

Newsletter

Stone Family Reunion

President's Message from Betty Handrick Baldwin

Welcome to the 2024 newsletter. With Covid restrictions behind us, we are back on track, as evidenced by successful reunions held in 2022 and 2023.

The 2023 reunion brought some new faces and people we had not seen in a few years. **Barbara (Lisa) and Paul Belter** were in the area from Florida, and talked about their Connecticut travels and discussions with the Platt Reunion people. Barbara noted that most of us are also Platt descendants and urged us to learn more about the upcoming Platt reunion. We were pleased to meet **Jimmie, Gary, and Ruth Stone** (Harpurville and Greene, NY area), from the Canfield Stone, Jr. branch of the family. They had not attended in many years. We were able to visit with **Lurita (Boyea) Davis and Rosemary (Decker) Catalano**, and were happy to meet Rosemary's brother, **Michael Decker**.

Once again, we recognized our Honorary members **Courtland Bradshaw Birchard, Marleta (Birchard) Shadduck, and Dave Shadduck**, all long-time Reunion members. The highlight of the reunion was a video walking tour of the Stone Street Cemetery narrated by Secretary John Buck and his wife, Christine. John learned to fly a drone just for this project. There is a link to the video later in this newsletter. Full minutes of the reunion, including a summary of our finances, will be included in the invitation to the 2024 reunion.



Thanks to all who were able to attend the reunion, and to those of you who have contacted us with family news. We typically summarize births, deaths, and marriages in the June reunion invitation mailing. If you

have family news, please let us know. Contact information can be found at the end of this newsletter.

The Reunion will be held on July 27, 2024 and we look forward to seeing our regular attendees, as well as new members or guests. Please join us if you can.



2023 Reunion Attendees
(courtesy Jim Baldwin)

Stone Street Cemetery – Video Tour

Have you ever been to the *Stone Street Cemetery* on Stone Street near Birchardville, PA? Has it been many years since you were there, and it's just a distant memory? Last year we decided to create a video tour of the *Stone Street Cemetery* that would be accessible to all online. If you are a member of the Stone Family Reunion, *you are related* in one way or another to each of the 108 people known to be buried there. The video includes overhead drone imagery and narrative descriptions of some of the gravestones. To see the video, go to YouTube.com and search "Stone Cemetery". The video link is also found on the Reunion website at <http://stonefamilyreunion.com/>



We hope you enjoy the video and learn more about the graveyard. (Many thanks to artist and videographer Barrie Maguire for assistance with this Video.)

DB Stone goes to Walla Walla Washington



Dimon Bertram Stone (called "DB") was born in 1846 on the Stone Street farm, near Birchardville, PA, where his father and grandfather had settled and lived, just north of the *Stone Street Cemetery*. He was the oldest boy in a family of 7 children and was 14 years of age when his father died, a year before the start of the Civil

War. After working on the family farm for a few years, he left home in the 1860's, married and farmed in Anderson County, KS until about 1884 when the family moved to Garfield County, WA.

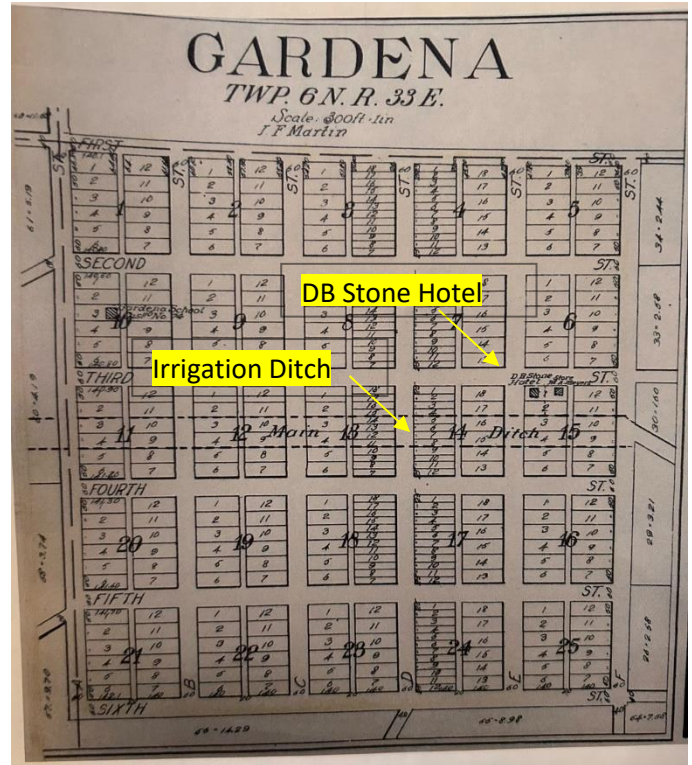
In the meantime, a farmer near Touchet, Walla Walla County, WA contrived an irrigation canal system by diverting water from the Walla Walla River into an intricate system of irrigation ditches to approximately

