



Stowers Families of America Newsletter

Spring 2009

REUNIONS

2009 Dawson County, Georgia Reunion by Fred G. Stowers

The Georgia Stowers Families reunion will be held in Dawsonville on Sunday July 5, 2009 at the historic Thomas Stowers [T-10] home place located at the intersection of Georgia Hwy 400 and Stowers Road West. This is 40 miles north-east of Atlanta.

This year the reunion will be Sunday only, from as early as you arrive until as late as you wish to stay. Lunch begins at noon.



2010 SFoA National Reunion

This is the first of three consecutive years for family reunions at the Stowers Farm. Our local reunions are held only on odd years and we encourage family to attend the SFoA National

Reunion on the even years. HOWEVER, we are privileged to host the SFoA National Reunion in 2010 and will therefore have three consecutive years of food, fun, fellowship, information exchanges, and music.

We plan three days of activities for the national in 2010 which will include a tour of Stowers family homes in the Etowah River Valley, visits to Elbert and Hart counties (Captain Thomas Stowers' family cemetery [T-15]) and Lewis Stowers [L-2] grave site in Dekalb County (Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) site near Atlanta). Complete details will be provided as we enter 2010.

Fred and Drucilla Stowers will be hosting the national events along with a number of brothers, sisters and cousins. Contact us at 706-216-8053, Stowersrd@windstream.net, or

Fstowers@courtlandcompany.com or mail to 501 Stowers Road West, Dawsonville, Georgia 30534.

AS ALWAYS, ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME

2009 Depauw, Indiana Reunion by David L. Stowers



Pete and Marianne Stowers will be hosting their annual Stowers Family Reunion on Saturday July 4, 2009 on their farm located at 6805 Milltown Frenchtown Rd NW, Depauw, IN 47115. They can be contacted at 812-633-4337.

DIRECTIONS: From Louisville, KY, follow Interstate 64 west toward Saint Louis. At Exit 118 (Georgetown exit) follow State Road 64 west. You will travel through Georgetown, New Salisbury, Ramsey, and Depauw. Approximately 3 miles past Depauw you will turn left (follow sign to Milltown), take the next left just past Milltown Baptist Church, go over the hill and Pete's place is located on the other side of the hill. Turn right into the drive before you pass the big red barn.

Events on this day will include horseshoes, volleyball, various games for the children, and hayrides following supper. Stowers' in the surrounding area will be providing the pitch-in meal which will be served around 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. As darkness approaches Pete and the boys will gather and set up the fireworks. This is usually an unforgettable event.

For information please call Pete Stowers at 812-633-4337 or his son David Stowers at 812-633-2721. David's email address is david.stowers@jefferson.kyschools.us

2012 National SFoA Reunion

In 2012 the National Reunion will be held in Depauw, Indiana at David and Sheryl Stowers' place. If you come to Pete's Reunion in 2009, you will see David and Sheryl's place right next door. Their address is 6945 Milltown Frenchtown Rd NW, Depauw, IN 47115. Plans are a work-in-progress. Please contact David Stowers at the above listed email and phone number for further information about the National Reunion.

2009 Elbert County, Georgia Reunion by Joel Stowers



The Stowers reunion is held the second Saturday of each September (Sept 12, 2009) in the fellowship hall of the Coldwater United Methodist Church, Coldwater Road, Elbert County, Elberton, Georgia.

Although the current attendees are primarily those descendants of Marion Columbus Stowers [Vol I, M-2 (2 pages)], all Stowers, their family and friends are invited. There are always members of the extended Stowers family at

every gathering. As with all family reunions, those attending bring their favorite food and bright conversation. Drinks are provided.

Elbert and Hart Counties are the origin of many of the ancestors of Stowers through out the country. All visitors are welcome. For more specific information contact Joel Stowers, 706-583-9653, joelstowers@att.net.

2009 West Virginia Reunion by Ken Stowers



We will hold our yearly family reunion on Memorial Day weekend (Saturday, May 23, 2009) at Chief Logan State Park which is located in the southwestern part of West Virginia. From the North follow U.S. 119 south. Continue on U.S. 119 two miles past Chapmanville. Turn east onto Rt. 119/90 (Old Logan Road) and proceed six miles to the park entrance. From the southeast follow Rt. 10 North to the park entrance. The park is northwest of Logan, West Virginia).

Everyone is welcome. For further information contact Ken Stowers, 304-273-5583, KHS10@localnet.com, or by mail at RR 1, Box 105A, Ravenswood WV 26164.

