

Newsletter

Stone Family Reunion

Winter Greetings from the Stone Reunion

Once again we're sending winter greetings to fellow members of the Stone Reunion. We hope you're well and looking forward to the upcoming spring weather.



The Upcoming 2013 Reunion – Location Change!

After many years of hosting the Stone Reunion, Dawn and Bill Zalewski have let us know that they will not be able to do it this year. Our thanks to Dawn and Bill for the many years of comfortable Reunions that they have hosted.

In 2013 we will return to the Charles E. Small Memorial Park, which is directly behind the Forest Lake Town Offices. While we won't have the benefit of the Zalewski's air conditioning, the Pavilion will keep us out of the elements.

The Park has electricity, barbecue area, bathrooms, a kitchen with stove and refrigerator, and a small room where Jessie and Bob Carr can set up photos

and other memorabilia from earlier Reunions. Marvin Small has assured us that the pavilion is reserved for us and he has side curtains for it if the weather is bad.

As a general historical note, the Reunion began at Forest Lake in 1903. The Reunions were eventually held at the Forest Lake Clubhouse, continuing until 1999. The 2000 Stone Family Reunion was held at the "Charles E. Small Memorial Park", just a few miles from Forest Lake. The Meetings were held there again in 2001 and 2002. A few more words on the history of the reunions as well as directions to the Park are in later articles of this *Newsletter*.

Changes for the Stone Reunion and the Memorial Association?

As most of us are aware, every year we lose members to loss of contact information and attrition. This is affecting our ability to find people to serve as officers. To complicate matters, we are actually two organizations, The Stone Family Reunion (an informal group that manages the Reunion itself, maintains mailing lists, family genealogy, and does occasional newsletters) and also the Stone Street Memorial Association (which was formed in 1985 as a means of qualifying as an IRS 501(c)13 association, exempt from paying income tax on investments). Although we have identical memberships, annual meeting dates, and common mailings, there are two sets of officers and two separate sets of books. Both entities currently have unfilled officer positions.

While the current officers have discussed the problems, we wish to obtain membership opinions. Recognizing that many members cannot attend the business meetings in July, we request that you contact us to help us determine the best course of action.

Some of the options being discussed include:

- De-emphasis of the Reunion Picnic by meeting in alternate years or even every five years, but maintain family history and newsletters functions continually.
- Have one set of officers who serve both organizations. Because the SSMA operates under the constraints of the IRS regulations, the Reunion membership would resolve to be administered by the officers of the SSMA. This reduction in number of officers would streamline activities and reduce the difficulties in finding enough people to serve.

We intend to place this topic on the 2013 agenda for discussion and possible action. Officers will be nominated and elected based on the outcome of the discussions.

From the Old Days - Another Judson Stone? – Where was “Stone’s Corners”?

Did you know that there are two “Judson Stones” in our family history?

Most are familiar with Judson Stone (1792-1871) who was the second eldest son of Mary Platt and Canfield Stone. He lived on Stone Street, married Polly Turrell and later Catherine Leonard, and donated the land for the Stone Street Cemetery. Most of the Reunion members descend, in one manner or another, from this first of the Judson Stones.

But, there was another Judson Stone from a different family branch. You may recall that the first Judson had a younger brother, Walker Stone, who never came to Pennsylvania. Walker married Esther Taylor back in Connecticut and had five children there. When Walker Stone died at age 28 in Connecticut, his widow and five young children travelled to Susquehanna County and settled on Stone Street a little below where the Stone Street Cemetery is now. Esther died only two years later and is probably buried at Stone Street (no gravestone or records confirm this). Who brought up the five young children remains a family mystery, but there were many neighboring family members.

Walker and Esther Stone’s eldest son was named Judson, presumably after his uncle Judson. Born in 1823, Judson died in 1887. He married Elizabeth (Betsy) Smith, whose family lived on a farm overlooking Forest Lake. Judson built a “rather large and imposing hotel” a short distance from the Otis Smith log cabin. This location was excellent as it was at an intersection of three well-travelled roads. This location then became known as “Stone’s Corners” and the Hotel was called the “Stone Hotel”. The *1872 Beers Atlas* of Forest Lake clearly shows the hotel and other homes nearby owned by “J. Stone.” Older residents of Forest Lake still refer to Stone’s Corners and recall the ballroom “spring dance floor” which was once a stylish fad. The hotel is now gone, but the old foundation remains on the corners.

Judson is of interest not only because of his name and the hotel. Judson and Betsy’s daughter, Charlotte Stone, married Myron Bradshaw and they moved to Binghamton. They bought a lot at Forest Lake and camped there in the summers. In 1902 Charlotte and Myron Bradshaw invited family to a Reunion of descendants of this same Judson and Betsy Stone. That was the first “Stone Family Reunion”, and you can see from this account why the Reunion has always been tied with Forest Lake. Additionally, we should note that Judson and Betsy’s granddaughter, Edna L. Stone drew the first family tree (in literal tree shape), and later gave a historical

presentation to the Reunion in 1982, from which some of this account is taken.

All this from a different Judson Stone! Did you also know that we have several “Canfield Stones” in our family? Watch for that topic in a future newsletter.

Directions to 2013 Reunion – Charles Small Memorial Park



The Charles E. Small Memorial Park is located behind the Forest Lake Town Offices on Chestnut Ridge Road. This location is between Forest Lake and Birchardville. There are many ways to reach the Park Pavilion, but your best approach is likely from SR 267 or from SR 3029 as per written directions below. Your GPS might not find this, but the actual mailing address of the Forest Lake Town Offices is:

2028 Chestnut Ridge Rd.
(Forest Lake Township)
Montrose, PA 18801

(Note that Google Maps does not locate this address correctly!)

Directions from North:

- Drive down NY26 to PA line where highway changes to PA267. Drive approx. 5 more miles to SR4007 and turn left (sign says “to Forest Lake”) (note the red brick St. Joseph’s church after turning left)
- Travel 2.7 miles and take right fork on to SR 3029. (this intersection is known as “Stone’s Corners” where the old Judson Stone Hotel was located)
- Travel along Forest Lake for 1.2 miles (end of the Lake), turn right on Showalter Ave (gravel road).
- Travel uphill 0.3 miles where Showalter Ave. veers right, and Chestnut Ridge Rd. goes straight. Go straight. (note small sign at intersection pointing direction toward Forest Lake Municipal Building)
- Travel 1 mile on Chestnut Hill Rd and note two brown steel highway buildings on left. Turn between buildings, through orange gates, and drive out to brown pavilion building in back.

Directions from Montrose or south:

- Go east on SR 706 from Lawton, or go west on SR 706 from Montrose and travel to Fairdale at intersection with SR 3029.
- Turn north on SR 3029 (sign indicates arrow toward Forest Lake). Travel 5.1 miles to Showalter Ave. (sharp left turn uphill) and drive uphill according to further directions above.

Please Keep in Touch!

We hope to hear from you or see you in July. Please keep in touch with family news and vital statistics updates by contacting editor.stonereunion@gmail.com or contacting one of the officers below:

John Buck – President

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