

THE WELLS FAMILY ASSOCIATION INC.
124 MT. SAVAGE DRIVE
ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41105
PHONE: (606) 325-4314

VOLUME 25

EDITORS:

MARY W. WALTON & TOMMIE COCHRAN

THE 1995 REUNION WAS A SUCCESS

I was unable to attend the reunion but was there in spirit. I have been having some health problems since June 2nd. This really changed my plans to attend the Auxier, Wells, Richmond's, Collins, Hillman reunions. I attended only the Collins which was here in Ashland. Some of you know the nature of my problem and others are wondering. I have a tumor on the pituitary gland which is a small vascular endocrine gland located at the base of the brain. The doctors are very cautious due to its location and it pressing on the optical nerve and the two carotid arteries on each side of the neck. After many tests and consultation with my doctor's they have decided to attempt to shrink the tumor with a pill for 3 months. I will be supervised very close by my doctors due to side effects from the medication. After the 3 months I will have another MRI and if it works I'll continue taking the pill but if not I'll be scheduled for surgery. I do appreciate all the prayers, beautiful cards and phone calls that I have received from many of you. I love all of you and treasure your prayers.

I am told that the reunion was a success. After looking over the registration of those in attendance I found some of our regulars were not there due to illness, and several first time attendees. Mary

NEW OFFICERS FOR 1995-96 YEAR

President:	Bobby Wells	Vice President:	Ron Wells
Secretary:	Tommie Cochran	Asst. Secretary:	Mary Walton
Treasure:	Pat Wamock	Auditor:	Wanda Wells
Devotion:	Pat Williams	Parliamentarian:	Lloyd Wells
Refreshment:	Delores Booth	Entertainment:	Darlene Burgess
Youth	Angie Williams	Auctioneer:	John B. Wells III
Auction:	Ann Porter	Auction	Randy Wells
Newsletter:	Mary Walton	Asst. Newsletter:	Tommie Cochran
Registration:	Lyman Porter	Asst.Registration:	Beulah Keel

Board Members:	Paulina Garza	Manford Walton	Edith Mollette
	James T. Wells	Margaret Berryman	Mabel W. Allen
	Mary F. Keel	Janice Dunseith	Malva B. Cline
	Virginia Edgel		

- Nomination Committee:* Lloyd Wells Phillip Wells Mary W. Walton
Historical Committe: Paula Wells Bobby Wells John B. Wells
Charles Wells Patti Quallich
- Recruitment:* Arthur & Wanda Collins James D. Wells
- Member at Large:* Magdalene Markley Donna Wells
Clay Wells Rita Smith
- Honorary Members:* Phillip Wells Donnie Wells Opal Derossette
- Ex. Officio Members:* J.B.Wells, III Pat Williams Mary Walton

AWARDS AT 1995 REUNION

LARGEST FAMILY IN ATTENDANCE: Ali & Sadie Wells, of Daniels Creek, Van Lear. The Ali & Sadie Wells family has won the largest family present for the last 3 years. They had 20 members present. This family descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells and Rose Anna Wells Spears lines. Ali came down through George E. by way of his son James E. & Emaritts Collins Wells, Samuel Jefferson & Cynthia Spriggs Wells, Sadie came down through Spencer & Rose Ann Wells Spears line, George W & Matilda Clark Spears, Perry & Mary Alvirda Spears Collins. There were 11 children born to the Ali & Sadie Wells. The daughters are pictured below. They are Emma Jean, Eileen Pearl, Murl, S. J., Mary Margaret, Cynthia Alvirda, Lorraine, Donna Sue, Charles Franklin, Doris Ann and Ali Wells Jr.

"Sadie's Girls



Ali's Daughter, Granddaughter & Great-Granddaughter



Madison Hanna Mauk

YOUNGEST IN ATTENDANCE: Madison Hanna Mauk ,b. 11/10/94 Worthington, Ky. Madison is the son of Joseph & Tara Rambo Mauk. The materal grandparents are Donald & Donna Sue Wells Rambo of Worthington. He desends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells and Rose Anna Wells Spears lines.

OLDEST IN ATTENDANCE: *Truman Wells, Rush, Ky. Truman descends from Richard Wells through his son George E. & Elizabeth Delong Wells, Allen S. & Susan Angeline Collins Wells, Wallace Winfield & Sally Burchett Wells, Truman & Thelma Thompson Wells.*

TRAVELED FARTHEST DISTANCE: *Virginia Wells Monegel, Long Beach, Ca. Virginia was accompanied to the reunion this year with two of her daughters, Linda Crowder and Louise Monegel. Her other daughter Nancy who resides in Texas was unable to attend. Virginia came down Richard Wells through his son Moses Wells. Her parents are were William Franklin & Lora Ethel Hillman Wells and her grandparents are Thomas & Eliza Hillman.*



Thurman Wells & Sister Opal Derossett



Va. Monegel & Brother Jeff Wells

DOOR PRIZE: *Phyllis Blevins, Van Lear, Ky. She is the daughter of Margie Wells and the late Beecher Wells. She descends from Richard Wells through his son George E. Wells by way of James & Emaritta Collins Wells, Samuel Jefferson & Cynthia Spriggs Wells,*

DOOR PRIZE: *Tonya Collins, Van Lear, Ky. She is the daughter of Larry & Rita Collins. She descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William G. Wells and Agnes Wells Auxier. Her paternal grandparents are Carl & Polly Wells Collins. She has one brother Adam Collins. Tonya is a senior at Eastern Kentucky University.*