FAMILY HISTORY

Family History and Genealogy by Fred Stowers

Dear Cousins, have you caught the interest in family history that millions of people all over the world have but do not know exactly how to get beyond the names, dates and stories of those now alive in your immediate family. We want to encourage you to take the next step.

Collect all of your family history that is available and send a copy to us.

SFoA is interested in the full scope of the family name, stories and history and has imbedded that objective in our Constitution:

ARTICLE II: The objective of the family organization shall be to strengthen the ties of fellowship and kinship between living members of the family; to maintain family unity through frequent association of family members in a social way. To perpetuate the memory and genealogy of the ancestors and descendents of the Stowers Families by combining the resources and efforts of the members of the family in performing genealogical research, and by unifying all genealogical, historical, and biographical research necessary for the compilation of complete and accurate family records.

We are a volunteer organization but we have been blessed with a continuing number of dedicated researchers, both genealogist and family history researchers. We are publishing soon Volume VIII of our family histories.

We want you and your family to be part of future volumes. Please go to our web site <http://www.stowersfamilies.org> or mail your histories to us so yours can be preserved in future volumes.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of Volumes IV through VIII please contact any of the officers. These volumes are available at our publication and mailing cost only with the proceeds going to SFoA to fund additional publications.

**Aunt Elise's 88th Birthday
by Fred Stowers**



Though not a long story, one of interest in our immediate family is the celebration of my aunt Elise's 88th birthday this March 15 [Elise Stowers Huffstetler, L-9 & 4RH-21]. That may seem insignificant except for the fact that she is the last surviving child of my grandfather, Lewis Green Stowers, [L-9] who was born in 1856!!!! Aunt Elise was his youngest and was born in 1921 when her father was 65!!! Others have longer spans for only two generations, but this one covers **153** years and is still counting. A true historic event for our family.

**Where will the Stowers turn up next?
In the movies? The silent movies that is.
by Judy Stowers Siddoway**



Frederick Stowers was the writer of ten movies in the 1920's. He wrote dramas like *The Mansion of Aching Hearts* filmed in 1925 and comedies like *Molly O'* in 1921 and *Fashionable Fakers* in 1923. He also directed one film, *Old Shoes*, a drama starring Noah Beery.

Frederick Baum Stowers was born in 1888 in Mississippi to William H. and Susan Ellenora (Baum) Stowers and was the grandson of Thomas J. and Mary N (Warren) Stowers [6T5] of Elbert County, Georgia. He owned his own printing shop in Houston, Texas where his two children were born, but by 1920 he had made the move to California and started in the film industry. In 1926, his last film, *The American Venus* starring Miss America of 1925, Fay Lanphier, was released. In 1930, he was still in Los Angeles but owned a gift shop. He died in 1944 in New Orleans.

If anyone has more to add about the life or film career of Frederick Baum Stowers please send it to Judy Stowers Siddoway, jrsiddoway@pol.net, 380 Millcreek Lane, Kaysville, Utah 84037.

Looking for Joel Stowers

I recently had a call from a Navy veteran who was trying to contact his old buddies. He had served in 1952 in the Navy with a Joel Stowers who was a radio man. Joel had been in the Navy for twelve years at that time.

I don't know anything about this Joel Stowers. If anyone has any information that might help please contact Judy Stowers Siddoway at the address above.

***Sole Survivor of General Custer's Massacre
June 25, 1876***

by Wesley Lee Stowers



This inscription on the tombstone of Thomas J. Stowers, in the Odd Fellow Cemetery east of Baxter, Tennessee, at the junction of the Buffalo Valley Road and the North-South Highway, is hard for most people to understand. The full inscription is, *Thos. J. Stowers, Dec 3, 1848 – July 26, 1933 Enlisted Sept 3, 1864, Private, Co. D, 199 Regiment. Served in 7th Cavalry after Civil War. Sole survivor of Gen. Custer's Massacre, June 25, 1876.*

Did this man from Tennessee survive General Custer's Massacre, the most famous massacre in history?

Mrs. Emily Watts, his sister, recounts events from Thomas J. Stowers stays and visits with her and her mother. *Uncle Tom was born in 1848 and too young to enlist in the Confederate Army. His older brother, John Turner Stowers, lost a leg while in the Confederate Army and had a wooden leg the rest of his life.*

When Uncle Tom was 15, he ran away from home to look for Uncle John. The Union Army found him and conscripted him into the Union Army even though he wanted to be a Confederate. Uncle Tom in telling the story in later years, would laugh and say that, whenever he was supposed to be firing at the Rebels, he would always shoot straight up in the air because he was afraid of hitting his brother. After his discharge, June 28, 1865, Thomas returned home from the war. His brother was chopping wood in the yard, You can

stay for supper, his brother said, but you better be gone by sundown, I left a leg in the war and won't have you staying here.

