

Newsletter

Stone Family Reunion

President's Message from Betty Handrick Baldwin

Welcome to the 2017 Winter Newsletter. Once again, we're experiencing weird weather, but I hope everyone is coping and that no one has been adversely impacted by the severe weather in some areas of the country.

This year I'd like to acknowledge the work done by the board since last year's reunion. Most of these accomplishments are described later in this newsletter. Secretary John Buck and his wife Christine spent untold hours finalizing the incorporation of the *Stone Street Cemetery Preservation Association (SSCPA)*. Co-treasurer Bob Carr then took up the gauntlet and obtained the ruling from the IRS that the SSCPAs is a 501(c)(13) nonprofit organization (making donations tax deductible) and then filing the necessary tax returns. I would also encourage you to visit our growing website (www.stonefamilyreunion.com). Bob and Jessie Carr transport an enormous amount of

memorabilia (mostly pictures) to the Reunion each year; John and Christine are slowly adding the pictures to the website (you can see some of our progenitors as well as where they lived). Some of these pictures raised questions that sent John and Christine on a quest for further information. One of these mysteries, as well as its denouement, is described later in this newsletter.

Finally, as I said last year, if you're feeling a bit of wanderlust on Saturday, July 29th, 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). You might even find someone to take you to visit the Stone Street Cemetery and describe the relevant sights on Stone Street along the way!

The 2016 Reunion was Fun

Once again we held the Reunion at the Rush Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary Hall in Lawton, PA. The facility is comfortable and accommodates our group quite well. *(Thanks to Eileen Birchard and Ron Smith for making the arrangements.)*

President Betty Baldwin recognized honorary members Curtis Stone and Courtland Birchard who were in attendance. After enjoying our usual hearty meal we were treated to an interesting discussion by Lyn Munn on how she made a silver concho belt. The belt was modeled by Emily Stone *(photo courtesy Jim Baldwin)*. We were very pleased to see Curtis Stone, his nephew Andrew Stone, and two of Andrew's daughters, Emily and Alexis.



The program was by John Buck on the relationships of the various families buried at the Stone Street Cemetery. The program covered the history of the cemetery and concluded that it began as a community-based graveyard. Because the families on and near Stone Street inter-married, every known burial at Stone Street Cemetery is related to the Stone family of Mary Platt and Canfield Stone of New Milford, CT. *(A list of burials and some additional information is available on the website at www.stonefamilyreunion.com .)*

The transcribed minutes of the day will be mailed and emailed along with the 2017 invitation in early June.

Mark your calendars for the 7/29/17 reunion at Rush Volunteer Auxiliary! Invitations to follow.

The Website Continues to Grow

We're still working on the website www.stonefamilyreunion.com, but it has already allowed some new interested family members to find us.

Most of the recent activity has been in trying to place documents and photos from the Stone Reunion archives on the website. Many of you who have attended the Reunions in recent decades will recall the nice wooden frames with various family photos

that have been displayed at the Reunions. At this writing, photos from all four of these display panels have been scanned and are up on the website at <http://stonefamilyreunion.com/photo-archive-list/>.

Most of the photos have people from Ball, Birchard, and Dayton branches, but there is much more coming. There are several boxes and notebooks full of additional materials and we'll keep working on getting them on the website.

The Stone Reunion – Looking Back

1917 – (100 years ago) – Otis Walker Stone, Charles Walker Stone, and Cora Bradshaw were officers. George Richard Handrick's birth was reported by parents Rilla May (Gage) and John Bradshaw Handrick.

1967 – (50 years ago) – Dr. G. Richard Handrick, Bruce Dayton, Carrie (Dayton) McKean were officers. Mr. and Mrs. David Shadduck reported the birth of their daughter, Suzanne Marie.

1992 – (25 years ago) – Jack Handrick, Dayton Birchard, Watson Dayton, and Mabel Gardner were officers. At age 87, Dayton Birchard was the oldest member present. Dayton reported that Russell Stone Dayton was unable to attend due to advancing age (94), but that Mr. Dayton had attended the last 87 of 88 Stone Reunions.

Jersey Cows and Mystery Men

While going through old Reunion photos to upload to the website, one old snapshot (c 1940) caught our attention. Do you know any of these men on the bench?



What intrigued us was the photo description, “*day cattle were classified at Selden Birchard’s.*” Not growing up on a farm, we wondered what that phrase meant. The description also included identification (L-R) as **Marshall Ball, Edward Ball, Dayton Birchard, Dr. Fred Birchard, and Selden Birchard.** Note the white shirts, ties, hats, suits, etc. What could be going on? Were they somehow judging livestock? Who was Dr. Fred Birchard? Why would he and Dayton Birchard be judging cattle? The investigation involved inquiries to several people, and we think we can now answer some of the questions.

First, the location is on Stone Street in the side yard north of **Selden and Edna (Bradshaw) Birchard’s** home, at the south corner with Cobb Hill Rd. **Eileen Birchard** thought that “cattle classifications” were

important events and involved community gatherings. Cattle were apparently displayed individually and classified according to points and charts to develop an overall rating. The ratings were done by recognized groups such as the Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Association. Eileen thinks that the men were simply observing the process and were keeping track on pre-printed programs.

