

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 find something of interest in this newsletter, and suggestions for future topics are welcome.

We Had a Productive and Enjoyable 2013 Reunion!

The 2013 Reunion was held at the Charles E. Small Pavilion, behind the Forest Lake Township buildings on Chestnut Ridge Road. The Pavilion and grounds were in excellent condition and met our needs very well. (Thanks to Marvin Small for these arrangements.) Although the attendance was relatively smaller than usual, we had a lively group and all of us enjoyed the event.

While the full minutes of the meetings will accompany the 2014 invitation this summer, some noteworthy business was conducted and will be summarized here.

First, Dawn Zalewski announced that she would be retiring as the Reunion Secretary/Treasurer. Dawn held the position for some twenty years, and felt that it was time for someone else to take over. John Birchard had previously indicated that his business interests were making it more difficult for him to attend meetings and conduct the business of the Memorial Association. We are all grateful for Dawn's and John's significant contributions to the

organizations and thank them for their extensive service.

Second, a motion was passed that the Stone Reunion would recognize the officers of the Memorial Association as their own. This effectively means that there will be a single set of officers for both organizations. For tax purposes, the finances will continue to be maintained separately.

Third, a new slate of officers was elected. Acting for both the Reunion and the Memorial Association will be:

Betty Handrick Baldwin - President
 Eileen Birchard - Vice President
 Jessie and Robert Carr - co-Treasurers
 Secretary - John Buck

Continuing for the Reunion will be:
 Chaplain - Jessie Carr
 Family Historian - John Buck

Courtland Birchard and Joey Present Historical Branding Iron



One of the biggest reasons we had such a good time at the 2013 Reunion was the wonderful program provided by Courtland Bradshaw Birchard and his

sidekick Joey. The program began when Joey and Court presented the Reunion with a cast iron branding iron inscribed "J. E. Stone". (This is the same James E. Stone mentioned in the article concerning other Canfield Stones elsewhere in this Newsletter.) James and his wife Amorillis Beebe lived on Stone Street and built a large new home on the east side, directly across from Courtland Birchard's home. The only current remains of this home are a large stone

house foundation overlooking Stone Street. A friend of Court's located the branding iron in the debris in the house foundation and presented it to Court many years ago. With much fanfare and secret planning, Court presented the branding iron to the Reunion for safe keeping.

Court and Joey explained how he was related to James E. Stone, and went on to explain that John Buck was the great-great grandson of James E. Stone.

Joey and Court then explained how Court and John were fifth cousins, but some of us had a little trouble following that, even though it was crystal clear on Court's yellow display board. Then Court explained that like many of us, John and Court were related two different ways. We all decided not to try to follow

that explanation, but we learned a lot about genealogy.



From the Old Days – There were other Canfield Stones too!

In the last Newsletter we reviewed another Judson Stone ancestor who lived at Stone Corners and had a well-known hotel there. The subject Judson had been a 3rd generation nephew of the better-known Judson Stone from Stone Street.

We now consider the four ancestors named "Canfield Stone" known to us. Since our Reunion is named for the first Canfield Stone, let's review his namesakes. We will refer to the original Canfield Stone as generation 1. He was born and died in Litchfield County, CT (1765-1836). Canfield was named for his mother, Mary Canfield. We know that Canfield and his wife Mary Platt had five sons and two daughters. Most of today's Reunion members descend from son Judson Stone (generation 2) who lived on Stone Street. We know from earlier Reunion presentations that neither Judson nor his older brother Garrad had sons surviving childhood, so there are no descendants named "Stone" coming from those brothers. But Judson's and Garrad's younger brother was named Canfield Stone (generation 2), and he lived on Stone Street. His original homestead farm was on the land where Courtland Birchard now lives. This Canfield was a successful farmer, but died at only 29 years of age. He had a son James E. Stone who farmed the same land, and James had four sons and 3 daughters. All of the surviving Canfield Stone (generation 1)

descendants with the surname "Stone" that are known to us, descend from James E. Stone.