ATTENDING REUNION FOR FIRST TIME

JEFF MACKECHNIE	CHRISTY WILBURN	DELLA WILBURN
HOLLIE ANN LAFFERTY	JEANETTA J. LAFFERTY	TERRY BACON
JUDITH HOWARD CARTER	MARTY SUE HICKS	FRANCES COLON-WYMAN
LYLE (CORKY) WELLS	MICHAEL FSOLDOS	RICHARD WYMAN
JOHNNIE WELLS	BELVA WELLS SEELEY	JOAN WELLS
JACQUILINE CAROL RAY	JERRY T. KESTNER	JOSHUA DARIN MILLER
JACKIE L. WELLS	JOHN T. WELLS	LARRY A. CLINE
LORRAINE WARD	LAWANNA KENNARD	JACKIE FRAZIER
ROGER D. WELLS	LINDA A. WELLS	HAZEL I. WELLS
LINDA CROWER	WAYNE CROWDER	JACK FLEMING
PAUL L. BURCHELL	JOHN DUNCAN MUNCIE	THOMAS D. MUNCIE JR.
LISA FRAZIER	JACK TEEL	DALE CHURCH
KAREN CHURCH	ZACHARY C. MILLER	MARGIE MAYNARD
MURL WELLS COLLINS	IRENE WELLS	CARL W. WELLS
LAUONNE S. KIGER	KIMBERLY JO ALBERT	SALLY W. MORRIS

REUNIONS

The Auxier Family Reunion was held in Paintsville during July 1-4. John Graham Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Prestonsburg, and Harmon Station Chapter of Paintsville assisted by Big Sandy Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution and the Auxier Historical Society of Auxier, dedicated a monument for Revolutionary soldier Simon Auxier (1751-1826) at Auxier on July 3. Approximately 300 relatives attended weekend reunion. Many of the Auxier family are decendents of Agnes Wells and Samuel Auxier.

The Collins & Spears Reunion was September 9, 1995 at Armco Park in Ashland. This reunion has been at Jenny Wiley State Park in the past but having it in Ashland was a success. They had approximately 75 relatives attending. The group voted to have it at Armco Park next year. This group are desendents of Rose Ann Wells and Spencer Spears.

SICKNESS

MARGARET BERRYMAN	G. BERRYMAN	LEWIS EDGEL
MILDRED WELLS	GENENE WELLS	PAULA WELLS
DELIGHT W. HALL	BEATRICE CHILDERS	LUCILLE PATTON
ANN T. PORTER	OPAL DEROSSETT	HILDA DELONG
DOUG DELONG	PAT WILLIAMS	STEVE VOLOTA
HEATHER ALLICH	RUTH E. COLLINS	PAT W. WOMACK
GEORGIA R. HALL	LINA DESSAPORT	JOANNE QUEEN
BERT BENNINGTON	DON RAMBO	CLYDE QUEEN

HOSPITALIZATION

ALBERT LEE HALL, Brunswick, Ohio was a patient in Medina, Ohio hospital in Sept. with pneumonia. Lee is the son of the late Willie & Ola L. Burk Wells Hall. Upon returning home he received that special care from his wife Georgia. Lee's wife is a past member of the Wells Family board. She descends from Richard Wells through William G. Wells, Rose Anna Wells Spears, and Agnes Wells Auxier lines.

EYVAND BROWN, Van Lear, Ky fell and broke a leg and had to spent a week in the Paul B. Hall Hospital, Paintsville in Oct. Eyvand is presently at home recuperating with special care from his wife Jeanette and son Jim. Eyvand's first wife Betty Wells Brown descended from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William G. Wells and Agnes Wells Auxier. His daughter Ann Wilson is a previous member of the Wells Family Board.

JEFFERSON WELLS, Patriot, Ohio underwent knee surgery on Oct. 16th. He is recuperating at his home with special care from his wife Mildred Ruth Roach Wells. Jeff is the son of the late William Franklin and Lora Ethel Hillman Wells. He is father of 2 children Lisa Kay and Roger Lee Wells. He descends from Richard Wells through his son Moses Wells line.

PHILLIP WELLS, Ashland was in the hospital 8/4-8/7/1995 with a blood clod in his chest. I visited Phillip on Sunday and told him to take care of himself and he told me he had no choice that his wife sees to that. His wife Wanda has been giving him special care for the last 5 years and Phillip has surprised his doctors in how well he has done. (He is now home and pushing foward as usual) Phillip is the son of the late John P. and Ruth Wells of Ashland and descends from Richard Wells through hs son George E. & Nancy Butcher Wells. Phillip and Wanda both are members of the Wells Family Board.

CARL COLLINS, of Van Lear, Ky underwent surgery in Oct. at the Paul B. Hall Hospital, Carl is home recuperating with special attention from his wife Polly. Carl is the son of the late McKenley & Callie Daniels Collins. He descends from Richard Wells from his son George E. & Elizabeth Delong Gains Wells.

WILLA DEAN HONEYCUTT WELLS, of Van Lear, Ky, the wife of S. J. Wells has suffered a heart attack and is in the hospital waiting for a decision of open heart surgery. Her husband Samuel J. Wells descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells and Rose Ann Wells Spears line.

