

# Newsletter

## Stone Family Reunion

### President's Message from Betty Handrick Baldwin

Welcome to the 2020 Winter Newsletter. Many thanks to Secretary/Historian John Buck for putting it together. He and his wife Christine continue to amaze by providing interesting stories about our ancestors, like those included in this newsletter.



Betty Baldwin addressing Reunion



Ruth (Handrick) Furman with daughter Sharon and son Alan

In the current era where most interaction occurs digitally, we had recent-year record attendance at the 2019 reunion. The program was a retrospective of the life of **Ruth Handrick Furman**, whose 100<sup>th</sup> birthday occurred the day after the reunion. While longevity seems to be in our pedigree, as attested by the long list of *Honoraries* (SFR members 80 years or older, list included with the reunion invitation), Ruth is only one of four in our records who has reached this milestone. Ruth grew up in Johnson City, NY, and stayed in the area for the rest of her life, except for her years attending Russell Sage College. Consequently, she has been a regular Reunion attendee since she was a youngster. The celebration was especially meaningful to me as she is my late father G. Richard (Dick) Handrick's only surviving sibling. I got to see my cousins and their children and their children's children, some for the first time. It was a memorable day for all.

On a business note, some changes were made at the 2019 Reunion business meeting. A motion was made and passed unanimously, that the officers of the Stone Reunion be the same as those of the *Stone Street Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc.* (SSCPA). Election of Trustees will occur annually at the SSCPAs membership meeting (at the Stone Reunion) and the Trustees will elect their officers at a separate meeting. This completes the organizational transition whereby SSCPAs has now assumed full responsibility, including financial, for overseeing the Stone Street Cemetery (our ancestral burial ground) and organizing the *Stone Family Reunion* (SFR). We believe these changes will simplify finances, reporting, and business meetings, and better prepare us for the future.

**This year's Reunion will be on 7/25/2020.** Everyone receiving this newsletter will receive an invitation to the Reunion sometime in June. Please join us this year - 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! In the meantime, please check out our regularly updated and continually improving website ([www.stonefamilyreunion.com](http://www.stonefamilyreunion.com)).

*Remember - a stranger is only a friend (or relative) that we haven't met yet.*

*(photos this page courtesy Jim Baldwin)*

**The Sinking of The Indianapolis – Homer Benton Stone – July 30, 1945**

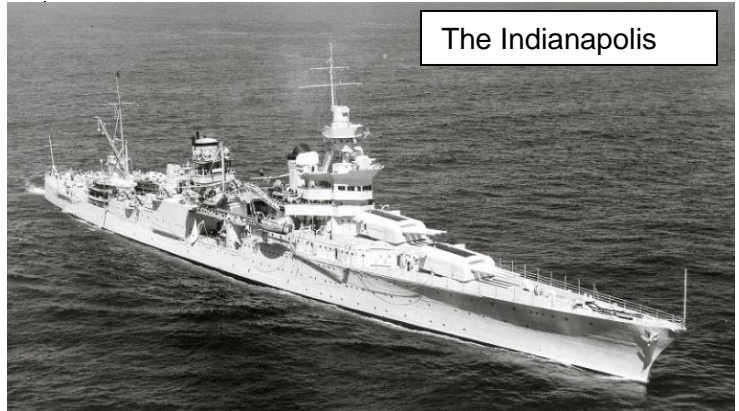


At the conclusion of the *Stone Reunion* in July 2019, Andrew C. Stone (from Gettysburg, PA) asked if we were familiar with a man named **Homer Benton Stone**. Andrew said that his uncle, Curtis Stone of Brooklyn, PA, mentioned that he

had known Homer Stone as a young man, and that Homer had died in WWII. According to Curtis's recollection, Homer was the son of Leonard Stone who ran a jewelry store in Montrose, PA. Andrew suggested reading a book, *Indianapolis*, by Vincent and Vladic, that had been on the NY Times Bestseller list.

The story of the *Indianapolis* is well known to many, and has been the subject of several books. We found the *Indianapolis* book an exciting and interesting account that was hard to put down, particularly knowing that there was a relative onboard.

