



Stowers Families of America Newsletter

Spring 2010

REUNIONS

2010 — National Reunion – Dawson County Georgia
by Fred G Stowers



The Stowers Families of America (SFoA) National Reunion will be held near Dawsonville, Georgia on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 2-4, 2010 at the historic Thomas Stowers (Vol II, T-10) home place located at the intersection of Georgia Hwy 400 and Stowers Road West. This is 40 miles north of metro Atlanta.

2010 — National Reunion – Agenda
Friday, July 2

Visitors arriving will receive an early history lesson on the various buildings on the farm and a picnic dinner.

Saturday, July 3

For this day there will be a choice of 3 tours:

First Tour: Max Stowers has arranged to guide those wishing to visit the Lewis Stowers (Vol I, L-2) Son of the American Revolution grave near Atlanta. (2-3 hrs).



Lewis grave marker

Second Tour: Joel Stowers and Marion McMullan have agreed to guide any who wish to visit the Captain Thomas Stowers (Vol II, T-15) family cemetery and learn the long Stowers history in Elbert County. (5-6 hrs)



Capt Thomas family cemetery in Elbert County

Third Tour: Janet Turner and Fred Stowers will guide any who wish to the various Stowers farms and cemeteries near the reunion site. A brief history and view of the 'Tom' farm can be seen at 'stowersfarm.com'. Cousins will demonstrate a special 'dowsing' method that can somewhat identify adult versus infant & female versus male remains of unmarked graves. (2-3 hrs)

The Business Meeting will convene at 4:00 for the officers, executive committee and all who are interested.

On Saturday at 7:00 all attendees are invited to a country fish fry prepared and served by our local cousins.

Sunday, July 4

10:00 – Register, prepare name tags and double check master list for corrections of e-mail and postal address.

12:00 – Lunch preceded by a brief welcome.

2:00 – Introduction of old and new officers and a review of the status of near future plans of SFoA.

3:00 – Exchange of family information, music and fun.



Reunion Lunch 1992, Stowers Farm



Reunion Lunch 1992, Stowers Farm



Reunion Lunch 1992 under 1830's corn crib, Stowers Farm



Reunion Lunch 1992 reviewing old family photos and documents in front of Tom and Rebecca's 1830's house

National Reunion Accommodations

For a list of the many lodges, motels and B&Bs within 20 minutes of the farm, please go to dawson.org. This web site has a complete listing of rooms plus lakes, rivers, trails, (including the Appalachian), water falls, kangaroo farm and extensive discount shopping - all available in the immediate area.

RV's that have self contained sewerage can be placed on the farm. For those who may wish to camp out, space is readily available around the lakes, woods and pastures of the farm. Further questions, call 706-216-8053.

2010 West Virginia Reunion

by Kennie H Stowers



We will hold our annual family reunion on Memorial Day weekend (Saturday, May 30) at Chief Logan State Park. The park is located in the southwestern part of West Virginia on the

northwest side of the city of Logan. From the north follow U.S. 119 south and continue two miles past Chapmanville. Turn east onto Route 119/90 (Old Logan Road) and proceed six miles to the park entrance. From the southeast follow Route 10 north to the park entrance.

Everyone is welcome. For further information contact Kennie at 304-273-5583, khstowers@live.com, or by mail at Rural Route 1, Box 105A, Ravenswood, WV.

2010 Depauw, Indiana Reunion

by David L Stowers



Pete and Marianne Stowers will be hosting their annual Stowers Family Reunion on Saturday July 3, 2010 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. Look for a green sign that reads 6805 and turn right into the drive and follow the lane up to Pete's house.

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 - 6 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 e-mail address is david.stowers@jefferson.kyschools.us

2010 Elbert County, Georgia Reunion

by Joel Stowers



The Elbert County Stowers reunion is held the second Saturday of each September (Sept 11, 2010) 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.

2010 Banner Springs, Tennessee Reunion by Carolyn Stowers Turner

All are invited to attend the Stowers Reunion to be held in conjunction with the Ramsey and Rogers families on July 11, 2010, the second Sunday in July.

The location is at Mt. Gilead Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 3179 Banner Springs Road, Banner Springs, Tennessee 38556 and lunch begins at noon.

Directions – From I-40 in Crossville, TN, take exit 317. Go North 20 miles on Hwy 127 toward Jamestown and turn right on Banner Roslin Road. Go 2.8 miles to Banner Springs Road and proceed 0.3 miles to the Mt. Gilead Methodist Church on the right.

For more information contact Carolyn Stowers Turner rturnerc21@aol.com or Nancie York Gunter at 931-787-9858, nkgunter@twlakes.net

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US IN CHRISTIAN LOVE.

FAMILY HISTORY

First Church in Charlestown by Fred G Stowers



The First Church in Charlestown has published a new booklet entitled *WALKING TOGETHER, A Brief History of First Church in Charlestown 1632-2007*.

It is written by its former pastor Christine Jaronski. Rev Jaronski was the pastor from 2000-2008. Those who attended the National Reunion in Boston in 2006 hosted by Irving (Irv) and Patty Stowers and Joseph (Joe) and Ellen Stowers will remember well the wonderful reception our family received from the church. Our cousins treated us to lunch in the church where Rev Jaroniski gave a most captivating lecture about the intricacies of the religious practices and alignments of the early settlers and our country.

Of course, notable among the Founding Members of the church, as recorded in its historic records, are the names of Nicholas and Amy Stowers.

