
The Kindred Spirit

Vol 14, No. 2

Spring 2014



From the President

Membership is at the heart of any organization and for that reason, I cannot thank you enough for your continued membership in the Stetson Kindred of America. It is always a sad occasion when we learn of the passing of a Stetson cousin but when a new member of the Kindred is announced, it is truly good news.

A number of folks take part in the application process for membership in the Kindred and we could not do without them. LaVerne Stetson chairs the membership committee and he is assisted by our genealogy registrar, George Cobbett, our Kindred historian, Barbara Merrick, Elizabeth "Betty" Cornwell and our membership secretary, Ginny Staples who mails out certificates to new members and recognizes them when they attend our annual meeting.

Verifying an applicant's lineage to Cornet Robert Stetson can be complex and time consuming. Barbara Merrick and other committee members continually field phone calls and answer emails to assist applicants as their family backgrounds are traced. Barbara along with many other dedicated volunteers have produced multiple volumes of Stetson genealogy that are invaluable resources for Kindred applicants. My family is found in Volume 4, which totals 501 pages. I can only imagine the work it must have taken to produce that one volume, not to mention the others.

As mentioned, applying for membership in the Kindred can take time. Not only must family lines be researched and verified, but our committee members live in distant locations which means they can't meet in person to work on the applications. In an effort to streamline the application process where possible, I'm pleased to announce that your board has enacted a policy whereby children of members with an approved line can provide a copy of their birth certificate with a pre-application and avoid having to trace their ancestry back to Cornet Robert, something that has previously been done by a parent. We hope this might help speed the application process so if you have a child who is eligible, please consider their membership in the Kindred. We need to keep adding to our Stetson Kindred membership.

I'm excited that another annual meeting will be here before we know it (August 16-17.) Information about the meeting can be found elsewhere in the newsletter and in the "Call" which will be sent out later. In the meantime, have a great summer and plan to join us at the Shrine in Norwell to meet your Stetson cousins who will travel from near and far to attend. Hope to see you then.

2013-14 Officers and Board of Directors

President	Winslow A. (Rick) Stetson
Vice-President	Thomas Stetson King
Treasurer	Judith-Ann Grecco
Secretary	Pamela Dyer Morrissey
Directors:	
Robert Stetson Barlow	Beverly Colton-Cochrane
Elizabeth Cornwell	Matthew Dyer
Barbara Gingras	Emilie Bubin Green
Archivist – Beverly Colton-Cochrane - little1943@aol.com	
Building+Grounds -William (Beau) Dyer- wldex@yahoo.com	
Assistant B&G – Matthew Dyer– mdyer10@alumni.unity.edu	
Assistant Treasurer – Rev. Bob Stetson	
Central Control – Judy Grecco – judy216@verizon.net	
Genealogy Registrar – George W. Cobbett, Sr. email to: stetkinreg@cfl.rr.com	
Historian – Barbara L. Merrick-stetsongenealogy@yahoo.com	
Scholarships – Judy Grecco – judy216@verizon.net and Linda Brooks -- lbrooks46@yahoo.com	
Membership – LaVerne Stetson - lavstetson@aol.com with Elizabeth Cornwell and Virginia Staples	
Membership Liaison – Virginia Staples, bgstapl@hotmail.com	
Kindred Photographer (Sort of Retiring) – Jean Migre	
Kindred Photographers Current – Kristin & Hayden Moore	
Kindred Newsletter – Bob Barlow – rsbconstable@aol.com	
Kindred Newsletter – Jolene Stetson Linke – yertl@live.com	
Kindred Newsletter Assistant Editor – Linda Brooks	
Publications and Sales – (Anyone willing to help here?)	
Webmaster – Timothy Stetson	

New Members of the Stetson Kindred

The following eight people, having proved their true lineal descent, were registered as new, full members.

Warren Stetson Ames	Boston, MA
Janett S. Calland	Port Clinton, OH
Betsy Haslett	Lancaster, CA
Katharine McKinney	Baton Rouge, LA
Martin Jefferis Posey	The Woodlands, TX
John Ridulus Sherwood	Charlotte, NC
Deborah Hathaway Stetson	Putney, VT
Frederick Scott Stetson	Tallahassee, FL
Sharon Crosland Summers	Punta Gorda, FL

2014 Annual Meeting and Reunion

Are you all “fired up” for the big weekend? **It starts on Saturday, the 16th** with a **Boat Ride on the North River!** between 11AM and 2PM. Please sign up early as there is limited seating. The trip will provide views of Stetson Kindred property and the Bald Hills where Cornet Robert Stetson lived and worked, along with former shipbuilding sites. To sign up contact Judy Grecco judy216@verizon.net.

