

2020 Lael Family Reunion

Springfield, Illinois

May 2, 2020



This is a photograph of a Ruth & Ross Lael taken in July 1958 with a number of their grandkids. In the back row from left to right are: Patsy, Sue, Grandma and Grandpa. In the front row from left to right are: Steve, Terry, Joyce, Brenda, and Dale.



2019 Lael Reunion

The 65th Lael Reunion was held in Jerome, Illinois on May 5, 2019. This year, as last year, there were a lot of empty tables at the Reunion. Dale Lael, our host for the past number of years, has been telling everyone that he needs someone else to do the annual coordination and scheduling for the Reunion. So Dale said in fact this was the last year for him to be in charge.

Brenda *Lael* Esslinger has taken the lead to host and coordinate the Lael Reunion. She was able to reserve a facility in southern Springfield that looks like it will work perfectly for our annual get together. Plus, to maybe add some interest, she has set the date for a Saturday instead of a Sunday. It will hopefully will help to bring more family members to the event.

I was able to scan a good number of photographs and other family related

documents this year. A number of them were new and I had never seen them before. I have included those photographs at the end of this newsletter so you might also see them.

Again, if you have any photographs or newspaper articles you would like to share, bring them with you to the Reunion and I can scan them and hand them right back to you so you will not lose them. Anything that I scan I can put on the Lael Family Web site and include them in the booklet or newspaper the next year. I do go back and look at the older Reunion booklets while trying to connect a face with a story or event.

As in the past, I am always looking for ideas for items to include in the booklet or the Lael Family web site, so please drop me a note or letter with some family item you would like to share. As time moves on we have lost family members and many times all of their knowledge, history, and stories passed with them.



Lael Family Memorial

At last year's Family Reunion I learned that Barbara Jean Lael White had just passed away. Barb passed away on April 18, 2019. She was the daughter of Marcella and RV Lael. She married Lynn White on June 29, 1957, and he preceded her. She left one son, Kenneth, and two daughters, Debra and Phyllis.



The John Henry Lael Family in Illinois

I started the Lael Family booklet This is the 7th year for this booklet that starts the dialog about the John Henry Lael family after they relocated to Illinois. In the early 1900's John's family consisted of his wife Dona Emma (Lail), his sons Ross Council, Everett, and Owen Boyd. At this time I do not know the year that the family moved to Illinois but it appears that it was after June 1907 (when Owen Boyd was born in Conover, North Carolina) and before January 1911 (when Skiles Enloe was born in Ashland, Illinois). In "*The Lagle/Lail Family in America*", third edition, 1991, written by Margaret Lail Hopkins and others (the *Lael book*) the author stated that the family moved to Illinois on March 5, 1909 which falls in between the birth dates just mentioned.

As just mentioned Skiles Enloe was the first born in Illinois following with Rena Bernice, R. V. Leonard and Homer V., the baby of the family. All of John's immediate ancestors, as well as Dona Emma's ancestors, were born in North Carolina in the 1800's.



Early Lael Family History

Thanks to the research conducted by Margaret Lail Hopkins & James Donald Lail and published in their "The Lagle/Lail Family in America" book, I can follow our family tree back to the late 1700's starting near Wuerttemberg, Bavaria.

The very first Lael on our tree is Hans Löle, born in about 1550 near Neuburg, Germany. We next see Hans George Lole (born May 3, 1703), who was the Great-Great-Great Grandson of Hans. This early ancestor of John Henry and Dona Emma immigrated to the United States from Germany in the mid-1700's. Hans George Lole and his wife Maria Elizabeth and their sons, Johann Michael and Johann George traveled down the Rhine River to Rotterdam in the Netherlands looking for a better life. From Rotterdam they traveled by boat to the British islands and the Port of Cowes where they boarded the ship Samuel for the trip to the Americas. He appears to have settled in York County, Pennsylvania. If he is in fact our ancestor he traveled from Germany to England and then on to Pennsylvania. He then followed the typical route of migration traveling from Pennsylvania and then on to North Carolina.

It is felt that Hans George Lale was the first of our German ancestors to immigrate to the United States. He arrived in the Port Of Philadelphia on August 30, 1737. On all of the ship's records, Hans George is now identified as Hans George "Lale". Between 1737 and 1743 no record of Hans George can be found. It is more than likely he was spending his time in indentured service to pay for his way to America. Hans George appears in church records in York, Pennsylvania with the birth of a daughter, Barbara, on June 22, 1743. In about 1752, Hans George decided to make

the trip to North Carolina. During this time period, he along with many immigrants followed this track of traveling from Pennsylvania to North Carolina.

