

National  
Association of  
Lively Families  
(NALF)

**Our Purpose:**  
...to bring together  
members of Lively  
families of America  
and accomplish  
historical research

**Our Members:**  
Livelys, descendants  
of Livelys, and their  
spouses

**Our Officers:**  
John Lively,  
President  
  
Brent Lively,  
Vice-President  
  
Sumter Brinson  
Youth Vice-President

Jane Lively,  
Secretary

Polly Lively &  
Verlinda Brinson,  
Co-Treasurers

Tim Lively,  
Historian

Jennifer Lively,  
Communications

# LIVIN' LIVELY

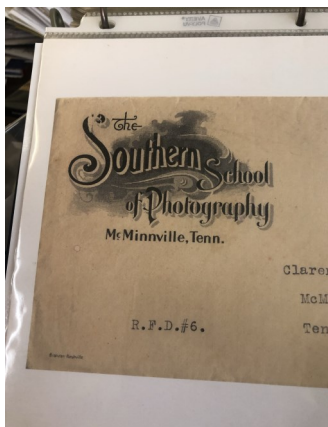
The newsletter of the *National Association of Lively Families*

Fall 2022 Edition

September 14, 2022

## The Livelys Return to McMinnville!

85 years after the original gathering of Lively families in McMinnville, Tennessee, their descendants met in Murfreesboro from July 15-17 to remember their forebears and look to the future. On Saturday afternoon, many made the short, scenic drive to McMinnville to honor "Dad" Lively's contributions to photography and visit several Lively homes and gravesites. We want to give a special thanks to Nancy Dodd for outlining the places to see and to Chris Keathley for hosting many curious Livelys at the Southern Museum and Galleries of Photography, Culture, and History.



# Minutes of the 2022 Annual Reunion

## July 15-17, 2022 | Murfreesboro, TN

### *Celebrating the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Reunion*

*As recorded by Secretary Jane Lively*

#### Friday, July 15, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:51 pm by John Lively, President, after the family spent time hugging necks of cousins and distant relatives.

The Lively youth and children led the group in the "Pledge of Allegiance" and in the singing of "America."

Nancy Dodd welcomed us to the 82<sup>nd</sup> gathering of the NALF in Murfreesboro, TN. Goodie bags and brochures of surrounding sites were made available. Points of interest were shared for those who would like to make a trip to McMinnville, TN, location of the first NALF reunion 85 years ago.

Minutes from 2021 were read. Minutes were approved and accepted with corrections.

Jennifer Lively gave out door prizes and led the group in games .

The Communications Committee Report was given by Jennifer Lively. Motion was made, seconded, and the report was accepted.

Emailed newsletters: 119 (including 1 to England)

Mailed newsletters: 161

Total: 280

Facebook members: 492

Six libraries or historical societies receive the newsletter also.

The Website is up and running. Due to the high volume of email and inquiries regarding genealogy, help is needed in answering questions and updating information. The web address is [livelyfamilies.org](http://livelyfamilies.org).

The Treasurer's Report was given by Polly Lively. Motion was made, seconded, and the report was accepted.

General Fund: \$15,857.02

Memorial Fund: \$3,672.47

Total: \$19,529.49

The original book, first, and second supplements (1690-2015) are now available on USB drive and can be purchased for \$20.

An effort is being made to find ways to make payments electronically.

The biggest disbursement is storage rental for books still in storage. The price has increased to \$58 monthly. We are still in the process of removing books from storage and giving them free of charge to libraries and family members without them. Several boxes were brought to the reunion for distribution.

The President's Report was given by John Lively.

John shared historical information regarding the Family Crest, 48-star flag displayed at the reunion, the gavel, and the Bible donated by J.I. Lively, of Waynesboro, GA, in 1949.

Old Business: Copies of the NALF by-laws were given out for perusal and small changes were noted. Changes were made regarding increase in dues and title of Newsletter Editor.

New Business: Committee appointments were as follows.

Resolution: Anne Pitcher

Audit: Michelle Lively and George Pack

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm.



## 2022 Reunion, continued

### Saturday, July 16, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by John Lively as the family continued to fellowship.

Youth: Sumter Brinson reported that the youth would be adjourning and heading out to play card games and fellowshiping with each other.

Genealogy: John reported that we still have genealogy forms that have been submitted. Information from the forms needs to be added to the books and/or followed up on to get missing information. Discussion followed regarding the need for keeping up with our genealogy in light of all the free genealogy websites available. We also have some genealogy books being sold on eBay but we can't control what is done with the books.

