

Newsletter

Stone Family Reunion

President's Message from Betty Handrick Baldwin

Welcome to the 2016 Winter Newsletter. I hope that everyone is enjoying the bizarre winter (?) weather we're having. I'd like to say a bit about the current officers of the Stone Reunion. I started attending the annual reunion as an excuse to visit my father G. Richard (Dick) Handrick (see article about 1966 reunion). While I don't share his passion for genealogy, I have come to value the friendships I've made (and previously unknown relatives I've met) at the summer reunion and now I find myself at the helm as your president. Your vice president, Eileen Birchard, also started attending the annual reunions with her parents, Selden and Arlene Birchard (Selden was a mainstay of the Stone Street Memorial Association). It is through Eileen's ties to the Rush Volunteer Fire Company that we found the location for our annual reunions for the past 2 years. Jessie and Bob Carr are co-treasurers. Jessie's father, Dayton Birchard, took the notion of passion for genealogy to a new level. Dayton was the driving force for tracing and documenting the story of the Stone Family for many years. Dayton was responsible

for reawakening my father's interest in our ancestors and encouraging him in his efforts to computerize the family database. Jessie also serves as our Chaplain. Our current secretary, John Buck, and his wife, Christine, are fairly recent discoveries in our lineage, but they have more than ably taken up the mantle of extreme genealogist. Their dogged research has resulted in the (re)discovery of family members and even whole branches (see article on Garrad Stone's daughters). The Bucks instituted the annual newsletter and are responsible for creating the new website (see ensuing article).

As a final thought: In today's digital world, most communication is conducted electronically. That's how we stay in touch with one another, but there's no substitute for a real face-to-face conversation. So, if you're feeling a bit of wanderlust on Saturday, July 30th, or you just want to spend a few hours in pleasant company, please join us at this year's reunion. The food is great, the meeting is short and the program is always entertaining (and educational).

The 2015 Reunion Was Successful and Entertaining

For the second year the Stone Reunion was held at the Rush Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary Hall in Lawton, PA. We successfully completed the business meetings of the Reunion and the Stone Street Memorial Association, but we also had an excellent program. Kim and Chris Altmann gave a powerpoint presentation on their adventures while doing metal detection surveys. They also had a very interesting display of artifacts that they have located both in the local area and in England. As usual, we had an excellent meal and no one went home hungry. The transcribed minutes of the day will be mailed and emailed along with the 2016 invitation in early June.



Mark your calendars for the 7/30/16 reunion at Rush Volunteer Auxiliary! Invitations to follow.

We Finally Have a Website

As recently as last year, it was not possible to find a contact point for either the *Stone Family Reunion* or the *Stone Street Memorial Association* by searching the internet. The Board authorized the formation of a website to facilitate member contact and also to allow convenient access to newsletters, photos, and meeting minutes.

We've finally gotten it started! You can find us at

www.stonefamilyreunion.com

The site still has some bugs to work out, but we're adding new information almost every week. The best part is that if you simply Google "Stone Reunion", we appear on the first page (after images of the aging Rolling Stones rock group). If you Google "Stone Reunion, Birchardville", we are at the top of the page.

The Stone Reunion – 50 Years Ago

(Although the year was 1966, it doesn't seem like 50 years ago does it?) The Reunion officers were Dick Handrick, Bruce Dayton, Carrie (Dayton) McKean, Kathryn Warner, Rev. Albert Hoag, and Edna Stone. The Reunion was held at the Forest Lake Cottagers Association Clubhouse and was the 63rd annual. Dayton Birchard gave a brief history of how Clark D. Dayton, Vesta Ball, and Isaac Melhuish started a fund

to care for the Cemetery in earlier years. The fund started at \$100 and later Selden Birchard and Dayton Birchard had charge of the funds which were about \$150 in 1966. Dayton held the funds in the form of two government bonds. In 1966 the Reunion had a surplus of \$14.25, and it was deposited in the Stone Reunion Fund at the County Bank. *(Things were a little simpler in 1966).*

Garrad Stone's Daughters – Some Newly-Discovered relatives

In previous articles we noted that most of today's Stone Reunion members descend from Judson Stone, the third of seven children of Mary Platt and Canfield Stone. We also discussed some newly discovered descendants of the fourth child, Canfield Stone, Jr. The Stone Reunion was originated by descendants of Walker Stone, the fifth child, whose descendants had the hotel at Stone Corners above Forest Lake. Now, we've discovered some previously unknown descendants of Garrad Stone, the first-born son of Mary Platt and Canfield Stone.

Recall that Garrad Stone was the first Stone to settle on Stone Street, arriving in about 1810. He settled with his first wife, Nancy Merwin and their daughter Maria who had apparently been born in Connecticut. Their home and farm were on the east side of Stone Street, across and up the road a little from today's Stone Street Cemetery. (The house was on land in front of today's home of Rene and Lance Birchard.) Four more daughters were born at Stone Street, but daughter Nancy died in her infancy. This photo,



Clarinda	Marietta	Almira	Maria
? -1899	1812-1892	? - ?	1809-1896

FOUR DAUGHTERS OF GARRAD STONE

probably taken in 1848 at their mother's funeral, may partially explain the sisters' rather severe appearance.

Maria Stone, first born of Garrad and Nancy Merwin Stone, married Levi Tupper in 1832. They had one daughter, Julia. This line had not been previously researched, but **Julia married Bela Giffin** and they settled on Devine Ridge, a little east of Birchardville. One son, **Rev. Levi T. Giffin** was a Baptist minister who lived in several locations in PA and NY. His daughter, **Merna, married Lee Hamilton** and they lived in Montrose at (then) 56 Lake Avenue. Their son **James G. Hamlin**, served in WWII and became a pharmacist. Many of the Hamlin line are buried in Montrose, PA. It appears that some of the Giffin descendants of Maria Stone and Levi Tupper lived in LeRaysville, PA in recent years, and we may have cousins from this line living nearby today.

