

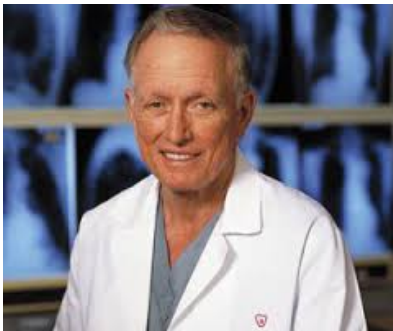
Newsletter

Stone Family Reunion

Greetings

Winter greetings to fellow members of the Stone Reunion. This newsletter is available electronically via email, or as hard-copy by US mail. If you would like additional copies or know of someone to add to the Reunion mailing list, please let us know.

Who Knows This Man?



This man is an **internationally known cardiac surgeon**. He has been recognized by presidents, and his career covered in movies and books. He has several ancestors buried at Stone Street and he is a great-great-grandson of Canfield Stone, Jr., but has never appeared in any of our family trees.

If we tell you his surname is **Cooley**, does that help? Read the article later in this newsletter and you might be surprised by this new information.

The 2014 Reunion Was Enjoyable

The 2014 Reunion was held on 7/26/14 at the Rush Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary Hall in Lawton, PA. You may recall that due to a scheduling conflict, we were fortunate to have been able to arrange use of this facility. There was general agreement among the attendees that the facilities were very comfortable and well-suited to our group. Special thanks were extended to Eileen Birchard and Ron Smith who made the arrangements.

This was the first joint meeting of the Stone Street Memorial Association and the Stone Family Reunion with joint officers. President Betty (Handrick) Baldwin opened the meeting and recognized two Honorary Members in attendance, Ruth (Handrick) Blair Furman and Courtland Bradshaw Birchard. Chaplain Jessie (Birchard) Carr gave the invocation and we all enjoyed a wonderful meal. The attendees were also treated to special desserts which included a cake made by Courtland Birchard decorated to recognize the 112th Reunion. Since it was also Ruth Furman's 95th birthday, there were two additional cakes recognizing Ruth's special birthday. A large

decorated cake was provided by Sherri Rieth's family, and Betty Baldwin made a cake using a recipe of Ruth's mother, Rilla May Gage.

Reports were given by Co-Treasurer Bob Carr and Secretary/Historian John Buck. Eileen Birchard provided nominations of existing officers from the Nominating Committee and the current slate of officers was re-elected. (Detailed minutes and reports will be provided in the summer mailing and invitation.) Courtland Birchard and his pal "Joey" provided an interesting program describing how Courtland and his wife Mary had found some historical papers and toys during the demolition of a house in Montrose many years earlier. The papers had, in a remarkable coincidence, involved Avery Beebe, the brother of Amorillus Beebe, who had lived with her husband James E. Stone on the very property where Courtland Birchard resides today.

It seemed that everyone enjoyed the Reunion and we made general plans to return to the same location in 2015.

Marsha and Clifton Birchard, Jr. on National Television

Many of us who live within television distance of Binghamton, NY, watch the news on the CBS affiliate, WBNG. As we casually watched the local news recently, we heard mention of a school teacher, Marsha Birchard, from Montrose, PA. My wife looked up and said "that looks like Buzz Birchard" standing in the background. It turns out that sometime last fall, Marsha and Clifton Birchard, Jr. were in Los Angeles, CA and obtained tickets to the "Let's Make a Deal" television show. They prepared their costumes (Buzz on the far left is the "baker" and Marsha is next to him as the "chocolate chip cookie") and were selected to participate in the show. Both appeared to be enjoying themselves thoroughly, and Marsha made an opportune "deal" on the show, winning \$1,500! Congratulations to fellow Reunion members Marsha and Clifton Birchard, Jr. of Birchardville, PA.



Canfield Stone - "Big Figure in Republican Politics"

A recent "One Hundred Years Ago" newspaper article (submitted by Betty Smith of Susquehanna County Historical Society), mentions that "Can" Stone of Hopbottom was the big figure in Republican politics before the "wicked" Democrats came into power. This Canfield was the hotelier discussed in our 2014 winter newsletter. (*Thanks to Curtis Stone of Brooklyn, PA. for this information.*)

Altmanns Publish Digital Magazine



Chris and Kim Altmann, of East Meredith, NY, have commenced publication of "From the Ground Up", a free digital history magazine. Chris, the Editor-in-Chief, says that the publication will focus primarily on Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Montgomery and Herkimer Counties of New York State. You may recall that Chris and Kim have traveled extensively conducting metal detector surveys, and have written a book of their adventures. If you are interested in receiving this magazine, would like to purchase their book, or want further information, Chris can be contacted at caltmann@aol.com.

Don't Forget!

***The next reunion meeting (113th) will be on July 25, 2015 at
Rush Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary Hall at Lawton, PA.
We start at about noon and all are welcome!***

So, Who Are the Cooleys?