Historian: Tim Lively is on the hunt for any historical pieces in order to archive them.

Scholarship: No one applied for the NALF scholarship this year. Polly Lively gave an update on last year's recipient, Connor Lively. He is still in college but has joined the National Guard.

The night ended with family entertainment involving trivia of McMinnville, TN, and a time of sharing our findings of the day and remembrances of reunions gone by.

### Sunday, July 18, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 am by John Lively.

Gloria Eberhart read from John 11:23-26 and a quintet of cousins sang "It is Well with my Soul." Those who have passed were noted as:

Attalee Lively Mobley Wade, Ocala, FL  
April 17, 2022

John F. Machino, Waynesboro, GA  
June 3, 2022

Luther Wayne White, Gloucester, VA  
November 20, 2021

Lawrence R. Pack, Sutherlin, OR  
November 5, 2020

Tim Lively asked the blessing and a delicious breakfast was enjoyed by all.

Recognitions included:

Oldest member,  
Chester Powell

Youngest member,  
Declan White



Farthest traveled,  
Vicki Skrabak from  
Washington state

Committee Reports:

Resolution Committee: Anne Pitcher read the NALF resolution for 2022.

Audit Committee: George Pack reported that all was in order concerning the audit of the books and Thanked Polly Lively for her diligent and accurate work.

Reunion Committee: John Lively extended an invitation to Pipestem, WV, for the year 2023. He shared information regarding activities and lodging. As there were no other invitations for next year's reunion, the vote was unanimous to travel to Pipestem, WV.

Nominating Committee: Jane Lively made a motion that Verlinda Brinson work as Treasurer in conjunction with Polly Lively for the next year. The motion was seconded and passed.

State count: OH - 1, IN - 1, SC - 1, NC - 1, VA - 2, WA - 2, FL - 5, TN - 8, GA - 25 **totaling 46**

After gathering in a circle and holding hands, we sang "Blest Be the Tie." Don Lively adjourned our reunion with closing prayer. The family then adjourned and gathered outside for a group picture.



## In Loving Memory



**John Robert Lively** died peacefully at home Tuesday, March 2, 2021, surrounded by his family.

Born September 11, 1942 in Port Arthur, Texas to James O. and Pearl T. Lively, John spent his childhood in

Navasota Texas, graduating from Navasota High School. He received a degree in History from Texas A&M University before receiving his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law Austin. During college summers, John worked as a roughneck on offshore drilling rigs, learning many valuable lessons that served him well throughout his law career. In law school, he worked in the Texas Legislature for two sessions as a legislative assistant to two former State Senators, as a staff member to the Sergeant at Arms, and on the Legislative Council. John began his legal career in 1968 as an assistant City Attorney for the City of Fort Worth where he was part of the team who was responsible for the condemnation work that made the construction of DFW Airport possible. He entered private practice in 1970 winning numerous cases including the largest jury verdicts ever awarded in Parker and Montague counties. John was a member of the Tarrant County Bar Association; serving as Chairman of the Fee Arbitration Panel, was a Sustaining Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and was recognized as a 50 Year Attorney in 2019. Despite all these accomplishments, John's greatest joy in his practice was when his son, John Jr., joined him as a partner in 2008.

John's passion for gardening was well known around town as he constantly shared his produce with family and friends. He passed his knowledge and love of gardening to his grandsons whom he taught to plant, grow, and harvest vegetables.

As a PADI Divemaster, John combined his love of scuba diving and travel to explore the world. However, spending summers in Colorado and time at his house in the mountains of North Carolina brought him the most pleasure. He was a member of the Fort Worth Air Power Council, THATT Syndicate, a former member of the Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate, a member of the Steeplechase Club and The Ambassador Club of New Orleans.

Love of his family was John's guiding principle in life. During his short illness, he said that any day was a good day as long as his wife was by his side. He was proud of his children and their accomplishments, but his eyes lit up when he saw his grandsons. All three spent time at his office where he loved to take them on the daily mail run. They each earned their first dollar collecting the mail, teaching them the value of money.

John is survived by his wife of 52 years, Brooke Kelly Lively; children Brooke E. Lively, John R. Lively, Jr. and wife Amy, Lauren Lively Schmid and husband Matt; grandchildren John Robert Lively III, Walter Boone Schmid, and Ryan Matthews Schmid; step-grandchildren Whitney, J.R., and Grace Churchill; sister Susanne Lively Gilmore and husband Don; brother James O. Lively and wife Marianna; brothers-in-law Raymond B. Kelly III and wife Ellen, Jon M. Kelly and wife Kathy, and W. Whitney Kelly and wife Kristine; and many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews and their families.