At 5:30 PM, Members will gather at the Hanover Phoenix Masonic Lodge at 133 Broadway in Hanover for a delicious catered buffet, followed at 6:30 by our speaker, Matt Vigneau, the director of the Alden Kindred in Duxbury. Matt will speak

about a topic he has researched that explores how many of the trails used by Native Americans became our roads in New England. I think it will be of interest to our cousins.

At \$18 PP, (incl. T&T), the Buffet consists of:

Crisp Caesar Salad with Garlicky Croutons
Bourbon BBQ Steak Tips
Caesar Marinated Grilled Chicken Breast
Long Grain & Wild Rice Pilaf
Oven Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes
Grilled Medley of Lime-Tarragon Vegetables with Balsamic Drizzle
Dinner Rolls & Butter
Home-Baked Chocolate Chip Cookies
Iced Display of Iced Tea and Lemonade

On Sunday morning, the 17th, we'll start out with coffee and pastries at the Pavilion at 9:00 AM. Registration and welcoming continue until 10:00 when we'll have kid's games available. Then at 11:00 we'll have the annual group photo in front of the Pavilion, and then at 11:15 the call of “Clam Chowder Time” is sounded, followed by the Clambake at 12:00. The Annual Meeting is set for 1:30 – or as soon as the lunch is over.

And who could pass up that Clambake for \$34??

Catered by the **Family Crest Catering**, the meal will include: **1 1/4 lb. Boiled Lobster**, Steamed Clams with Drawn Butter Corn-on-the-Cob, Red Bliss Potato Salad, Homemade Cole Slaw, Corn Bread & Butter, and Strawberry Shortcake with Homemade Whipped Cream for dessert.

And all for only **\$34.00 per Person (incl. tax & tip)!**

Substitute Chicken Breast for Lobster for **\$27.00** (incl t+t)
Add 6 oz. Boneless Breast of BBQ Chicken \$ 4.00
Add Another Lobster! for \$10.00
Kid's Meal: Clam Chowder, Hot Dog, Cheeseburger, Corn on the Cob for \$12.00
Vegetarian Meal: Grilled Vegetable Scampi with Penne Pasta \$12.00

We hope that you will be one of our relatives or guests who are attending the **110th** Reunion.



Your dinner reservations MUST be received by August 9th !!!!

In Memoriam

PAUL H. GOOCH, died in Port Washington, WI on July 1, 2014. Son of Cynthia Stetson Gooch, Paul is survived by daughter Meghan, wife Connie, and siblings Ruth Goode, Lois (Greg) Marler, and Mark (Cheryl) Gooch.

LEROY D. STETSON, died in Holyoke, MA on March 16, 2014. He had lived in Chicopee and Westfield and served his country as a Coast Guard Specialist. He is survived by children John M. Stetson, Maryann (Stetson) Jaeger and Susan (Stetson) Cuddy.

A note from your Genealogist

Once legal documents like birth, marriage or death certificates are submitted to the Registrar for verification, their receipt is recorded in your computer file and then the document will be being destroyed, so that they cannot fall into irresponsible hands and be used by disreputable people for unlawful purposes. Only copies of Bible records, diaries, newspaper clippings and other interesting items will be retained to personify your lineage. This will save on storage space and provide peace of mind to those who might wonder what happens to those documents.

The Stetson Mansion is a stunning 10,000-square-foot Victorian on 2.3 acres is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places as Florida's first luxury home.

Taken from a tour guide review by Sandra Ketcham

You might think a 10,000-square-foot mansion on 2.3 acres is impossible to miss, but you'd be wrong.

Hidden just off a busy road in DeLand sits the palatial Stetson Mansion, a three-story Victorian with a unique blend of Gothic, Moorish, Polynesian and Tudor styles. Sadly, most people don't even know it exists. Architect George T. Pearson designed the house and the estate's converted schoolhouse in 1886 for John B. Stetson, the famed hatmaker, and his family. The Stetson Mansion is one of the grandest homes built during the 19th Century and is "the epitome of the Victorian era," according to current owners, JT Thompson and partner Michael Solari, who purchased the house in 2005 and have completely restored the interior and exterior of the mansion. While the house was structurally sound when they purchased it, it needed a lot of cosmetic work, says Thompson. They've also successfully incorporated a few modern conveniences into the home, such as updated electric and kitchen appliances, without compromising the historical integrity of the mansion.