WANDA YOUNG WELLS, Ashland, Ky underwent gall bladder surgery at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital on Oct. 30, 1995. She is recuperating at her home with special care from her husband Phillip and daughters Denise and Desirae. Wanda and her husband Phillip both are members of the Wells Family Board. Phillip descends from Richard Wells through his son George E. & Nancy Butcher Wells.

CLIFFORD BOOTH has been sick since late July when they found that he had an aneurysm on

the aorta. He went through extensive testing at the Lexington Clinic, Lexington, Ky., in early August and was scheduled to enter St. Joseph's Hospital for surgery on August 31st. Clifford came through the surgery well and was still in the hospital at the time of the reunion. Cliffords wife Delores "Sis" Williams Booth and sister-in-law Pat Williams were with him through the entire stay. This is why you didn't see either of them at the reunion. His wife descends through Richard Wells through George E. Wells and William Green Wells lines.

DEATHS

DOLIE CLIFFORD HARMON, 75 of Brookpark, Ohio died 10/16/95. Dolie was born 5/4/1920. Survivors are his wife Rose Mary Wells Harmon two children, Tracy Harmon and a son, Gregg. Burial was in the Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery, North Olmsted, Ohio. His wife Rose Mary descends from Richard Wells through his son George E. Wells and his daughter Rose Anna Wells Spears lines.

NANCY WELLS VICKERS BITTNER 75, died 12/24/1994 in Panama City, Florida. Mrs. Bittner was born 3/3/1919, in Johnson County, the daughter of the late Shandrack and Manda Ward Wells. She was a member of the Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by her first husband Howard J. Vickers, on July 19, 1985. Surviving are her husband, Harold F. Bittner, two sons, Rev. Larry J. Vickers of Standford and Garry H. Vickers of Prestonsburg; five daughters, Nieda Preston of Ashland, Pat Kimbler of Panama City, Debbie Lyons of Paintsville, Pam Long of Staffordsville and Nancy Teresa Vickers of Lyman, South Carolina; three step-daughters, Pamela Aguis of Plantcia, California, Diana Crawford of Newport, Michigan and Janice Bright of Clarksville, California; two sisters, Manda (Bob) Daniel of Paintsville and Pauline (Dutch) Shearer of Lexington; and 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Arrangements were under tha direction of the Paintsville Funeral Home with burial in Richmond Cemetery, Paintsville. Funeral services was at the Mayo Methodist Church, with Rev. Sam glenn officiating. Nancy descends from Richard Wells through his son William Green & Mary Butcher Wells line.

NELLIE SPARKS WELLS, 70, of Van Lear, died 10/22/95 at her home. She was born 8/1/1925, in Johnson County, a daughter of the late Charles and Bessie Jones Sparks. Her husband, Denver Wells, died in 1992. Surviving are 3 sons, Billy Ray Wells of Thelma, Denver Lee Wells of Concord and Charles Edward Wells of Wabash, Ind.; a daughter, Linda Stapleton of Tutor Key; a brother, Charles A. Sparks of Dayton, Ohio; 2 sisters, Ruby Ellis of Jenkins and Lila Hickey of Dayton, Ohio; seven granndchildren; and a great-grandchild. Arrangements were under the directions of Jones-Preston Funeral Home at Paintsville. Rev. Roger Hill officiated with burial in Highland Memorial Park at Staffordsville. Nellie's late husband Denver Wells descended from Richard Wells through his son George E. and Elizabeth Delong Wells.

BERTHA COLLINS GOBLE FIELDS, 87, of Van Lear, died 10/2/95 in Paul B. Hall Medical Center, Paintsville. She was born Aug. 19, 1908, in Johnson County, a daughter of the late James and Mary Elizabeth Collins. She was preceded in death by 2 husbands, Carl Goble and John "Jay" Fields and a daughter, Juanita Goble Wells Carr. Surviving are 2 sons, Orville

Fields, Van Lear and Donald Fields, Pinson Fork; a daughter Doris Conley Green of Jeffersonville, Ind.; a sister, Frances "Frankie" Sellers of Meally; 9 grandchildren; and 6 great-grandchildren. Arrangements were under the directions of Jones-Preston Funeral Home at Paintsville. Officiating were Manford Fannin and Roger Hill with burial in the family cemetery at Van Lear. Bertha was the maternal grandmother of Pat Womack who serves as treasurer of the Wells Family board.

MAGGIE WELLS COLLINS, 76, of Van Lear, died 8/1/95 in Highland Regional Medical Center, Prestonsburg. Mrs. Collins was born 9/21/1918, in Johnson County, a daughter of the late Moses and Cora Honeycutt Wells. She was preseded in death by her husband, Brooksie Collins, in 1974, a daughter, Daisy Williams in 1993, and a son Brooksie Collins Jr. Surviving are 2 sons, David Collins and Stanley Collins, both of Van Lear, 3 daughters, Madlyn Meade of Van Lear, Willa Dean Schaaf of Wabash, Ind., and Peggy Vanhoose of Flat Gap. a brother, Henry WELLS of South Point, Ohio; 2 sisters, Eula Wells of Van Lear and Mable Adams of Henryville, Ind.; 15 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren. Arrangements were under the direction of Jones-Preston Funeral Home at Paintsville, with Joe Hill officiating. Her grandsons served as pallbearers and son-in-laws as honorary pallbearers. Burial was in the family cemetery at Daniels Creek. Maggie descends from Richard Wells through his son Moses Wells line.

