

Newsletter

Stone Family Reunion

President's Message from Betty Handrick Baldwin

Welcome to the 2019 Winter Newsletter. We've enjoyed putting this together and hope you find something of interest.

As usual, we had a nice Reunion last summer, and it was good to see the regulars as well as some new faces. We had fun looking at all the familiar family names in the 1904 Reunion photo as Chris and John Buck described the reunion and tested us on identifying our relatives in the photo.

On a business note, the officers have "closed the books" of the *Stone Street Memorial Association* and

all banking and investments have been converted to the *Stone Street Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc.* in accordance with the resolution passed at the 2018 Reunion meeting. Special thanks are extended to co-treasurers Jessie and Bob Carr for their efforts to complete the necessary transactions.

This year's Reunion will be held 7/27/2019 and we hope to see many of you there. New faces are always welcome.

Butterfields' - "Susquehanna Mineral Springs & Resort"



Dr. Edwin Stone Butterfield
(1840-1897)

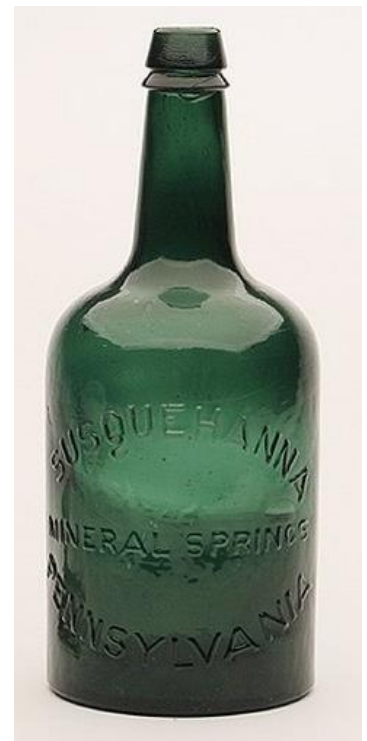
We recently discovered some handwritten notes by longtime Reunion historian Dayton L. Birchard from about 1976. Dayton apparently had led a tour of Birchardville, PA surrounds and

pointed out local historical sites of interest to Reunion members. The notes referred to the family connection to mineral springs in the area. That intrigued us and we did some further research to find where the springs were.

Ironically, the location of the mineral springs had been known since the early 1800s, and it is within a mile of where we have been having the Reunion in Lawton, Rush Township, PA. That was a surprise. The local stream is called "Deer Lick Creek" and according to Emily Blackman's *History of Susquehanna County (1873)*, settlers were often intrigued by locations where deer congregated and licked the mineral deposits on stone formations—thus the name of the creek. Blackman provided the

following descriptions of the springs at Rush from various sources:

"A number of years ago, rude shower-baths were put up at the spring, free to the public use—or at most a slight compensation was charged, to assist in keeping up repairs. At times no less than 700 persons visited the baths in a single day. But the water was very cold, and there being no means of warming it, the baths fell into disuse and went



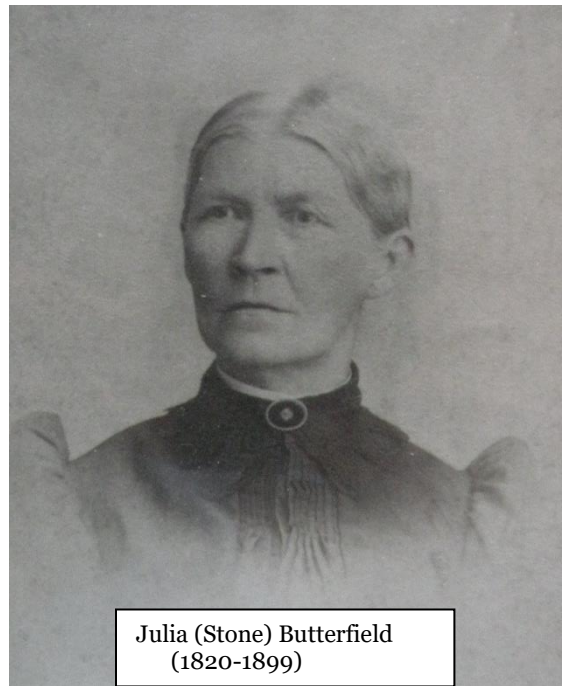


into decay. The spring and farm upon which it is situated were purchased in 1869 by E. S. Butterfield, Esq., of Syracuse, NY, in company with his brother A. D. Butterfield, of Montrose, who have made preparations for bottling and selling its waters, and have erected a commodious house for the accommodation of invalids and others who desire to visit the spring, and use its waters. The water of this spring, we are informed, has been found beneficial for most diseases of the kidneys, rheumatic and cutaneous afflictions, scrofula, and impurities of the blood."



