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...and, watch your mailbox

for the CALL to gather for the One Hundred and Twelfth of the Annual Meeting Kindred on Sunday, August 19, 2018 at The Homestead. Remember that lobster feast? Same price and great value as last two years!! Book your travel now for the best rates! Special room rates for Kindred Members are offered by the Comfort Inn in Rockland, MA. Just call them at 781-982-1000 and tell them you are a member for rates of \$129 Qn. or \$139 2-dbl.. This is ONLY good at the phone above while rooms last!

The Kindred Spirit

The Stetson Kindred of America, Inc.

Est. 1905 – Dedicated to descendants of Cornet Robert & Honour Tucker Stetson.

Vol 18, No. 2 Spring 2018

From the President

Greetings cousins. Much has been happening with your Kindred since our last newsletter including a new look for the *Kindred Spirit*. Our new editors are Linda Brooks, Staci Kendrick Jones and John McNeill. Bob Barlow has retired as newsletter editor but he remains actively involved with the Kindred, especially with our planning for the annual meeting. You will see Bob's name when the Call goes out in July and reservations for the lobster will be sent to him. I hope you have August 19 marked on your calendar for the annual meeting. We are also planning events on Saturday, the 18th, for those who can attend.

Tim Stetson, Jr has been working on our website, and we invite you to take a look at https://thestetsonkindred.wordpress.com/, and Judy Grecco manages our Facebook group page which you can find by entering Stetson Kindred of America in the search box if you are a Facebook user.

At a town meeting in May, Norwell decided to place the Samuel Stetson House in the new Stetson Meadows Cemetery located adjacent to the Stetson Shrine. Much work has been done to save the historic old house but more remains. The Stetson Kindred has informed the Norwell Historical Society we would like to assist with the restoration and as a show of support, your board voted to contribute \$600 to help finance a scientific study to determine the age of the house. We are presently working with the Historical Society to explore other ways the Stetson Kindred can be of assistance and we should know more by our annual meeting.

Finally, I was in Florida recently and stopped by Deland to visit the John B. Stetson Mansion. Beverly Colton-Cochrane had been telling us for some time that we should visit the historic estate and after hearing Michael Solari and JT Thompson at our annual meeting last year, I decided it was time I made the trip. The tour was most informative and I gained a real appreciation for all Michael and JT have done to preserve the winter home of a famous Stetson. Afterwards in the gift shop, I purchased the books, *Stetson Mansion* by JT and *Stetson Mansion Estate* by Michael. Both are filled with wonderful "before and after" photos and include copies of letters naming them as honorary members of the Stetson Kindred of America, a tribute both were proud to receive. The Kindred appreciates the efforts of Michael and JT to restore a beautiful home built by a famous businessman, philanthropist and Stetson cousin. I hope you will have an opportunity to tour the mansion if you have not already done so.

~ Cousin Rick

History of the Stetson Coat of Arms By Staci Kendrick-Jones

Have you ever wondered why the Stetson Kindred of America has a coat of arms or what it means? Basically,



identify himself and his family.

According to the

According to the American Heraldry Society,

the Kindred's current

design is similar to the

coat of arms used by the

Cornet Robert Stetson to

By John Stetson Barry. 1847

"The primary purpose of heraldic arms has always

been identification. Armorial ensigns have also filled a variety of other functions at different times and places, such as providing a symbolic focus for family, group, or national loyalty. Both individual and collective heraldry have been used in what is now the United States since the time of the earliest European settlements in the late 16th century."

"It has always been perfectly legal and legitimate for any person in the United States to design, adopt, and use an original coat of arms of his or her choice. While some countries have laws or traditions limiting this right to bear arms without official approval, such laws have no force whatsoever in the United States. Heraldry should never be used to imply a personal status that the person bearing the arms does not actually have and it has never been legitimate anywhere for a person to take someone else's arms for his own."

"Rules regarding heraldry evolved in Europe and related countries beginning in the Middle Ages. These guidelines reject the premise that possession of a coat of arms, regardless of the means by which it was acquired, indicates any type of superiority over those who do not possess arms."