GARY L. WELLS, 45, of Mansfield, Oh., died 8/5/95 in Mansfield General Hospital following an extended illness. Mr. Wells was born 6/6/1950, in Ashland, Ky., a son of Wilma Erwin Wells of Mansfield and the late Charles Wells Jr. He was an Army veteran. Additional survivors include two daughters, Kelly Michelle Wells of Akron and Kristin Wells of Mansfield. Arrangements were under the direction of Wappner Funeral Directors in Mansfield. Lloyd Harlan officiated and burial was in the Mt. Zion Cemetery.

EDWARD WELLS, 77, of Harold, Ky. died 8/21/95 in Highlands Regional Medical Center at Prestonsburg. Mr. Wells was born 4/22/1918, in Johnson County, a son of the late Noah and Louise Butcher Wells. He was a retired coal miner and a member of Auxier Freewill Baptist Church and United Mine Workers of America. Surviving are his wife, Phylis Newsome Wells; 2 sons, Darrell Wells of Oshkosh, Wis., and Michael Wells of Cincinnati; a daughter, Carolyn Legoretta of Philadelphia, Pa.; five stepsons, Damon Tackett of Craynor, Amon Tackett of Harold, Wendale Tackett of Lenoir, N.C., Taimmy Tackett of Teaberry and Terry Tackett of Lexington; three stepdaughters, Joyce Ann Daughterty and Delores Hall, both of Craynor, and Peggy Jo Miller of Jonesboro, Tenn; 3 sisters, Beatrice Fitch of Van Lear, Vernia Auxier of Findlay, Ohio, and Bert Adkins of Van Lear; 8 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; and 16 stepgrandchildren. The funeral will be conducted at Auxier Freewill Baptist Church by Bobby Joe Spencer. Arrangements were under direction of the Nelson-Frazier Funeral Home at Martin. Burial was in the Auxier Family cemetery at Hagerhill. Edward descended from Richard Wells through George E. & Nancy Butcher Wells line.

BIRTHS

LEAH CHEY HUNT, born 8/22/94 at 7:16 p.m. at Cabell Huntington Hospital. She was 19 1/2" long and weighed 7 lb. 11 oz. She is the daughter of Onda Lowe Hunt & Dr. Drema Hunt of Huntington, W. Va. Leah Chey's maternal grandparents are Marlene Sturgill Jarvis of Ypsilanti, Mi. She descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William G. Wells & Agnes Wells Auxier lines.

EMILY NICOLE SALLIE, born 10/26/95 at Cabell Huntington Hospital. She was 19 1/2" long and weighted 7 lb. 10oz. She is welcomed by her parents Darryl and Denise Fairchild Sallie and 8 year old brother Ryne of Ashland, Ky. The paternal grandparents are Bill and Gloria Spears Sallie of Ashland. The grandmother Gloria serves on the Wells Family Association Board. She descends from Richard Wells through William Green Wells and Rose Anna Wells Spears.

MARRIAGES

BENNETTE COLLINS CAMDEN & CHARLIE FORD: of Okachoobee, Fl., were married on Feb. 28, 1995 in Okachobee, Fl. Bennette is the daughter of Carl and Polly Wells Collins. She descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William G. Wells and Agnes Wells Auxier.

BILLIE LEE WELLS of Hager Hill and ALLEN LEE HORNE of Paintsville were united in marriage July 29, 1995 at the Pleasant Home Baptist Church at Water Gap. Mrs. Horne is the daughter of Fonda Lee Lowery Wells and the late William-Elzie Wells of Hager Hill. Mr. Horne is the son of Janet May Horne of Paintsville and Weilburn Lee Horne of Lucasville, Ohio. The bride is employed with Dr. Roger Jurich, Prestonsburg. The groom is Manager of Lowes in Paintsville. The bride is the granddaughter of Oma Newsome and the late Woodrow B. Lowery of Elkhorn City, Ky. and the late Winfield & Sally Burchett Wells. The bride was given in marriage by her uncle, Leonard Lowery. Serving as maid of honor was Julie Collins, and bridesmaid was Ruthie Kilgore. Best men were Tim Minix and Jerry Blanton. Ushers were Andrew Belcher and Shawn Ward. Flowergirls were Kayla Collins and Maggie Hobson. Ethan Hobson was ringbearer. Maggie and Ethan are Billie's great great neice and nephew. Billie has 2 brothers Kermit Wells of East Pont and Roger Wells of Texas. Billie and Allen spent their honeymoon in Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina. The young couple will be residing at Hager Hill. Billie Lee descends from Richard Wells through his son George E. an Elizabeth Delong Wells by way of their son Allen Wells.

Joe Wells and Gwen Neal were married April 8, 1995 at the Clay City First Church of God. Mrs. Wells is the daughter of Kenneth and Berta Neal of Clay City and Mr. Wells is the son of Larry and Lola Wells of Paintsville.

BIRTHDAYS

GLADYS BERRYMAN, Surrey, Va, daughter of the late Rufus Morgan Wells celebrated her 92nd birthday in October. She descends from Richard Wells through his son Andrew.

Pearl Wells Short celebrated her 90th birthday September 2nd. at the Carriage House, Paintsville. I was told that her family and close friends were there to help her celebrate. Pearl is a faithful member of the Wells Family Reunion and descends from Richard Wells through his son William Green Wells. She is the widow of the late Ed. Short.

STEVE VOLOTA, celebrated his 80th birthday October 16th. with a family get together with his children Doug, Patti & Heather Quallick, Pam and Patrick Haynish and John Volota. Steve is the widower of the late Geneva Wells Volota. She descended form Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William G. Wells and Agnes Wells Auxier lines.

