Stedman Cousins

www. Stedman-uk.com

President: *Sandra Lee*

Webmaster: *Tom O Dea*   **Historian**: *Fred Steadman-Jones*   **Genealogist :** *Kathy Reynolds*

Secretary: *Ruth O Dea*   **Treasurer :***Stephen Lee*

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Dear Cousins,

Since the last newsletter, we have had some new members joining the Cousins .   On behalf of all the Cousins, may I extend a warm welcome to you all.

During the Summer (in the Northern hemisphere), a mini Reunion was arranged for some of the newer cousins who just missed out on the Reunion last August.   It began as a suggestion for just a few of us to meet up in Bucknell. The numbers grew and there were 19 of us for the meal in Knighton on 15 August.

As they had also missed out on the visit to The White House, I was fortunate to obtain permission for up to six of us to visit on this occasion, and this time we were given access to the barns, which proved very interesting indeed. Remembering Freds comments about many of the farming tools and equipment once belonging to the Stedman farms in the Bucknell area, it was thought provoking to see them in this setting. During our exploring of the house and barns, Bob Stedman (Daves father) told some amusing tales of his visit to the White House as a child.

I found these clay pipes in one of the cupboards **.**

The four men of our group explored the loft area of one of the barns by way of a rickety ladder. They found some paperwork, some of which Dave was given permission to take. One of these documents was a copy of a Letter of Administration relating to Francis Stedman, brother of Fabian Stedman (of the Ring Changing fame). I have transcribed this document. If anyone is interested in having a copy, do let me know.

Thanks to Dave for retrieving these old photos of equipment at The White House

From The White House we went to Munslow church. Since last years visit we had learnt much about the (devastating) Victorian restoration work in 1869. We wanted to see if there was any trace of the five Stedman graves (that we have read about) remaining inside the church, at least two of which were interred in the chancel. These are in addition to those mentioned on the wall plaque. Sadly there was nothing visible remaining. The floor in the chancel had been completely covered by Victorian tiles and another area was covered with carpeting that is well and truly fixed!

The men then tried searching the old graveyard which we had missed previously.   Sadly the of weeds and uneven surfaces prevented any serious search.

The next morning, our Mini Reunion Day was spent looking around Bucknell, locating some of the former homes of our family. Behind the New House Farm we found an interesting old barn (apparently still owned by a Stedman family member), which had been partially restored. On one of the doors were the initials BS (or could it be RS?)

On a higher door was an inscription. We couldnt read it from below and unfortunately the access was up some crumbling steps, so that was given a miss.

In the evening we met for the family meal at The Horse and Jockey in Knighton, where we enjoyed good food and good company. Melody,(Dave and Alexias eldest daughter) compared some of the available old Stedman photos to see if there were any traces of family likenesses, with some remarkable results. To illustrate Melodys findings, compare the photo of Page Stedman (in his Aussie hat in the Stedman family members section) with that of Clive Stedman (in the Cousins section) on our Web site. This is a fascinating exercise to try.

During our wanderings, we located the former home of Edward Stedman (b.1763) at Cwmygerwyn in Radnorshire.

Front side of Cwmygerwyn   The picturesque side of Cwmygerwyn, courtesy of Dave.

We were told that it had formerly been a Hunting Lodge. It is to be found at the end of a narrow gorge surrounded by hills and woodland and is in a remote area which must have been quite a challenge in the winter.

With best wishes to you all.

Sandra
President

Painting from The White House