

STEDMAN COUSINS



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

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Dear
Cousins,
Spring 2009

Since the last (or rather, first,) newsletter which followed the Reunion and the setting up of Stedman Cousins, "much water has flowed under the bridge"; at the beginning of the new year our Web site was launched, [I must admit to having had little idea about the amount of time and work involved in setting up such a site, so on behalf of all cousins, would like to thank Tom with Ruth's assistance, in establishing this]. We haven't been idle in this half of the hemisphere either.

Thanks to Dave Stedman's visits to the Archives in Shrewsbury [and there have been several], he photographed masses of documents which he, Fred and I have been poring over [after deciphering], so that we can begin to put a little more "flesh onto the bones" of the information we already have on the family. I still have quite a lot of stuff to decipher, which will keep me out of mischief for some time. 'More news on our findings to follow.

One particular query that has been intriguing me for some time, was to discover the whereabouts of the Stedman family tomb(s) in Munslow church/yard; did it or they exist; and what happened after the (disastrous) 'restoration'. Dave managed to photo the specification for the work by Pountney Smith, lodged at the Archives.

We have studied these but unfortunately, we are still not able to give any conclusive answers. The paper stated:
"...Protect carefully by boarding or otherwise as may be directed the Grave Memorials now affixed to or adjoining church walls also stained glass, marble monuments, brasses and ancient remains of every kind...."

We hope the remains were reinterred, but no indication is to be found where these might be. It goes on to say:
"...Clear out what earth may be required for the concrete and cavities under the wood floor, which as before (feint here, but looks like 'over') the church yard any superfluous earth after stopping down and filling in vaults and graves all memorials in the floor and flags to be set aside for reuse..."

In a recent letter from the Rector of Diddlebury [who is also the Rector of Munslow], he was able to tell me that the No.2 bell in Diddlebury church has the following inscription:

" Soli Gloria Pax Hominibus

William Stedman Cornelius Benions 1665"

They were both church wardens during that year. The next task is to discover which William this relates to.

Dave Stedman has also been engrossed in the DNA research of the Stedmans. It is really interesting but rather complicated, but if anyone is interested in its progress, I'm sure Dave would be happy to tell you something about it.

As you may know, I had a major computer disaster a few months ago, during some building work on our house. We had a power surge resulting in my computer 'burning out', causing the loss of all my material. Thankfully my daughter found a company who were able to retrieve the information from the hard drives. I have most of the information installed on the new computer now, so hopefully, if anyone needs a copy of anything, I will still be able to oblige.

Since the Reunion, new cousins from the Banke House line have joined us. On behalf of the family of cousins, may I extend a warm welcome to you.

Best wishes to you all.

Sandra
President