*Submitted by daughter, Lauren Lively Schmid*

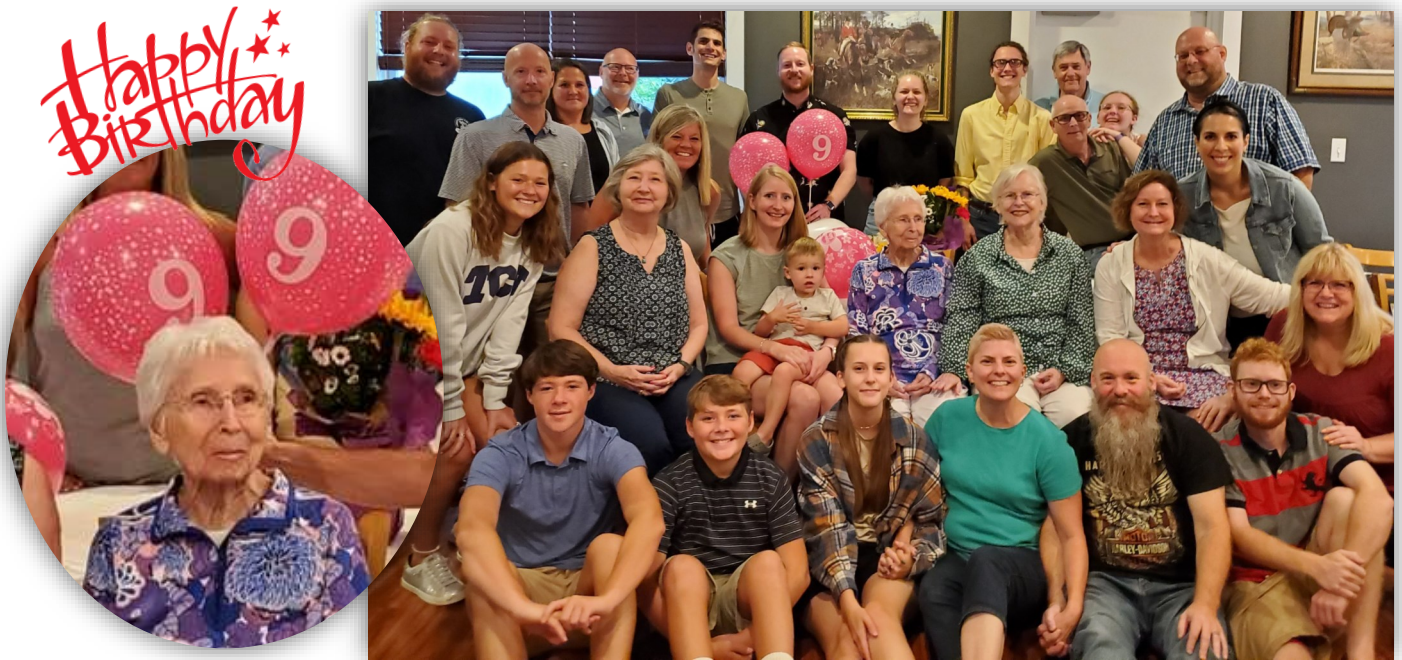
Congratulations to Colton Elliott Lively of Bluefield, WV, for being named one of Concord University's valedictorians during their spring commencement on May 7.

He received a Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude.  
Way to go, Colton!





## Bobbie Unger Celebrates 99th Birthday!



Bobbie Unger celebrated her 99th birthday with family and friends on August 22. She has been a tremendous blessing to the NALF for many years and we hope she celebrates every day...all the way to 100!



This beautiful, framed seascape was painted by Nora Lively Davis of Louisiana. Any family members wishing to add it to their collection are encouraged to contact Newsletter Editor, Jennifer Lively.

Karen Gaskill and Doug Lively rekindled an old reunion tradition held by Doug's father, Julian Lively, of jumping in the hotel swimming pool after the family picture was taken – clothes and all! It was a fun and sweet sight to see!