Courtland Bradshaw Birchard (Selden’s grandson) recently wrote that “*I would have been in about fourth grade at Birchardville School. I’m sure I was there that day because we were busy grooming the cattle for weeks ahead of classification time. We had to shine their horns, clip them, brush them, clean the barn up, milk house, and so on. I remember shining their horns by first taking a rasp to take the old flakes off down to a smooth layer, and then take a piece of*

broken glass to scrape the horn surface until it was smooth and shiny. There were about 100 horns to polish. We led the cattle out individually, and they had been trained to stand properly and placed just so. It was quite a day with lots of people. The cattle were all registered purebred Jersey cattle. I didn't do much with records, but my brother Selden helped keep the milk production records, sire and dam records, and individual registered names."

Editor's note: The subject Jersey cattle herd was at Selden Birchard, Sr's. and son Carlton's farm. Selden's brother Don Frederick (i.e., "D. Fred"), had the original Jersey herd of L.T. Birchard's down on the homestead farm in Birchardville. Many people recall the sign on the side of the barn indicating "...oldest Jersey herd in Pennsylvania." Jerseys were apparently a family tradition with the Dayton and Balls also having registered purebred Jerseys on their farms.

So now we knew a little about the "cattle classification" event and the location. What about these four men? **Marshall and Edward Ball** were brothers (sons of **Vesta Bradshaw and Wellington Ball** who lived in the next farm north on Stone Street). **Selden Birchard** had married the Ball brothers' first cousin **Edna Bradshaw**. **Dayton Birchard**, a well-known teacher and administrator in the Montrose Schools, was related to everyone on the bench and was Selden's nephew. But who was **Dr. Fred Birchard**? At first, several of us wondered if there was a typo and that this might have been D. Fred Birchard? After consultations with **Jessie Carr** it was decided that the man did not look like D. Fred Birchard. In fact, after some research, this man was identified as **Dr. Fred Sherman Birchard**, and he was related to Dayton through both of his parents, **Zaidee (Dayton) and Milton Birchard**.

(Many thanks to Courtland Birchard, Eileen Birchard, and Jessie Carr for help with this article.)

"Dog Quiet in Dental Chair" – New York Press, 1906

While researching the identity of **Dr. Fred Birchard** in the photo at Selden Birchard's Cattle Classification (story above), we happened upon the newspaper headline with reference to Wilkes Barre, PA. It read in part, *"Without once squirming or crying from pain, a large English beagle dog remained for two hours perfectly passive in a dentist chair here Saturday while a solid gold tooth was fastened into place in its lower jaw. The owner of the beagle, Dr. Fred S. Birchard of Scranton, came over to this city to keep a dental appointment. With him he brought the dog. A pillow*

was fetched and the dog made comfortable in the dentist's chair. Once or twice the dog pulled its head to one side when the dentist was buzzing down into the lower jaw with his drills, but at a word from his master, the grinding could begin again. The old tooth caused the dog no end of trouble, with which the new one seems to have completely done away."

Editor's note: Dr. Fred Birchard's younger brother, Horace, may have been influenced by this event, as he became a dental physician.

New Stone Street Cemetery Corporation Finalized

You may recall from last year's newsletter that we've been actively pursuing formation of a new corporation that will ultimately replace the Stone Street Memorial Association. We're pleased to announce that the process has been completed. The **Stone Street Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc.** (SSCPA) has been officially filed and recognized under

the State of Pennsylvania non-profit corporation statutes. We have also obtained a federal EIN number and obtained an IRS determination granting us exemption from federal income tax under IRS statute 501(c)(13).

Treasurers Jessie and Bob Carr report that the new corporation has filed its first federal form 990 and also opened a banking relationship with NBT bank. Looks like we're official!

Editor's note: A membership form for the SSCPA is enclosed with the mailings. If you are interested in ensuring the preservation and on-going maintenance of the Stone Street Cemetery, please consider joining by returning the application. There are no financial obligations, but members are entitled to vote on selection of officers and various matters concerning the Cemetery. Those receiving this newsletter by email can just click on this link to submit the application electronically (scroll to bottom of page):
<http://stonefamilyreunion.com/membership/>

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

bhb5@cornell.edu

Eileen Birchard - Vice President

bugsy13@frontier.com

Jessie & Bob Carr - Co-Treasurers/ Chaplain

Fam531@aol.com

John Buck – Secretary/ Family Historian

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192 Echo Lake West Lane
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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.

Stone Street Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc. Susquehanna County, PA

Background:

The **Stone Street Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc.** was formed in February 2016 in conformance with the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988. The corporation was formed following a motion passed at the 7/25/15 annual meeting of the **Stone Street Memorial Association** and a subsequent meeting of the SSMA officers on 10/18/15. The overall intention of the formation is to eventually replace the functions of the SSMA, i.e., “cemetery support, maintenance, and fundraising activities for the Stone Street Cemetery in the Township of Forest Lake, Pennsylvania.” Membership in the SSCPA is open to any person qualifying under the ByLaws. ByLaws are available upon request, but are also available at www.StoneFamilyReunion.com

Membership Application:

Name of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Are you on the Stone Reunion Mailing List? (please circle response) (Yes, No, Not sure)

Are you a descendant, or a spouse of a descendant, of
someone buried at Stone Street Cemetery? (Yes, No, Not sure)

If you would like to become a member of the SSCPA, please sign on the following line:

Signature _____

Date _____

Official Use:

Reviewed by _____

Date _____

*Please return this application and any comments, in person, by US Mail,
or by scan and email to:*

SSCPA c/o John Buck, Sec.
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