

THE CHILDREN OF CANFIELD AND MARY PLATT STONE

(Reunion presentation notes from 2011 by Christine and John Buck)

GARRAD STONE – This handsome man in the top hat is Garrad Stone. Does anyone here claim Garrad as an ancestor? (Rosemary Catalano, Lurita Davis, Barbara Feather, Marsha Kime, Jean Mott, Tom Payne.)

Garrad was child number one of Canfield and Mary Platt Stone. He was also the first of his siblings to settle in Pennsylvania.

Garrad was just 22 years old when he left Connecticut for the Pennsylvania wilderness. He brought his young wife Nancy and their baby daughter. The year was 1810, the same year Susquehanna County was established. Garrad and Nancy settled on what became Stone Street. They cleared a farm and built a house across from the cemetery's current location (and a bit north). They had four girls who lived to be adults. (Look for their photo taken about 1848 in Bob and Jessie Carr's collection.)

After Garrad's wife died in 1848, he remarried in less than two months. On New Year's Day 1849 he and Catherine Mizner Leonard, the woman in the photo, were married.

Garrad died six years later and is buried with his first wife at the Stone Street Cemetery. Big, beautiful marble tombstones mark their graves.

Since Garrad and Nancy's children were girls, no Stone surnames descend from this branch. The names are those of their daughters' husbands: Tupper, Ball, Virgil, and Deuel.

MARY ANN STONE was the second child of Canfield and Mary Platt Stone. We have no photo of her; she died before there were photographs. We show her gravestone, one in this row. We don't know of anyone on our mailing list who descends from Mary Ann; her descendants are lost to us.

Mary Ann was born two years after her brother Garrad, and we don't know much about her. We know she stayed in Connecticut and married Daniel Dayton. They had two daughters and a son. When she died at age 26, she was buried in New Preston, CT. Her only son later came to Bradford, Pennsylvania.

The surnames that come from her branch are Wickham, Wickwire, and Dayton—no one named Stone.

When Mary Ann died—remember, age 26—her children were ages three, one, and one month. It's no surprise Daniel Dayton married again and had a second family.

We knew there were strong connections between the Daytons and the Stones and unraveled them by checking Dick Handrick's book. Mary Ann Stone and Daniel Dayton had three children. That's one connection. Then, two of Daniel Dayton's sons from his second marriage married Stone girls. One was in Connecticut and one here in Susquehanna County. That's the link with many people here.

A nice thought to leave with you: Shortly before Mary Ann's husband Daniel Dayton died, he visited Susquehanna County. He enjoyed a six-month's visit with his son, who had married Sophronia Stone.

JUDSON STONE arrived in Susquehanna County three years after his older brother. His wife was Polly Turrell, and they had seven girls and one son who died at age three. Judson's farm was on the west side of Stone Street, across from his brother. The barn foundations are still evident in a field south of the cemetery. He deeded the family cemetery plot to the public in 1865.

Judson was known for his opposition to war, tobacco, and alcohol. He operated a tannery on Stone Street and was a merchant in Friendsville.

In 1855, both his wife and his brother died. That left a widower on one side of the street and a widow on the other. He married his sister-in-law Catherine Mizner Leonard Stone and moved across the street.

With no son to carry on the Stone name, his daughters brought their husbands' names to the family: Bradshaw, Handrick, Butterfield, Dayton, Johnson, Hosford, and later, Birchard. The vast majority of people on our mailing list descend from Judson.

CANFIELD STONE followed his two brothers to Susquehanna County. Canfield's descendant is here today—John Buck. Canfield married first Maria Nickerson and then Almira Bostwick Ross. They had one son and two daughters. Their farm was on the west side of Stone Street, immediately north of the cemetery.

Canfield was the second sibling to die in his twenties—age 29. He's buried in the Stone Street Cemetery with his two wives. From his family come the names Cooley (went west), Leet (went west), and the first male to carry the name Stone forward—James Stone. He, in turn, had sons Dimon, Canfield, Horatio, and James Joseph.

WALKER STONE, fifth born, never lived in Susquehanna County. Walker is the third sibling who died in his twenties, age twenty-eight. Again, he died before photographs. We represent him with his Connecticut gravestone.

Walker's widow, Esther, is my hero. According to history books, she came to Susquehanna County the year after Walker died, 1829 and brought their children—all five. Their ages? One, two, five, six, and seven. She was the fourth Stone family member to settle on today's Stone Street. Her farm was less than a mile south of the cemetery and near her brother-in-law Judson.

John and I found a house foundation on that property and a stone fence fronting the road. Growing near the road were sedum plants that had escaped from the garden. One grows nicely now in our garden.

More hardship came to the family. Esther was on Stone Street just two years when she died. We don't know where she's buried or who raised her children.

Despite the family's misfortunes, this branch founded the Stone Reunion. In 1902, Walker and Esther's grandchildren held the first picnic at Forest Lake to honor their parents. That was the beginning of the Stone Reunion we attend today.

Three surnames come from Walker and Esther Stone's children: Birdsall, Reynolds, and Stone. In this family were two girls and three boys who carried the Stone name forward—Judson, Johnson, and Walker, Jr. By 1873, all but one of their children had moved on, some to the west. Many have been lost to the family data base.

We have contact information for five of Walker's descendants who are on the reunion mailing list—four out west and one who lives in Montrose, Carlton Chapel. This year we located another relative in Canada with the surname Reynolds.

AMARILLUS STONE, sixth child, was born in 1803, when Thomas Jefferson was in office. She lived in Connecticut. All we know are vital statistics. Her husband was Johnson Watson. They had one boy and one girl. She died in Connecticut in 1866 and is buried in Bethlehem. We have no photo of Amarillus. Surnames from this branch are Watson and Dayton—no Stones. Her daughter married one of the Daytons. We have five Amarillus descendants on the mailing list.

HARVEY STONE, number seven child, did not come to Pennsylvania; he was a Connecticut Stone. He married Harriet Hickox, and they had four girls. He died at age 67 and is buried in New Preston, Connecticut.

Surnames that come from this branch are Hine, Wilson, Curtis, and later, Shaw. We have three Shaws on the Reunion mailing list, one in Tidioute, PA, one in New York State, and one in Colorado.

CLOSING

To summarize, Canfield and Mary Platt Stone were Connecticut people. They never lived in Pennsylvania. They had seven children, five boys and two girls.

Three of the boys came to Susquehanna County. One son died in Connecticut, but his widow came to Stone Street. The youngest son of the family and the two Stone daughters stayed in Connecticut.

The first year John and I attended the reunion, he had a question afterward: If it's the Stone reunion, where are all the people named Stone?

Of these seven children of Canfield and Mary Platt Stone, two were girls. Their children weren't named Stone. Three sons of Canfield and Mary had daughters only—Garrad, Judson, and Harvey. They had no male descendants to carry on the Stone name. That leaves Canfield and Walker, who between them had four sons named Stone.

Two stayed in the area, and two went west. Information on Stone western relatives has faded. Right now, we know of five males named Stone who descend from Canfield and Mary Platt Stone: Gary Stone of Greene, NY; Jimmie Stone of Harpursville, NY; Marcus Stone of Washington State, Kenneth Stone (out west), and Edward Walker Stone, Jr., location unknown. We hope we can reconnect with some of the branches of the family that are lost to us.

Today we have a gathering—the 109th Stone Reunion—and the family carries many names. The most frequent on our mailing list? Dayton (25); Birchard (12); and Bradshaw (10). Yet no matter what our names, we're cousins through our Stone ancestors and all have Stone blood.