Canfield Stone (generation 4, 1849 - 1922) was the son of James E. Stone and Amorillis Beebe. Canfield Stone 4 (often called "Can") was the third born child. When his father James also died young, the farm on Stone Street passed to his older sister Adaline who had married Henry Spafford. (Courtland Birchard recalls today that his farmland had been occasionally referred to as the Spafford farm.) That left Can-4 without a farming future. He was reportedly an amiable man who conversed easily with others. He decided to become a "hotelier".

Stocker's History of Susquehanna County indicates that Canfield Stone began as a hotelier at Rush, PA, and a newspaper account indicates that this was in about 1883 (Can would have been aged 18). The newspaper account indicates that he stayed at Rush for about 9 years before purchasing the "Niver House" at Nicholson. His next purchase was the "Foster House" in Hop Bottom from Charlie Kellum in

about 1894. In 1903 he retired (at age 54), leasing his Hop Bottom hotel to E.A. Sweet. The newspaper account indicated: "*Can*" is a natural hotel man being genial and accommodating. He is also quite a power in county politics."

A 1902 newspaper account indicated: "*Can Stone, the popular host of the Foster House, while trolling for pickerel in Loomis Lake, caught a six pound fish. This was probably the largest pickerel ever taken from the waters in this section of the State. When dressed and ready for the oven the fish weighed over 4 1/2 lbs. Can is a boss fisherman.*"

With assistance from Reunion member Curtis Stone of Brooklyn, PA (near Hop Bottom), we were able to locate the gravestone of Canfield Stone and his wife Ida Pickering. It is a beautiful granite marker in the

Squier Cemetery, north of Hop Bottom on the Town line between Brooklyn and Lathrop. Curtis Stone also indicated that Can Stone had been an active Mason and a veteran.

Our Reunion information indicates that Can and Ida Stone had a son Frederick J. Stone, a grandson Frederick Canfield Stone, and a great grandson Frederick R. (Bob) Stone who lived in Washington State. Unfortunately, the Reunion has lost all communication with this branch of the Stone family and we do not know if there are surviving descendants.

Editor's note: for the record, Judson Stone (generation 2) had one son named Canfield Stone, but he died at age 3 and is buried at Stone Street. Thus, there were four known ancestors named "Canfield Stone" in our Reunion group.

Selden and Arlene Birchard

At the 2013 Reunion we noted the passing of Selden Chapin Birchard, Jr. in December 2012. His many contributions to the Reunion and the Stone Street Memorial Association were noted. As we recalled Selden's passing with sorrow, we were pleased to see Selden's daughter Eileen Birchard and Selden's wife Arlene Graham Birchard at the Reunion. We had a very pleasant time talking with them, and Eileen was

unanimously elected as Vice President of both organizations, a position that Selden had held for many years.

It is with regret that we note that Arlene Marie Graham Birchard passed away October 14, 2013 and our condolences are extended to her family.

The Keepers of Stone Street

Did you know that much of the original Stone land on Stone Street is still held by Stone descendants? Did you know that some of the original Stone land has never left the family? (*Hint: The editor learned much from Courtland Bradshaw Birchard in a tour and interview following the 2013 Reunion.*)

We are all aware that Stone Street in Forest Lake Township was named for the children of Canfield and Mary Platt Stone. Three sons and one widowed daughter-in-law settled on the street, and owned contiguous property in the early 1800s.

We are also aware that there are very few people with the Stone surname left in the hundreds of people on the Reunion mailing list. This topic was discussed at a recent Reunion, and the phenomenon was generally attributed to the large number of daughters in early generations, and the few sons with Stone surname. There has been no one named Stone living on Stone Street for decades, or perhaps a century.

So what land has never left the family? Look for a review of this topic in a future newsletter.

Please Keep in Touch!

We hope to hear from you or see you on July 26, 2014. Please keep in touch with family news and vital statistics updates by contacting editor.stonereunion@gmail.com or contacting one of the officers below:

Betty Handrick Baldwin - President

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Eileen Birchard - Vice President

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Jessie & Bob Carr - Co-Treasurers/ Chaplain

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John Buck – Secretary/ Family Historian

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Don't Forget!

The next reunion meeting (112th) will be on July 26, 2014 at the Charles E. Small Pavilion behind the Forest Lake Township Buildings on Ridge Road! We start at about noon and all are welcome!