"Since arms are hereditary emblems of identity, the proven descendants of a person who bore arms have a right to those arms in accordance with the rules of heraldic succession applicable to the place and time. However, the mere coincidence of bearing the same family name as another person is not proof of descent from that person."

Early in 2010, Lewis Stetson Allen researched the Cornet's original coat of arms and determined that it did not match the one being used by the Kindred. Zander Renault volunteered to redesign the arms to include the three griffins (one on the helmet and two on the shield) to be presented rampant (standing on one hind foot with its forefeet in the air – in profile facing the dexter

(left) side with the right hind foot and tail raised) instead of sitting.

The terminology for the Stetson Kindred coat of arms description is that it is "Argent a bend azure between two griffins rampant" whereas the older version was "Argent a bend azure between two griffins sejant sable." Argent refers to a background of white or silver. "A bend" is the azure blue diagonal band, and sejant means the griffins are sitting upright. Sable refers to the color of the griffins being black.

The previous SKOA coat of arms showed black griffins sejant (sitting upright). This design matched the Cornet's coat of arms as documented in several books published between 1886 and 1927 of arms. However, a few hundred years had passed between the Cornet's lifetime and the publishing of these books, so they may or may not be correct. Our new design maintains the azure bend and features gold (instead of sable), rampant (instead of sejant) griffins. Copyright ownership of the new artwork was transferred from Mr. Renault to the Kindred on 1 February 2010. Bob Barlow has taken care to see that this coat of arms has been copyrighted (including a distribution of a copy to the Library of Congress) in the name of the Stetson Kindred of America, Inc.

You may have a lovely Christmas ornament with the current Stetson Coat of Arms already. If not, may we suggest you purchase one soon while they are still in stock. As a member of the Kindred, you are also eligible to purchase the new insigne ('insigne' is the singular form of insignia) featuring the 2010 copyrighted version of the Stetson coat of arms, family crest and motto.

Now, you may ask, "What is a family crest?" In heraldry, the crest is the character sitting (head and torso) above the helmet. The Stetson family crest is a griffin. A griffin (also griffon/gryphon) is a powerful and majestic creature with the body of a lion, with the head, wings and talons of an eagle.

The motto beneath the Stetson coat of arms is *Virtus Nobilitat Omnia* which translates to "Virtue ennobles (or dignifies) all." According to Cicero and Horace, Virtus is "virtue" or "manly virtue" while Virgil used it to refer to valor or courage. Virtue can also refer to chastity or having high moral standards.

For more information on the customary law of arms, design and uses of insignia, you can visit the website of The American Heraldry Society (americanheraldry.org).

New Stetson Insignia: A Special Offer for Our Members

By Sumner Hunnewell

In time for this year's Stetson Reunion, a distinguished Stetson insignia will be available for sale to members of the Kindred. All profits will go to the Stetson Kindred charitable funds.

There are two sizes. The large is 4" long (the medal is 2¼" long and 1½" wide). The small is 3" long (the medal is 1" long and ¾" wide). Each medal is suspended by a gold, white, and blue drape. The medals can be removed from the drape and be used as a charm or on a necklace. There will be a limited run of 50 insignia per size and each will come in a plastic display box. Members can take advantage of a pre-sale offer. You can pick up insignia at the reunion or have it mailed to you before the August 19, 2018 reunion at a reduced price.



Order before or at the Reunion:

- Large Insignia: \$20, Small Insignia: \$15
- Special: One each -Large and Small Insignias: \$30
- Mailing \$5 / order plus \$1 ea for more than 2 pcs.

After the reunion pricing increases \$5 per piece To place your order please provide:

Your name and mailing address

Number of each size

Mailing or Pickup desired?

Calculation of total amount, including mailing. Orders should be mailed with your check to:

Sumner G. Hunnewell, SKOA Registrar, 2030 San Pedro Drive, Arnold, MO 63010.