All the work has paid off. Driving up, visitors will immediately notice the spacious front porch and exquisite Tiffany stained and leaded glass windows. On view while walking around the estate are multiple fountains, a putting green, gazebo, pool and tranquil meditation garden, complete with hammock. The gardens have a fresh and modern feel, while still melding seamlessly into the overall design of the estate. Inside, visitors will find some of the most intricate parquet floors in the world, many of which are designed in 3D patterns that change from room to room. One of the most striking features of the home is a glass and wood wall the Stetsons purchased from a French chateau and had

disassembled and shipped to DeLand over several years. The wall remains in pristine condition, and the glass is original and dates to the late 1700s. The lavish home contains pieces from many different eras, including Victorian furniture from the 1880s and from later generations. While none of the furnishings is original to the home, many are similar to those the Stetson family would've chosen during their early trips to DeLand.

When Henry A. DeLand, the founder of DeLand, heard that his good friend needed a warmer climate for his health, he invited him to Central Florida. John liked what he saw, purchased 250-plus acres for use as an orange grove, and built the mansion in less than a year. Elizabeth, his wife, thought the area was lacking in culture and insisted John cut the size of the house in half. Still, the mansion was one of the largest and most elegant residences of the time. DeLand became the Stetson family's winter home, and they traveled from Philadelphia each year to enjoy six months of warm weather and sunshine. The Stetsons were some of Florida's first true snowbirds, and they spent their winters entertaining many of the era's most influential and wealthy families. President Grover Cleveland and King Edward VII were both guests at the Stetson estate, as were the Vanderbilts, Astors, Tiffanys, Carnegies and Mellons. Another guest, Thomas Edison, left his mark on the mansion during construction; the Stetson Mansion was one of the first homes in the world to be equipped with Edison electricity. Edison was good friends with the Stetsons and stayed in the house to oversee the electrical installation. Some of Edison's original light fixtures remain in the mansion, and the original Thomas Edison circuit box hangs inside the breezeway that connects the kitchen and dining room. Edison's handwriting is still visible on tags inside the box. Stetson spared no expense when building the house, using the best wood available and even building closets in the bedrooms, which was rare for Victorian-era homes.

Today, visitors can tour the mansion year-round and are treated to the entire estate. No rooms are roped off, and visitors can even look inside the current owners' bedroom and bathroom. The master bedroom closet is also open for examination and is a new addition to the house. Originally the servants' bedroom, Thompson and Solari have converted it into a large, walk-in closet, complete with three leather walls, a window and an original Edison light fixture on the ceiling.

Tours run 60 to 90 minutes, depending on whether visitors choose the Standard or Grand tour, and begin in the Reception Parlor on the first floor. In this room, visitors learn a little about the history of the mansion while standing beneath a ceiling painted to look like abalone shell. There's also a magnificent piano, a Dali lithograph, and a fireplace dating back to 1886. As the tour proceeds through the home's many rooms, visitors hear about the mansion's renovations and the Stetson family's life. Art-loving visitors will enjoy the home's more-recent decorations, too; different artists from around the country have contributed to the beauty of the mansion's walls, ceilings and windows.

Winter is a popular time to tour the estate, and the mansion is extravagantly decorated during the holidays to create a magical wonderland of ribbons and lights. Tours to view the award-winning decorations start Nov. 15 and run through Jan. 15. The Stetson Mansion is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

“ALL ABOARD” THE ORPHAN TRAIN!

by Linda Brooks

A Note from the Author: Although we usually like to run a story focusing on one individual Stetson descendant, recent online research connected me with Stetson descendants who were having trouble finding relatives because some of the children had been relocated via the Orphan Train, making them hard to trace. As I learned more about the Orphan train era, I wanted to share it with our readers, since Stetson families were also caught up in the Orphan Train experience.

The Scene

It is a sunny, early September day in 1872 in rural town, Midwest County, USA. Hints of the fall weather to come are carried on a cool breeze as the townspeople gather on the train station platform, awaiting the 3 o'clock arrival. Only the local residents would notice the station is more crowded than usual, for today is a special day. It is the day the Orphan Train comes to town.



The trains, and their destinations, were a mystery to the orphans on board.

