

## **List of Names in a Pamphlet Commemorating the LaFuze Family Centennial Reunion, 1913**

*by Mary Blair Immel and Wendy L. Adams*

It was nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, August 20, 1913, when some three hundred to four hundred people of all ages began to assemble two miles northeast of the town of Liberty in Union County, Indiana. Most of them were from nearby towns, but some had traveled from Boone, Montgomery, and Cass counties in Indiana. Others hailed from Illinois, Ohio, and Kentucky. The purpose of this large gathering was to celebrate the settlement of the LaFuze family in the Hoosier state one hundred years earlier, three years before Indiana statehood.<sup>1</sup>

It is not hard to imagine the happy shouts of recognition that must have echoed through the trees in Grandmother LaFuze's grove as sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, and cousins greeted one another. They brought picnic baskets brimming with food for the noon meal and then settled back for a "literary" program of recitations and musical numbers. Somehow they had managed to have a piano brought to the grove. The first day ended with family reminiscences, which surely brought bursts of laughter and perhaps a few tears as they remembered the old days.

Samuel LaFuze I (1776–1863), of French descent, and his wife, Eleanor Harper (1776–1852), of Scots-Irish stock, came to Indiana from Fayette County, Pennsylvania, near Uniontown with nine of their thirteen children. A tenth child was born on the journey to Indiana. Samuel purchased the quarter section that adjoined the place where the Union County Infirmary was later built to the south and was the northwest quarter of Section 5 in Center Township. The original homestead was located here.<sup>2</sup>

The oldest family member at the 1913 gathering was Elizabeth Immel LaFuze, wife of Samuel LaFuze II. She was aged ninety-three and would live on another five years. Her husband had been in good health at age eighty-one when he was accidentally killed by a runaway horse and sleigh on December 13, 1887. Because both the LaFuze and Immel families came to Indiana from Uniontown, near Brownsville, Pennsylvania, it seems reasonable to assume that they might have known each other in that place. Daniel, the brother of Samuel II, married Elizabeth Immel's sister, Barbara.<sup>3</sup>

In Indiana, the LaFuzes intermarried with several other neighboring families, including Beck, Bramble, Coddington, Crist, Swafford, and Ward. Maurice S. LaFuze, who researched and wrote an extensive history of the LaFuze family, stated that by 1913, the descendants of Eleanor and Samuel LaFuze I had increased in numbers to a probable total of over three thousand. The number of those still bearing the name LaFuze was only about 20 percent.<sup>4</sup>

On the second day of the centennial LaFuze gathering, the crowd, estimated at two thousand, moved to the fairgrounds for an address by Governor Samuel Moffett Ralston. *The Liberty Herald* stated that the newly-elected official shook hands with most of the people there.<sup>5</sup>

Not much is known about the booklet itself. Mary Blair Immel owns the original from which the following is transcribed. Many hundreds must have been printed because of the large number of persons in attendance at the event. The booklet is folded inside a nice deckle-edged cover. The committee officers are listed on the back; perhaps the secretary took charge of the layout and printing of the booklet. Each of the individual family lines had a secretary, and it may be that they each submitted names, dates, and information for their particular line.

L. M. Crist of Thorntown, Indiana, was president of the executive committee and probably presided over the reunion. He was a graduate of DePauw University (formerly Asbury University) and was superintendent of the Union County School for several years. His mother was Mary LaFuze, who married James W. Crist.<sup>6</sup>

## Notes

1. *Liberty Herald*, August 28, 1913, 4.
2. Maurice LaFuze, *LaFuze Genealogy*, 4th ed. (1972), 2, Genealogy Division, Indiana State Library.
3. *Ibid.*, 15, 54.
4. *Ibid.*, 2.
5. *Liberty Herald*, 4.
6. *Ibid.*

1813  
Centennial  
Samuel and Eleanor LaFuze  
Two miles N. E. Liberty, Ind.  
Aug 20-21  
1913

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1813 1913  
LAFUZE FAMILY CENTENNIAL  
HELD AT LIBERTY, IND., AUG. 20-21, 1913

NAME OF FAMILY	SECRETARY	POST OFFICE ADDRESS
WILLIAM	Imogene LaFuze	Liberty, Ind.
ELIZABETH	James Madison Ward	Frederick, Ill.
LYDIA	Chas. B. Ward	New Ross, Ind.
MARY	Clara Gard	Liberty, Ind.
SAMUEL	Perry LaFuze	Liberty, Ind.
JOHN	Omer Miller	Cottage Grove, Ind.
ELEANOR	Rettie Shriner	Liberty, Ind.
MARGARET	Cora Conaway	Liberty, Ind.
LAVINA	Elizabeth Tappen	Liberty, Ind.
DANIEL	Clara Harmyer	Rossberg, Ohio
JOHNSON	Frank Hutson	Cambridge City, Ind.