New Members of the Stetson Kindred

The Board of Directors extends a warm welcome to these cousins recently approved for Membership:

Senior: Charles N. Roland
Peter D. Stetson

Ankeny, IA

Michael R. Stetson

New York, NY San Pedro, CA

Junior Catherine Emma Stetson New York, NY

A Junior Membership in the Stetson Kindred is one of the ways of giving the young an understanding of their notable Stetson heritage and all of the family bonds and values that have been carried for generations. The Membership Committee stands ready to help you prepare the gift of membership for your children or grandchildren

In Memoriam



Erwin Duane "Corky" Stetson, 60, died April 13, 2018, in Wyoming. Corky was a Life Member of the Stetson Kindred and is survived by his mother Shirley Stetson and father LaVerne Stetson, Membership

Administrator of the Kindred; his wife Elaina; his daughters Kirsten (David) Simmons and Hannah Rose Garlick; sons J.D. Stetson, Patrick Stetson and Aaron Garlick, grand-daughter Demi Jo Stetson, brother Ron (Nancy) Stetson, sisters Patricia (John) Stetson Warning and Helen (Fred) Fankhauser, Regional Coordinator of the Kindred. He was preceded in death by his wife Sherri and his grandparents.

During his career, Mr. Stetson became active and instrumental with institutions such as the Wyoming Engineering Society and the American Counsel of Engineering Companies. Both of which, he served as President. Mr. Stetson also received Wyoming Engineering Society's Engineer of the Year Award in 2017. He was also a member of the American Society of Professional Engineers.

Gov. Matt Mead appointed Mr. Stetson to the Wyoming Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Surveying, where he was currently serving as president.

Gravestone Rubbings and Birthday Cake: Reunion of Stetson Descendants in Northern California by Staci Kendrick Jones

On Saturday, May 12, 2018, sixty Stetson descendants held a reunion in Sacramento, California. While most of the participants were related through Dr. Benjamin F Stetson (1860-1940), we had some special guests present: Daniel Stetson and his granddaughter Alexis Buchanan of New York. Their connection to the California cousins is through Dr. Ben's grandfather, Jesse Stetson of Stockwell, NY. Jesse was born in 1786 and was the son of Benjamin Stetson (1757-1831) our Revolutionary War Patriot. Jesse, a veteran of the War of 1812, is Daniel's three times great-grandfather.

The cousins held a potluck luncheon on a beautiful sunny day. A birthday cake proclaimed the day as the birthday of SKOA member Irene "Kelly" Newman, age 87 and Alexis "Ivy" Buchanan, age 16. Our most senior family member was Barbara Campbell, age 89 and the youngest was Sadie Kendrick, age 2 years/10 months.

Daniel provided a fascinating program regarding our Stetson history in the central New York area where Benjamin and Mary Johnson Stetson were co-founders of the village of Stockwell. Dan illustrated his talk with a photo of the old homestead and headstone rubbings from the Stockwell Cemetery many Stetson descendants are buried. Daniel also shared information about the Loomis Gang, infamous early-1800s outlaws that menaced the area, and maple sugaring in New York, about which some of the California Stetson cousins admit to being "clueless."

Staci Kendrick Jones presented a brief review of her book, *Our Great Stetson Grandmothers:* 400 Years of Our Female Ancestors Related to Honour Tucker Stetson. Staci had been working on the book for about two years which included biographical sketches of twelve generations of women following the family of her grandmother Mary Elizabeth Stetson (1889-1988) back to Honour Stetson. Some of the "Dr. Ben" cousins graciously contributed sketches of their own mothers and grandmothers in generations nine through eleven.

Presenting the published book to the cousins was a very satisfying conclusion to Staci's historical and genealogical project honoring the ladies among our Stetson ancestors. A limited number of the books are still available for purchase to those interested in the line descending from Honour and Cornet Robert Stetson's son Joseph and his wife Prudence Clapp; and their son

Robert and his wife Mary Collamore. Enquire at StacisFamily@gmail.com.

Cousin Patty Stetson Silva shared a peek at her prized possession: Dr. Ben Stetson's certificate of membership in the Stetson Kindred of America dated 1920! He had kept his certificate tucked in one of his several SKOA lineage books that were passed down to Patty.

(A photo of the California Reunion appears on page 7)



What is **YOUR** Story?

Every Stetson has a story to tell that has been passed down through the generations or is as new as yesterday. What accomplishments of your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents are you most proud of? What hardships did they overcome because they were Stetson strong? How have they encouraged you? Have your children or grandchildren achieved a great milestone? Are there humorous anecdotes to make us smile when we read our *Kindred Spirit* newsletters?