As the steam locomotive chugs to a halt, excitement is at its peak as local farm families and business owners, including some who traveled from great distances, eagerly wait to greet the latest trainload of displaced children plucked from the eastern urban streets and transported to the rural heartland. For farming families, it is an opportunity to secure more barn and field labor, or provide extra domestic help to support the daily needs of a growing farm family. For the businessman, it is an opportunity to acquire an apprentice to his thriving trade. And for childless couples, it is an opportunity to create a family they might otherwise never have, and possibly even prosper on a farm they could not run successfully by themselves. But for whatever reason they came, the townspeople responded enthusiastically this day to the handbills posted about town announcing the arrival of the Orphan Train.

As the children slowly exit the train, they are led to the end of the platform to form a line, where they will wait until selected by a family. They carry little but the clothes on their backs and an expression of uncertainty on their carefully scrubbed faces. They range in age from 8 to 16, and although their past lives did not meet their basic needs, they are equally wary of what their future will be in an unknown town, living with strangers and laboring at a job they have not yet learned to do. Most would never see their birth families again.



The Situation

Although contemporary American society is accustomed to longstanding welfare programs like Medicare, Medicaid and the foster care system taking care of the poorest, sickest and neediest of our fellow citizens, such was not always the case. Today's social welfare institutions had their roots in the mid-nineteenth century when compassionate individuals and religious groups sought to find a way to provide for the basic needs of thousands of homeless, disenfranchised and destitute children whose numbers, especially in the larger cities, continued to grow at an alarming rate.

The reasons for the explosive rise in the number of street children in the urban centers were many. Diseases and the lack of any effective medical treatment for them, or even knowledge of their source, was a major factor. As cities grew, increasingly cramped living conditions and lack of sanitation led to the quick spread of diseases like consumption (TB), typhoid, cholera and yellow fever, which killed old and young alike, but left many orphans. Mothers often died in childbirth, leaving it up to a father to remarry quickly, get help from extended family, or raise young children himself, which was quite impossible as he also needed to work. Many fathers died in the Civil War, leaving their wives the option of remarrying (if they could even find a suitable spouse) or rely on extended family (if they had any) for support for themselves and their children. Suddenly widowed, many women were forced to take on menial jobs such as laundry or housekeeping just to survive, a subsistence living at best, if that. With occupational safety non-existent, adult males were also victims of work-related accidents much more often than is seen today. Lastly, the steady influx of immigrants to the urban communities added to the ever-growing census of those living in poverty. The recurring Irish potato crop failures not only in Ireland but on the European mainland, in addition to political unrest, led to waves of immigrants flooding into US cities that were ill-equipped to provide adequate housing and employment opportunities for capable breadwinners.

With no family, no food and no place to call home, many children had no choice but to try to survive on the street. Crime rates increased as children taught each other how to pick pockets, resell stolen goods and grab food from street vendors to take advantage of every opportunity to meet their basic needs. Finding comfort in the companionship of other children, those as young as 5-10 could be found gathered together in alleyways, smoking, drinking, playing dice or cards, and generally mimicking the

habits of unemployed adult males. It was estimated that by the early 1850's there were upwards of 30,000 street kids living in New York City alone. Multiply that by the number of other large urban cities such as Boston and Philadelphia, and the actual numbers exceeded even educated guesstimates.

Urban centers, however, held no monopoly on orphans, as the same social misfortunes could be found elsewhere throughout the country. Although those numbers were smaller, children from disadvantaged homes were also transported between Midwestern towns along established rail lines. As heart-wrenching as it seems to us today, the lack of social welfare programs outside of limited church-based alms or individual charity forced families to make choices they had hoped they would never have to make.

The Solution

One of the earliest attempts at finding a suitable solution to the problem was the establishment of the Orphan Train, a social welfare program conceived by Charles Loring Bruce that became an early forerunner of today's foster care program.

Charles Loring Bruce (1825-1890) was born and raised in Litchfield, CT. The son of John Bruce, head teacher at the Litchfield Academy, Charles graduated from Yale University in 1846, and took his divinity degree as a Congregational minister from there in 1849. After meeting influential Hartford, CT theologian Horace Bushnell, Bruce was quick to embrace Bushnell's philosophy that the essence of man favored nurture over nature, and that young children could overcome early social disadvantages if placed in a caring, Christian, work-oriented family environment.