# Looking Back at the 1941 Reunion

## FIFTH ANNUAL REUNION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE LIVELY FAMILY, BECKLEY, WEST VIRGINIA, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 30-31, 1941

### STORY OF THE 1941 REUNION

#### Introduction:

It was the greatest gathering of Livelys ever held on earth! What a glorious time we had during those two days! Little did your Secretary realize in the spring of 1937, when he proposed by correspondence to "Dad" Lively of McMinnville, Tenn., that they plan for a Lively Family Reunion in the late summer of that year that within five years he would see a gathering of over 300 Livelys. Up to that time your Secretary had been in public life for over 25 years, had traveled over 16 states in evangelistic and chautauqua work, and yet had met only three men by the name of "Lively," besides his brothers. "Dad" fell in with the proposal in 1937, and graciously invited the Livelys to meet on his spacious lawn and front porch in McMinnville on that last Saturday and Sunday in August. It was an inspiring, thrilling experience for the 54 Livelys that gathered at that first reunion—and they liked it so well that many of them have met every year since. During that time your Secretary's mailing list has grown from 20 to over 500.

Much time and thought had been put into the preparation for the coming of the Livelys to Beckley. The special committee did a good piece of work. Then it was an inspiring experience to many of us to be in a community where the name "Lively" had been known and honored for more than 150 years, and where many Lively families and their relatives still live. The Beckley Post Herald on Saturday morning, Aug. 30, carried as their leading editorial the following:

#### WELCOME, LIVELYS AND COOKS

"Beckley will be host today and tomorrow to the National Association of Lively Families, an organization that has potential members in every state, and Wyoming county will entertain the great Cook Family reunion, which has come to be one of the leading Fall events in Southern West Virginia.

This newspaper extends to both clans a hearty welcome, and sincere congratulations on maintaining the great American tradition of family life and love of kin. The foundation of America is the family, and so long as these families maintain their contact with each other by this kind of meetings, nothing can happen to the American way of life.

In other countries, love of family and friends is subordinated to slavish worship of state, but that can never happen here, so long as we have the reunion system so well demonstrated in these two gatherings."

Not satisfied with this fine tribute, the Managing Editor, Ted McDowell, in his column, "Waking 'Em Up," had the following to say about the Livelys that morning:

"This will be a Lively week-end in Beckley, for the national association of Lively families is meeting here, and the sponsors are expecting the most successful reunion of that family.

Principal attraction of the gathering—except for the pleasure of seeing their relatives and friends—is the speech by Senator Joseph Rosier tonight at the Memorial building, the first one Uncle Joe has made in these parts since he became one of our statesmen.

Local Elks know him, of course, as president of Fairmont State Teachers college and as past district governor of Rotary, but this will be our first chance to see him in the role of Senator Rosier.

This col. welcomes the Livelys to the city, and if there is anything Beckley can do to make the reunion more lively, all they have to do is call and we will try to scare up something.

Besides these "write ups" the Post-Herald carried the program of the Reunion on the front page with Senator Rosier's picture, and the picture of the officers of the Reunion was on the back page. Everyone in that section of the state knew the Livelys were meeting.

A goodly number of Livelys arrived in Beckley on Friday afternoon and evening. The headquarters at the Hotel Beckley was a scene of many happy greetings and much "good visiting." What group on earth has any better, happier time at their Reunion than the Livelys?

#### Saturday Morning, Aug. 30.

On Saturday morning at 11:00 o'clock something like 150 Livelys were assembled in the Beckley Memorial Building, near the Hotel Beckley. President E. L. Lively called the group to order and they all joined in singing "America." Then Dr. J. L. Line-



## 1941 Reunion, continued

weaver of the Beckley Presbyterian church led in a beautiful, impressive devotional service. He said: "Family Reunions are important. They grow out of the home and home-life, dear and sacred relationships. There are many such gatherings in this part of West Virginia. It is a great help to belong to a group. It inspires young people—it deters others from wrong doing. This group reveals intelligence and character. May God's blessing be upon you."

Attorney John Q. Hutchinson of Beckley then delivered a brief, challenging welcome address. He said in part: "Back in 1799 my grandparents conveyed 400 acres of land in Monroe county, West Virginia to one Cottrell Lively—so we have had to do with the Livelys for a long time. They are among the people who helped to settle and lay the foundations of this state. You are justified in having pride of ancestry. It is something to be proud of. The early settlers of America were a "select" lot—they selected themselves. They were a "chosen" group—they chose themselves. They were an independent people, and would not "conform" to the regulations of life and religion in the old world, but chose rather to face the privations and dangers of pioneers in America—with independence and freedom."

President E. L. Lively took occasion to tell of his experiences in visiting Beckley as a bare-foot boy some 50 years ago. The town was then known as Raleigh Court House. It did not have a foot of pavement. The stairway was on the outside of the hotel, and one might easily stumble at night over some cow or pig sleeping on the sidewalk. Beckley has been kind and generous with our Reunion—has granted every wish."