We think you will be surprised at how we have overlooked this family line in our history. We're familiar with many of the surnames of our Stone cousins descending from Stone St. in Forest Lake Township, PA. We see many of those names on



the Reunion mailing list, such as Bradshaw, Johnson, Birchard, Dayton, Stone, Handrick, Ball, Warner, Cobb, etc. The variety of surnames, of course, results when female descendants marry and take their husbands' surnames. Those surnames are still prevalent because many of the names are still in the area and are active in the Reunion. But what happens when one of the young women marries, and then the family moves out west? We often lose track of them. Many years ago G. Richard Handrick discovered a "lost branch" of the family, i.e. the descendants of James E. Stone's sister Arabella C. Stone. Arabella married Calvin Luther Leet (both are buried in the Stone Street Cemetery), but their families moved out west and we lost them until Dick "found" them again. The entire family tree had to be redone to accommodate the new information.

But who are the Cooleys? Dick Handrick's book on Stone genealogy gave us the initial hint. Recall that James E. Stone (who left us Courtland Birchard's branding iron) was the son of Canfield Stone, Jr. and Almira (Bostwick) Ross. James had another sister, **Eliza Maria Stone**. They all lived just north of the Stone Street Cemetery, on land where Courtland Birchard now lives. Eliza Stone married **Robert W. Cooley**. We now know that Robert came from Auburn Township, PA, and that he and Eliza first lived in Harmony, PA, and later lived in Binghamton. Eliza and Robert are buried at Glenwood Cemetery there.

Eliza's and Robert's son **Daniel Denton Cooley**, born in Harmony, PA, was raised and educated in Binghamton, but left for Ashland, Nebraska in the 1870s. He worked his way from a mercantile business into a bank position there. The president of the bank started a land development company, and Daniel Cooley became a director, treasurer, and general manager of the "Omaha and South Texas Land Company" and moved to Houston, TX. This company purchased and developed a 1,700 acre parcel in Houston, TX that was called "Houston Heights", said to be one of the largest development projects in the country at that time. Daniel continued his business success and became president of a Houston oil company and also a railroad company. The oil company eventually merged with Gulf Oil Company. Among other honorary recognitions, Daniel Denton Cooley has a Texas State historical marker in his name, and a local school is named for him.

Daniel had three sons, one of whom was **Ralph Clarkson Cooley, DDS**. Ralph was not only a successful dentist, he developed, patented, and manufactured a product for dentistry called "Copalite."

This product was very successful and is reportedly still found in some dental offices today. Ralph invented other dental devices and also continued his father's interests in real estate. Ralph Cooley and his wife Mary Fraley had two sons, one of whom is **Denton A. Cooley, MD**.



Denton A. Cooley had originally planned to succeed his parents in their dental practice, but developed an interest in surgery. After a successful academic and basketball career at University of Texas, Denton went to Johns Hopkins University Medical School in

Maryland during WWII and then served in the military until 1948. He gained skills and recognition in heart procedures early in his career, including **assisting Dr. Alfred Blalock on the first surgery using the "blue baby" procedure.** He returned to Texas to take a faculty position at Baylor College of Medicine, but eventually **started the Texas Heart Institute** where he was president and surgeon-in-chief for many years. According to Baylor-St. Luke's Health Center, **Cooley performed the first successful heart transplant in the United States in 1968, and surgically implanted the first artificial heart in a human in 1969.** He and his

associates at THI have performed more than 100,000 heart transplants, more than any facility in the world. In 1984, Dr. Cooley received the **National Medal of Freedom from President Reagan.**



In 1998 President Clinton awarded Dr. Cooley the **National Medal of Technology.**



In 2011 Denton A. Cooley, MD provided a generous gift to the University of Texas Health School of Dentistry enabling construction of a new 14,000 sf building in his and his father's name, and **endowing the Ralph C. Cooley, D.D.S. Distinguished Professorship in Biomaterials.**

Denton A. Cooley is one of the characters in a recent movie called "Something the Lord Made" (available via Netflix), and also has written a book entitled 100,000 Hearts: A Surgeon's Memoir.

These three men, and other accomplished Cooley descendants, descend from the same Stone stock that we all do. Dr. Denton Cooley's great-grandmother was Eliza Stone, who lived across the road from Courtland Birchard's house on Stone Street. Eliza's parents are buried in the Stone Street Cemetery.

(Thanks for Dick Handrick's initial hint about the Cooley surname in his book, and to Christine Buck for the initial research on this story. More research is planned.)

Please Keep in Touch!

Please keep in touch with family news and vital statistics updates. If you have suggestions for newsletter topics or would like to know something about your Stone family genealogy, please contact us. You can email editor.stonereunion@gmail.com or contact one of the officers below:

Betty Handrick Baldwin - President
Eileen Birchard - Vice President
Jessie & Bob Carr - Co-Treasurers/ Chaplain
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