The *Indianapolis* had a distinguished war record in the Pacific, and was called on late in the war to make a classified, high-speed delivery of nuclear components of the weapon "Fat Boy" that was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. The heavy cruiser made record time travelling from San Francisco to Pearl Harbor, and then raced unaccompanied to Tinian Island (near Guam in the western Pacific Ocean) to deliver the nuclear bomb components successfully. *Indianapolis* then travelled to Guam and proceeded to cross the sea further west to the Philippines. Approximately half way, the ship was torpedoed by a Japanese



submarine, and an estimated 300 out of 1195 crewmen went down with the ship. Due to a variety of problems, the sinking was not known to the Navy or to land-based radio stations. No one knew the ship had sunk. Survivors of the sinking were in the ocean, some without life jackets or life boats, until being accidentally spotted on August 2, 1945, several days after the sinking. Due to losses from injuries, sharks, and exposure, only 316 men survived the ordeal. The war in the Pacific ended a few weeks later with the surrender of the Japanese. The sinking of the *Indianapolis* resulted in the greatest single loss of life at sea, from a single ship, in the history of the US Navy. The ship wreckage was discovered during private seabottom exploration 19 August 2017 in 18,000 ft water depth. The crew was posthumously awarded a group Congressional Gold Medal on 20 December 2018. Among the official list of crew lost was **Homer Benton Stone**, Yeoman 1<sup>st</sup> class, age 24, of Montrose, PA. He has a memorial gravestone in New Milford, PA where his parents Leonard H. and Julia (Arnold) Stone are buried. Homer Benton Stone was related to all of us in the Stone Reunion. He descended from Lory Stone, and was Curtis C. Stone's 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin. The sinking of the *Indianapolis* and the fate of the crew were included in a famous soliloquy by actor Robert Shaw (as "Quint") in the movie *JAWS*.



## Cemetery Maintenance Continues

As reported at the annual meeting in July 2019, the Stone Street Cemetery continues to be well-maintained. **Sheila (Babcock) Birchard** continues to take care of mowing and trimming in the Cemetery, and it looks very nice. John Buck reported that he was able to jack and straighten the foundation of the **James E. Stone/Amorillis Beebe** gravestone, which had been settling and leaning. John also reported that the fencepost replacement project along the north side of the cemetery had finally been completed, and all the original chestnut posts from the late 1800s have now been replaced. **Eileen Birchard** continues her thoughtful program of placing wreaths at veteran's graves at Christmas time. There are plans for painting of the entrance gate in 2020. Photos of various projects can be seen on the website or at [this link](#).



## The Stone Reunion – Looking Back

*1920 – (100 years ago)* – The 18<sup>th</sup> Stone Reunion at Forest Lake set the record for attendance with 205 people present. The existing officers were **A.J. Stone, F.J. Ball, and Cora Bradshaw**. All three officers declined nomination for re-election, but were voted in unanimously over their objections. A motion was made to try to compensate Cora for her work as both Treasurer and Secretary, but she refused. There were readings by **Jack Handrick** and **Lelia Stone** (both age 5; Lelia later married Lavern Tanner).

*1970 – (50 years ago)* – **Dr. G. Richard Handrick** was President and **Watson Dayton** was Secretary/Treasurer. The announcements included the birth of **Carrie Irene Dayton** (daughter of **Dale and Louise Dayton**) and the marriage of **Betty Alice Handrick** and **James Robert Baldwin** (our Stone Reunion President and the Chief Photographer). **Helen Birchard** (Courtland and Gene Birchard's aunt) gave a talk on her trip to Alaska.

## Curtis C. Stone Receives More Accolades

You may recall from the 2012 Newsletter, that one of our most notable Reunion members is Dr. Curtis C. Stone, retired Professor of Secondary Education, Kent State University in Ohio. Aside from his distinguished academic achievements, Curtis was an accomplished track athlete winning 13 National AAU track championships, competing in three Olympics, and receiving many more awards. (See a more detailed account on the website or at [this link](#).)

