10.00. If any of you would like a copy of the video, contact Susie at by email at [SusieColburn@att.net](mailto:SusieColburn@att.net) or Susie Colburn, 2436 Delowe Street, Grove City, OH 43123.**