7,000 acres of farmland. Construction began in 1892, and in 1905 it was officially organized. This system survives today as the "*Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13*" and is overseen by the County Conservation District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

DB Stone somehow became aware of the new system and purchased about 16 acres of land adjacent to the irrigation ditch and a few miles south of Touchet and the Walla Walla River. He had grand plans as evidenced by a subdivision survey map showing a community he called "*Gardena*" and DB's new hotel on the main road. The hotel was actually constructed, but the imagined development never fully materialized. DB and his family of nine surviving children purchased nearby land and ran farms. You can search for the location on Google maps by simply entering "*Gardena, WA*" and you will be very close to DB's hotel site. DB died in 1914 and the hotel building was razed in about 1938. The family continued its prominence in the area and there is still a "*Stone Road*" a few miles south of DB's hotel, shown on Google maps today. The area is still called the "*Gardena District*".

Note 1: DB Stone's younger brother, **Canfield Stone**, was also a hotelier at Rush, Susquehanna, and finally at Hop Bottom, PA. DB's father's cousin, **Judson Stone**, was also a hotelier and had the large hotel at Stone's Corners, above Forest Lake in Susquehanna County, PA.

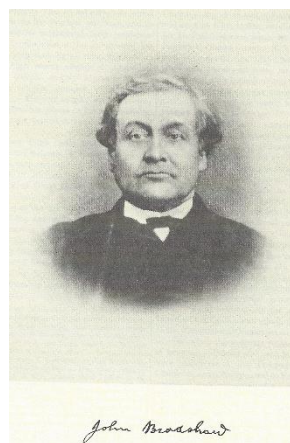
Note 2: Many thanks to three of DB's great-grandchildren who are members of the Stone Reunion and contributed information for this article – **Ken Stone, Kathleen Henderson, and Marc Stone.**



How do the Bradshaws Connect with the Stone Reunion?

The **Bradshaw** surname is among the most numerous and most prominent in the Stone Reunion. The elder Bradshaw statesman in our group was **John Bradshaw**, who was born March 28, 1809 on his grandparents' homestead near Stevensville, PA in Bradford County, PA. He was a Stone family member at birth, as his grandmother was **Mary (Stone) Taylor**, 1st cousin of **Canfield Stone** for which our Reunion is named. As with most settlers in the area, the Bradshaws, Taylors, and Stones all came from Connecticut, most from the New Milford, CT area.

John Bradshaw was a farmer, teacher, and astute businessman. In 1835 he married **Amy Stone**, eldest daughter of **Polly (Turrell)** and **Judson Stone**. They settled on their homestead farm immediately south of Amy Stone's parents' farm on Stone Street. That farmland is believed to have never left ownership of Stone descendants, today being owned by **Gregg Birchard**, fifth-great grandson of Judson and Polly.



John Bradshaw



Amy (Stone) Bradshaw

From the marriage of **Amy Stone** and **John Bradshaw**, eight children were produced and 33 grandchildren. There are 647 known descendants of Amy and John, comprising about 15% of our family records, and an estimated 25% of current Reunion members descend from this one marriage. **Amy and John Bradshaw** are buried in the Stone Street Cemetery, adjacent to their homestead.

The Stone Reunion was started in 1902 by several children of **Betsy (Smith)** and **Judson Stone** who had the Stone Hotel at Stone Corners at the north end of Forest Lake. This founding group included two Stone daughters (**Charlotte and Mary**) who married two sons of Amy and John (**Myron and John Miner**

Bradshaw). These marriages greatly complicate genealogy charts, but produced many of today's Reunion members. For many years the Stone Reunion was held at the Forest Lake cottage of **Charlotte and Myron Bradshaw**.

