

# 2017 Lael Family Reunion

Jerome, Illinois

May 7, 2017



**John Henry Lael & Dona with part of family**

This is the second year for a newspaper style document for annual Lael Family Reunion, I am attempting to get a new look in place of our previous booklet style. The booklet looked the same from year to year and we needed a change. I still plan on switching back to the old style booklet in the future.



## **2016 Lael Reunion**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Lael Reunion was held in Jerome, Illinois on May 1, 2016. We had a bit smaller turn out, which has been down a few people over the past few years. Dale Lael, our host in Jerome has worked diligently to notify everyone about the yearly event and has almost pleaded for people to set aside that one Sunday and make the trip to Jerome. We do need to turn this around in some manner. We all understand that everyone one has many things happening in their life and many times than includes family responsibilities and events. We all agree your immediate family should always come first. But, we do want to see you and your family at our Reunion.

SO, if you have any thought or suggestions to increase the interest in our Annual Family Reunion, please say something to Dale or myself. We can't let over 60 years of tradition end.

As I did last year I will include the family group photographs later on in this newspaper, so we can see how all the younger children are growing up, and all of the older among us are getting a lot better looking. 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 ideals 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.



### **The John Henry Lael Family in Illinois**

This is the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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. 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.

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 Council Lael**

Ross Council and Ruth Marion Shelley were married in Winchester, Illinois on December 10, 1921. Ruth was born in Virginia, Illinois. At the time of the 1930 Census, Ross and Ruth were living next door to Ruth's Grandfather's (William Franklin and Sarah Shelley) family and her father (John William) who was listed as being widowed.

In the 1940 Census Ross and Ruth were living in Virginia. The Census listed Ross as being a laborer. Living with Ross and Ruth that year were Bill, Bobby, Eugene, Wayne and Gaylen. Also Ruth's Father was living with them, John William Shelley.

### **Everett Lael**

By 1930 Everett had recently married Idel *Northcut* and had started their family while living in the Winchester area of Scott County. They had two children at that time, Mary B. age about 4, and Everett Jr., age about 3. If you recall Everett's family was also living in Merritt, Scott County. No doubt that is how Everett met Idel. Everett was listed in the 1930 Census as being a farm laborer.

As with other listing of Everett and his family, I have not been able to find them in the 1940 Census. I looked for Everett Lael and also "Carl Smith" but could find neither one.

### **Owen Boyd Lael**

Owen and Myrtle *Ham* had just gotten married in October 1928 and by the 1930 Census had one daughter, Donna Mae, age 1 at home. Owen and family were still living in the Merritt area and he was a farmer.

In the 1940 Census Owen and Myrtle and their family were living in Spring Creek, which is in Pike County. There isn't a town or village of Spring Creek showing on current maps. There is a Spring Creek Township, which is near Nebo, Illinois. So I assume that Spring Creek was located around there someplace in the 1940's. In 1935 they were living in rural Scott County and Owen was farming. Donna, age 11, Eleann (that how she was listed on the Census) was 9, and Merlyn (as shown on Census) was 1.

### **Skiles Enloe Lael**

The only information I have on Skiles and his family is the dates and names contained in my genealogy program. Skiles and Leva *Williams* married in 1934, well after the latest Census (1930) that is now available. The first of their children, Donald was born in 1939. It appears that Skiles and Leva were living in the Jacksonville area as they were married there and their children were also born there.

In the 1940 Census Skiles and Leva were living in East Winchester and was farming. The Census also said that they lived in Jacksonville in 1935. Don was just 1 year old when the 1940 Census was taken.

### **Rena Bernice Lael**

Rena married Hugo Reinholt *Ehlert* in

February 1931 in Quincy, Adams County Illinois. Again since this was after the 1930 Census I have little other information to add to this booklet. Their first child, Ruth Laverne was born in Jacksonville in 1935. The next three children Brenda Louise, born in 1939, Harold Alvin, born in 1941, and Carl Eugene, born in 1943 were all born in Scott County.

In the 1940 Census Rena and Hugo were living in East Winchester. They had Ruth R, age 5 and Brenda , age just under 1 year old living with them. The Census did not list what Hugo was doing at that time.

### **R.V. Leonard Lael**

R.V. and Marcella *Hinds* were married in Missouri in March of 1940. R.V. was living at home in the 1930 Census in Merritt, Scott County, Illinois. That same year Marcella was at home with her family in Salisbury, Sangamon County, Illinois. Salisbury is located North of Springfield and a number of miles from Merritt which is over by Jacksonville.

In the 1940 Census RV was still at home with John and Dona and RV's little brother, Homer living in Woodside, Illinois.

### **Homer V. Lael**

Homer and Fern *Pate* were married in June 1940 in Palmyra, Missouri. Their daughter Sharon Kay was born in 1941.

In the 1940 Census, Homer was at home with his Mom & Dad, but the Census showed him as being 13 years old. His age should have been listed as 18 since he was born in 1922.



Photographs from the 62<sup>nd</sup> Lael Family Reunion held on May 1, 2016 in Jerome, Illinois.



Dale Lael (blue shirt) who reserves our Reunion site each year.



Ann Lael and daughter



Chris Lael and family



Stacey (Palmer) Geisendorfer & her family



Dale and Laura Lael



Mary Lael and Mary Elizabeth & Terry Fairclough



Randy & Rusty sons of Martha and Don and Lael



Elizabeth and Paul Lael



Ray Palmer and Sarina & family



Sarina, Ambriel, and Angela Palmer



Ryan and Janice Lael & family



Sue Lael & family



Sally Lael, Antonea daughter of Buffy Wolf



Tom and Debbie Lael