

You are invited to the
WAGGONER FAMILY REUNION
MAY 9TH AND 10TH, 2015
SULLIVAN, ILLINOIS



This is a picture from the last well-attended Waggoner reunion honoring our ancestor, Isaac Waggoner. It was held at Freeland Grove Park in Sullivan, Moultrie County, Illinois on July 29, 1928. There were 191 family members in attendance. Surprisingly, this was a small reunion when compared to the 1883 reunion which had between 1,200-1,500 attendees. It is our desire to bring together as many descendants of Isaac (and descendants of his father, Hans) as possible to honor our forefathers, to celebrate being a member of this great family, and to give future generations a better understanding of their heritage.

The times, circumstances and search for opportunity, caused many of Hans and Isaac's descendants to leave South Carolina for other parts of the United States. Most of Isaac's children moved with him to what became Moultrie County Illinois. As cheaper land became available in the Midwest and beyond, groups of family members left Illinois and unfortunately their connections to the family left with them. An attempt to locate family members and update our history was started in 1922 and finalized in 1929 in the form of "The Waggoner Family History" book. That was a long time ago and there are several generations now that are not included. Many of us have devoted years researching and locating Waggoner descendants in an attempt to update this book. A family reunion affords us the opportunity to meet and get to know our cousins, both close and distant, and to move closer to a more complete history.

To attain this goal we are sending this invitation and request for information to as many family members as we can reach through e-mail or by regular mail. We ask that you please forward it to your family members so they can be included. We realize that this is Mother's Day weekend but we hope you will still be able to attend – what better way to honor our mothers (and fathers).

Respectfully,

Janie Ball, Doris Hubner and Connie Cerdena--COORDINATORS OF THE WAGGONER REUNION 2015

DATES: MAY 9TH AND 10TH, 2015
LOCATION: WYMAN PARK (FORMERLY FREELAND GROVE PARK), SULLIVAN, IL
AND THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL

PHOTO TO BE TAKEN at the WYMAN PARK AREA

TIMES: 9:00 A.M. TILL 5:00 P.M. (BOTH DAYS)—SCHEDULES BELOW

SET-UP FOR MATERIALS BROUGHT TO REUNION AT 8:00 A.M. AT THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL

FOOD IS ADDRESSED IN AN ATTACHMENT TO THIS COMMUNICATION

ANY OTHER INFORMATION IS ENCLOSED IN ATTACHMENTS

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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SULLIVAN, ILLINOIS

OUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THIS REUNION ARE TO SHARE OUR PAST HISTORY THROUGH PHOTOS, ITEMS (SOME ARE LISTED BELOW), BOOKS THAT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY VARIOUS FAMILY MEMBERS OVER THE YEARS, STORIES (some in book format) AND HOPEFULLY SOME VIDEOS OF IMPORTANCE (that we can show during the 2 day event) AND MOST IMPORTANTLY WE WILL HAVE THE 17" X 37" WAGGONER FAMILY REUNION PHOTO THAT WAS TAKEN WITH 191 OF OUR ORIGINAL FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE PHOTO (we are hoping again that you can attend and help us to identify those family members so that we can have a complete history from one of the important reunions of our times—we have been able to identify several members, including some that are still alive, but still need your input). You will find in this e-mail an attachment of the small version of the photo for you to look at and enjoy. We plan to have those in attendance to be able to view some of the history of the Waggoner families. Following is a list that we would like you to contemplate bringing to the reunion.

DOCUMENTS-PHOTOS-DIARIES-STORIES--ANYTHING THAT IS ON PAPER: Our plans are to be able to scan any documents that you feel vital to continue the research of our family history and if you are willing to bring anything that you feel of importance to keep this history (if you are able, feel free to make a copy of anything rather than bringing the original document that you wouldn't want to part with). We are also looking for any (especially if it is handwritten by the person) recipes that came down through the generations.

QUILTS: Since so many of our family members are quilters, we would like to ask if you would be willing to bring a quilt that has been made by any of our ancestors but also include yourself if you are

a quilter. We plan to have a set up for display of the quilts-if you would use a plain piece of paper and write the title of the quilt, who made it, approximately when it was made, who it was handed down to and any other information about the quilt that you think appropriate attached to the bottom left corner of the quilt. Since Connie Waggoner Cerdona (one of our quilt makers expert who has had many publications of her quilts, including the one that was featured on the front page of the Winnsboro, S.C. paper honoring Hans Waggoner-this and the quilt in honor of our revolutionary war patriot Isaac Waggoner that Connie also made and has received recognition in Fons and Porters magazines as well as a table top Quilting book). This is a project that is near and dear to her heart as well as many of us that has kept the quilting heritage alive throughout our family and we would love to feature the quilts in an upcoming surprise. If you cannot attend or would prefer not to bring a quilt due to age, etc. we certainly understand, but would also like to ask if you could bring a photo of your quilt, that would mean a lot as well. This category can also include crocheting, tatting, woodworking, etc.