It appears that the Lail and Lael names evolved over time from the German spelling of our surnames of Löhl to Lagel, Lagle, Legal, to list just a few. In her research of the Lael name, Margaret Lail Hopkins found that with the umlaut (Ö) placed over the letter O in Löhl, the name sounds very close to the way Lail is spoken in English.

If I have read the Family Charts contained in the Lael book correctly the following list traces the Lael head of the households back to Hans Georg Löhl, the first of our family to arrive in the United States in 1737.

John Henry Lael	1881 - 1956
Noah Lagle	1857 - 1924
Peter Lagle	1828 - 1884
Joseph Lail (Lagle)	1801 - after 1851
John Jacob Lale	1750 - after 1801
Hans Georg Löhl	1703 - 1771

Hans Georg Lohl migrated to the Yadkin Valley, of North Carolina in the fall of 1752. He had migrated from Pennsylvania where he had landed upon his arrival in the United States. Yadkin Valley is located in the northwest area of North Carolina. He first shows up in tax records in Rowan County, North Carolina in 1759. Later descendants spread throughout North Carolina, settling in Burke and Lincoln (which later became Catawba) Counties. It was around this time that those who settled in Burke County changed their name to Lail. Those who moved into Catawba County adopted Lael as the spelling of their last name.

Researchers found that the mark of Georg Legall on his property records in Rowan County dated in 1761 matched the mark of Hans Georg Löhle when he signed documents in Philadelphia in 1737. The mark as previously noted was a crude looking "H" which probably stood for Hans. The land Hans Georg held title to adjoined land owned by Daniel Boone.



I have found some of the very early history of our Family to be very interesting. Please go to page 4 where I have attempted to describe the events that affected our Family during the Revolutionary War, in which the Lael's played a big part. Especially for the three Lael Families that traveled to Kentucky in the Late 1770's and were involved in the attack by the British of Ruddle's Fort and their circumstances due to that attack.

Ruddle's Fort - Kentucky

Hans Georg had six sons with him in North Carolina. His sons were Michael, George, Jacob, Henry, Peter, and William. This was also the period in time that was the start of the Revolutionary War. Georg Lagle Jr. (another way our Family name was spelled) and his younger brothers Henry and Peter left North Carolina for Kentucky. In Kentucky they were defending Ruddle's Fort when they and their families were captured by the British and Indians in June of 1780. Many men in North Carolina served in the military and fought the British. Sons of Hans Georg, including Michael, Jacob and William, stayed in North Carolina and served in

the Continental army.

**Note: Much of the material I have reproduced here concerning Ruddle's Fort was obtained from "The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, Vol. 54, October 1956, No. 189.*

The Lael's That Moved to Kentucky

The people living along the East Coast had heard about the land and the wild life, all of the possibilities of this new land from the trappers who had lived in that area. The problem was that there was not an easy way to travel to this land as they would have to cross the Allegheny Mountains. A great way thru the mountains was found, called the Cumberland Gap. This allowed numerous families to make the journey to this new promising land. In the mid-1770's the three sons of Hans George felt that the opportunities of this land to the West of North Carolina sounded very promising. Brothers George, Henry and Peter traveled to Kentucky.

Preceding them into Kentucky was the likes of Captain Ruddle who came from the Shenandoah Valley. In 1779 Captain Ruddle established a settlement at Ruddle's on Hinson Creek, in what is now Bourbon County, Kentucky. During this time period, the Revolutionary War was under way and the Indians, incited by the British, traveled in war parties and attacked isolated settlements in the East, such as those near Ruddle's Fort. Captain Ruddle had a garrison of about 50 men. Within the group of men were three identified as Henry Loyl, George Loyl, and Peter Loyl. These three are our ancestors.

Land owners in the area of the Fort farmed the land and used the Fort for refuge when the Indians were in the area

and causing trouble. During this same time period (early 1780) a Captain Henry Byrd of the British forces located to the North in the Detroit, Michigan area was collecting an army of 150 or so British soldiers as well as several hundred Indians. As this army moved to the South more Indians joined until there were between 1,000 and 1,200 traveling with the British Army

Most of the travel by the Army was by boats of various kinds, but they finally reached the Ohio River and moved down it to Licking Creek, which flowed by Ruddle's Fort. By moving in boats, the Army was able to carry cannons with them.

