

The John Henry Lael Family in Illinois

Introduction

This is the 6th 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. I'll dedicate at least one chapter in this booklet to the North Carolina history.

As I add information about our family to this booklet, I hope it inspires others who have additional information, dates and stories to bring them to me so at some point we will end up with a very complete history of the John Henry family and their descendants in Illinois. Much of the history for all of the Lael ancestors in America is available in the *Lael book*.

The bulk of the information I have on the Lael Family web site was obtained from that book. The balance of the material comes from a review of the U.S. Census, ranging from 1840 to 1930. The 1940 Census was released in April 2012. A good number of our current family members will start showing up in the Census pages.

I was not able to add a lot of information from the 2012 Reunion. I am asking for information on our family that will be of interest to everyone. This will also make this booklet more valuable. As promised in the first booklet I will recap the previous year's Reunion with highlights and photographs.

I have started adding names for later generations to each family branch. In previous years (2009) I started with John Henry (the 6th generation) and included the 7th and 8th generations. In 2010 I added the 9th and 10th generations. For 2011, I added a number of 11th generation individuals.

I believe that one chapter should be used to work my way through each branch of our Family starting with the children of John Henry. The *Lael book* is pretty complete up to the 1970's & 1980's. I hope to continue on with current information that will reflect all of the additions to our family since the last edition of the *Lael book*.

There is also a Lael Family web site located at www.laelfamily.com where you can find more family history

. Table of Contents

Recent Lael Family news	1
Lael Family History in North Carolina	2
Lael Family History in Illinois	11
Family Reunions	12
2012 Lael Reunion.....	12
2013 Lael Reunion.....	22
2014 Lael Reunion	43

Lael Family News

In addition to this booklet I have maintained our Lael Family web site over the past years. Thru this site I have received numerous inquiries about our family. Just a few years ago we had the family of Everett & Ideal Lael (Carl Smith) contact us and come to our annual reunion. I have fielded questions from others from the East and the West looking for additional information on the Lael tree.

A few years ago we learned of a Otis Wesley Lael from the State of Washington. Otis was listed in the Lael Book (the book that is no longer in print and now very out-of-date) published by Margaret Lail Hopkins. There is a link to the Otis Lael web site and it is www.otislael.com.

In 2011 we received an inquiry from Barbara Lael-Reiner who also lives in Washington and is in the same Lael family branch as Otis. Barbara also shared some pictures of their get together they hold in Washington.

Dale Lael has over the years e-mailed Linda Lael-Miller, the author of many books that I assume some of you have read. Linda has been inquiring recently attempting to locate information on a family member from North Carolina, Ralph Lael. I discovered that Linda is also in the same Lael family branch as Otis and Barbara Lael-Reiner.

Lael Family History in North Carolina

The early ancestors of John Henry and Dona Emma immigrated to the United States from Germany in the mid-1700's. They apparently followed the typical route by first settling in Pennsylvania and then migrating to North Carolina. It is felt that Hans George Lael was the first of our German ancestors to immigrate to the United States. 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 arrived in the Port Of Philadelphia on August 30, 1737.

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

Branch of Hans Georg Löhl (1703 – 1771)

Hans Georg Löhl sailed on an English ship *Samuel*, and arrived in Philadelphia on August 30, 1737. Hans Georg probably made his way from the heart of Germany to Rotterdam and then on to England. Only English ships were allowed travel to American ports in those days.

Ship's records list Hans Georg on three separate documents dated August 30, 1737. He was identified by his mark, which was a crude capital "H". From the date of arrival in America there are no records that list Hans Georg until about 1743. This would be consistent with someone who paid for his trip to America by working for a business man or farm owner.

In the fall of 1752 Hans Georg migrated to the Yadkin Valley, which is 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 Löhl 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.

Hans Georg had six sons with him in North Carolina. 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. 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.

George Jr. gained ownership of land in northeast Kentucky in about 1778. This land was near the military fort called Ruddles Station in Harrison County, Kentucky. Information about the fort and the battle which occurred in the summer of 1780 was taken from the web site <http://frontierfolk.org/ruddles.htm>.

