

Family Reunions Listed in *Nappanee Advance–News*, September 4, 1924

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The northern Indiana town of Nappanee welcomed people far and wide when it celebrated its half-century anniversary in 1924. A news article in the *Nappanee Advance–News* recounts several family reunions that took place late that summer. Nappanee is a small town in Elkhart County about twenty miles south of Elkhart.¹ The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad had helped to map out the town at the end of 1874 as one of its stations on the way to Chicago. Subsequently, Nappanee grew with a wide range of industries and businesses. It dealt in major resources such as lumber and steel, and it also boasted a printing press and factories that manufactured furniture and other home commodities. According to census data, by 1920 it had a population of around 2,600.²

The year 1924 must have been a joyous and celebratory year for the citizens of Nappanee, marking fifty years since the town's establishment. It would have been the perfect opportunity to celebrate family lineage as well as to show off the growing town to visiting family members. These reunions may have coincided with some of the special celebrations put on by the town.³

Family reunion notices in newspapers serve as snapshots of families. A researcher can quickly gather names of ancestors and solidify family connections at a specific time and place. Likewise, familial relationships, such as parentage and sibling and cousin status, can be verified by these types of notices. Even lists of out-of-town relatives can help genealogists refine future searches, especially when these lists also include hometowns. Below are transcriptions of the family reunions recounted in the *Nappanee Advance–News* of September 4, 1924.

Notes

1. *Nappanee Advance–News* (Nappanee, IN), September 4, 1924, Hoosier State Chronicles, Indiana State Library, <https://newspapers.library.in.gov/>.
2. “Indiana City/Town Census Counts, 1900 to 2010,” StatsIndiana, <https://www.stats.indiana.edu/index.asp>; H. S. K. Bartholomew, *Stories and Sketches of Elkhart County* (Nappanee, IN: E. V. Publishing, 1936), 197; “History of Nappanee, Indiana,” About Us, The City of Nappanee, Indiana, <https://www.nappanee.org>.
3. Bartholomew, *Stories and Sketches of Elkhart County*, 195–96.

Articles about Family Reunions in the *Nappanee Advance–News* of September 4, 1924

Truex Reunion

The William Truex reunion was held at Community park, Saturday, with 160 present. A picnic dinner was served after which a short program was rendered and the following officers elected: J. K. Mellott of Nappanee, President; Charles Winget of Marion, O., vice president; and Mrs. Rose McCullough Miller, secretary-treasurer. The following from out of town attended the reunion: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Winget and Mrs. Berger of Marion, O.; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mellott and son and Mrs. Joseph Hughes and daughter, Florence, of South Bend; Mrs. Florence Kauffman, Miss Ada Kauffman of Cleveland, O.; Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Mellott and family of Anderson, Ind.; Mr. and Mrs. T Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. George Truex, George Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Truex, Gilford Truex, Mr. and Mrs. Oren Truex, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Barke and daughter, all of Elkhart; Ed Mellott and family, all of Bourbon; Mr. and Mrs. William Fretz, Atwood; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hepler and family of Breman; Mr. and Mrs. A. Pittman, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Silvius, and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Silvius, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Miller and children, all of Michigan; Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Huffman and two daughters of near Goshen and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller and family of New Paris.

Cochren Reunion

The tenth annual reunion of the Cochren family was held at Shady Side, Lake of the Woods, Monday, Sept. 1, with an attendance of 80. A sumptuous [*sic*] dinner was served to which all did justice. The afternoon was spent in visiting and in a social way. The next reunion will be held at the Community park in Nappanee in September 1925. The officers are President and vice-president, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Cochren of South Bend; Sec., Miss Retha Chambers, Watervliet, Mich.; Treas., Rev. Bert Chambers, Butler, Ind. There were relatives in attendance from South Bend, Elkhart, Watervliet, Bourbon, Bremen and among those from Nappanee were Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wyman and son Victor, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Anglin, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Snyder and family, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Anglin and daughter Wave, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Huff and daughter Olive Lou and Miss Ruth Mishler.

Pippenger Reunion

The Pippenger reunion was held at the city park Sunday, Aug. 31 with an attendance of 210. The oldest member present was Christian Pippenger who is 77 and the youngest Wil[l?]odean Huber 7 weeks of age. The officers for the year 1925 are:

Pres.—Isaac Pippenger, Elkhart.

