

Newsletter

Stone Family Reunion

President's Message from Betty Handrick Baldwin

Welcome to the 2018 Winter Newsletter. Once again, the year has gone by quickly. After a winter of ups and downs here in the northeast, we're starting to see some signs that spring will come.

We had a very nice Reunion get together in July. It was nice to see some people we hadn't seen in years, and also to meet some new members. The programs

by Courtland Birchard, Eileen Birchard, and John Buck were interesting and demonstrate the diversity of talent and interests in our family heritage.

This year's Reunion will be held 7/28/2018 and we hope to see many of you there. New faces are always welcome.

Another Successful Reunion

The 2017 Reunion was held at the Rush Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary Hall in Lawton, PA. (Thanks are again extended to Eileen Birchard and Ron Smith for making the arrangements.)

President Betty Baldwin recognized four honorary members, Curtis Stone, Jane (Bradshaw) Thomas, Courtland Bradshaw Birchard, and Ruth (Handrick) Furman. We were happy to see some people attending from quite a distance including Sandy and Keith Dayton from Mineral, VA and Jane (Bradshaw) Thomas, Wanda Rupert and Terry Bradshaw from Lexington, NC. Additional faces we hadn't seen in some time included Louise and Dale Dayton from Montrose and Beverly (Birchard) Arnold from Towanda, PA. Lyn Munn again won the distance award coming from Sun Lake, AZ.

Courtland Birchard gave an excellent presentation on how he developed his artistic talents. After an injury working in his stone quarries at his home on Stone Street, near Birchardville, "Court" was encouraged by his wife Mary to follow his interest in drawing and stone artwork. Court gave a demonstration on how he cuts "bluestone" into manageable small pieces that he then carves using carbide tipped tools. (The photo is of a 90th Reunion memento paperweight carved into bluestone.) Court & Mary conducted their business under the name *Pennsylvania Blue Art* for many years. Court also described his very



detailed pencil drawings of the Handrick home and the Stone Street Cemetery.

<http://stonefamilyreunion.com/archives/archives-photos/>

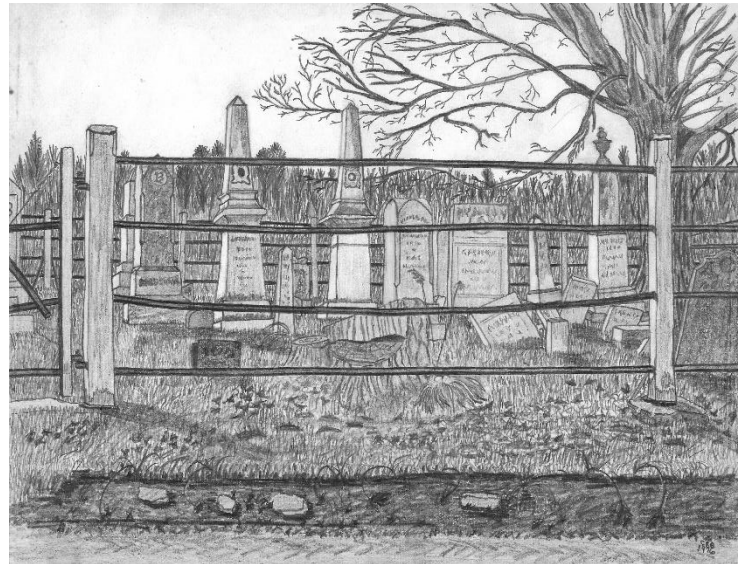
Eileen Birchard and John Buck also gave a program on “Honoring Veteran’s Graves” at the Stone Street Cemetery. Eileen described how she placed wreaths on Stone Street Veteran’s graves and John reviewed the known veterans buried at Stone Street. A pdf version of the program notes can be seen on the website at:

<http://stonefamilyreunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Veteransgraves-for-website.pdf>

The transcribed minutes of the day will be mailed and emailed along with the 2018 invitation in early June.