As the new editor-in-chief, I invite you to send your story for consideration to be published in future issues of the *Kindred Spirit*. Photos are also welcome, as well as any suggestions for improving your enjoyment of the *Kindred Spirit* newsletter. Please be assured that you don't need any special writing skills, as our editors we will work with you tell your story in a professional manner that fits within the newsletter parameters.

The deadlines are May 15, September 30, and January 15 for the Spring, Fall and Winter issues respectively. If you have any enquiries regarding length or submittal process, contact me at StetsonKindredSpirit@gmail.com

A special thanks to John McNeill for volunteering to be the Production Manager and Linda Brooks, Co-Editor. The Publications Committee is working hard to bring you Stetson Kindred updates, so please join me in also thanking Bob Barlow, Judy Grecco, Barbara Merrick, Rick Stetson, and Tim Stetson Jr, for their ongoing support. ~ Staci Kendrick Jones

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN

By Emilie Bubin Green

Have you ever wondered where the Stetsons might have originated in England? Were they part of the Anglo-Saxon or Norman invasions? Or perhaps you're stuck on your Stetson research because the critical documents were burned in a courthouse fire? A solution is now at hand through Y-Chromosome DNA testing, with two possible results:

>Determine if two people descend from the same ancestor

>Confirm or deny family tree research

The Y chromosome in the nuclear DNA can be used to establish family ties. The Y chromosomal DNA test (usually referred to as Y DNA or Y-Line DNA) is **only available for males**, since the Y chromosome is *only* passed down the male line from father to son. Tiny chemical markers on the Y chromosome create a distinctive pattern, known as a haplotype, that distinguishes one male lineage from another. Shared markers can indicate relatedness between two men, though not the exact degree of the relationship. Y chromosome testing is most often used by individuals with the same last name to learn if they share a common ancestor.

To explore the origin of the paternal line with DNA testing, you would need to compare the results of the DNA tests of several male STETSON descendants. A match would confirm that the two lines descend from a common ancestor, though we would not be able to determine which ancestor. The common ancestor could be their father, grandfather, or it could be a male from hundreds of years ago, even Cornet Robert. With your help, if you are a man named Stetson, we would like to create a group of Stetson men to help enhance and confirm much of our genealogical research.

It is vitally important to keep in mind that DNA testing for the purposes of confirming ancestry is *not* a substitute for traditional family history research. Instead, it is an exciting tool to be used in conjunction with family history research to aid in confirming or denying suspected family relationships.

We would like to encourage you to contact FamilyTree DNA (FTDNA) to order a Y-DNA test at: https://www.familytreedna.com/products. We would recommend testing for at least 37 markers (\$169) or 67 markers (\$268). Then we would encourage you to join an existing Stetson surname project (free) on FTDNA so

that we can further research on the Stetson line. We do realize that DNA testing can sometimes reveal a "non-paternity event" but you will still be welcome to be a part of the Kindred! Just FYI, the other popular DNA-testing companies do not currently offer Y-DNA testing.

If you are interested in this project, please let us know by emailing Emiliebgreen@mac.com. Thanks for your continued dedication to the Stetson Kindred of America and our mission of encouraging and supporting antiquarian, genealogical and historical research with reference to the ancestors and the descendants of the Cornet Robert Stetson.

Remembering Kenneth

When Kindred member Betsy Haslett volunteered to help on Veterans Day several years ago after a Vietnam Mobile Wall was built in Lancaster, CA, she noticed the name of Marine Lance Corporal Kenneth Earl Stetson. Moved by the sight of his name, the only Stetson on the Wall, Betsy had two dog tags reproduced that included the date Kenneth died in Vietnam (February, 17, 1968) and sent them to me. At our annual meeting last August, I gave one of the dog tags to Kindred Archivist, Beverly Colton-Cochrane, to be preserved with our historic Stetson artifacts and promised to leave the other under Kenneth's name at the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.