MILDRED WELLS STURGILL, Auxier, Ky celebrated her 80th. birthday 10/7/95. She visited with her son and wife, Sheldon "Buddie" & Barbara Sturgill in Louisville. Her grandson Dr. Mark Sturgill and his family from Dayton were there to help celebrate the occasion. They celebrated by all eating out together. Mildred is the widow of the late Rev. James Sturgill who died in 1978.

CONGRATULATION

HEATHER QUALLICH, of Parma, Ohio will be honored at a recognition ceremony on Oct. 20, 1995 for her outstanding performance. She won First place for 4 year olds coloring contest at Premier Industrial Corp., United Way Children coloring contest. Heather is the daughter of Douglas and Patti Volota Quallich and the maternal granddaughter of Steve Volota and the late Geneva Wells Volota. She descends form Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William G. Wells and Agnes Wells Auxier lines.

ROB WELLS was one of several students from the Johnson Central High School Beta Club recently attending the National Beta Club Convention in Orlando, Florida. Rob is the grandson of Joe Wells Jr. and Hilda Wells of Van Lear. He descends from Richard Wells through his son George E. Wells.

LOLA MARIE WILLIAMSON of Paintsville received the Charles E. Barnhart Fund for Academic Excellence Scholarship and the Agriculture Graduate Student Association Undergraduate Scholarship from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. "Scholarships in the College of Agriculture are awarded to students who possess both high scholastic achievement and excellent leadership skills," said Joe T. Davis, associate dean for insturction of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. Lola is currently attending UK, majoring in natural resource conservation and management. During the year 1994-95, she served as vice president of the UK Forestry and Wildlife Club. Lola is the daughter of Gerald & Marbel Wells Williamson, of Paintsvile. She descends from Richard Wells through George E. & Elizabeth Delong Gains Wells and William Green & Mary Butcher Wells.

GOLDIE WELLS, One of The Johnson County Gold Tea girls' softball teams, composed of players from the Red Devils and Babes, Placed fifth out of 10 teams last weekend (August) at the 13th annual Area Advertising Catlettsburg-Boyd County Optimists Girls' Softball

Tournament. The team featured teams from Ohio, Wva. and Ky. The fifth-place finish, however, was Johnson County's highest. Three weeks earlier the Johnson County Gold won the Johnson County Babe Ruth Invitational by sweeping 3 games. Goldie is the daughter of Alex S. & Susie Goble Wells of Van Lear. She descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, Willima G. Wells & Agnes Wells Auxier.

DR. DREMA HUNT, of Huntington, W.Va., originally from Auxier, Ky., completed her Family Practice Residency on May 31, 1995 at Marshall University School of Medicine. She is a graduate of Prestonsburg Community College, Pikeville College and Marshall University School of Medicine. Before entering medical school Drema was a registered nurse at Highland Regional Hospital, Prestonsburg. Dr. Hunt's hard work and patience has paid off. Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital welcomes her to their Tri-State healthcare outreach center, Ashland, Ky as a family practice physician She works 4 days each week at the Cannonsburg Center & on Tuesday at Grayson Center. Drema and her husband Onda Lowe Hunt are blessed with two beautiful daughters and reside in Huntington WVa. She is the daughter of Marlene Sturgill Jarvis of Ypsilanti, Mi. and is the granddaughter of Mrs. James (Mildred Wells) Sturgill of Auxier, Ky. She descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William G. Wells & Agnes Wells Auxier lines.

BILL & EDITH WELLS MOLLETTE of Boons Camp, Ky., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Sept. 1995. The Mollette's with their children Rick & Karen Mollette Kouns, Darryl & Rita Smith, Roger Mollette and granddaughter Sherry Smith, enjoyed a dinner out at the Texas Roadhouse, Ashland. Edith is the daughter of the late George & Angie Sammons Wells. She descended from Richard Wells through his son William Green & Mary Butcher Wells through their son Aaron & Melvina Porter Wells. Edith and her daughter Rita Smith both are a member of the Wells Family Association Board.

TIM MOLLETE, of Boons Camp, Ky., is a student at E. K. University. Tim is carrying on his high school tradition of making all A's at EKU. He graduated from Johnson Central High School and his father is Roger Mollette who teaches at Johnson Central. Tim is the grandson of Bill & Edith Wells Mollette of Boons Camp.

W. SCOTT WELLS, recently completed the Uniform CPA Examination by the State Board of Accountancy. He will receive his CPA certificate upon completion of the experience requirement. He is employed by Collins & Love. Scott is the son of our Wells Family Association President, Bobby Wells and descends from Richard Wells through George E. Wells and Moses Wells lines.

RESEARCHING YOUR ROOTS,

BY: Marty Godbey

In Kentucky Living/October 1995

"Where did he come from, where did he go?" is a question posed in the chorus of an old mountain song. If you've ever wondered where your forebearers came from, or the kinds of lives

they led, there are ways to answer those questions, and others. Even the earliest pioneers may have left paper trails that still exist today. Unless some family historian has already recorded the information you seek, you'll have to do some research, but it's not complicated, and playing detective in your own background can be an absorbing and rewarding hobby.