The Kentuckians, knowing that the British and Indians were in the area, sheltered in the Fort. Captain Byrd surrounded the Fort and fired one of his cannons to announce their arrival. Captain Byrd ordered the Fort to surrender, but Captain Ruddle would only surrender if Captain Byrd insured the protection of his men from the Indians. Captain Byrd agreed and the Fort gates were opened. The Indians rushed in and started grabbing prisoners to claim as their own. They separated the men from the women and children. Small children were killed as they would not be able to walk with the rest of the prisoners who were to be taken North. About 20 people were killed as the Fort was taken. Peter Loyl is thought to have died at this point. He was not listed among the captives, and his body had not found. Unidentified bodies were placed in a mass grave at the site.

Plans were then made to attack another near-by settlement, Martin's Station. Captain Byrd convinced the Indians to give the prisoners to him and only take

the plunder, which they agreed to. Martin's Station was then captured, also with ease due to the British cannons.

At this time the Indians separated from the British forces. However they took all of the prisoners. About 470 men, women and children were captured and marched North toward Detroit. The Indians took a fancy to little Johnnie Loyl (Lail), 2 years old. They decided he would make a "good Indian" and tested him by rolling him down a river bank. Since he did not cry he was adopted along with his 5 year old brother George. The trip to Detroit covered about 600 miles and took about 6 weeks. Prisoners held by the Indians either became like them or lived in slavery.

After the treaty between the United States and the British, many captives returned home. Little Johnnie Lail returned to Harrison County, Kentucky. His brother George, married an Indian and lived among the Indians for a number of years. He later returned to his home in Kentucky but his wife deserted him and returned to her people.

Peter Loyl (Lail) Senior was apparently killed when Ruddle's Fort was captured. His wife Mary was adopted into an Indian family. She was forced to marry an Indian and had a child with him. She escaped him leaving behind her son and later married another Ruddle's captive, Jacob Markle (Miracle) and they moved to Canada. Catarinah Loyl (Lail) a daughter of Peter & Mary was a captive but was recovered from the Indians in 1786. There is no record of another son of Peter & Mary, Peter Jr.

George & Margaret Loyl (Lail) were apparently captured and survived the

ordeal. A daughter Margaret was captured and survived. Another of their daughters Eveleas was captured but later made her escape and returned to Lexington, Kentucky. She married a fellow captive, Casper Karsner, when they were both in Kentucky. A third daughter, Elizabeth was captured and married John Martin Franks in Detroit.

Henry Loyl (Lail) the 3rd son of Hans George who moved to Kentucky was captured at Ruddle's Fort. He later married a Shawnee woman and had two sons. He returned to North Carolina, then moved to Tennessee, and also Arkansas.

Jacob Lail stayed in North Carolina during the War. He started his family in 1784 after the War ended. His first born was named Henry. He had three daughters and six sons. The two boys that are important to the current Lael Family are Henry (born in 1784) and Joseph (born in 1801). As we trace the Family tree you will see that descendants of Henry include Dona Emma Lail and descendants of Joseph include John Henry Lael.

Our branch of the family tree continues on from Hans Georg to his son Jacob. Jacob was born in York County, Pennsylvania in about 1750. His first son was Henry who was born in Mecklenburg, North Carolina in about 1784 and his fifth son Joseph was born about 1801 in Lincoln County, North Carolina.

Joseph and his first wife Mary had four boys and one girl between 1821 and 1829. He married Christine Lowman (born in about 1801) in about 1842 and had 4 daughters between 1843 and 1851 in Burke

County, North Carolina.

For our purposes the third son of Joseph is the center of our attention. Peter was born in 1828 in Burke County, North Carolina. He married Mary Ann Lagle on July 16, 1848. She was born on January 25, 1830 a daughter of Henry Lagle (Lail) who was also the Great, Great Grandfather of Dona Emma Lail.

Noah first shows up in the 1860 Census as a one year old boy. He was living with his family in Catawba County, North Carolina. Noah married Polly Menah Holler on May 29, 1879. In the 1880 Census Noah and Polly had one daughter born in about January 1880. It appears that Noah and Polly live in the house or farm next to Peter and Margaret Holler, her parents. Both Noah and Peter were listed as being farmers.



Lael Family History in North Carolina

Branch of John Henry Lael Family (1881 - 1956)

John Henry Lael was born on April 15, 1881 in Conover, North Carolina. He was the son of Noah and Polly Menah (Holler) Lael. Polly Menah was also born in North Carolina. John Henry was the second of seven children. He had three sisters and three brothers.