Marietta Stone, second daughter of Garrad and Nancy Stone, married **George W. Ball** in 1829. Several of today's Reunion members descend from this marriage. Marietta and George's son **Marshall L. Ball** had a son Wellington ("Wellie") who married his distant cousin **Vesta Bradshaw**. This is the same Vesta Bradshaw, daughter of John Bradshaw and Amy Stone who was in the Amy Stone Bible story discussed in a previous newsletter. This family line is extensive and well-documented in the research works by Dayton Birchard and G. Richard Handrick.

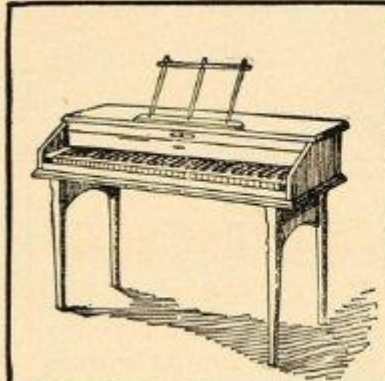
Almira Stone, the third daughter, married **Almon Virgil** in 1834. According to Stocker's History of Susquehanna County, Almon Virgil was admitted to the bar in 1840 and began practicing law. At that time, he lived in Forest Lake. Almon must have found a different calling because he became the **Rev. Almon Virgil**, a Baptist minister, at Great Bend and then Clifford Townships in 1846-1847. He appeared in census data as a minister in Greene, NY, Albany, NY, and many other locations. Historical accounts from Greene, NY describe him as a revivalist, which may explain his varied locations during his long ministry. First of Almon and Almira's sons was **Dr. Thomas Virgil** (born 1836). He practiced medicine in Indiana where he is

Clothing Style Observations-The four Stone sisters were stylish for the 1840s. Note the:

1. Silk hand mitts
2. Flat linen collars
3. Hair gathered over ears
4. Neck ribbon (far right only)

According to *Dressed for the Photographer*, the sisters were right in style.

buried. Second son, **Garrad Stone Virgil**, lived only a year and is buried at Stone Street Cemetery (fourth row, far left, with his aunt and grandparents). Third son, **Almon Kincaid Virgil** (born 1842) went to the new college in McGrawville, NY, called the **New York Central College**. This institution was newly formed by anti-slavery Baptists in 1849, and was known for having black students and faculty at a time when slavery was still lawful in the United States. Almon had been taught the cello by his father and went on to study music in Europe. He patented a musical instrument called the "**practice clavier**" that was used along with his instructional method for students of keyboard instruments. ("Clavier" is a French word for "keyboard.") His company manufactured the claviers and operated several instructional schools. The advertisement below is from a New York newspaper in the early 1900s. If you look on the internet, several of the Virgil Claviers are found in museums and are available for sale today.



THE NEW
VIRGIL PRACTICE CLAVIER

¶ The only reliable instrument of its kind. Far superior in its latest construction to anything which has appeared before.

VIRGIL SCHOOL OF MUSIC

¶ Autumn Term begins Monday, October 9th. Enrolment Day, Saturday, October 7th.
For catalog and prospectus address

A. K. VIRGIL, 45 East 22d Street, NEW YORK

Nancy Stone, fourth daughter of Nancy and Garrad, was likely named for her mother. She was born in 1821, died in 1822, and is buried at Stone Street Cemetery, next to her parents.

Clarinda, fifth-born daughter of Nancy and Garrad, married a neighbor, Abraham Deuel, and they had a daughter Eva. This line connected to the Smalls, the

Drakes, and ultimately to Braton Duane Baker, who began a prominent Montrose banking family who were members of the Stone Reunion. There are believed to be living descendants of that line although the Reunion is no longer in contact with them.

Note: If any readers have knowledge of any of these newly discovered/re-discovered Stone cousins in the Giffin, Hamlin, Baker, or Virgil lines, we would like to hear from you.

New Non-profit Corporation Forming

As co-treasurer, Bob Carr has noted for several years, the Stone Street Memorial Association (SSMA), as an unincorporated association, has been experiencing difficulty purchasing government bonds, primarily due to changes in regulations in the federal "Treasury Direct" program. The changes require that purchasers be a corporate entity. SSMA officers have reviewed this issue as well as potential liability issues associated with ongoing maintenance functions at the Stone Street Cemetery, and concluded that we should investigate forming a non-profit corporation. A resolution was approved at the 2015 SSMA business meeting, authorizing formation of such a corporation, provided that the officers agreed unanimously, and that the legal and filing fees could be funded from outside sources at no cost to the SSMA.

After a special Officer's meeting, outside funds were committed and the Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP law firm was retained. We are now in the process of filing the incorporation papers with the State of Pennsylvania. If this effort is successfully completed, the plan is to gradually migrate the functions of the SSMA into the new corporate entity. The proposed name of the new entity is:

Stone Street Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc.

We will keep you posted on the progress of that project as events progress.

Clifton Birchard, Jr.

With sadness we note the passing of Clifton (Buzz) Birchard, Jr. on 10/23/15 at age 58. Buzz had served as President of the Reunion for many years and was deeply involved in Church and Community affairs in the Birchardville area. Our condolences are extended to his family for their loss.

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
John Buck – Secretary/ Family Historian

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