As a resident of Kentucky, you have a great advantage: the records you'll need are readily available and close at hand. There's a good chance that whatever part of the United States your people came from, they have some connection with Kentucky. "Kentucky was a real pass-through state," said Patsy Benton, a professional genealogist in Lexington. "Practically everyone whose family went west has a relative born in Kentucky - apparently our Indians were more peaceful than those to the north and south, and people coming through the "Cumberland Gap to Kentucky could get across the Mississippi easily." Travel was slow, and families would stop for a season or two before continuing west. Nearly every family had a birth or death while in Kentucky, and some people were involved in lawsuits or disputes over property. All these things became part of the public record. The "paper trail" they left behind them. Those trails, however, are much more readily traveled from the present to the past, even if you know who your ancestors were.

"The first thing that you should do," Benton said, "is begin with yourself. Then you go back one step at a time; each step should lead back to the next step." For example, your own birth certificate should list the names and birthplaces of your parents. If your parents were born after 1911 (when birth records were first kept in Kentucky), their birth certificates will be available, giving the names of their parents and their places of birth. "After you get past the point where you can't get a birth certificate," Benton said, "get a death certificate, which lists the names of parents and their birthplaces, and also the places of birth and death of the decedent."

Nettie Oliver, genealogy specialist at The Filson Club in Louisville, also suggests starting with your immediate family. "You are the beginning of your family history," she said. "Write down everything you know about yourself, your birthplace, parents' names, the county in which you were born. Then talk to living relatives, and find out what you don't know, such as maiden names, or if any family history has already been prepared. "Perhaps there's a family Bible with a history of births, marriages and deaths. Ask about what churches your family belonged to, what cemeteries they are buried in. That is all going to be very helpful when you start doing your family history." Compile this information (often called "oral history." or "family tradition") in an organized way, perhaps using a notebook, with dividers for each family name, and a page for each individual. Write down everything you know about the individual, and try to do each of them in the same manner, leaving blanks for dates or places you do not know. Be sure to make notes on where you get each bit of information, even if it's informal. "according to Aunt Susie, July 1995" will be helpful if you find conflicting information later from Uncle Harold. "Many people," said James Pritchard, research room supervisor at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, "believe they can give us a name and find out all they need, but that's not the case. We need an approximate date, and a county, as well as a name." "You have to be able to put people in the right period to find out anything about them," explained Dorothy Rush, librarian at the Filson Club. When you have organized everything you can find, you're ready to start your real research. This is where the fun begins, the point at which you can consider yourself a "detective."

Patsy Benton recommends that you begin in Frankfort, first at the Kentucky Historical

Society Library in the Old Capitol Annex; second at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, and third, at the Cabinet for Human Resources. All three have valuable records, but of different types. An easy way to think about this is that the Historical Society has private records, the Department for Libraries and Archives has public records, and the Cabinet for Human Resources has birth and death certificates. If you cannot conveniently get to Frankfort, local libraries often have helpful materials, but they are best left for a time when you have specific questions.

The staff at The Filson Club, The Lexington Public Library, or the University of Kentucky Library can familiarize the absolute beginner with sources, as can those at libraries that specialize in genealogy, such as those of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. "Many persons don't know the types of records left behind that would help them in their research," said Nettie Oliver, "marriages, wills, deeds, the U.S. Census records, those are the types of records we (at the Filson Club) educate them on, that are available to them to trace their family histories."

Wherever you choose to begin, take your notebook, making sure it is identified with your name, address, and telephone number, otherwise, "If you lose your notebook," Oliver said, "or leave it in the library, months or years of work can be lost." At the Kentucky Historical Society library, you will find an enormous collection of records from Kentucky, and many from nearby states. "Our Virginia collection is our second largest," said Ron D. Bryant, curator of rare books and director of library reading rooms at the Kentucky Historical Society, "followed by other surrounding states and those (states) from which Kentuckians came. We have a large collection of patriotic organization records, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, and The United Daughters of the Confederacy. "We have over eighty thousand volumes of state, local, and family records, over twelve thousand family surname files, and over twelve thousand reels of microfilm records. These include court records, census records, and tax lists. We also have extensive church records on file and on microfilm.

"Beyond that," Bryant said, "we have extensive files on historical subjects - both Kentucky and national _ newspaper clipping files by counties, and large map, photograph, and manuscript collections. We have a rare book collection of 5,000 volumes. Some books, we have the only known copy of in the United States." If this sounds overwhelming - and it is only a partial listing of the Historical Society's holdings - help is at hand. "The Historical Society Library is a fun place to work," Bryant said, "We help people as much as we can; we're not overly formal, and we encourage you to meet other genealogists doing work. It's a good place to exchange information. We are open to the public, with no fees or anything, and we answer inquiries from all over the world."

Choose a relative, ask a librarian how to find out more about that person, and you're on your way. When you have exhausted the information about that individual, move on to another, or visit the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, the next stop on your trail. A point Patsy Benton makes: "Some courthouses burned," she said, "but county records (marriages, wills, deeds, estate settlements, etc.) from the formation of the counties are on microfilm at the Department for Libraries and Archives."

James Pritchard is research room supervisor at the Department for Libraries and Archives. "It is a good strategy to start at the Historical Society Library," he said "Get your family tree outlined, then use the records we have to flesh out their information. "We are a

records repository, not a family research library. Everything here is organized by county, city, time period, types of record - birth, death, will, and marriage - for all 120 counties. We will eventually accumulate microfilm records from all Kentucky counties. "Our strong suit here," Pritchard said, "is if you've exhausted all other sources, we have many records that genealogists don't traditionally use, court records, for instance. With those, you can hear your ancestors speak in their own words, in depositions made in cases involving property ownership, estate settlement, or divorce. "A deposition might tell if a brother or sister is living, or has migrated to another state, or something along those lines You can use these records to really bring your ancestors to life." "Names of ancestors do not mean much," Nettie Oliver said, "unless you learn something about them-where and how they lived, their economic and social standing, what they paid taxes on, and who they married. Simply knowing their names does not mean a lot; begets are boring."