Dona Emma (Lail) Lael was born December 7, 1883 in Conover, North Carolina, the daughter of Sylvanus (Vanie) and Mary Ann (Coonts). Dona Emma was the fourth of seven children. She had two brothers and four sisters. As just mentioned Dona Emma's family was the

branch that probably settled in Burke County in the early 1800's.

John and Dona were married on August 6, 1899 in Hickory, North Carolina. In the 1900 Census, John was living with Dona's family. Dona's mother and father, Sylvanus and Mary Ann, also had 5 daughters and one son at that time.

The John Henry family bible contained a note that he moved his family to Illinois on March 5, 1909. I am not sure if that is the date they arrived in Illinois or the date they left North Carolina. I also have not been able to determine why they settled in Cass County.

In the 1910 Census John and his family were living in the Philadelphia area of Cass County. The children in the family at that time were Ross, Everett and Owen.

At some time prior to the 1920 Census John moved his family to the Chandlerville area. The size of the family had increased to now include Skiles, *Rena, and R.V.*

In 1930 the family was living in the Merritt, Illinois area, a few miles south of Chapin located in Scott County. Ross, Everett and Owen were no longer living at home, having gone on to marry and start their families. Skiles who was 19 at the time was listed as a farmer as was John. The latest addition to the family was Homer who was about 9 years old.

In the 1940 Census John and Dona and their family were living in Woodside, which I believe is located, just a bit South of Springfield. John is listed as being a farmer. In 1940 RV who was about 21 and

Homer, age 12 were still at home with John and Dona.

Ross and Ruth were farming in Cass County near Virginia in the 1940 Census. All five boys were living at home with them. In addition Ruth's father, John William Shelley who lost his wife in 1921, was living with them.

The 1940 Census listed Owen Boyd and Myrtle farming and living near Spring Creek in Pike County. At this time the three girls were also at home, Donna, Eleanor and Marilyn.

Skiles Enloe and Leva were listed as farming and living in Scott County, near East Winchester in the 1940 Census. At that time they only had one boy, Don. This Census also mentioned that in 1935 they had been living in Jacksonville, over in Morgan County.

Also in the 1940 Census, Rena and Hugo were shown to be farming and living in Scott County, near East Winchester. At that time they had their two daughters, Ruth Laverne and Berneda Louise at home. Rena and Hugo lived very near to where Skiles and Leva were living in 1940 as they were both listed just one page apart in the Census.



Photographs from the 65th Lael Family Reunion held on May 5, 2019 in Jerome, Illinois. We have the room for more Family members, if they will only make the trip.



The Lael Family should be very proud that we have held a Reunion for 65 years. Not many Families can make such a statement. Let's hope it is not one of our last.



Our host and hostess for the past many years, Dale and Laura Lael.



We always have room for more to attend.



Randy, Martha (Hill), & Rusty Lael



Not many people but the food is as good as ever.



Gaylen & Esther Lael



Keith Lael & Carl Riddell



Will, Patsy (Lael) Barnhart and Joyce Lael



Terry & Elizabeth (Lael) Fairclough



Ethan, Chloe, Chris, Grace, and Kristie Lael



Wayne, Ann & Elaine Lael



Sue Palmer, Jessica Jackson(on phone), Ambriel and Angela



Arthur & Brenda Esslinger, and Esther & Gaylen Lael



Sue Palmer & family



Vance, Audrey Weir, Stacey and Von Geisendorfer



Lael Cousins - Tom, Ruth Elaine, Brenda, Sue, Joyce, Patsy, Elizabeth and Keith



Tommie Jo, Ryan, (Ambriel), Janice & Autumn Lael



Tom Lael Family

Photographs & Documents scanned during
2019 Reunion

Many of these pictures were provided by
Patsy & Joyce Lael



Bill & Betty Lael



Bill Lael family at Christmas about 1968



Bill Lael on September 3, 1929



Betty Lael and her kids and Sue Lael



Bill about May 13, 1928



Bill during WWII



Bill + Terry
Bill and son Terry about late 1950's



Bill, Bob and Gene Lael



Bill, Bob and Gene about 1928



Bob, Gaylen and Bill Lael



Bill, Gaylen, Gene, Wayne, and Bob Lael -
Sept 1959



Bill Shelley



Bill and his hot rod



Terry Bill Lael July 1959



Bill Lael (I can see a little Elvis)



Ross & Ruth Lael and their boys - 1937

Hope to see you next Reunion