The group next joined in singing "God Bless America," and Mr. Schultz played some inspiring instrumental music.

The Secretary-Treasurer read some of the 1940 report of the reunion and passed copies out to all who desired them.

Adjournment. (Many of the folks who had come from a distance to the reunion were graciously invited into the homes of the Livelys and their friends in Beckley for dinner at the noon hour.)

### Saturday Afternoon, Aug. 30.

When the reunion convened at 2:30 the attendance had reached fully 250, and was increasing rapidly. President E. L. Lively made a talk on the problem and difficulty of tracing family relationships. He said that often it took a trained genealogist to trace out the relationship of various families who know they are related.

At this time he called the roll of the states represented and many Livelys told of their location and their relationship to other families of the same name.

Next Mr. L. Mark Lively of Augusta, Ga., read an interesting account of the history of the Lively family in Georgia, and invited the Reunion to meet in Augusta in 1942.

Then all the folks at the reunion who were 80 years of age, or above, were asked to stand. The ten following folks arose: J. D. Lively, Mrs. Bettie Holroyd, Mrs. Jennie Kesler, Henry M. Lively, Mrs. Eliza Phipps, Mrs. Welch, Wilson Lively, William Lively, Mr. Hollingsworth, and Knox Kent Lively, Sr.

Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. James M. Lively, next made his annual report and distributed memographed copies of the same. He apologized for some neglect of his work during the year, because of the extra duties involved in serving as president of the Illinois Baptist State Convention.

At 4:00 o'clock the reunion adjourned to the Beckley City Park at the southeast edge of the town. Here on a hilltop covered with beautiful pine trees a most delightful wiener roast and social time was enjoyed.

### Saturday Evening, Aug. 30

At 8:00 o'clock the reunion assembled again in the Memorial Building. The John Bunyan Lively family brought some special music that was greatly enjoyed. Then the Lions Club of Beckley presented some pleasing numbers. President E. L. Lively then presented United States Senator Joseph Rosler of West Virginia, president for 25 years of the Fairmont State Teachers College, and former president of the National Education Association, who gave an interesting and informative address on the present menace threatening the liberties of the United States. The Memorial Building was filled to hear the Senator, and the Sunday Morning Register of Beckley carried the address on its front page. At the close of the session J. Herbert Lively of Richmond, Va., presented the Association a United States flag in behalf of the American Legion of Richmond. The reunion then adjourned to the Beckley Hotel where many remained to visit and meet new kinfolks.

### Sunday Morning, Aug. 31.

The reunion assembled again on Sunday in the Memorial Building at 10:30. It was an inspiring, never-to-be-forgotten sight. More than 300 Livelys were present in that congregation—probably, the largest group of Livelys ever assembled in this world. All joined in heartily singing a number of old-



# 1941 Reunion, continued

time religious hymns and listening to the reading of the Scripture and joining in prayer. Then Rev. James M. Lively of Mattoon, Ill., delivered a sermon on the subject: "Hidden Riches."

The service of worship over, the great crowd retired to the City Park for an old-fashioned West Virginia picnic dinner. And what a dinner it was! Such an array of wholesome, appetizing, attractive food is seldom seen on sea or land! And what an appetite one can find out under the spreading pine trees. Those who were fortunate enough to be present will never forget that dinner, or the wonderful cooks the Livelys have in West Virginia. After the dinner some time was taken to get the crowd assembled for a picture. You may see the result in this Bulletin. How some of us wished for a week's time to have an opportunity to get acquainted with every member of that large group. What an interesting book the story of their lives would make!

## Sunday Afternoon, Aug. 31.

At 2:30 o'clock the reunion assembled again in the Memorial Building. The place of the 1942 reunion was discussed, and on motion of Rev. James M. Lively, Indianapolis, Ind., was selected as the first choice, Mattoon, Ill., as the second.

The report of the auditing committee was read and approved.

A vote of thanks was extended to the Livelys of West Virginia for their gracious, abounding hospitality; to the press for their generous space; to the President and Secretary-Treasurer for their special work. Knox Lively of Virginia, Frank Lively of Ohio, and Mrs. Charles Lively of Illinois were appointed to draw up appropriate resolutions. These resolutions were prepared and printed in the Monday Morning Post-Herald of Beckley.

It was voted to have the Secretary print a directory of the Lively family in the United States. His report was then read and approved.