The three Lail brothers (as their names were spelled on list of individuals killed and/or captured in the June 1780 battle around the Station) included Peter, Henry and George Jr. The British and Indians attacked the fort. About 20 people were killed with the rest being taken prisoner and marched to Detroit (I could not determine if that was Detroit, Michigan or some other Detroit). Those taken prisoner were held until the end of the War. It appears that Peter was killed on June 30, 1780, or sometime during captivity.

Peter's wife, Mary, was taken captive and adopted into an Indian family. She was forced to marry an Indian and bore him a son. She later escaped to Canada leaving her son behind and married Jacob Markle (Miracle). Jacob Markle was a German and was probably captured at Ruddles Station.

George Jr. was taken captive and also made the trip to Detroit. He and his family were later released and he returned to Kentucky. His son George was not released with the family and he remained to live with the Shawnee Indians.

Henry was held in captivity and was finally released at the end of the war. He apparently married an Indian woman and they had two boys. After their release they returned to North Carolina.

The three sons of Hans Georg that remained in North Carolina, Michael, Jacob and William, served in the Revolutionary war and lived through the conflict. However, William was captured by the British and held prisoner on board a ship until about 1781.

The Revolutionary War ran from 1775 until the treaty was signed in 1783. The hostilities ended after the British surrendered at Yorktown in the winter of 1781/82. During 1782 the British started to remove their troops from America. It would have been during this period 1782 and 1783 that the Ruddles Station captives would have been released.

Branch of Jacob Lail (1750 – about 1801)

As already mentioned 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.

Branch of Joseph Lail (1801 – about 1851)

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.

I can find Joseph Lail in the 1840 Census for North Carolina, Burke County. His family consists of five males including him and four females including his wife. The Census information only shows the name of the head of the household and no other individuals are

named. The Census material is further broken down by male and female and placed in age groups. The oldest male and female are both in the age group 30 – 40 years old. That matches the age of Joseph since he had been shown to have been born in 1801. The number and sex of his children almost match the family charts in the Lael book.

In the 1850 Census for North Carolina, Burke County, the names of all of the members of the household are included. The Census information not only includes their name but also their age at the time the Census was taken. Joseph and Christine are shown as 49 years of age. Christine brought three of her children from a previous marriage with her. They were Angeline Lowman, age 17, John Lowman, age 14, and Susan Lowman, age 13. Joseph and Christine had three daughters by this time, Rachel, age 7, Mira, age 5, and Mary, age 2 months in July 1850 when this Census was taken. Joseph's occupation was a farmer. Based upon the amount of land that his ancestors owned would indicate the Lail family was involved in farming since their arrival in America.

Branch of Peter Lail (1828 – 1884)

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.

In the 1840 Census, as previously mentioned, Joseph, Peter's father, had five males living with him at home. One boy is shown to be between 10 and 15 years old and that would no doubt be Peter who would have been about 12 at that time. In the 1850 Census on the same census page the family that was enumerated just prior to Joseph and his family was Peter Lail. Additionally the next family after Joseph to be enumerated was Jacob Lail, another son of Joseph and a brother to Peter. You can assume by this that they were living very close to each other. As it appears in all of these historical documents the history of the Lail family had been as farmers, and their occupation listed in 1850 is also as farmers.

In 1850 Peter and his wife Mary had two children, Alexander, age 5 and Catherine age 10 months. Peter's age is listed as 21 which would fit as he was born in 1828. In the 1860 Census which was taken on September 5, 1860, I finally found Peter and his family. However their last name was listed as Lagel. Peter now has two girls, Catherine (age 11) and Julian (age 8), and two boys, Gerard (10) and Noah (age 1).

Research in the 1870 and 1880 Census have been unfruitful in finding Peter or Noah. I have sifted thru hundreds of Census pages looking for these families and using every possible spelling of the last name to no avail.

Branch of Noah Lail (1856 – 1924)

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.