Bruce moved to NYC in the early 1850's to pursue his ministry, and quickly became appalled at the extent of the poverty and homelessness he saw there. Because working with the parent(s) proved to be a non-productive investment of his energies (most, if living, were too deeply entrenched in their poverty to alter their own circumstances), in 1853 Bruce co-founded the New York Children's Aid Society, which focused on strategies to help children find a better future for themselves. In 1859, he published his book *The Best Method of Disposing of our Pauper and Vagrant Children*, which put to paper his plan and supporting philosophies.

The core of the plan was to relocate vagrant urban children by placing them in rural Christian homes where they could learn agricultural or trade skills in a caring and intact family setting. Because many rural farms lacked adequate labor to perform all the duties required to maintain them, fostering a homeless child benefitted both the family and the child. Placement was on a strictly voluntary basis, with no contracts or indentureship agreements. It was left up to the families and the orphans themselves to decide whether the relationship would ultimately be more familial or more one of economics.



Many Midwest farming families, like this one, provided foster care for several displaced children

Although older children were more easily relocated, there were babies, too, that needed foster homes. In 1869, around the same time Rev. Bruce's Protestant relocation program was in full operation, the Roman Catholic Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul established the New York Foundling Hospital, which sponsored "baby trains" for children too young to travel on their own. Their mission served to relieve unwed and/or financially destitute mothers of infants they had no means of caring for by placing them in good Catholic homes, fearful that the Children's Aid Society would find only Protestant homes for them. The vision of the "baby in the basket at the door" became a reality, as desperate mothers took advantage of this opportunity to relieve themselves of a burden they could not carry, assured that their babies would be placed in a loving and caring home. Catholic Charities continues to operate today in New York and other cities around the country, providing human service programs for poor Catholic and non-Catholic children and adults, in conjunction with an extended network of affiliated agencies.

The Success

As could be expected, the fostering experience met with varying degrees of success. Some children experienced harsh treatment and adverse conditions under the care of their foster families, who never saw them as anything other than cheap labor at the sacrifice of another mouth to feed. Some of the children themselves brought poor personal and social habits into their new environment, making for a difficult adjustment period as they learned to adopt more socially acceptable interpersonal skills. Some, especially the girls, married at an early age to escape a living situation that was not of their choosing. However, many children remained comfortable in foster care status for the remainder of their childhood, and many more were treated as one of the family. Some were eventually adopted.



1966- 6th Annual Orphan Train Reunion
Sleepy Eye, Minnesota

Two of the better known success stories are that of Andrew Burke, who became governor of North Dakota, and that of John Green Brady, who became a three-term district governor of Alaska (1897 – 1906).

John Green Brady was an orphan when he was discovered on the streets of NYC by a well-respected philanthropist Theodore Roosevelt, Sr., the father of President Theodore Roosevelt. Adopted by John Green of Tipton County, IN, John graduated from Yale University in 1874, and was a minister, lawyer, and co-founder of Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka, AL, which sought to educate native Tlingit Alaskans. Ever grateful for this second chance in life, Gov. Brady happened to meet then New York Gov. Theodore Roosevelt at a governor's gathering in Oregon, prompting him to share some words of gratitude:

"Governor Roosevelt, the other governors have greeted you with interest, simply as a fellow governor and a great American, but I greet you with infinitely more interest, as the son of your father, the first Theodore Roosevelt." When greeted warmly by Governor Roosevelt and asked why and in what special way he had been interested in his father, Governor Brady replied, "Your father picked me up on the streets of New York, a waif and an orphan, and sent me to a Western family, paying for my transportation and early care. Years passed and I was able to repay the money which had given me my start in life, but I can never repay what he did for me, for it was through that early care and by giving me such a foster mother and father that I gradually rose in the world until I greet his son as a fellow governor of a part of our great country."

It has been estimated that anywhere from 100,000 to 250,000 children were relocated between 1854 and 1930 when the last orphan trains made its final deliveries. By then, community-based foster care had become an increasingly popular and more acceptable way of caring for disadvantaged children by keeping them in their birth communities and near their siblings and extended family.

The Legacy

The Orphan train experiment has been remembered in the cultural media in many ways. Norman Rockwell, the famous painter of the American cultural and social scene, put it on canvas when he created "Little Orphan at the Train" in 1951. A folksong was written, "Eddie Rode the Orphan Train", author unknown. PBS has broadcast a film documentary of the Orphan

Train story as part of its history series, and as recently as October 2013, "Orphan Train" was performed as a stage musical at Grand Central Terminal in NYC, complete with experienced child actors and Rosie O'Donnell's Theatre Kids. Adapted from the book by L. E. McCullough, the show was a sellout.