After discussion, the Secretary and Mrs. Charles Lively of Chicago were elected as a committee to investigate and see if the John Lively Family Massacre Monument in Washington county, Illinois, might not be properly marked and made an historic shrine by the State of Illinois.

The election of officers was then carried out with the following results: Prof. E. L. Lively, Fairmont, W. Va., President; Rev. James M. Lively, Mattoon, Ill., Secretary-Treasurer; 1st Vice President, Smith Lively, Lenoir City, Tenn.; 2nd Vice President, G. E. Lively, Dayton, Ohio; 3rd Vice President,

Miss Louise Lively, Portsmouth, Va.; 4th Vice President, L. Mark Lively, Augusta, Ga.

In the closing moments of the reunion, President E. L. Lively told of the constantly new and interesting things he was discovering about the Lively Family and how it added to the zest and interest of life. Among other things he told of the "Lively Family Cemetery" at Chester, Va., which was managed by two delightful old men who were devoted Quakers in their religious life.

On motion it was voted to adjourn the reunion to meet in Indianapolis, Ind., on the last Saturday and Sunday in August, 1942.

Written by James M. Lively,  
Secretary-Treasurer from  
Mattoon, Illinois.

More from the 1941 newsletter  
will be shared in future editions  
of Livin' Lively.



# Looking Ahead to the 2023 Reunion

*From livelyfamilies.org:*



The 2023 Reunion will be held at the **Pipestem Resort State Park** in Pipestem, West Virginia, from **July 14–16, 2023**.

Pipestem Resort State Park rests on the east rim of the Bluestone River Gorge. Pipestem offers something for everyone, including exhilarating zipline tours, guided trout fishing trips, white water rafting, tubing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boards, mountain bike excursions, bike rental, 18-hole championship golf, and much more!

The sprawling 4,050-acre park is located on the border of Summers and Mercer Counties and features cabins, a campground with RV facilities, two lodges with one only being accessible by riding the park's aerial tramway to the bottom of the Bluestone River Gorge. Just 20 minutes down the road you'll find even more to do at Bluestone State Park on the banks of Bluestone Lake.

**Reservations:** Within the park there are four choices of lodging.

1) McKeever Lodge, which is on the top of the mountain and where the meeting room will be located

2) Mountain Creek Lodge, which is in the gorge and must be accessed by tramway

3) Cabins, these are in great demand and may not be available

4) Resort Camping, which provide 82 campsites, 31 of which are equipped with full hookups and 19 are electric only

The Pipestem Resort **does not block fixed room-type lodging** with cutoff dates for groups because of the popularity and high demand of the Park. The family will be free to choose whatever type of lodging they want on a first come, first serve basis. They also maintain a waitlist for reservations. The prices for the two lodges for various types of rooms run from about \$127–\$170 per night plus taxes.

Since we do not have a block of rooms with a cutoff date, we need everyone to make reservations as soon as possible. Even if you or your family have not decided whether they will attend the reunion next year, please make reservations now and then cancel them if needed before the 48-hour cancelation period.

To cancel a lodge room, you must do so 48 hours prior to arrival to be issued a full refund of your deposit, which is the full balance of the first night stay. Cancellations within 48 hours of arrival will be given as a credit towards a deposit for a future stay.

For lodge room reservations you can use the Park's website or phone. For Cabins or Resort Camping reservations you must use the phone.

The hotel has ADA and pet friendly rooms. Please reserve special rooms as soon as possible.

3405 Pipestem Drive  
Pipestem, WV 25979  
**304-466-1800**

<https://wvstateparks.com/park/pipestem-resort-state-park>

**Don't miss out – book your stay today!**

## *Livelys of America* Now on USB Drive!

Get a searchable PDF of *Livelys of America*, including the original book and both supplements, for \$20. Send your request with payment to Treasurer Polly Lively today!

The content is the same as the CD.

Also contact Polly if you're interested in a print copy of the second supplement.



**Find the NALF on Facebook!**

[facebook.com/groups/livelyfamilies](https://facebook.com/groups/livelyfamilies)



## **Have you paid your dues?**

Effective July 2019, dues increased to \$15 per adult each year. Funds assist in the NALF's genealogy and communication efforts.

Send your check and information to:

Polly Lively, NALF Treasurer  
411 Claxton-Lively Road  
Waynesboro, GA 30830

Would you like to receive an electronic copy of *Livin' Lively*? You'll get it faster, in color, and in an easy-to-print format. Just send your email address, along with your name and current mailing address for our records, to [livelynewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:livelynewsletter@yahoo.com).