

# The DALLAS POST 50¢

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## There are 16,000 Crispell relatives living in the U.S.



Descendants of Thomas S. Crispell gathered for their 96th annual family reunion on Saturday, August 11, 2007 at Dymond's Grove. From left, first row, are Steven Malcon, "Michael," Lindy Malcon, "Willy," Carey-Anne Keiper, Kassie Keiper, Caleb Keiper, Corbin Holcomb and Kyle Keiper. Second row, Keith Schenck, Ruth Newberry, Rachel Crispell, Betty Strelczyk and Linda Korbell. Third row, David Korbell, Michelle Korbell, Rose Marie Grey, Eunice Sorber, Dawn Rogers, Barbara Sidorek, Susan Davis and Michele Keiper. Fourth row, Dan Grey, Marshall Schenck, Jack Sidorek, Tom Davis and Paul Keiper.



One of the earliest Thomas S. Crispell descendant family reunions was heavily attended.

## Family gathers for 97th time

By REBECCA BRIA  
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For the 97th time this year, the descendants of Thomas S. Crispell will reunite in Noxen. Event organizers are sure there are people in the Back Mountain who may not even know they're related to the Crispell family.

Sharon Robinson, 62, of Tafton, Pa., formerly of Harveys Lake, is the president of the Crispell Family Reunion and the family genealogist. She has the names of many families in the Back Mountain in her genealogy, including the Ides, Kochers and Lamoreauxs. With numbers at each year's Crispell Family Reunion dwindling, Robinson encourages all Crispell descendants to attend the 2008 reunion at noon on Saturday, Aug. 9, at Dymond's Grove on Route 29 in Noxen.

I think they're being spread across the country," she said. "Families are moving away. Part of the problem, too, is the younger people are busy with their lives and they don't get interested in family reunions and family history until they are older."

For those not sure if they are Crispell descendants, there is a way to find out. A copy of "The Pennsylvania Branch of the Crispell Family" is at the Wyoming County Historical Society in

Tunkhannock. Another copy, as well as a CD-ROM edition, is available at the Northeast Genealogy Society office in Shavertown, located behind Cook's Pharmacy.

The first edition of "The Pennsylvania Branch of the Crispell Family" was released in 1950. It was compiled by Robinson's great-aunt, Ella Crispell Cobleigh, now deceased. Cobleigh released a supplement in 1964 and, in 1996, Robinson updated the book. Supplements

**IF YOU GO**

The 97th Crispell Family Reunion Saturday, Aug. 9, at noon Dymond's Grove, Route 29, Noxen The event is only for descendants of Thomas S. Crispell. To register, call Sharon Robinson at 470-3183 or e-mail her at crispell@ptd.net.

were made every year until 2005 and Robinson hopes to produce another one next year.

Robinson says the Crispells fled France, went to Germany and later New Paltz, N.Y. There are about 16,000 total Crispell relatives in the United States.

Solomon and Gertrude Crispell, who never lived in the Back Mountain but made their home in New

York, sold 56 acres in Franklin Township for \$900 to their son, Thomas, of Olive, N.Y. on March 22, 1851, making him the first Crispell to live in the area. Thomas later sold the property to B.C. Bodle. Most Crispells lived in Monroe Township in Wyoming County and later migrated to the Lake Township area. Albert Crispell formerly owned the one-room school-

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## 62ND ANNUAL BACK MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY AUCTION



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Ask Dr. Gerald Levandoski how it feels to bid \$6,300 and not get what you want. Levandoski and his wife, Diane, were out bid by Dr. John Shaskas, a Dallas veterinarian, who took home Back Mountain artist Sue Hand's library auction painting with a \$6,400 bid.

## A crowd pleaser

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK  
Dallas Post correspondent

**ANOTHER SUCCESS**

Receipts were \$70.00 before the final night's bidding even began.

The annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction did not end as planned on Sunday night. Instead, a torrent of rain ended the auction at 8:15 Sunday evening and the bidding audience was asked to return the next night at 6 p.m.

Surprisingly, many did return Monday night, including Dr. John and Cathy Shaskas, who finally out-bid the Drs. Gerald and Diane Lewandoski for Back Mountain artist Sue Hand's painting in spirited and crowd-pleasing form. The painting, an on-site item offered every year by Hand, garnered \$6,400 for the 62nd annual event.

Thursday night's antique block offerings were all donated items. To the library, that meant the proceeds from the first night were

"pure profit," according to Barbara Lemmond, who works the stage each year as a volunteer.

Antiques chairperson Leslie Horoshko credits the Back Mountain community, and particularly Diane Getz, for this year's windfall donations. Getz, former owner of the now-closed Hitching Post Antiques Shop, donated the remainder of her store's inventory to the auction.

"Don't go into numbers," Horoshko said, "but we didn't have to use all the money this year to buy antiques."

The antiques committee usually spends \$15,000 to purchase antiques throughout the year at auction houses and estate sales. The donation of antiques by Getz enabled the

committee to save some of the "seed money" normally used to buy items to fill the auction block.

"It will probably never happen again," Horoshko wistfully lamented.

The food booth did particularly well on Thursday night, noted auction chairman Clarence Michael, selling 400 dinners before 7:30 p.m. Booths were doing \$3,000 and \$4,000 each night.

The children's auction was well attended with lively bidding of over \$50 for new bikes and merchandise. Scout Troop #281, of Dallas, can be credited with organizing and running the children's auction each year.

On Monday afternoon, the combined gross total for the auction block and booth receipts were \$70,000, according to Karen Shuster, who heads the finance committee. That, combined with Monday night's income, will aid the library's coffers for the coming year.

## There's hidden treasure at lake

By EILEEN GODIN  
For The Dallas Post

A dream to create a place for children to learn, explore and grow has become a reality for one Harveys Lake woman.

Charlotte Williams, known as Miss Charlotte, used a bit of determination and a lot of elbow grease to reveal The Miss Charlotte Reading Center, a hidden treasure at the lake.

The center, located on Little League Road, opened in June 2007 and offers a creative place for children to read books and play. Summer hours are from noon to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Many new events are planned like Wednesday afternoon movies and an old-fashioned picnic for

later this summer.

All this started with a dream and willpower. Having collected many educational materials through her 17 years of classroom experience, Williams felt they were not helping anyone sitting on a shelf gathering dust.

"I'm a strong advocate for literacy," she said.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

A bevy of children, including Jonathan Raspen, enjoy the reading camp Charlotte Williams has created.

Not too far from the Lake-Noxen Elementary School, where she works as a learning support aide, Williams found an abandoned brick building which once housed the borough's recreation center.

She pushed forward with her dream and approached the borough council.

"They were using it for storage," she said. "It took me eight months to get the OK."

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Cassia Cole, left facing camera, and Paige Motovidlak, right, are among many who enjoy the Reading Corner.