The Orphan Train story now has a permanent home at the National Orphan Train Complex, a museum and research center located in Concordia, KS. Housed at the prior location of the Union Pacific Railroad Depot, the center gives visitors access to the personal stories of families who experienced this social experiment first-hand, and displays artifacts acquired from those who were part of the Orphan Train movement. The facility is on the National Register of Historic Places.

3 Cambridge Brothers Make Trip around South America by Plane

By Rick Stetson

The above headline was on a newspaper clipping I found while going through my father's files. The paper's name is not visible but I assume the article came from a Boston publication. Nor is there a byline and the article is not dated but the trip must have been made in the late 1930's because the writer said the brothers had to return to Boston so that my uncle, Brewster Stetson, could enroll with the freshman class at Harvard.

The three Cambridge brothers were my father, Winslow Stetson, and my uncles, Warren and Brewster Stetson. The article tells of their stop in Havana the day after the dynamiting of the newspaper, *El Pais*. "The section near the newspaper office had been roped off and police had been stationed at all the Socialist clubs in the city. Windows for six blocks around had been shattered by the blast."

The brothers found Buenos Aires to be "the most Americanized of the South American cities. The flag of the city of Boston even flew in one of the principal squares over the First National Bank of Boston branch."

While in Brazil, the Stetson brothers "slept on the landing float of the airline rather than rest in a native hut there."

"Flying over the Andes the wind pressure at 18,000 feet was enough to bend the glass windows inward. In rough air currents the ship would fall as much as fifteen feet at times, they said, and the strain would make the fabric on the wings crinkle."

There have been many improvements to air travel since my father and his brothers toured South America and fortunately, we no longer have to worry about windows bending inward or fabric on the wings crinkling. But I do wish he was still with us so I might ask him for further details of his trip. I'm thankful, however, that I came across a newspaper clipping that gives us a glimpse of what travel was like in an earlier age.

A note from Kris Kanter

We have completed a new addition of the Isaiah Stetson genealogy book. If you are interested in a copy please email Kris at kanterkris@aol.com.

**Board of Directors Meeting October 2, 2013
Issues discussed by seven Board Members**

Minutes of the June 1, 2013 Meeting were approved as published. Judy Grecco then gave her first Treasurer's Report, and that report was approved.

Barbara Merrick reported that Virginia Staples is stepping down from the Membership Committee and we will need someone to send out the Certificates of Membership after the Registrar, George Cobbett has approved the documentation. President Rick Stetson volunteered to do this.

Beau Dyer reported that The Trustees of Reservation had done their Annual Inspection and the SKOA property received a passing grade. There is a Conservation Restriction on our land and the TTOR must do an annual inspection to ensure it is being preserved for our future generations. Beau is to be the Stetson Representative to the TTOR, which was voted unanimously at this meeting. He also reported that the Town of Norwell is proceeding with their plans to build a cemetery on a portion of their Stetson Meadows Conservation parcel which contains 100 acres abutting our property. There are future plans to move the Samuel Stetson house onto this property, which has been shrink wrapped and is sitting on the cul-du-sac at the end of Stetson Shrine Lane. There has been minor vandalism to the property, but with the assistance of the Norwell Police, restitution has been made. Many trees fell across the roadway to the pavilion this past winter, but they have been cleared by the Building & Grounds crew.

The BOD then discussed the Annual Meeting preparations. Saturday activities will include a tour of the North River by boat which Barbara Gingras is organizing. People must sign up in advance so we will know how many are going. The Stetson Center will be open for anyone who wants to visit on Saturday. The evening Dinner will be catered by "The Family Crest" at the Masonic Lodge in Hanover, the same as last year. Rick Stetson will get a speaker. We are planning on getting Hats & Tee shirts printed up for the Annual Meeting. New signs are being made by Joe Grecco marking Stetson Shrine Lane and the entrance to the property. On Sunday we will have the same agenda as previous Annual Meetings, including the Clambake at noon. Details will be announced in the August "Call".

"Kindred Spirit" Newsletter Editor Bob Barlow noted that he includes, Births, Marriages, Deaths, Annual Meeting information, BOD Meeting Minutes, Pictures and Stories people offer. He encourages everyone to send information that can be shared.

