

Newsletter

Stone Family Reunion

President's Message from Betty Handrick Baldwin



Welcome to spring weather and our 2025 Newsletter. It's been a cold winter here in the north, but we're enjoying some warmer weather now, and it's good to see some flowers starting.

The 2024 Reunion went well, and we enjoyed seeing everyone again. We were all pleased to meet **Jim Johnston** of Whitney Point, NY. He had not attended Reunion since coming with his parents **Rilla (Stone) and Walter Johnston** in his youth. We enjoyed learning of Jim's current profession as a fine art photographer, but also his earlier work as a broadcast journalist for nearly 20 years. Following the Reunion, Jim was able to tour gravesites of many ancestors at Stedwell, Prattsville, and Stone Street Cemeteries.

We were happy to recognize our Honorary members in attendance, **Courtland Birchard, Jessie and Bob Carr, and Marleta and Dave Shadduck.**

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.

As we leave the winter season, does your mind wander to palm trees? Did you know that the "**Royal Palm Tree**" is formally named "**Roystonea regia**"? Did you know that the tree was named for **General Roy Stone**, a war hero, civil engineer, inventor, and a cousin of all of us in the Stone Reunion? The story is interesting and complex. See later article in this newsletter.



The Reunion will be held on July 26, 2025 and we look forward to seeing our regular attendees, as well as new members or guests. Please join us if you can.

The Stone Reunion – Looking Back –

1925 – (100 years ago) – The 23rd Stone Reunion at the Bradshaw cottage at Forest Lake had 172 attendees. Officers were **Frank J. Ball, A. J. Stone, Cora Bradshaw, and Edna Stone**. The Finance Committee reported a funds balance of \$71.13 after all donations and expenses were accounted for. The greatest expense was (again) for 10 gallons of ice cream. Entertainment included recitations by **Don Birchard, Barbara Griffis, and Albert Hoag**, as well as a song sung by **Mrs. Carlton Birchard**.

1975 – (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 57 attendees. **John Handrick** (90, father of G. R. Handrick), **Loran Stone** from Harpursville, and his sister **Eleanor Stone** spoke to the group. **Joseph Elmer Dayton** (89) sang the song “Gypsy John” to the assemblage.

The Carrs Move to Florida

Congratulations to **Jessie and Bob Carr** on their relocation from their longtime home on Lake Avenue in Montrose, PA to a beautiful year-around retirement community in Fort Meyers, FL. This relocation means that Jessie and Bob will be retiring from their positions as Co-Treasurers and (Jessie) as Chaplin of SFR and SSCPA. The Carrs continue a long family tradition of supporting the Reunion. **Jessie Hardic Birchard** attended her first Reunion in 1944 with her parents **Frances Louise Hardic** and **Dayton Levi Birchard** at age 5 months. After many years of attending with her parents, Jessie attended with new husband **Robert Alan Carr** in 1965. The Carrs brought their sons **Andrew** and **Matthew** to Reunion in the 1980s, and Jessie served as President of Stone Reunion from 1997-2003. Jessie has been Chaplain since 2008, and the Carrs have been Co-Treasurers since 2006. In 2003, as President, Jessie organized the 100th Reunion. Jessie was also the chief



organizer of the **Stone Reunion-100 Years** Cookbook using many recipes contributed by family and friends.

We’re all thankful for Jessie and Bob’s many contributions to Stone Reunion over the years, and wish them well in their new home. We look forward to seeing them at Reunion in July. **Thank You Jessie and Bob!**

The Ball Family of Birchardville, PA

The “**Ball**” surname comprises one of the most well-known in the Stone Reunion. It appears that all our Ball cousins descend from **Olive Churchill** and (**Isaac**) **Perry Ball** (1780-1856) who came from Stockbridge, MA to Birchardville in 1811. The Balls settled on about 200 acres of land on today’s Hamlin Rd, about .5 miles east of PA Rt 267. This site is about 1 mile northeast of Birchardville. There is a nice old farmhouse on the site today (photo above), which is thought to have been erected by Perry and Olive Ball’s son,