The family indicates that Thomas J. Stowers reenlisted after the war because of hostility from family and neighbors for having served with the North. He returned to service in December 1, 1874 in Chicago and served in Company B of the Seventh Cavalry. Thomas did not claim that he was *sole survivor*. His explanation was that he got drunk on the night before Custer and the others broke camp, and was placed in the guard wagon. In relating the story to family he would say, *If I had not gotten drunk that night, I would have been killed with Custer and the others.*

Though he certainly was not the *sole survivor*, this does not discredit the rest of his story. His name appears on the June 30 muster roll, which proves he was on the campaign with Custer. In addition, on July 4, he signed a petition to have the fallen officers replaced by men from within the regiment.

Military Records and records from the Western History Association provide the following facts:

Thomas J. Stowers, 7th Cavalry. Enlisted Sept. 3, 1864 at Norristown, PA as Private, Company D, 119th PA Infantry. Discharged June 1865. Enlisted 7th Cavalry December 1, 1874 in Chicago-joined Company B. At Little Big Horn Company B under Captain Thomas McDougall was left to the rear to guard the pack train, they joined Major Reno after his valley fight and were besieged on the bluffs for a day until rescued by General Terry's command.

While Thomas J. Stowers was not the *sole survivor*, he witnessed and took part in some important national and historical events, and lived to relate some of the story from his fading memory.

He was appointed Corporal, March 7, 1879, and was discharged in November 30, 1879.

His army pension included disability pay for deafness, which he always believed was caused by the roar of artillery fire in the war. In 1918, he entered the National Military Home in Dayton, Ohio. From there, he took summer furloughs to visit his sister's family in Baxter. In about 1931, he moved in with them, where he lived until his death on July 25, 1933.

A more complete version of this story can be found on the web site: <http://www.stowersfamilies.org>.

Nettie Jane Machen Stowers by Richard Harry Stowers



It was 3:45 a.m. when mid-wife Mary Ann Watts announced, "It's a girl," as she delivered the new baby born into the Machen family. Harry and Eva were pleased that they now had a daughter after four sons. Born May 6, 1912, this new baby was to be called Nettie Jane after her twin aunts—Janette Ellen (Nettie or Net) and Mary Jane (Jane). She was followed in the family by

three more brothers. Nettie grew up on her parents farm west of Rexburg, Idaho where she learned the value of hard work and faith in God and country.

When Nettie was fourteen her father hired a young farmhand by the name of Bob Stowers. He worked there for a while and then moved on. Four years later Bob returned to work on the Machen farm. The love affair between Nettie and Bob resulted in their marriage on September 22, 1932 in the Salt Lake Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Into their family came two sons, Robert Wallace and Richard Harry, and one daughter, Ronetta Jean.

The family moved around quite a bit until 1946 when they moved to Sacramento, California and bought a house on Parker Ave. This house became the family home for the next 54 years. Mother made it a home for not only her three children but for their children and their children's children. The number of joyful family gatherings there are innumerable. We always felt welcome in Mother and Dad's home.

Mother was a life-long member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and held many positions of responsibility in the church. She was a beloved teacher of youth until she was in her eighties.

Mother shared Dad's passion for family history and was always by his side in doing research and helping with the Stowers Families of America. Mother travelled throughout the United States with Dad attending reunions and visiting family members and friends. She served as the first secretary of the Stowers Families of America, a position she held for many years.

My favorite memory of Mother came while I was a teenager. Dad was working as a travelling salesman and was away from home for three to four weeks at a time. Mother and Dad were responsible for a series of dances sponsored by the church. Some of these dances were held while Dad was away from home and it became my responsibility to escort Mother to the dances and help her in any way I could. I learned a great deal from Mother during these times that have had an affect on my life ever since.

Mother enjoyed reasonably good health throughout her life but in January 2001 she suffered a series of debilitating strokes which left her unable to move her right side and unable to speak. Rather than have Mother stay in a nursing home Ronetta took her into her home and took care of her for the rest of her life. Although she was bed-ridden and unable to speak she was able to enjoy visiting with family members from throughout the United States at the 2002 Stowers Families of America reunion which was hosted in Sacramento by Ronetta and her family.

Mother's sojourn on earth came to a close on January 20, 2005 when she passed away. She is greatly missed by her family who revere her memory and the teaching she left us.