I've noted in my research of Census information that in a number of instances a close relative or in-law of the person that I am searching for, lives next door or in the next farm house. I can only imagine that in the 1800's travel was limited and you were only exposed to other people that lived nearby. That is probably why so many of our relatives lived in close proximity to their in-laws and other family members.

Branch of John Henry Lael (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.

NOTE: *I would like to add any information about our Family that you may be aware of. Please say something to me or drop me a line so I can add to this booklet and keep it growing each year for our Reunions.*

Lael Family History in Illinois

John and Dona along with their young family, which at the time included Ross Council, Everett, and Owen, moved to the Ashland, Illinois area in 1909. The first child born in Illinois was Skiles in 1911. Next came daughter Rena in 1912. R.V. was born in 1918 in Virginia and finally Homer in 1922 who was born in Merritt.

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.

Family Reunions

Editor's Note:

Starting in 2009 I began inserting photographs of the Reunion and photographs of family groups. In addition as people brought in old family pictures I started scanning them and included those pictures in the following year's booklet. In that way everyone had the opportunity to see those heirlooms.

To keep this booklet to a manageable size and therefore a decent cost I have deleted the photographs and other information from the 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 Family Reunions which were placed in the 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 Reunion booklets. I can still obtain copies of those booklets if you do not have one. Just drop me a note or e-mail, or say something to me at the Reunion and I can get you a copy.

2012 Lael Reunion

The 58th Lael Family Reunion was held in Jerome, Illinois on April 29, 2012. Due to a schedule problem the Reunion was a week earlier than usual. This food was as great as ever and there was a wide variety of food for the potluck lunch. I think everyone has a favorite dish they look forward to.

The descendents wall chart keeps getting a bit longer (now over 35 feet) each year. It is only with your comments and information that it stays accurate. I want to ask you to give me some family information or history to make this booklet more informative.

I intend on having copies of the 1940 Census pages, available for the 2013 Reunion, for as many family groups as I can find. I will still not be able to see myself in this Census since I just missed being born in 1942.



Getting settled in before lunch.



More families arriving for the Reunion



Getting in the food line. That is Delbert with the nice looking beard.

Family Group Photographs from 2012



Angela Smith and daughters Kourtney and Jessica



Ann Lael & family



Buffy (Lael), Jon Wolf and daughter Antonea



Nancy (Jones) & Carl Ehlert and Ruth (Ehlert) & Donald Bartlett



Dale, daughter Stephanie, & Laura (Flinn) Lael



Diane Lael, granddaughter Leah & daughter Shelly Quigg



Esther (Taylor) & Gaylen Lael



Carl Riddell & Keith Lael



Dale, Leva (Williams), Don and Delbert Lael



Mary Lael's family



Sally (Rahn) Lael & family



Tyler, Bentley & Nina (Palmer) Richardson and Angela Moore



Sue (Lael) Palmer and family



Tom Lael and family

2013 Lael Family Reunion

The 59th annual Lael Family Reunion was held on May 5, 2013 in Jerome, Illinois. These Reunions could not be held in such a fine facility if it were not for the efforts of Dale Lael to make all of the arrangements and schedule the use of the building.

We had another good turnout and the good weather probably helped the attendance. The potluck meal was as great as it always is. I'm sure we all have favorites foods that we look forward to sampling each year.