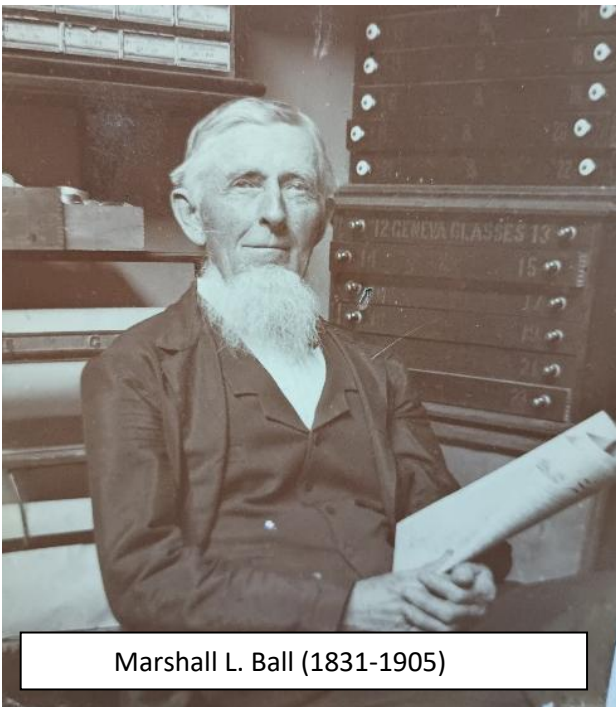
George W. Ball. Note the large sugar maple trees that likely date from the Balls’ era. Their three children settled on farms adjacent to the original homestead, and two distinct branches of the family were formed by Olive and Perry’s children.

One of the Birchard family lines was created when **Lucy Ball** married **Horace Birchard**, and the Ball line continued when **George W. Ball** married **Marietta Stone**. Another daughter, **Emiline Ball**, married **Orange Mott**, but no further family issued

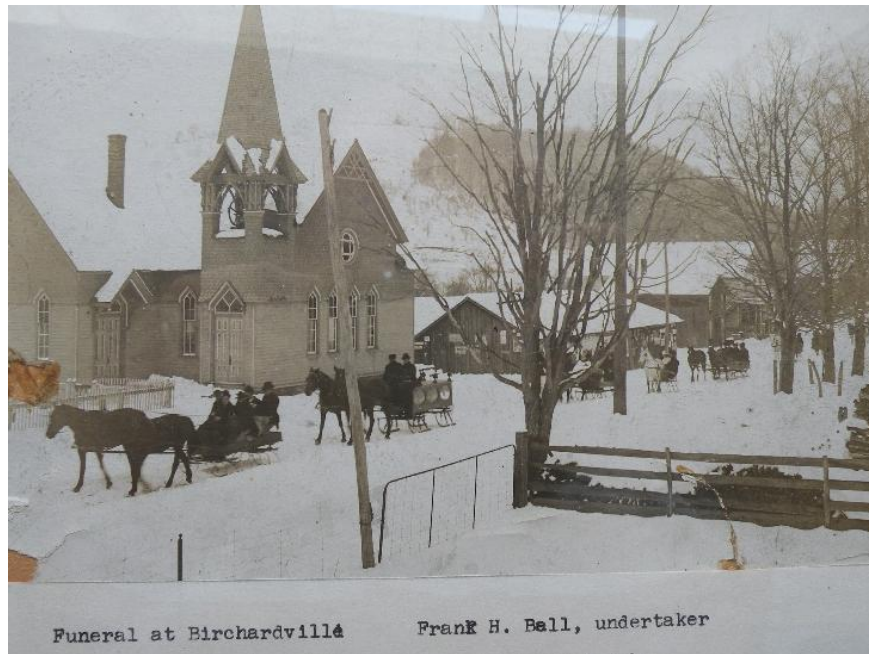
from that line. The 1855 and 1872 maps show the three sibling families, the Balls, Birchards, and Motts, living on adjacent farms on the (now) Hamlin Rd.

*Note: The **Terrells (Turrells)** are another well-known local family that connects with the Stone Reunion. Because Perry Ball's mother was Rachel Terrell, all of Perry Ball's descendants are also members of the Terrell (Turrell) family of Susquehanna County, PA.*

The Ball name may be familiar to Birchardville historians. **George W. Ball** owned property and a house on the Birchardville Hill Rd. just a few hundred feet up the hill from the southeast corner. A blacksmith and wagon shop is shown directly across the street on old maps, and Stocker's *History of Susquehanna County* describes George as a merchant. His son, **Marshall L. Ball** (shown below in his Birchardville store) seems to have assumed his father's mercantile businesses in Birchardville, as well as his home there.