After his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration last October, Curtis's new honors began. He was first presented his 70<sup>th</sup> year pin and a plaque by the Grand Master of the Pennsylvania Masonic Order. Curtis is a proud graduate of Penn State and brought the first NCAA



Curtis Stone – 3-time Olympian – (6<sup>th</sup> from left, standing)

championship in any sport to Penn State. Local Masons drove Curtis to the Penn State-Michigan State football game at Beaver Stadium on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. There were 110,000 fans in attendance for the big game. A ceremony was held at halftime honoring 15 Penn State Olympic and Paralympic

Athletes, including Curtis C. Stone. The game was nationally televised, and Curtis was thrilled to see his image projected on the huge “Jumbotron” screen, and was later interviewed by a TV station in Scranton, PA. We’re very proud to see Curtis recognized for his life contributions. *(Special thanks to Sara Stone Miller for her assistance with this article.)*



Curtis on Jumbotron at Penn State Game

### The Stones of Walla Walla County, WA

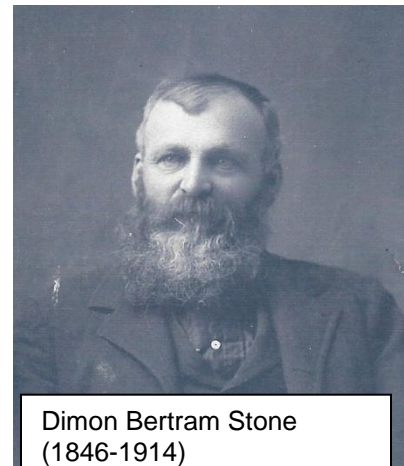
Ten years ago, as we were exploring “lost” branches of the Stone family, we wondered whatever happened to **Dimon Bertram Stone** (known as “DB”). Dimon was born in 1846 on Stone Street, near Birchardville, one of four sons and three daughters of **Amorillis Beebe** and **James E. Stone**. He was named for his grandmother’s father **Dimon Bostwick**, a well-known and prosperous businessman in Susquehanna and Bradford Counties in Pennsylvania. It appeared



Grandchildren of Mary Ann Dykes and DB Stone- 1972  
Allen, Clifford, Melba, Marcus, Ralph Stone

that DB had left for the western states in the mid-1800s, but nothing more was known to the *Stone Reunion*. Christine Buck researched census, burial, and telephone records and found a current resident of Walla Walla County, Washington named **Marcus Stone**. She wrote to Marc and learned that he and his sister Marlene were the great-grandchildren of DB Stone. Marc provided quite a bit of family information that allowed us to expand the Stone Reunion family records. In 2018 we were contacted by **Kathleen**

**(O’Brien) Henderson**, Marc Stone’s first cousin. She is an active family researcher and was able to provide more information and photos of the Stone family in Washington, including a photo of Dimon Stone. Six generations have descended from Dimon Bertram and Mary Ann (Dykes) Stone, and the family remains centered in



Dimon Bertram Stone  
(1846-1914)

the area of Walla Walla County, Washington. We were pleased to learn that the “Stone Ranch” had been located on Stone Road in Touchet, a little west of the City of Walla Walla. The name of the city and county is named for a native American phrase meaning place of many waters. The Stone Road is very near the Walla Walla River and about 4 miles east of the junction with the Colorado River. The Rocky Mountains are a few miles west of Stone Road. We’re very pleased to have established communications with the D.B. Stone branch and thank **Marc Stone** and **Kathy Henderson** for the family information they have provided. We hope to see a Walla Walla, Washington representative at Stone Reunion someday. *(Special thanks to Kathy Henderson for photos and her help with this article.)*



**Photos from 2019 Stone Family Reunion**

*(photos courtesy Jim Baldwin)*



### Website Addition – Dayton Levi Birchard



As promised last year, we have completed a page on the website that reviews the life of **Dayton Levi Birchard** (1905-1997). Dayton was a driving force in the Stone Family Reunion, the Birchardville Cemetery Association, and the

Stone Street Memorial Association, among others. Although Dayton has been gone for many years, the Reunion continues to reflect the many influences of Dayton Birchard. The website includes various links that describe early settlement days in Birchardville and particularly the early life of the Birchards. *(Special thanks to Jessie and Bob Carr for help with the website page).*

### 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](mailto: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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**Mark your calendars for the 7/25/2020 reunion at Rush Volunteer Auxiliary! Invitations to follow in June.**