ANY ITEM THAT WAS PASSED DOWN FROM OUR ORIGINAL ANCESTORS-SUCH AS FURNITURE THAT MAY HAVE BEEN HAND MADE FROM THEM:

Some people have indicated that they have a piece that made the wagon trek from South Carolina to Illinois and am sure that other items such as lanterns, possibly clothing or hats, may still be out there. Since we know that some of these items may be difficult to actually bring to the reunion, would you consider a picture that you could share.

We will provide a clear cover to put over any of the above mentioned items to protect them but also be able to allow family to view them. If anyone can think of anything that is not mentioned feel free to bring anything you feel appropriate along, as we would love to share that with everyone.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the original 1928 reunion photo (now enlarged for better viewing), you can place your order at our event or send a check for \$30.00 payable to Doris Hubner to cover the costs of the photo and the mailing to: Doris Hubner, 211 W. Washington, Onarga, Illinois 60955. Please include your name, mailing address and a contact phone number. The new 2015 Waggoner Reunion historic photo will also be available but the costs have not been worked out with the photographer at this time. An order form will be available at the event and Doris will be handling the mailing of the photos.

There is talk of some of the local historians, genealogical societies, local newspapers and others that may be on hand to witness and talk to our families because of the importance of the Waggoner's in settling in the Coles, Moultrie and Shelby counties. As of now, we are not sure of these events.

We have checked with closest accommodations for anyone coming from out of town that may not have close family to stay with, and have a few good hotels, with their phone numbers listed. And we also ask that if you are able to attend but have any problems that you need help with, we will do everything possible to find a solution to these problems. Just let us know.

If at this point of this e-mailing something else comes up, we will forward the information to you, and if you will let us know prior to the reunion that you are able to attend so we can have an approximate head-count that would help. Also if you can send us your information from the family profile as is listed on the following pages prior to the reunion that would be helpful in our research. And certainly if you cannot attend, we would appreciate your returning the information to all 3 of us that are coordinating this event, and will certainly miss the chance of meeting you in person.

If you are interested in attending, we are also asking a free will offering to cover the cost of renting the American Legion building and outside extra expenses associated only with this reunion.

PROPOSED SCHEDULED OUTLINE FOR:

WAGGONER FAMILY REUNION

MAY 9TH AND 10TH, 2015

SULLIVAN, ILLINOIS

American Legion Building

Wyman Park (formally Freeland Grove Park)

Saturday May 9th:

9:00 a.m. We will be gathered at the American Legion Building (inside) for meeting family and to get information and to see articles of interest to the Waggoner family. Name tags will be provided (and please keep for Sunday's events) and we ask that you sign the guest book by the number on your name tag (the number on your tag will also give us the seating assignment for the reunion photo to be taken later). If you are bringing materials and can arrive earlier, that would be great.

10:00 a.m. We will head the park right next to the American Legion Building and recreate the photo that was taken at the July 29th, 1928 reunion. Yes!!! We would like to have as many of you as possible be in this historic photo as we hope to include it the next chapter of our genealogy. We will have a professional photographer there to do this and plan to have this done the same as the 1928 photo.

12:00 p.m. We would like everyone to bring a picnic style lunch for yourself and your immediate family. There are several local places to get sandwiches and such that are very close to Wyman Park.

2:00 till 3:00 p.m. We plan a visit to the local genealogy society to view some of the Waggoner history and return again to the American Legion to get better acquainted and to finalize the big day on Sunday at Wyman Park's 2 south Pavilions.

Sunday May 10th:

9:00 a.m. We will meet at the 2 south Pavilions at Wyman Park for visiting family and to get any more information that the family wants to bring. We will have a brief service to honor our Waggoner ancestors given by one of our own family member (and a personal REQUEST-if you would like to do this we would be very appreciative). Name tags will be provided (if you weren't able to save the one from Saturday's gathering).

10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. For all who would like to tour the area and especially to visit the cemeteries of our ancestors, we plan to have a tour of the area. This will be done as a caravan with a few of the local Waggoner descendants and experts on the area escorting everyone with a lead car. We will also

be able to visit important places that have an association to the Waggoner families. And again, around noon, since a pot-luck picnic would be difficult to accomplish, we again ask families to bring a picnic lunch for all of your family.

3:00 till ???--after the tour and visiting, everyone is welcome to come back to the Pavillions to finish our visit and for a last appreciation to our ancestors a poem written by J. G. Waggoner in the 1920's about all past, present and future reunions as our lasting legacy will be read.

P.S. We welcome any suggestions or comments from everyone and will take all into consideration for a great and historic reunion.