Marshall L. Ball (1831-1905)



Funeral at Birchardville

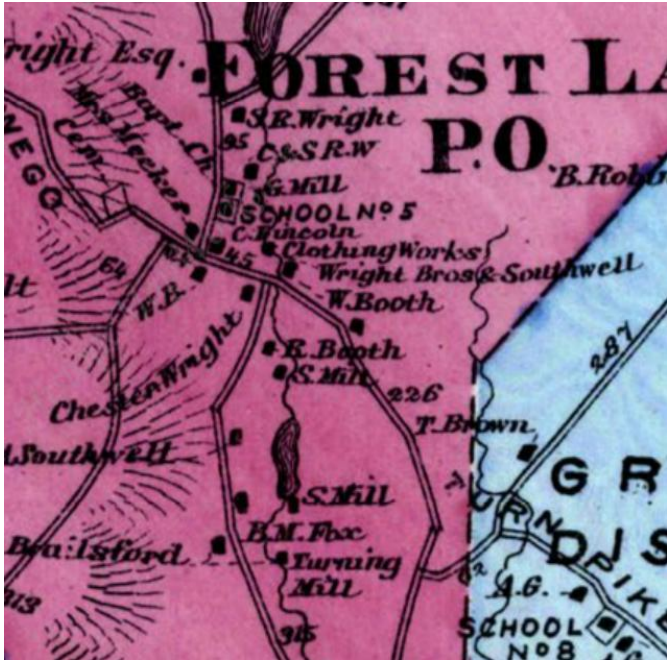
Frank H. Ball, undertaker

The *History of Susquehanna County* also indicates that Marshall's older brother, **Edward G. Ball**, took over the family farm in 1858 and, with his son **Charles P. Ball** raised fine Jersey cattle a few years later. The farm was called "Mountain Home Farm" and was known for its "gilt-edge" Jersey butter. Edward was a well-respected dairyman and served as a Susquehanna County Commissioner for several years.

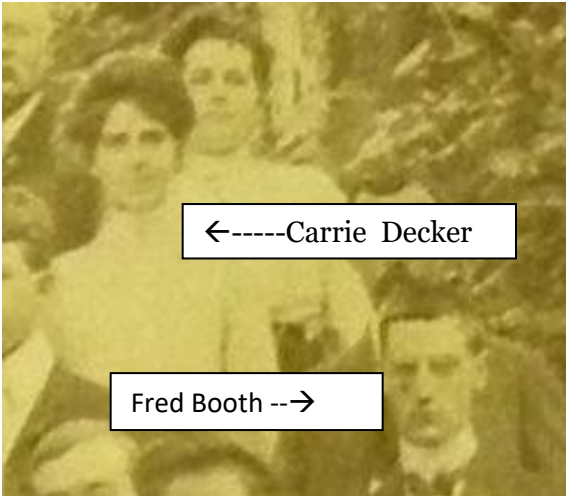
Marshall's son, **Frank Herbert Ball**, was the undertaker in Birchardville. The funeral shown in the photo shows one of Frank Ball's funeral processions, but also shows the various Ball business buildings north of the Birchardville Church. The Ball General Store was located where the church parking area is today.

Harriet (Shay) and Marshall Ball's, eldest son, **Wellington Ball**, married **Vesta Annette Bradshaw** (his distant cousin from John and Amy (Stone) Bradshaw's family of Stone Street). This marriage produced nine children, and many members of today's Stone Reunion descend from that line.

Sawmiller Descendants from Forest Lake– Booths, Daytons, Robinsons



Many of our ancestors were farmers and millers in the 19th century. One successful family descended from **William Booth**, who rejuvenated a sawmill on the Forest Lake outlet stream just south of today’s Fraser Rd., approximately 1/2 mile from Forest Lake.



←-----Carrie Decker

Fred Booth -->

William’s family prospered in the area and his grandson, **Frederick Booth** (1881-1965), became a member of the Stone Reunion when he married **Carrie Decker** in 1903. The photo shows them at the 1904 Stone Reunion at Forest Lake. Carrie descended from the **Butterfields** and the **Polly Turrell/Judson Stone** branch of the family. The Booths had two

daughters, **Ethel** (who married **Kenneth Elmer Dayton**), and **Alice** who married **Donald Hanna** and later **Theodore Robinson**. Sisters Ethel and Alice Booth were raised on the Booth farm in Forest Lake, and some of their early memories have been preserved in writings by Alice’s son, **Peter Mark Robinson**. Following is an article that Robinson authored for the *National Review* on November 30, 2006, a few hours after his aunt, **Ethel (Booth) Dayton**, passed away at age 96. The title is *Ethel Anna Booth Dayton, R.I.P.*



Ethel (Booth) Dayton

“November 30, 2006 5:13 PM. A little less than three hours ago, my brother Don just called to tell me, Aunt Ethel died.