Vice-Pres.—Mr. Swartz, Elkhart.

Corresponding Sec.—Lorern Pippenger, Nappanee.

Sec. and Treas.—Mary Stouder, Nappanee.

The next reunion will be held in Community park in Nappanee, Sept. 6, 1925.

Weber Reunion

Mr. and Mrs. John Weber and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Weber attended the Weber reunion Saturday at the home of Earl Himes, four miles south of Cromwell. One hundred and six were present. Lester Weber was elected president; Norman Beagle of Warsaw, vice-president; and Mrs. Jonas Loucks, secretary-treasurer.

Welty Reunion

About 53 relatives attended the Welty reunion Sunday, which was held at the home of W. H. Welty on N. Main street in Nappanee. The oldest person present was Emanuel Welty of Etna Green who was 58 and the youngest was his grandson, Atley Raymond, the small son of Mr. and Mrs. Atley Miller of Nappanee, who was four weeks old. A sumptuous dinner was served at noon followed by a program after which the following officers for 1925 were elected:

Pres.—W. H. Welty, Nappanee.

Vice-Pres.—Jesse Welty, Nappanee.

Sec.-Treas.—Alpha Welty, Nappanee.

Chairman of the program committee, Ira Welty, Nappanee.

The next reunion will be held at the home of John M. Welty, 4 miles northeast of Nappanee on the first Sunday in September, 1925.

Among the out of town guests present were: Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Tyrell and son Hubert, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Michael Landis and daughter, Esther of Elkhart, Mr. and Mrs. Easten Williams and daughter Carolyn of Chicago.

Watkins Reunion

The Watkins reunion met at Huffman lake Sunday, Aug. 24th with about the usual attendance and spent the forenoon in visiting and certainly had a very enjoyable time as some of the relation had not met for over thirty years. At the noon hour they enjoyed a bountious [*sic*] dinner. After dinner they listened to a speech delivered by Charles Watkins, who eulogized the four brothers, William, Enoch, Perry and Robert Watkins, who are all past 80 years of age and all four are Civil War Veterans. They all enlisted in 1860 in the same company and neither one received a wound. The oldest William is 87 years old and the youngest Robert is 81 years old. After the speech they enjoyed ice cream and boat riding as the lake was smooth as it could be and young people enjoyed it and all went home happy, looking forward to next year's reunion.

Norris Family Reunion

[There are two, nearly identical, entries recounting the Norris family reunion in the same newspaper issue. Rather than copy both, the extra information from the second entry, titled "Norris Reunion," is included below in brackets.]

The tenth annual reunion of the Norris family was held Saturday, Aug. 30th, five miles south-east of Nappanee, at the home of David Beech [near Gravelton], with 70 present. Officers elected were as follows:

President—Walter Norris of South Whitley.

Sec.-Treas.—Mrs. Mary Bolinger of South Whitley.

Relatives from Nappanee, South Whitley, Detroit, Mich., Warsaw[,] Plymouth and Sidney were present. The place and date of the next reunion will be at South Whitley the second Saturday in June 1925.

Wilson Reunion

The third annual reunion of the Wilson family was held Sunday, Aug. 31 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Zellard Goodman in Niles, Mich., with an attendance of 60. Those in attendance from Nappanee were Mr. and Mrs. Bert Arch and family and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Grasz and daughter. The second reunion will be held in September 1925 at the home of Harvey Wilson at Sidney, Ind. The officers are president, William Wilson, Hammond; secretary-treasurer, Merle Wilson, Chicago.

Holderman–Montel Reunion

The Holderman–Montel reunion was held at the Community park Sunday, Aug. 31 with an attendance of 200. There were relatives present from Warsaw, North Liberty, Laporte, Leesburg, Goshen, Columbia City, Bremen, South Bend, and Nappanee. The next reunion will be held at the Community park in Nappanee in May 1925. The officers for the year are:

Pres.—Melvin Holderman, Warsaw

Sec.-Treas.—Chas. Holderman of Nappanee.

Hartman Reunion

The Hartman reunion was held in the Community park Wednesday of last week with 133 persons present. After a picnic dinner served at noon a short program was rendered and the following officers elected: President, Floyd Slabaugh; vice president, George Hartman, and secretary, Mrs. Lilly Geyer. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Teall of Elkhart and Mr. and Mrs. Sparks of Kewanna attended the reunion.