Tim Stetson and Matthew Dyer are planning on adding to our current Website. Please let us know if there is any content you are interested in having displayed on it.

Under Old Business it was noted that the Nominating Committee is working on the slate of Officers and Directors for 2014/15.

Under New Business it was decided to move the records of members who have been approved for membership from Barbara Merrick's to the Stetson Center and shred the copies of personal documents before transporting them. It was voted to give George Cobbett, Kindred Registrar, the authority to grant approval for membership to an applicant who provides a birth certificate showing that he or she has a parent who has an authenticated line and is a member of the SKOA.

**Board of Directors Meeting June 30, 2014
Issues discussed by seven Board Members**

The Meeting was called to order by President Rick Stetson at 5:30 PM.

Minutes of the October 2, 2013 Meeting were approved as published.

Judy Grecco's Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. Beverly Colton was reimbursed for the new shelving she purchased for the Stetson Center and the sheet protectors that were added to the notebooks, protecting our memorabilia, and it is now organized and accessible to all members visiting the Center. She has done a wonderful job!

Thank-You Beverly.

Virginia Staples reviewed the process for accepting new Members. Prospective Members must fill out a pre-application form and send it in with \$10.00 and a copy of their birth certificate. This person is now an Associate Member and will receive the Newsletter and "Call" to the Annual Meeting. LaVerne Stetson and Betty Cornwell then assign a temporary 6000#. If we do not hear from that member, and after a reasonable period of time, a note will be sent to see if they need help preparing their genealogical information. Once all documentation is received, George Cobbett reviews the data and approves that member and they get assigned a Confirmed Lineal Descendant number. We usually get about 15 new members a year. A marriage certificate is only necessary when the lineage goes through the female line as a consequence of her name change, (as explained by Barbara Merrick). We would like to thank Ginny for doing this as she will be resigning from the Membership Committee after the 2014 Annual Meeting. We will be looking for someone to take over her job, so please let us know if anyone is interested.

Beau Dyer reported that the Kindred Property is in good shape and will be mowed before the Annual Meeting. A temporary wire fence will be placed around the "Root Cellar" to protect it and prevent anyone from falling into it.

As to the 2014 Annual Meeting, new "Stetson Kindred of America" signs will be made to be placed at River Street and Stetson Shrine Lane and at the entrance to the Stetson Property by the gate off Stetson Shrine Lane. Barbara Gingras left word that Saturday morning August 16, the North River Boat ride will be a donation of \$5.00 per person, once we get a count we will notify people as to the time and how many we can accommodate per trip. (The seating will be limited to "first come, first served".) Anyone who is interested must contact Judy Grecco at judy216@verizon.net or 781-826-2450. Bob Barlow reported that there was a small cost increase for the dinners. A map will be included with the "Call" to show where the boat trip embarks, where the Saturday dinner is held, and the directions to the Stetson Shrine Property for Sunday.

Bob Barlow is ready to print up the next newsletter, Rick Stetson will mail it out. The "Call" to the Annual Meeting will be sent out 3 weeks before August 16 & 17. A copy of the Alden Family "Call" was shared with the BOD. The BOD Nominations for 2014/15 will be included in the Call.

Matt Dyer is looking for input to see what the membership would like to see on the website.

The BOD adjourned at 7:30 PM.

First Class

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The Kindred Spirit

Spring 2014

Please renew my Membership in the Stetson Kindred of America, Inc. at level indicated below. (Check your mailing label).
Anyone who has not submitted the documentation required to support his/her lineal descent will be carried as an Associate Member.
Life Members may want to contribute to the Special Funds listed below.

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Dues</u> (Revised 12/2003)
Senior	Confirmed Lineal Descendant 18 & over	\$ 10.00 _____
Junior	Confirmed Lineal Descendant 17 & under	\$ 5.00 _____
Family	Confirmed Lineal Descendant & Spouse	\$ 15.00 _____
Contributing	Confirmed Lineal Descendant & Spouse	\$ 25.00 _____
Sustaining	Confirmed Lineal Descendant & Spouse	\$ 50.00 _____
Life	Confirmed Lineal Descendant	\$ 250.00 _____
Associate	Non-Lineal Descendant or Lineage not yet proven But has an interest in the Kindred Association	\$ 10.00 _____

Special Fund Donations

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 _____ P.O. Box 31

Telephone (_____) _____ - _____ Norwell, MA 02061

E-mail _____ @ _____