

STEDMAN COUSINS



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Dear Cousins,

Since the last Newsletter as you know, we have been joined by some new Cousins, which is really good news and we are delighted that they have decided to join us.

Unfortunately, due to their busy schedule Tom and Ruth were unable to join us for the Reunion weekend, but we were really pleased that they were able to join Stephen and I for a day in June. As many of you will know, they had been on a fantastic trip to Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Ireland as well as a short stay in England.



During our day together we took a trip to Ely where we visited Oliver Cromwell's house as well as Ely Cathedral.

Whilst checking through notes to see where one of our new Cousins, Mick Steadman 'fitted onto' Edward (1763)'s twiglet, I discovered that Edward had at least 80 grandchildren! Imagine trying to remember all their names!

Also discovered recently, thanks to a subscription to 'Find My Past', was that our John, son of Thomas (1572) and Ann Owens, was not born on 13 January 1607 in Munslow. Being able to see the actual Parish Records, I discovered that that birth date was in fact that of his sister Johan. So my next quest was to find John's birth date. There was nothing in the Munslow parish registers, but I did find a John, son of Thomas Stedman in the Stanton Long registers (Stanton Long is a neighbouring parish to Munslow). This John was bapt. 21

October 1604. It's possible that his mother was originally from that parish; (We haven't been able to establish that yet because those older records aren't available on Find My Past yet), but often the first born child was born at the mother's childhood home, so it's a strong possibility. Have you made any interesting discoveries recently that you could share?

The Reunion in July was blessed by warm sunny weather, starting on Friday at The White House, where we were given access to the cellars as well this time. Not all of us were able to go down the uneven steps however, but some interesting photos were taken:



We were actually allowed far longer than the Trust originally allotted to us and in addition, given tea and biscuits around the large table in the kitchen.



Lunch was at the White Swan in Aston Munslow, the old Hundred House where Dick Turpin had apparently visited. (He must have visited most of the old pubs in the country in his travels – according to legend!)



Friday's evening meal at the Horse and Jockey was a small gathering of Cousins, but we were delighted that Wynford and his friend Sharon was able to join us this year. He hadn't been well enough to join us previously, so it was good to meet him at last.

Saturday began at the Cider Museum in Hereford. I think we all found that fascinating and I personally, had no idea of the processes involved before cider was 'safe' to drink. From a newspaper article I found (courtesy of Find my Past) in which a labourer working at Caroline Stedman (and her late husband's) farm at Lower Lyde, Hef., had died as the result of supposed poisoning from drinking cider in 1867. It seems that cider making on the farm can easily 'go wrong'. Fermentation not stopping at the alcohol point, but bacteria in the juice can convert the alcohol to acetic acid, resulting in the cider becoming a vinegar. Sometimes the cider became slimy, also caused by bacteria. *[If you haven't read that article and would be interested in it, just let me know and I can email it to you.]*



an old cider press



There were thousands of bottles in the cellars

At Pilleth near the site of the Battle that took place there in 1402, we found the graves of Page (1811) and his son William (1850) in the churchyard which is sited half way up the hill and is only accessible for about six months of the year (Spring/Summer).

There were 19 of us for the meal on Saturday evening, during which Bob challenged us to learn the words of "Night and Day..." (or rather, "Knighton day....") for next year's Reunion. Here's a challenge for everyone – especially those who have the ability of writing poetry/verse – to re-write the words, making our own chorus of "Knighton day...."

Our last 'scheduled' activity was the visit to the 'Land of Lost Content' Museum at Craven Arms. I think we all agreed that we had never seen so much stuff packed into one building before! The owner, Stella Mitchell said she 'collects other peoples rubbish'. There were old telephones, vacuum cleaners, kitchen equipment, sweet boxes, toys etc. – all exhibited in themed settings (Victorian, war-time, the 60s etc.) The down-side of this museum was that we realised how old we were becoming because there were so many familiar things there, that we remember once owning!

Spurred by Wynford's special t-shirt, I have been looking into the possibility of us purchasing printed t-shirts. From the two suggested logos, the popular choice is Dave's suggestion :

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Based on the production of 40, the cost of the t-shirt plus printing works out at £6.24 per shirt; however, I need to have orders for 40 and so far, I have only had confirmed orders for 18. Having emailed all Cousins, only about half have responded so far, so could you let me know as soon as you can, if you would like to have one or more. This price was based on a coloured t-shirt with the logo in a contrasting colour.

Best wishes

Sandra