Born in the farming hamlet of Forest Lake, Pennsylvania, on January 31, 1910, during a blizzard so heavy that the doctor’s sleigh was unable to navigate the drifts, Ethel Anna Booth was delivered by her father, Frederick. Fred wrapped the newborn Ethel in a towel, then set her in a shoebox on top of the stove, keeping her warm while he attended to his wife, Carrie. William Howard Taft was president of the United States. Every American over 60 could remember the Civil War.

Aunt Ethel attended grammar school in a one-room school house. When I visited her in Texas last year—she had long ago moved from upstate New York to southern Texas, and she spent her final years in a nursing home in Harlingen—she explained that each of the children at the school house would arrive in the morning with a potato. The teacher would place the potatoes into the pot-bellied stove, and then, at lunchtime, serve each child a wonderfully hot baked potato, topped with a hunk of butter. When Aunt Ethel became a teenager, she attended Montrose high school, boarding five nights a week in town; the seven miles from the family farm to Montrose were too far to travel except on weekends. Aunt Ethel could recall

when the family house was plumbed for running water and wired for electricity. She remembered her family's first car—Grandpa Booth only used the car during the summer, when the roads, all of which were dirt, were dry and hard; from autumn until spring he put the car up on blocks in the stable, using horse-drawn wagons and sleighs. And all her life Aunt Ethel retained happy memories of her pony, Jewel. She would hitch Jewel to a pony cart, then give cart rides to her little sister Alice, my mother.

Raising her own three children during the Thirties and Forties, Aunt Ethel supplemented the family income by teaching school, and she kept a chicken coop at the bottom of the back yard, providing her children with eggs for breakfast. During the boom years of the Fifties and Sixties, her husband, Kenneth Dayton, worked in the Triple Cities for IBM, and Aunt Ethel, like millions of other Americans, found herself prosperous enough to enjoy herself. She took up golf, playing the game several times a week—with her lady friends during the week, and with Uncle Ken on weekends—until she was in her eighties.

Uncle Ken died almost a decade ago, but Aunt Ethel is survived by her three children, two daughters-in-law, seven grandchildren, and (if I have the count right), eleven great-grandchildren. By the time we lost her this morning, her life had spanned more than two-fifths of the life of the Republic. Aunt Ethel slipped away peacefully, a grand old lady in a still-young nation.”

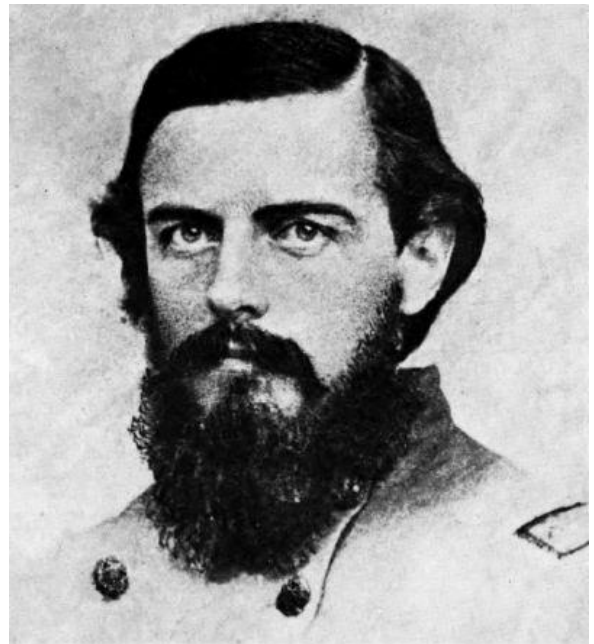
Reprinted by permission of the [National Review](https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/ethel-anna-booth-dayton-rip-peter-robinson/). The original article can be found at this link: <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/ethel-anna-booth-dayton-rip-peter-robinson/>

Note: The author, Ethyl Booth's nephew, **Peter Mark Robinson**, is our cousin and attended Stone Reunions with his parents in the 1970s. He has had a successful career as a presidential speechwriter for Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush, and has been a television personality, essayist, author, and currently a Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution and the host of “*Uncommon Knowledge*,” a show produced by the Hoover Institution.