Patsy Benton said that although the location of someone's home remained the same, the county name might have changed several times, as counties were divided and subdivided. "Floyd County," she said, "was the parent of 23 counties. You need to keep going backwards all the time." No matter how excited you get about your findings, you must be sure to keep records of every source you use. "Write down citations to things you find in libraries," Nettie Oliver said. "Call numbers of books, what libraries you found things in, the rolls of microfilm, the year of census - write down everything." This is especially important if you are hoping to use the information to join one of the hereditary societies; they will accept nothing without proper documentation, ideally a photocopy of the document in question.

For some of those documents, your third stop in Frankfort is the Cabinet of Human Resources, which has birth certificates, death certificates from 1911 to the present, and marriage records after 1959. There, microfiche are available, with names listed in alphabetical order, to help you locate the proper ones. When you get home with your findings, try to check them while the work is fresh in your mind, clearing up any confusion, and filing everything in its proper place. If, like most people, family research is something you must do in moments snatched from other pursuits, it is important to keep organized to avoid duplicating your efforts. When you have done all you can on your own, "Hire a professional (genealogist) in the right geographical area," Patsy Benton recommended, "one who has access to records and has a good working knowledge of genealogy records. The Archives and the Historical Society have lists of professional genealogists, and although charges vary from state to state, and Washington D.C., depending upon their access to records, you can expect to pay \$10 to \$25 an hour."

And finally, even if you are very interested in your ancestors, "tracing family history is not for everyone," said Nettie Oliver. "There is a certain type of personality which finds how much time and detail is involved, and knows this is not how they want to spend their time." Those who do, however, can look forward to a lifetime of enjoyment and increasing knowledge: in your research, you'll learn about the contribution your own people made toward the formation of the Country and the Commonwealth, and you'll take great pride in your Kentucky roots.

For More Information

*Kentucky Department for Libraries
and Archives
Archives Research Room*

*Patsy Benton
Professional Genealogist
Lexington, KY*

Public Records Division

(606) 278-3761

Coffee Tree Road

Frankfort, KY

(502) 875-7000

James Pritchard is Research Room

Supervisor,

No fee

The Kentucky Historical

Society Library

The Old Capital Annex

Corner Broadway & Lewis St.

Frankfort, KY

(502) 564-3016

The Filson Club

1310 S. Third Street

Louisville, KY

(502) 635-5083

Dorothy Rush is Librarian;

Nettie Oliver is Genealogy Specialist

Ron D. Bryant is Curator of

Rare books & Director of

Library Reading Rooms.

No fee. Basic membership \$25.

Fee of \$3 per day for non-members;

membership is \$35 per annum

SPEARS FAMILY LINE : NEEDS YOUR HELP

If any of you have any information documenting the parents of William Harvey Spears, b. 7/21/1828 -d. 11/3/1910. If you have data of who his parents were, please let us know. It seems that some of our researchers differ.

Jemmima E. Wells, b. 1830, d.12/19/1867 married Harvey in 1850. Jemmima was the daughter of George E. & Elizabeth Delong Wells. She and Harvey both are buried on Spears cemetery Rt. 3, Catlettsburg, Ky. Virginia Edgel & Pauline Garza think that Harvey's parents were Spencer and Rose Anna Wells who were married 11/13/1828 since the 1850 censes record shows Harvey age 22 in the home of Rose Anna Wells Spears. According to Virginia and Paulina there were two Spencer Spears and one moved to Brown Co. Ohio and the other married Rose Anna Wells. Audrey Smith and Paulina Spears Bowling granddaughter's of Wm. Harvey Spears say Harvey's parents were Spencer Spears and Tabithia (Talitha) Young Spears (widow of Fountain Young), who married on 6/24/1816. Audrey & Paulina say that Tabithia died and Spencer married Rose Anna Wells Spears. According to Paulina Bowling this information was given to her by her father John Wesley Spears a son of Harvey. Jemmima and Harvey Spears had nine children and

Jemmima died. Harvey married Louise Malloy and had eleven more children before he died on 11/3/10. If you have information on William Harvey Spears please send it to me. All four of these ladies are great researchers and want to find documentation so it can be included in the planned book as correct. If you are out there researching please keep this in mind and try and find William Harvey Spears death record to see if it will list his mothers name. Apparently he died in Boyd County Kentucky on 11/3/10 and our state began to keep the records of birth and death in 1911. Thanks for your assistance.

MEMORIALS & DONATIONS

CHARLES C. & TOBY S. WELLS TRUE, gave \$25. to the general fund/newsletter in memory of Toby's late father John Crittenden Wells. John Crittenden b. 3/27/1907 at Boons Camp, Johnson Co., Ky. the son of Marcus Lindsey & Vicie Hinkle Wells. Crit descended from Richard Wells through his William Green Wells. Crit wrote the article "Memorable and Historical Tracks" which he presented me a copy at the reunion the year before his death. It is a very interesting article of the life of him and his family.