That mission was accomplished in April when I attended a convention in D.C. I went to the Vietnam Memorial and placed Kenneth's dog tag on the ground under his name where at the end of the day it would be picked up by park police and kept in a special vault

along with thousands of other mementos left by visitors to the memorial. I touched Kenneth's name then stepped back and rendered a hand salute, remembering a brave Stetson who gave his life for his country 50 years ago.

by Rick Stetson

Report of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting April 25, 2018, 5:30 p.m., EDT

Present: All Officers and Directors present.

Members: Bob Barlow, Beau Dyer.

<u>Call to Order</u>: President Rick Stetson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present and the Agenda and minutes of February 19 approved.

Officers Reports

Vice President's Report: James W. Stetson reported he has discussed the issue of copyright infringement of our Stetson Lineage Book 4 by an on-demand publishing company in India with fellow legal colleagues in his office. Impediments to our pursuing any action included our lack of legal standing (jurisdiction) in India, the high cost of hiring legal expertise to pursue, and the lack of any data proving damages. It was generally accepted by the Board that we should not pursue action in this case.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Stetson reported that 40 members reported changes in their contact information. Dues appeared to be coming in at about the normal rate, and contributions to the special funds appeared stronger than usual with \$2500 being booked for the first three quarters of the fiscal year, versus \$2800 for the entire 2017 fiscal year. Total income year-to-date (July 1, 2017 thru March 31, 2018) of \$8,446 versus expenses of \$5,190 resulted in a surplus of \$3257. Reserves for the Special Funds showed shortfalls of \$1,349 and \$2,236 in the Building & Grounds and Scholarship subaccounts, for a total shortfall of \$3585. After the end of the fiscal year on June 30, the Board will be asked to authorize covering any shortfalls by transferring funds out of general funds. The Modbury fund balance is \$784; the Board will be asked to authorize a donation to the Modbury church on June 30. The Kindred's financial assets show a market value of \$243,513 against book value of \$156,410.

Treasurer's Report was accepted unanimously. Secretary's Report: Secretary Linda Brooks reported she has been working on updating the Registrar and Scholarship Charters due to recent changes. John McNeill and Bill Stetson will help to further clarify funding amounts and sources for inclusion in a revised Scholarship Charter.

Motion by Brooks, passed unanimously, to accept the revised Registrar Charter as presented.

Committee Reports

Ad Hoc Committee on the Samuel Stetson House:

The Committee reported that accepting the house for restoration and placement on our Homestead property would be unwise for the Kindred alone to take on, and recommended the Kindred work with the Town of Norwell on a possible cooperative effort.

Motion by Jim R. Stetson, passed unanimously, to direct President Rick to notify the Town of Norwell, the Historical Commission and the Cemetery Commission (David DeGhetto) of the decision of the Stetson Kindred Board not to accept the Samuel Stetson House, but express our interest in preservation of the house and willingness to partner with the Town on renovation and maintenance.

Motion by Jim R, to split the cost (cited as \$1200) of the dendrochronology study on the Samuel Stetson house previously proposed by David DeGhetto, with a donation of \$600. Motion passed.

Publications Report: Chair Staci Kendrick Jones reported the following assignments: Staci and Linda will edit articles, John will manage production and distribution. Barbara, Rick and Bob Barlow will assist in developing content. Tim will continue to manage the website which was upgraded to eliminate third party advertising and have the ability to add a PayPal-type feature. Judy will continue to manage our Facebook page. It was proposed that a publications subcommittee be formed to address publication issues relative to Books 4 thru 6. A new e-mail address for submissions has been set up at stetsonkindredspirit@gmail.com.

Newsletter deadlines were set for May 15th for a June 15th issue; September 30 for the October 30th issue; and January 15, 2019 for the February 15 issue. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for June 18. Membership Report: Membership Secretary Linda Brooks reported that since January 1 we have added 2 new senior members and 1 new Junior Member; 12 more applications are in process. Sumner Hunnewell has been working on revising the e-mail and hardcopy versions of the Full Membership Application.

Board of Directors Meeting (continued)

<u>Building & Grounds</u>: Chair Beau Dyer reported that numerous (12-14) trees are down at the Homestead property due to the severe winter storms. He has estimated it could cost \$7200 to remove them and clean up the property. Motion passed unanimously to authorize Joe Grecco to obtain 2-3 bids for tree removal, to include a bid from Beau Dyer.