The Butterfield brothers' mother was Julia Stone, daughter of Polly (Turrell) and Judson Stone. The excerpt from the 1872 map shows the location of the "Susquehanna Mineral Springs". Lawton (the

Reunion site, within Rush Township) is at the top left of the map and the Deer Lick Creek runs northwesterly to the Wyalusing Creek along current route 267.



Julia (Stone) Butterfield
(1820-1899)

After opening the mineral springs resort, younger brother Albert took over the enterprise. In later advertisements it appeared that (mother) Julia (Stone) Butterfield was operating the business. Several of the Butterfields went west to Colorado and California by the late 1880s. The author has located the likely spring location, but there is no trace of the original three-story 40-by-60 hotel on the hillside adjacent to current Subers Rd. A small structure that may be an original springhouse, is located on a nearby neighbor's property.

Note: The "J. Pepper" farm is adjacent to the springs to the northwest. The Peppers were among the earliest settlers in Rush and the farm was known as the "mineral springs farm" in the early 1800s. This was the site of a famous murder in Susquehanna County in 1897, which ultimately resulted in the hanging of two young men at Montrose in 1900. There is an apparent separate connection to the Stone family, and this story may be researched for a future newsletter.

Cemetery Maintenance Continues

Sheila (Babcock) Birchard reports that the lawn mowing at the Cemetery went well last year. In total there were 12 mowing events and the Cemetery looks beautiful as usual. John Buck reported that he regrets not getting the new fence posts installed along the north side of the Cemetery last year, but he promises to get it done this year. The new posts have been fabricated, painted, and are ready to install.

The Stone Reunion – Looking Back

1919 – (100 years ago) – Among other announcements, the minutes record that **Ruth Agnes Handrick** (later Furman) was born. (Ruth has since attended 54 Reunions and, since her birthday is always at Reunion time, we look forward to a special birthday cake this year.)

1969 – (50 years ago) – **Dr. G. Richard Handrick** was President and **Watson Dayton** was Secretary/Treasurer. Entertainment was provided by **Courtland Birchard** and his wooden pal “Joey”. Joey

surveyed the gathered audience and announced that this was “quite a rock pile”!

1994 – (25 years ago) – **Clifton Birchard, Jr., Dale Dayton, Dawn (Birchard) Watson, Mabel (Birchard) Gardner, Dayton Birchard, and G. Richard Handrick** were officers. Clifton Birchard, Sr. discussed and displayed his photographic notebook of various paintings and needlework artworks by Reunion members.

The New Milford, CT – 350th Anniversary Commemorative Trip – 30 Years Ago

Many of our ancestors, including the Stones, Merwins, Platts, Turrells, and others, came to Pennsylvania from the area around New Milford, CT. This township is located within Litchfield County, and many of our ancestors are described in census data as being from Litchfield, CT. It is within ten miles of the New York State border and is almost directly east of Birchardville, PA. In 1989 Dayton Birchard led a trip to New Milford to attend a commemoration of its 350th anniversary.



Back row (L-R) – Kathy Brewington Bailey, David Bailey, Clifton Birchard (Sr.), Randy Hay, Don Tracy Birchard, Kathryn Warner, Marsha Decker Kime, Robert Decker, Jessie Birchard Carr, Robert Carr

Front row (L-R) – Sara Beth Bailey, Sean Bailey, Pearl Greenwood Birchard, Betsy Birchard Hay, Crescence Kittle Birchard, Mathew Carr, Andrew Carr, Frances Hardic Birchard, Dayton Birchard

Not in photo – G. Richard Handrick (photographer)

Daytons and the Grain Thieves

The following newspaper story was re-published by the Susquehanna County Historical Society a few years ago.

11/13/1908-

***Birchardville** - Jim Perkins stole three bags of grain from Fred Dayton one night recently. The grain was stored in Tom Wescott's barn, on the Quick place, and Mr. Wescott was informed by night hunters that there was a light in his barn. On arriving at the barn Mr. Wescott saw Perkins but kept himself secluded. Perkins loaded the grain and drove away. Wescott informed Dayton and they easily tracked him on the Wyalusing creek road, overhauling him at Rushville. Without a warrant, Wescott showed Perkins the muzzle of a revolver and ordered him to turn about and return the grain to the barn. When near Lawton, Perkins jumped from his wagon and ran down the bank and hasn't been seen since.*

We're not quite sure what happened to Jim Perkins, but we think that "Fred Dayton" may be Frederick W. Dayton (1878-1942) who married Mary Tracy Birchard. If so, this would be our present-day Watson J. Dayton's grandfather. As District Justice, the Honorable Watson Dayton also maintained law and order in our area for many years.

Website

Our website www.stonefamilyreunion.com continues to add new materials as well as archiving minutes, newsletters, and photographs. We are currently working on assembling some materials from longtime local history researcher Dayton Levi Birchard. We're hoping that this material will be online within the next few months.

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 7/27/19 reunion at Rush Volunteer Auxiliary! Invitations to follow.