

Stone Family Reunion Newsletter

What is the “Stone Family Reunion”?

The Stone Reunion is an informal association of people interested in the descendants of Canfield and Mary Platt Stone of New Preston, Connecticut. The reunion began in 1902 in Susquehanna County, PA where many descendants lived, and continues to be held there by family tradition. The Reunions have been held for 109 years and the family database of vital statistics includes over 2,500 names. One of the primary interests of the Reunion is the care and maintenance of local cemeteries where ancestors’ remains and monuments are located. In particular, the “Stone Street Cemetery” is overseen by the *Stone Street Memorial Association* which is affiliated with the Reunion. There is no membership fee for the Reunion. If interested in learning more, or in joining the Reunion, please contact the editor or one of the officers.

editor.stonereunion@gmail.com



Stone Street Cemetery, Forest Lake Township, PA

John Buck - President

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Dawn Zalewski - Secretary/Treasurer

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John Birchard - Vice President

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Jessie Carr - Chaplain

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Communications

In an attempt to stay in better communication with members of the Stone Family Reunion, we provide this Winter Newsletter. This is being distributed primarily by email. We also mail a printed version to people without email or for those who request it. (If someone did not receive this newsletter, the most likely explanation is that we have an invalid email address on

our mailing list.) If you wish to include another family member on our mailing list, just let us know.

We encourage you to contact us with changes in your email or mailing address. We are also very interested in any new vital statistics for the group. This would include births, deaths, and marriages. **PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH! We don't want to lose track of any members.**

*The Stone Family Reunion
Susquehanna County, PA*

The 2011 Reunion and Picnic

The 2011 Reunion was held in Birchardville at the home of Dawn and Bill Zalewski and was well attended. We had excellent weather, great food, and an

enjoyable time was had by all. Minutes of the meetings and financial reports will accompany the 2012 invitation and newsletter which will follow in a few months.

The Note in the Bottle Was Found!

During 2011 a note-in-a-bottle was found at the Stone Street Cemetery. The note was left by Calvin R. Cobb of Wellsboro, PA, and indicated that he wished to make contact with any of his relatives who might have information about Vilroy (Villa) Cobb who is buried at Stone Street. The note was passed through a few different hands, and we eventually determined that no, there weren't any Cobbs mentioned in Dick Handrick's publications, so Mr. Cobb must be mistaken. After contacting Calvin, he was quite certain that he had several relatives in the Cemetery, so he certainly WAS related. After a little more research (without being able to ask Dick Handrick) we determined that there are, indeed, several Cobbs buried in Stone Street. It finally occurred to a few of us that the name of the road that comes into Birchardville from the West is called "Cobb Hill Road" and it sweeps up around the hill ending very near Stone Street Cemetery. We eventually determined, with some help from Jessie and Bob Carr, that there are approximately eleven Cobb relatives at Stone Street, all buried with Calvin D. Cobb and his wife, Phebe Stone! Well, the Phebe Stone connection would seem to explain it all, except Phebe was not listed in Dick's books. A closer look at the burial record identified a footnote (perhaps by Dayton L. Birchard?) indicating that Phebe was the daughter of Canfield Stone's brother

Benajah. Aha! (Since Phebe was not a direct descendant of Canfield & Mary Platt Stone, she would not have an entry in any of G. Richard Handrick's books, but she is clearly related to all of us.) Thus, Calvin was correct, the Cobbs are definitely related. Villa Cobb (b 1856) lived on Cobb Hill and was a family historian who contributed information on the Cobb family to other researchers. The current day Calvin R. Cobb and his wife Ruth attended the 2011 Stone Reunion, and we now have an expanded list of cousins thanks to Calvin's note in the bottle.



Calvin D. and Phebe Stone Cobb
At Stone Street Cemetery

Family Genealogy & History Notes

We are continuing to miss our long-time Vital Statistician G. Richard Handrick (1917-2010) and Historian Clifton Birchard (1918-2011). Their combined contributions to our family and area histories have been monumental. While we have been struggling to maintain these functions within the Reunion, there is positive news to report.

First, Dick Handrick's family has donated much of Dick's genealogy library to the Stone Reunion. The books include histories of Susquehanna and Bradford Counties by Blackman, Stocker, and Everly. Additionally there are several family genealogy books that are relevant for our group. The most valuable aspect of this donation is that Dick made penciled notes in each book indicating the family connections. (As might be expected, many of Dick's notes point out errors or inconsistencies by the authors that only Dick would be able to identify.) The donation also included original maps of the Susquehanna County Townships taken from the 1872 Atlas published by F.W. Beers. Dick's daughter, Betty Baldwin, is continuing to research Dick's computer to see if other information pertaining to the Reunion can be identified.

Special thanks are extended to the family of G. Richard Handrick for this very helpful contribution.



Photos at Reunion – Courtesy Jessie and Bob Carr

The second news in this area concerns the Stone Reunion database. As you know, Dick maintained a database of vital statistics for the Stone Reunion. This included data contributed by several prominent family researchers including Cora Bradshaw, Dayton Birchard, and Clifton Birchard among many others. Dick diligently entered this data in an MS WORD program on his computer and published three updates which were available to members. The Reunion has these files and has maintained new vital statistics in this format through the summer of 2011. At that time a project was initiated to update the computer aspects of the database. The data was manually re-entered into a commercial genealogy database called "The Master Genealogist". This software provides much easier updating of family information and considerably more flexibility in generating reports and charts. After 5 months of manually entering the 2500 names in our database, that part of the project is complete. We expect to be able to offer more report formats and meet member requests more easily with the new database. Future newsletters will update all of us on the status of this project.

Mystery Question?

Did you know that we have a Stone cousin who competed in the Olympic Games? Did you know he competed in three consecutive Olympic running events (1948, 1952, and 1956) and won gold medals in the Pan American games?

Did you know that this Olympic cousin attended the 2011 Stone Reunion and captivated the attention of the people at his table? We refer here to Curtis Stone of Brooklyn, PA. Look in the next newsletter for more information on Curtis Stone's running success.

Mark Your Calendars for 2012!

Following family tradition, the 2012 Reunion will be held on the last Saturday in July.

An Invitation will be sent in a few months, but **be sure to mark July 28th, 2012 on your calendar!**

Future Newsletter Topics, Suggestions, Comments?

If you have suggestions for future Newsletters, comments about this newsletter, photos, etc., please send a note to: editor.stonereunion@gmail.com