HASKELL WELLS of Melbourne, Fl. gave \$50. toward newsletter expenses. He is the son of George & Lora DeLong Wells, & descends from Richard Wells through his son, George E. Wells, Haskell is a cousin of Randy Wells who serves on the Wells Family Board.

PATTI, DOUG & HEATHER QUALLICH of Euclid, Oh. gave \$25. toward scholarship fund in memory of Juanita Goble Wells Carr. Juanita was a widow of the late Bennie Wells who was Patti's uncle. Juanita was the daughter of Bertha Collins Goble Fields and the late Carl Goble. Patti, Doug & Heather also gave \$25. to the scholarship fund in memory of Patti's mother the late Geneva Wells Volota. Geneva was a great lover of her heritage and looked forward to coming to the reunion each year. She was the daughter of the late Benjamin & Anna Richmond Wells and descended from Richard Wells through George E. Wells, William G. Wells & Agnes Wells Auxier lines. Patti is a member of the the Wells Family Association Board Historical Committee.

TIM & MARGARET P. NAPIER of Flatgap, Ky. gave \$50. toward newsletter expenses. (from the Napier's letter) We wanted to make a small, but heart-felt contribution to postage on the Newsletter, or whatever the need may be. We really enjoy the Newsletter and realize the work that goes in to such a publication. Your efforts are appreciated! See you at the reunion. Your Cousins, Tim & Margaret. Tim comes down the George E. Wells through his son James Wells.

PAUL L. BURCHELL, of Paintsville, Ky. gave \$50. toward General Fund expenses. Paul is a regular contributor and is a Director with Jones-Preston Funeral Home, Inc., Paintsville. Paul is the grandson of Mitchell & Geneva Collins DeLong of Van Lear. He descends from Richard Wells through Moses Wells, George E. Wells & Moses Wells lines.

EMMOGENE H. LAFFERTY, of Prestonsburg, Ky, gave \$25. for the organization to be used toward general expensed. Emmogene descends from Richard Wells through Rose Ann Wells Spears line by way of her son Wiley Spears.

MARGIE WELLS, LAWANNA SUE KENNARD, PHYLLIS JEAN BLEVINS, RUSSELL EUGENE WELLS, JUDY KAY WELLS DELONG, ROGER DEAN WELLS, HAROLD DAVID WELLS AND CARL WAYNE WELLS. gave a substancial gift of money (request the amount not to be mentioned) in memory of their husband and father, the late BEECHER WELLS. Margie and the children attend the Wells reunion each year. Beecher was the son of the late Samuel Jefferson & Cynthia Spriggs Wells. He descends from Richard Wells through his son George E. Wells line by way of his son James Wells.

DORTHA LEE FERGUSON STROBEL, of Boss, Mo., donated \$15. toward the newsletter. Dortha is the daughter of the late Dale & Susie Spears Ferguson. She is a granddaughter of the late John T. Spears and Leona Clark Spears who resided in California. She descends from Richard Wells through William Green Wells and Rose Anna Wells Spears lines. Dortha visited Ky with her family in 1947 at the age of 9 years old. She plans to attend the 1996 reunion and to get to know her many Wells/Spears/Clark/Collins cousins. Dortha is very interested in researching her family lines. She has shared information which will be passed to the Historical Committee to be included in the Wells Family book.

SAMUEL M. WHARTON, of Edmonds, WA., donated \$20. in memory of his mother Eva M. Auxier Wharton, to the general fund (newsletter) etc. (letter from Mr. Wharton) A brief history of the family Oct. 25, 1995. My great grand father and mother were Samuel Auxier II and Agnes Wells. My grandfather and grandmother were William L. Auxier and Louisa Ford. My father and mother were Eva M. Auxier and Edward T. Wharton (see page 3 of your Feb. 1994 issue of the newsletter) all from the Johnson Co. area except my father was from Va. They met at Marshall College (University now) in Huntington, WV. in 1907 or 1908 and were married in 1909. I was the eighth child, born in 1925. I left the area in 1942 with many trips back. We have lived in Wa. state for fifty two years. We were able to attend the Auxier reunion last year, look foward to attending the Wells reunion also. We hope that the enclosed check will help with your expenses, etc.

Sincerely, Sam & Betty Wharton

Jeff and Mildred Wells of Patriot, Ohio donated \$20 toward the newsletter. Jeff descends from Richard Wells through his son Moses.

MEMORIAL

One means by which individuals, if they desire, could assure that their interest and support for the Wells Family Association Inc. is continued, would be to make a bequest to the association. A memorial contribution is also an appropriate tribute to the

deceased. Through a memorial contribution the loved one lives on and on through the Wells Family Association. For every memorial, a notice of the gift will be placed in the next newsletter. Donors may request that their names not be used and the board will respect such requests. The following could be used for your tax records. Please accept \$ _____ as a memorial contribution in honor/memory of _____ who is my _____ (State Relationship).

Please Check One:

- #1. Use toward stones for unmarked graves _____
- #2. Use toward the general fund (expenses of newsletter etc.) _____
- #3. Use toward the College Scholarship Fund _____

If one of the above is not checked the memorial/honor will go into the general fund for expenses of newsletter etc.)

RESTORATION

The following pictures are wonderful examples of the before and after monument of Andrew Well's wife, Mary Mobley Wells Hite. Margaret Berryman had this stone reset in the Gantz Cemetery in Jefferson County, Iowa.



We hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season and a blessed New Year in 1996!