The Connecticut Bradshaws Come to Reunion - 1982

One branch of the Bradshaw family (see *article above*) moved from the Susquehanna County area. **Charlotte (Baker) and Judson Bradshaw** married and lived in Rush Township briefly. They left for Shelby County, Iowa in about 1883, lived briefly in Florida, but seem to have returned to the Susquehanna County, PA area by Charlotte's death in 1897. Judson married **Edith Tiffany** in 1899 in Montrose, PA, but they moved to Derby, New Haven County, CT within a year of their marriage. Judson Bradshaw had 8 children with Charlotte and two with Edith. The geographic center of the family had now become Derby, CT. One of Judson's sons was **John Leman Bradshaw** (known as **Leman**), who was actually born in Iowa, but lived most of his life in Derby, CT. The adjacent photo is at the **Leman Bradshaw** home on Roosevelt Drive in Derby, CT.



The Stone Reunion is fortunate to have three descendants of this family providing updates and historical information. **Christine (Taylor) Bradshaw** recalled that in 1982 the family gathered 17 members for a trip to the Stone Family Reunion at Forest Lake in Suquehanna County, PA. She recently recounted: *"You mentioned the family reunion. We actually were all there in 1982 (I think). Since I met Kevin in 1976, I had been hearing from my father-in-law, Bill Bradshaw, all about this family reunion. When I asked more questions, it turns out Bill had never attended but it was like family folklore. So, once we were married, we started trying to get the family to go. In 1982 we succeeded. I believe there were 17 of us at the time. We not only attended the reunion but the whole family camped nearby. Kevin and I have always*

been big-time campers, but for many, it was their first camping trip. We all had a good time. I remember being very impressed by all the memorabilia and the extensive family tree. I'd love to view it all now that it's digitized."

Ironic Note: On the 2-3 days before the 1982 Stone Reunion, a contingent of Reunioners, led by Dayton Birchard, travelled from Birchardville, PA to Connecticut to visit family sites in Milford, Guilford, and New Milford, CT. The Derby Connecticut Bradshaws, likely unaware of this organized Reunion trip, were on their way in the opposite direction to Forest Lake, PA for the Reunion. It is entirely possible that the two groups of cousins, unknown to each other, passed somewhere on the highway!

A further note of irony is that some of these Connecticut Bradshaw cousins live within 25 miles of the birth and burial locations of some of our joint Stone ancestors in New Milford, CT.

The Stone Reunion – Looking Back –

1924 – (100 years ago) – The 22nd Stone Reunion at the Bradshaw cottage at Forest Lake had 142 attendees. Officers were **A.J. Stone, F.J. Ball, and Cora Bradshaw**. The Finance Committee reported a funds balance of \$20.14 after all donations and expenses were accounted for. The greatest expense was for 10 gallons of ice cream, but also included 6 dozen lemons. Entertainment included readings by **Kathryn Warner, Nina Bradshaw, Albert Hoag, Annette Ball, Mrs. Joseph Stone, Arlene Ball, Mrs. L.T. Whited** and a song sung by **Mrs. Carlton Birchard**.

1974 – (50 years ago) – **Dr. Clifton Birchard** was President, **Watson Dayton** was Vice-President, **Mary C. Dayton** was Sec/Treasurer, **Kathryn Warner** was Asst. Sec/Treasurer, **Rev. Albert S. Hoag** was Chaplin, and **Dr. G. Richard Handrick** was Historian. There were 51 attendees. **Eleanor and Loren Stone** from Harpursville, **Bruce Dayton, Don T. Birchard, Jane Austin, Kathryn Warner, Ted & Alice Robinson, and Barbara Griffis** spoke to the group. Honoraries **Mrs. Lillian Griffis** and **Edna Stone** were recognized for having attended all 71 Reunions.

Donations

We were pleased to receive an anonymous donation of \$500 in 2024 to help support Reunion activities. If you wish to contribute toward the activities of our association, including the mailings and maintenance and care of the Stone Street Cemetery, we would appreciate any donation. Contributions made as remembrances are welcome and will be acknowledged. Please make checks payable to SSCPA and mail to SSCPA, 605 Lake Avenue, Montrose, PA 18801. Donations to SSCPA qualify as charitable deductions.

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 any of us.

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