

STEDMAN COUSINS



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Newsletter No. 9

from the President

Spring 2013

Dear Cousins,

Since the last newsletter the bells at Yarkhill have been installed and the Dedication Service was enjoyed by a number of Cousins.

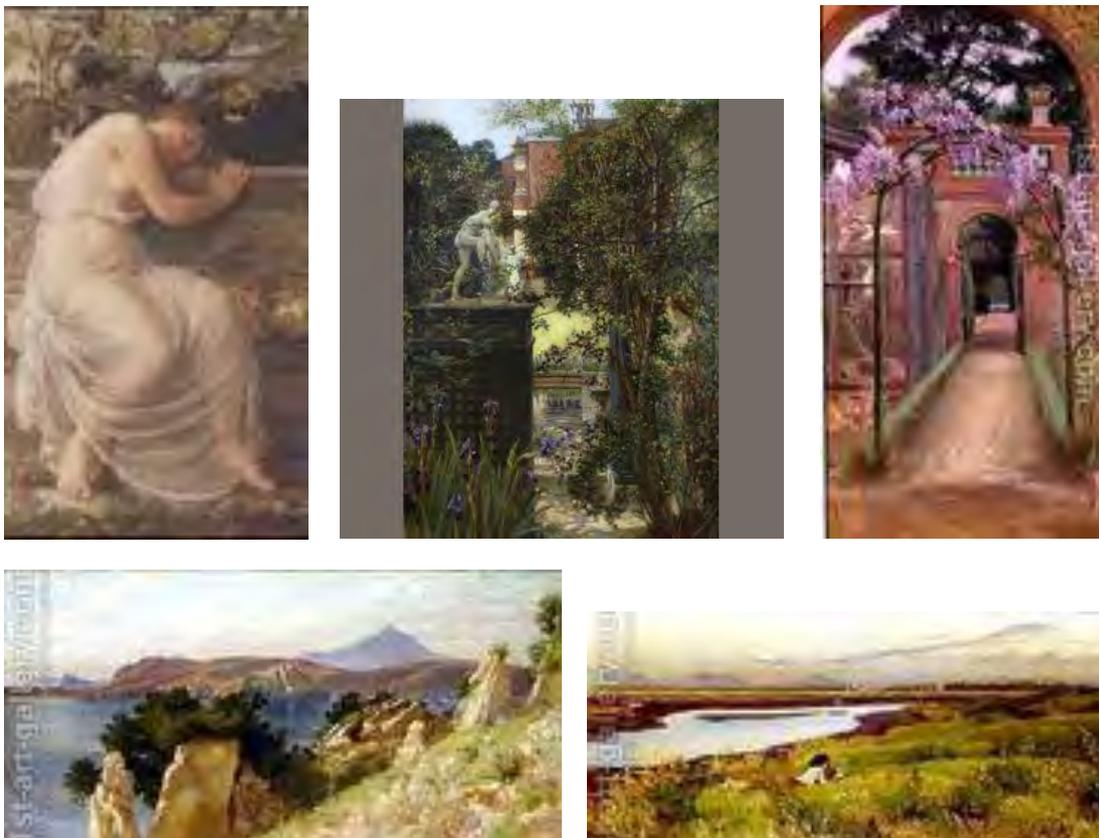


(You can see a copy of the Order of Service on our website.) As you can imagine, it was a very memorable occasion to hear the new bells being rung for the first time at a service. Ashley, the Bell Project Manager, who is a very experienced bell ringer too, hopes to produce a CD or DVD of the project and some recording of the bells. They propose selling this to help raise funds towards the next stage of the project, which is the toilet and kitchenette block for the bell ringing teaching centre. Fortunately for all of us who travelled some distance, the snow which was forecast on that January weekend, didn't actually arrive until we were on our way home.



At last we have been able to discover what happened to another son of Page and Sarah. Caleb, the third son born 1761 had left the family 'nest' in Bucknell and made his home in London. We discovered that he had had a drapery business in Bond Street. He married Jane, the daughter of the Rev. Reynolds of Oswestry, at St George's Hanover Square in 1798. Unfortunately only one of his sons survived infancy. This son was also named Caleb, and he worked his passage to Australia in 1831, working as a crew member aboard a prison ship bound for Sydney, where he settled. He died there in 1845.

Recently a further discovery was made that Caleb's (1761) granddaughter Edith Corbet, (daughter of Margaret Stedman) became an artist of some renown, exhibiting at the Royal Academy amongst many other places. These are some of her paintings:



As you have probably noticed, Tom has been busy improving the website, for which I would like to thank him. Anyone searching for Stedman information and finding our website, will I am sure, be delighted with the content and ease of navigating the site.

It probably seems quite early to be thinking of our next Reunion, but this might be a good opportunity to ask for your suggestions of places you would like to visit this year. Here are a few suggestions:

The White House – Some of the new cousins (and many of the ‘old’ members) might like to visit/revisit the house;

Abdon/Tugford – where Phoebe Page was born and brought up and where she and her husband Caleb eventually inherited considerable land.

Buckton and Coxall, Bucknell, Brampton Bryan etc.

Friday evening – Practice night for the bell ringers at Yarkhill, to which Ashley has invited us along. This is a chance for anyone to hear the bells, if you haven’t already heard them.

We had thought of Shipton Hall. However, it is only open on a few mid-week days. Although we could visit the church, I think. Please let me have your thoughts and ideas.

Whilst looking through extracts on the Welsh newspaper website, I was amused to find one or two articles concerning a Charles Stedman, who was the Vice Consul of Liberia. Here is one of them:

“VICE CONSUL FINED. Was Drunk and Played the Amateur Cabby. Charles Stedman, Vice Consul of Liberia, was at Westminster Police Court this afternoon fined 40s or a month. Accused got drunk on Wednesday night, and when seen by the police was driving a Hansom cab, the real cabman riding inside and personating the fare. The magistrate said that had defendant injured anyone he would certainly have sent him to prison. Dated 12 April 1894”

The other article was about a dispute over the price of nuts and a restaurant bill. I wonder who this Charles Stedman was and which line he fits onto. He was certainly a colourful character.

With best wishes to you all

Sandra