OLD BUSINESS

<u>Insurance Report</u>: Jim W. Stetson reported that he will proceed to research possible insurance carriers. Judy and Beverly will continue to do inventory on our property inventory.

Recordkeeping. Barbara Merrick continues to need help sorting/shredding old documents in her possession, and needs to get several boxes of them out of her garage.

Motion by Jones, passed unanimously, to approve the rental of a $10 \times 10'$ storage unit at 106 Self-Storage, and moving truck rental if needed, to store Stetson property.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Preparation: Preliminary assignments and program details were set.

Next Scheduled Meeting: July 18, 2018, 5:30 p.m,

Agenda: Annual Meeting preparations, insurance bids if available.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Brooks, Secretary

OFFICERS

President: Winslow "Rick" A. Stetson (pro tem) Vice President: James W. Stetson, (2020) Treasurer: William W. Stetson, (2019) Secretary: Linda Brooks, (2019)

DIRECTORS

Beverly Colton-Cochrane, (2019) Jennifer H. Heiss, (2020) Matthew Dyer, (2018) Stacie Kendrick-Jones, (2020) Judith Ann Grecco, (2019) John R. McNeill, (2018) Emilie Bubin Green, (2019) James R. Stetson (2018)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS/APPOINTEES

Archives: Beverly Colton-Cochrane, Chair

Associate Treasurer: Jennifer Heiss

Audit 2018: Frank Conrad, frank0132018@yahoo.com
Building & Grounds Beau Dyer, Chair wldex@yahoo.com

Conservation Coordinator: Matt Dyer Finance Committee: John McNeill, Chair

Genealogy Barbara Merrick stetsongenealogy@yahoo.com

Legal/Advisor: James W. Stetson

Membership List: LaVerne Stetson, <u>lavstetson@aol.com</u>

Membership Secretary: Linda Brooks Nominating Committee: John McNeill, Chair Publications: Stacie Kendrick-Jones, Chair

Newsletter Advisor, Robert Barlow, rsbconstable@aol.com Webmaster Timothy D. Stetson, tstetson@rmf.harvard.edu

Reunion Committee: President Rick Stetson Scholarship Committee: Diane O'Brien, Chair

Ladydi03230@yahoo.com

Stetson Store/Merchandise Sales: Emilie Bubin Green

REGISTRAR

Sumner G. Hunnewell, Registrar, hildifonstook@prodigy.net

REGIONAL GROUP LIAISONS

Stacie Kendrick-Jones, Western Regional Liaison, Helen Fankhauser, Central Regional Liaison,

hfanky@gmail.com

GENERAL MAILING ADDRESS:

SKOA, Inc., PO Box 31, Norwell, MA 02061-0031

Please renew my Membership in the Stetson Kindred of America, Inc. as indicated below. (Check your mailing label). Confirmed Lineal Descendant Dues:	
	Contributing Member & Spouse \$ 25.00/yr
	Sustaining Member & Spouse \$ 50.00/yr
Member & Spouse \$ 15.00/yr	Life Confirmed Lineal Descendant \$ 250.00(once only)
Anyone who hasn't submitted documentation to support lineal descent will be welcomed as an Associate Member.	
Associate Member Dues: Lineage not yet proven but has an interest in the Kindred Association \$ 10.00/yr	
Please consider a contribution to the Special Funds listed below.	
Scholarship \$Modbury \$	Building & Grounds \$ Publications \$
Please make total (Tax Deductible) Dues and Special Fund Donations payable to: Stetson Kindred of America, Inc.	
Name	IMPORTANT> Member number from mailing label
Street	Mail to: Stetson Kindred of America, Inc.
City	c/o William Stetson
Telephone (57 Forest Edge,
E-mail	@ Plymouth, MA 02360

What are these folks so happy about?? They answered the Call!!



In California, for their May Reunion, above, and in Norwell for the Annual Meeting.



The Official Call will arrive in your mail in a few weeks, but start planning NOW for a wonderful weekend at the Stetson Homestead in Norwell. Join cousins from all over the country for the camaraderie, games and a classic Lobster Shore Dinner! YUM!

Stetson Kindred of America, Inc.

P.O. Box 31 Norwell Ma. 02061-0031

Return Service Requested