War Hero and Highway Engineer – Roy Stone (1836-1905)

As we have noted in previous Newsletters, we have some interesting people in our family. Several months ago, we heard from Reunion member **Curtis J. Nickerson, Jr.**, who lives in Wasilla, Alaska. Nick's parents, and his grandmother, **Blanche (Stone) Nickerson**, had also been long-time Reunion members. Nick wanted to verify that Civil War Hero, **General Roy Stone**, was somehow related to our family. We were unfamiliar with Roy Stone, but should have been. General Stone, our cousin, is a well-known Civil War Soldier with substantial information on his war record and accomplishments online. A few excerpts from his *findagrave.com* and *Wikipedia* pages follow:

- Born to a wealthy family in Prattsburg, New York, (West of Keuka Lake) he received local schooling and attended Union College in Schenectady, New York. Upon his graduation in 1856, he managed his father's estates in Sheffield and Warren Counties in Pennsylvania. These interests were primarily forest products and included ownership of over 6,000 acres in Pennsylvania.



Courtesy Library of Congress
BREVET BRIGADIER GENERAL ROY STONE
(c. FALL 1864)

- At the outbreak of war, he joined the 13th Pennsylvania Reserves, commonly known as “The Bucktails”, with the rank of Major, and led the

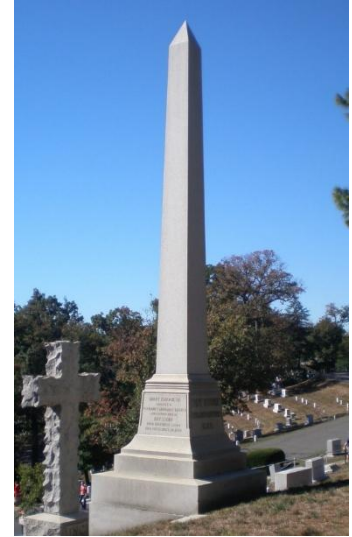
The Stone Family Reunion Issue 15 – Spring 2025, p. 6

regiment in the June 1862 Seven Days' Battles. Later, he was promoted to Colonel and given command of the 149th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, with orders to join in the defenses of Washington. On February 16, 1863, he was given command of the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 1 Corps, Army of the Potomac, leading it at the May 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville and on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1, 1863), where he was severely wounded in the arm and hip in the action near McPherson Barn west of the town.

- After the war Roy Stone resumed his engineering career with projects in several states. He also had an interest in mass transit and invented a form of elevated railway that was displayed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania during the 1876 Centennial Exposition. He also was known for his invention of a suction dredge for harbor work. He held patents for these inventions.
- In 1893 General Stone became the first head of the *Office of Road Inquiry*, which was the Federal Highway Administration's predecessor. The Federal Highway Administration website generally recognizes General Roy Stone as the founder of the department.
- **Stone Avenue** in the Gettysburg National Military Park is named in his honor and memory. The palm

genus **Roystonea** is named in memory of the work he did in road building in Puerto Rico during the capture of the island in the Spanish American War.

- **General Roy Stone** and his wife are buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The huge monolith honors their graves.



A postscript to this story is to note that Curtis Nickerson's father was also a respected licensed civil engineer who worked for Broome County, NY and was 3rd cousin (twice removed) to Roy Stone. Many thanks to Nick for initiating this article on General Roy Stone.

Donations

If you wish to contribute toward the activities of our association, including the mailings, website, 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, c/o Eileen Birchard 1704 Stone Street, 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.

Betty Handrick Baldwin - President

Eileen Birchard - Vice President

Jessie & Bob Carr - Co-Treasurers/ Chaplain

John Buck – Secretary/ Family Historian

US Mail Address:

bhb5@cornell.edu

eileenb013@gmail.com

Fam531@aol.com

john.stonereunion@gmail.com

Stone Reunion c/o John Buck

192 Echo Lake West Lane, Greene, NY 13778

This newsletter is available electronically via email, or as hardcopy by US mail. If you would like additional copies or know of someone to add to the Reunion mailing list, please let us know. All newsletters are available on the website at <http://stonefamilyreunion.com/archives/newsletter-minutes-archive/>.