

# STEDMAN COUSINS

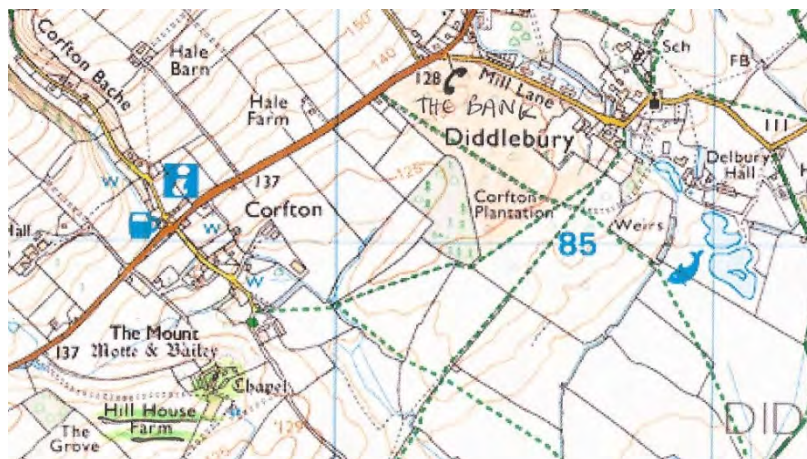


[www.stedman-uk.com](http://www.stedman-uk.com)

Dear Cousins,

I apologise for the lack of a newsletter at the beginning of the year. As you know my Mother died at Easter and I have been a bit preoccupied with family things.

Last weekend was the annual Reunion which I think everyone enjoyed. On the Friday Stephen and I met up with Dave at Diddlebury to search for the possible site of 'The Banke House'.



On an old tithe map where names all the fields around Diddlebury were given, it actually names this enormous field (above) "The Bank". However, as far as we could see, there are no signs of a dwelling there now. We have been in touch with the owner of Delbury Hall who also owns this field now. He told us that the Estate was bought by his grandfather in 1918 and the deeds were 'locked away in trunks somewhere' with his solicitors, and would cost a fortune to go through them, sadly. So, we have to look elsewhere to confirm or otherwise whether this is the site of The Banke House.

We moved onto Corfton where we found a plaque describing the castle and motte that once stood on the mound beyond some trees and bushes. We were actually searching for Hill House farm.



As you will see if you enlarge the picture above, or if you are unable to do so, it reads “*Corfton Village or parts of it were owned at different times by the Foxe family from Bromfield (C16), then the Baldwyns and Stedmans. William Aylesbury Roberts and his son Thomas, from Bewdley, built some estate cottages and a large house, Corfton Hall in 1855. The estate was broken up in 1953 and the Hall demolished. Only the Lodge still remains.*” The C17 Blacksmith’s cottage with its timber frame, is still standing. This plaque also tells the story of Molly Morgan whose descendents now make wine in the Hunter Valley in New South Wales – Hunter Valley wines.



It wasn't possible to reach Hill House farm from this direction, so after some more searching Dave found us another way. There is a possibility that this was Caleb I and Anne Blucke's farm before their move to Elsie. We were given permission to have a look around and here are a couple of the photographs of the farm. We will add some more on the website.

Saturday morning was an early start to get to Lower Lyde Court, in Herefordshire, the former farm and home of Caroline Stedman and her husband Peter Burlton. The Burltons held this estate before the 1841 census until about 1881 when their son, Henry Peter Stedman Burlton was farming there. It is not known when he left the farm, but sometime between 1881 and the next census.



What was interesting to see were the sacks with Peter Burlton's name printed on. These were in the large barn.



After lunch at Kenchester Water Gardens we moved on to Marden, in search of Brian's Stedman line. At the church Clive found two of the family graves.





Interestingly one was spelt without the 'a' and the other with the 'a' (Steadman). Denise spotted in the parish magazine that two Steadman family members are still living in the village. We were able to get the telephone number and I'm hoping to make contact with them to see where they 'slot in' to the family jigsaw.

The evening was spent having a family meal and ending with a quiz.

Hopton Castle rounded off the weekend well on Sunday. The castle was built in the mid 1100s and was the scene of a siege during the English Civil War. At that time the castle was owned by the Wallop family, who were strong Puritans (and Parliamentarians). To guard against Royalists 30 men were garrisoned there. However in 1644 a strong Royalist army arrived. The garrisoned soldiers were duped into surrendering having been promised mercy. However they were all murdered.



Hopton Castle was the subject of a "Time Team" dig two or three years ago. I did have a record of their archaeological findings but seem to have mislaid them, sorry!

I'm attaching the Quiz for those people who were not able to be with us at the weekend. If you want to send your answers, or whether you would like the answers, do let me know.

Enjoy the rest of the Summer.

Best wishes

Sandra

## Can you remember the old Pound, Shillings and Pence?

*All the answers to these clues are in 'old money' (£ s d)*

And added up should come to **£32.17s. 1 ½ d**

- |                           |       |   |
|---------------------------|-------|---|
| 1. Bicycle                | ..... | = |
| 2. Unwell sea creature    | ..... | = |
| 3. Venus, Mars, Jupiter   | ..... | = |
| 4. 50% pants              | ..... | = |
| 5. Boy's name             | ..... | = |
| 6. Part of a monkey's leg | ..... | = |
| 7. Royal headdress        | ..... | = |
| 8. Singer                 | ..... | = |
| 9. Stone                  | ..... | = |
| 10.Hit endlessly          | ..... | = |

---

£ 32. 17s. 1 ½ d