JANE and EZRA died unmarried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

James E. Shendler, Joseph Beck, Homer LaFuze  
of Liberty, Ind.

Joseph LaFuze, Gen. Sec.  
Liberty, Indiana

L. M. Crist, President  
Thorntown, Indiana

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THE LAFUZE FAMILY

NAME	BORN	MARRIED	DIED
Samuel LaFuze	9-12-1776	7-7-1795	1-11-1863
Eleanor Harper	9-5-1776	7-7-1795	2-17-1852
William LaFuze	10-11-1796	3-4-1823	5-10-1852
Hannah Ward	3-27-1803	3-4-1823	9-28-1893
Elizabeth LaFuze	10-30-1798	2-19-1814	8-15-1817
Major F. Bramble		2-19-1814	
Jane LaFuze	1-4-1801		1-18-1816
Lydia LaFuze	9-20-1802	12-12-1822	7-6-1871
Usual Ward	1-28-1801	12-12-1822	4-9-1877
Mary LaFuze	3-21-1804	3-2-1823	11-6-1890
James W. Crist	7-3-1803	3-2-1823	9-14-1859
Samuel LaFuze	1-5-1806	3-26-1840	12-13-1887
Elizabeth Immel	2-16-1820	3-26-1840	Living
John LaFuze	9-15-1807	6-5-1834	7-25-1890
Rebecca Swafford	1-3-1811	6-5-1834	8-21-1877
Eleanor LaFuze	4-16-1809	12-13-1826	3-16-1896
David G. Ward	7-15-1803	12-13-1826	3-28-1894
Margaret LaFuze	10-8-1810	2-7-1828	6-1900
William Crist	1-16-1805	2-7-1828	3-31-1860
Lavina LaFuze	2-28-1813	8-23-1832	12-25-1895
John Beck	12-19-1809	8-23-1832	8-17-1887
Daniel W. LaFuze	4-29-1815	3-18-1841	4-17-1888
Barbra Immel	2-16-1822	3-18-1841	9-4-1873
Johnson LaFuze	9-11-1817		1893
Ezra LaFuze	7-19-1820		1-13-[1]840

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1813 1913  
LAFUZE CENTENNIAL  
HOME FARM, WEDNESDAY AUG. 20th  
9 A.M. Social Session – Dinner 12 M.  
2 P.M. LITERARY PROGRAM  
Music

Invocation – Joseph Linn, Crawfordsville, Ind.  
Piano Duet: Luva Layson, Elizabeth Tappen, Liberty, Ind.  
Reading: “Welcome Home,” Viola Imogene, LaFuze, Brownsville, Ind.  
Mandolin Trio “Rifle Range” Garfield – Leah and Cora Connoway, Liberty, Ind.  
Reading: “A Small Boys Speech” – Gordon Gardner, Liberty, Ind.  
Solo: “Bye-lo-land,” Elizabeth West, Liberty, Ind.  
Reading: “Because ’Twas Me That Fell” – Lydia LaFuze Ward, Crawfordsville, Ind.  
Piano Solo: – Viola Bessie Ward, Rushville, Ill.  
Reading: “A Half Hour On The Beach” – Flora Anna Williams, Morningsun, Ohio.  
Piano Duet: Hattie and Goldie LaFuze, Liberty, Ind.  
Reading: “Watching The Sparkin” – Martha Belle Shriner, Liberty, Ind.  
Mandolin Trio: – The Connoways  
Reminiscences – The Family

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1813 1913  
LAFUZE CENTENNIAL  
FAIR GROUNDS, THURSDAY, AUG. 21st.  
1:30 P.M. Music

Invocation: Rev. C. W. Whitman, Liberty, Ind.  
Music  
Flag Drill  
Introduction: – L. M. Crist, Thorntown, Ind.  
Music  
Family Synopsis: Rettie Shriner, Liberty, Ind.  
Music  
Address: Gov. Samuel M. Ralston, Indianapolis, Ind.  
Music  
Benediction