People starting to arrive just before Noon



Getting in line



Descendents wall chart now over 35 feet long



I guess I will have to wait, the line is too long



Now the best part, we get to eat



You can always go back for seconds

Family Group Photographs for 2013



Since Dale Lael sets this up I will put him and his wife first



Patsy (Lael) Barnhart and family



Joyce (Lael) Garrison and family



Lael family cousins



Ann Lael and family



Angie Moore and family



Donald Lael and family



Angela Palmer and daughter



Gaylen Lael and family



Chris Lael and family



Stacey (Palmer) Geisendorfer and family



Ryan Lael and family



Sally Lael and family



Wynn Palmer, Madison & Sue Palmer
Wynn traveled the farthest coming from England



Sue (Lael) Palmer and family



Tom Lael and family

The following pictures were scanned from photographs provided by Gaylen Lael



Ross & Ruth Lael and family



Bill Shelley with his 2 six guns



Bill Shelley with some pelts



Gaylen and Wayne Lael



Gaylen Lael



Gene and Gaylen Lael



Ross, Evert and Owen Lael



John & Dona Lael with Homer and RV



Ross Lael and family in 1937



Owen, Dona, Rena, RV, Skiles, and Ross Lael



Owen Lael and family



**Skiles, RV, Ross, Dona, Homer, Owen, Mark McGlasson
and Rena**



Daughter of Owen Lael



Daughter of Owen Lael



Bobby, John, Dona, and Wayne Lael



Leva with daughters of Owen Lael and John



Glen Mason wedding announcement for their daughter



Gene, Bill, Gaylen, Bobby, and Wayne Lael

shop MASON'S for
MARKET

total savings

<p>Plain label 2% Milk Gal. 7.69</p> <p>Our Own Sandwich Bread 1/2 doz 59¢</p> <p>Pillsbury Flour 5.10 1/2 doz 79¢</p> <p>RiceLand Large Grain Rice 1/2 doz 55¢</p> <p>Camden BOTTLES 76¢ 25 OPEN PIT Barbecue SAUCE 89¢ (1/2 doz 100) 20174 1415 100</p>	<p>1/4 Pork Loin Cut into Pork Chops 10 9.79</p> <p>Country Style SPARE Ribs 10 7.59</p> <p>Pork Cutlets 10 9.69</p> <p>Sweet we ran out early last weekend. Tel 3900 THIS WEEK</p> <p>Pork Leg Quarters 10 39¢</p> <p>May 10 50¢ Chopped Ham 10 9.69 Pork Raised</p>	<p>Bush's Deluxe Pork & Beans 2 16-oz cans 89¢</p> <p>Leg Cans Country Kitchen Syrup 2 1/2 doz 93</p> <p>Country Time Lemonade MIX 36 can. 2.9</p> <p>Contadina Tomato Paste 2 1/2 cans 99¢</p> <p>Charmin Bathroom Tissue 4-8 1/2" 99¢ PK9</p> <p>Puffs Facial TISSUE 175 ct Box 79¢</p> <p>Personal Size Ivory Soap Jumbo</p>
---	---	---

Advertisement from Glen Mason's store

2014 Lael Family Reunion

The 60th was held in Jerome, Illinois on Sunday May 4, 2014. We had a good turnout although not as many as in times past.



Ann Lael and family



Dale & Laura Lael



Don Lael & sons Randy & Rusty



Gaylen Lael & family



Geisendorfer family



Sally Lael, Antonea & Buffy Wolf



Angela Lael & family



Chris Lael & family



Glenn & Eleanor Mason



Carolyn & Larry Summers



Sons of Skiles & Leva Lael
Don, Delbert & Dale



Ryan Lael & family



Angela Moore & family



"Brit" Win Palmer, Madison & Sue Palmer



Sue Palmer & family



Tom Lael & family

**The following pictures were scanned from
photographs provided by Dale Lael.**



Everett & Ideal Lael (Carl Smith)
This is one of the very few pictures we have of Everett



**(l to r) Harold, Carl, baby? & Ruth Ehlert, Delbert &
Don Lael**



Delbert, Leva & Skiles Lael, taken 1/30/1976



Dona & John Henry
Lael



Doris & Ed Gnatt & John Henry Lael at New Salem in
1948



Homer Lael



Ed & Nina Gnatt and Rena & Hugo Ehlert (1948)



John Henry & Ethel Lael (1956)

AUG • 58



Dale Lael 1958

AUG • 58



Delbert Lael 1958



Ethel Lael taken in
October 1960



John Henry Lael



Ethel & John Henry Lael taken at Rena & Hugo Ehlerts' home in Winchester



John Henry & Dona Lael and unknown sailor



(l to r) Hugo Ehlert, Ross, RV, Skiles, unkn sailor, John Henry and Owen

(front row) unknown, Gaylen, Tom (held by Ross) Don and Wayne



Fern, Sharon & Homer Lael

Additional copies of this booklet may be purchased at
<http://www.lulu.com>