

STEDMAN COUSINS



Dear Cousins,

Summer has arrived at last in England after a very wet Spring and early Summer. Last weekend was the 9th Cousins Reunion and having the sunshine made it even more pleasant. On Friday afternoon some of us met at Yarpole's 12th Century church with its separate bell tower. With the support of some newer timbers, the massive old oak structure still supports the bells, now struck rather than rung in order to preserve them for the future.



From there we went on to Lucton, the next village, hoping to find traces of Stedmans at the church there. James (1824) his wife Jane and their family had lived and farmed there in 1851, 1861. The surprise was that the church is now a private dwelling! James sons Arthur Robert and George Edward and daughter Minnie Constance, had all been christened there.

Somewhat disappointed we moved on to Kingsland where at least a dozen of our Stedmans had been christened. Kingsland is a lovely busy little village full of interesting houses and worth another visit some time.



Saturday morning we all met at Monkland Cheese Dairy for a guided tour about their cheese production. A number of different cheeses are made including their 'Little Hereford' which is very popular. The milk is sourced locally and we were told that the whey from the cheese making is given to a local pig farmer to feed his drove of pigs, so nothing is wasted. It was fascinating to learn and see the different stages of cheese production on the maturing shelves. The rather more mature ones had thick crusts and looked impossible to cut into, as well as looking rather inedible. We were told that after maturing they are washed and scrubbed before going to the retailers.

Lunch was had in the garden at the Dairy. The ploughman's lunches were enormous with great wedges of Monkland cheese.



After lunch we went to Clun, where their festival was in full swing. Lots of activities including a dog show, stalls selling welcome cold drinks, food and ice cream and a band playing, all making it a pleasant afternoon. Some of the Cousins climbed the hill to see the castle ruins.



The Stedman family members born in Clun were :

Charlotte Flora Stedman b. 1865
 Emily Tudor Stedman b. 1869
 Laura Ann Stedman b. 1861
 Raymond de Lacy Stedman b. 1874
 William Page J Stedman b. 1867

dau of Caleb 1832 and Mary Ann Davies
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 son of Harry James and Sarah Dunk
 son of Caleb 1832 and Mary Ann Davies

Seventeen Cousins met for the family meal at the Horse and Jockey in the evening.



The quiz (attached) was fun and amused everyone until the food arrived.

Sunday morning we met at Discoed. The ancient yew tree which is about 5000 years old was growing there long before the church was built. This yew, a male tree is approximately 35 feet in girth. There is a smaller female yew of similar vintage in the corner of the churchyard.



The yew tree can be seen on the second photo. The church spire was really lovely, completely covered in tiles. Behind the church is a Tudor manor house with courtyard and barns.



It was such a quiet and peaceful place to be. Our ancestors certainly lived in a very beautiful part of the country.

As Stephen and I had arranged to go on a train trip by 'The Heart of Wales' railway line, we had to leave at this point. Some Cousins then went on to Cascob which we are yet to hear about.

On our return home we found news of a new Cousin Patrick Baker, and I would like to take this opportunity of welcoming him. Patrick descends from Edward Stedman (1763) and his second wife, Elizabeth Meredith. If you would like to make contact with him, I am sure he would be delighted to hear from you. His email address is: pjbaker41@btinternet.com

You will be pleased to hear that Cousin Pauline is making a good recovery and hopes to join us next time. Peter Burlton has been unwell, but seems to have improved now. Unfortunately he was unable to make the Reunion this year due to a wedding in Canada. Wynford had hoped to join us, but ill health prevented him at the last moment. We wish him well.

Since the last Newsletter, we have two other new Cousins who you have already heard about. Dolly celebrated her 100th birthday recently and her sister Ethel was able to join her for the celebrations. We are thrilled that they have become Honorary Cousins.



(Ethel on the left, Dolly on her right)

We have arranged for some further Latin documents to be transcribed for us which relate to the Stedmans of Torpley Hall, and hope that it might give us some more clues to help solve some of the mysteries of the family.

With best wishes

Sandra

QUICK QUIZ

THE ANSWER IS A FLOWER

1. A Stringed Instrument
2. A Thickening Agent
3. Alternative Child
4. Animal Warmer
5. Ann & Polly in Part
6. Capital Group of Lions
7. Cathedral Chimes
8. Evergreen Wine
9. Exhortation to Memory
10. Foggy Romance
11. Give me your answer do
12. Got up
13. Joining with precious metal
14. Little Christine and her Mother
15. One of the host
16. One revolution of the mixing bowl
17. Pudding bill
18. Receptacle for fat
19. Say Hello to this girl
20. She is close to her pupil