Cemetery Maintenance Continues

Progress continues at Stone Street Cemetery. John Buck reports that several new fenceposts were installed along the front in 2017. The main gate was also rehung. Sheila Birchard continued keeping the grass mowed and reported that 2017 took 10 mowings to keep up. More fencepost replacements are planned for 2018. *(The beautiful penciled drawing of Stone Street Cemetery was done by Courtland Birchard in 1976.)*



The Stone Reunion – Looking Back

1918 – (100 years ago) – Otis Walker Stone, Charles Walker Stone, and Cora Bradshaw were officers. Births of Clayton T. Ball, Mabel Birchard, and Arlene Ball were announced. Pump organ was moved to top of table under tent due to heavy rain. Three cheers for members now in service (WWI).

1968 – (50 years ago) – Dr. G. Richard Handrick, Bruce Dayton, Watson Dayton were officers. Gary and Barbara Dayton announced birth of son Brian. Reunion funds reported at \$130.18.

1993 – (25 years ago-the 90th Reunion) – Clifton Birchard, Jr., Dale Dayton, Dawn (Birchard) Watson, Mabel (Birchard) Gardner, Dayton Birchard, and G. Richard Handrick were officers. The Stone Street Memorial Association officers were Jack Handrick, Selden Birchard and Watson Dayton. Dayton Birchard reported that the \$600 collected from lot sales (Stone Street Cemetery) is to be held in reserve for perpetual care.

The Canfield Connection- Are we related to this man?



We know that there have been four of our ancestors named “Canfield” Stone (see issue 4, 2014 on

website), and that the “Canfield” name originates from the first Canfield Stone’s mother, Mary Canfield (1732-1812). Most of us in the Reunion descend directly from Mary Canfield. For many of us “old timers”, Mary Canfield was our 5g-grandmother. The editor has been curious for many years about the Canfields that lived in Middletown, PA, a little west of Stone Street. In particular, Andrew Canfield (1760-1843), Revolutionary War Veteran, and about a dozen family members are buried in a pretty little cemetery called the “Steadwell Cemetery” on route 858 near the intersection with Howard Rd. This cemetery is actually located on Andrew Canfield’s farm and is approximately 2-3 miles west of Stone Street Cemetery as the crow flies. In Stocker’s *History of Susquehanna County*, Andrew Canfield and his family of six were described as among the first settlers of Middletown in 1799. They came from Litchfield County, CT as did the Stones and many of the families in the area. With a little research it appears that Andrew’s father David Canfield, was our grandmother Mary Canfield’s first cousin. That means that we’re all related to the Canfields of Middletown Township.

Don F. Birchard II (1934-2018)

With regret we note the passing of Don Frederick Birchard II of Birchardville, PA. Don is survived by his wife Sylvia (Hughes) Birchard, sister Marleta Shadduck, sister Ginny Kahl, five children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Don was a longtime member of the Reunion and served as Chaplin for several years. Don lived his life in Birchardville and was a member of the Forest Lake Baptist Church, Rush Volunteer Fire Company, Forest Lake Volunteer Fire Company, Susquehanna County Volunteer Fireman’s Federation and was a Charter member of the Susquehanna County Fire Police. Don was a U.S. Army veteran and had been a DHIA Milk Tester for 28 years. He had also owned a wood manufacturing business for many years before joining the A.D. Bowman & Son Company. Our condolences are extended to the family.

Courtland Bradshaw Birchard Receives Recognition

The Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains has recognized Courtland Bradshaw Birchard for establishing an endowment to fund scholarships for students from the Montrose, PA area who will be attending Broome Community College. Mr. Birchard graduated from BCC following service in the Korean War and is a long-time member of the Reunion. Courtland lives on Stone Street, about a mile from where he was born.



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:

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Mark your calendars for the 7/28/18 reunion at Rush Volunteer Auxiliary! Invitations to follow.