Copies of *WALKING TOGETHER* may be obtained by written request to the First Church in Charlestown, 10 Green Street, (P.O. Box 290177), Charlestown, MA 02129.

Message from the President Elect **Richard Harry Stowers**

(‘Dick’ will assume the office of President of SFoA 2010-2012 at the 2010 SFoA National Reunion)



Richard (Dick) Harry Stowers

One day when my father, Robert T. Stowers, was a young man, he was talking to his father, John Robert Stowers, and his uncle, William Peter Stowers, out by the corral. They got to talking about the Stowers family and their heritage. Grandpa and Uncle Will challenged Dad to research that heritage. Dad did some research but it wasn’t until 1964 that he became serious. He, Mom, and I went to the public library in Sacramento, CA, where they had phone books from all over the United States. We copied down the first names and addresses of every Stowers we found. Dad then wrote a letter introducing himself and explained that he was researching the Stowers family. He then mailed this letter and a family group sheet to each of the names we had found. Over the next few years people returned these family group sheets along with stories about themselves and their ancestors.

At a family reunion held in Idaho in 1967 the Stowers Families of America was organized and Dad was elected President. Two years later a National Reunion was held in Bland, Virginia, and Dad was elected President to serve for a term of four years. Here the subject of what to do with all of the family group sheets Dad and Mom had received was discussed. It was decided to publish them in book form and in 1970 the first two volumes of “Stowers Families of America” were published.

At that reunion in Bland it was also decided to hold a National Reunion every two years. The reunions were held in odd-numbered years until 1976 when, to honor the Bicentennial of the United States, the reunion was held in Boston, MA. Since then the reunions have been held in every even-numbered year. Since that second reunion held in Bland, VA, reunions have been held in Tennessee,

Oklahoma, Georgia, West Virginia, Arkansas, California, Kansas and Massachusetts. Also, over the years, the following have served as President of the organization: Robert T. Stowers, L. E. "Jack" Stowers, Kennie Harris Stowers, Willis Lloyd Stowers, Wesley L. Stowers, Irving Frank Stowers, and Fred G. Stowers. I have been asked to serve as President of SFoA for the next two years.

I have been asked what I would like to accomplish during the next two years. I have two goals: First, I believe that one of the biggest challenges facing the organization is getting the next generation of the family involved. During the next two years I want to explore and put into effect ways to involve these young people in the affairs of the Stowers Families of America. I welcome your ideas on how to accomplish that goal. I have established a new email address for family organization messages. It is **dick.stowers@yahoo.com**.

My second goal is to publish Volume 8 of "Stowers Families of America". Judy Siddoway has spent countless hours in preparing the family group sheets and stories for publishing. Now it is up to each of us to do every thing we can to raise the money to accomplish that. It is important that these family records, stories, and pictures be preserved and made available to future generations. Please do all you can as individuals and families to help us accomplish this goal.

What's In A Name?

by Judy Stowers Siddoway



I have been doing family research for the Stowers Families of America for many years. During this time, I have seen tens of thousands of names. Not surprisingly, sometimes there are interesting coincidences.

For instance, a pair of first cousins from Bland County, Virginia had the same name: Steward Frazier Stowers. One was born Nov 1871 and the other Nov 1872. Since the names Steward and Frazier were not used in their lineage, it may seem odd that first cousins would have the same first and also middle names until you consider that in the early 1870s there was a popular local politician named Steward Frazier.

Also, there are three men named Francis Marion Stowers, born in 1845 in Indiana, 1848 in Mississippi and 1856 in Arkansas, respectively. The first two are third cousins once removed but the relationship for the third one is unknown. Is this just a coincidence? Maybe or maybe not, but consider that there was a Revolutionary War figure from South Carolina named Francis Marion and known as the "Swamp Fox". His biography ("Life of Frances Marion" by William Gilmore Simms) was

published in 1844 and became very popular. It was in its fifth printing in 1846. A description from the Library of Congress stated that a mark of establishing communities in the ever westward movement of society was a local library and Francis Marion's biography was popular in those young libraries. Could it be that the fathers of these sons given the name of Francis Marion Stowers in 1845, 1848 and 1856 had recently read about this early patriot and hero. Research can't answer this question, but perhaps a descendant knows something of the reason for the name.

How about your family? Any interesting names? Any compelling stories behind the choice of family names? We would all like to hear you stories. Please send them to: Judy Stowers Siddoway, 380 Millcreek Lane, Kaysville, Utah 84037 jrsiddoway@pol.net.

Submitted by (and I'm not making this up) the granddaughter of Robert E. Lee Stowers.

Adopt a Library Book Namely, Stowers Family of America by Officers and Executive Committee

In keeping with the purposes of SFoA and the goals set forth again by Dick Stowers in his article in this issue, the Board of Directors has proposed a plan whereby each of the members of the family are invited to place at least one volume of the books in their local library or a library of their choice. We begin with Volume VIII because we need to cover the publishing costs.

For several years members of the Board have been purchasing volumes of the books and placing them in approximately 20 libraries around the country, including the Library of Congress. You are invited to purchase a copy of Volume VIII and donate it to the library of your choice. Perhaps you have been considering a contribution to that library. Have you considered giving a book in memory of a special loved one? This would make the perfect gift for any community library that has Stowers or related family members who might use those research materials and who would reverre that person being honored.

If the library of your choice does not have copies of the previous seven volumes, members of the Board have several copies of volumes IV through VII which can be purchased for the same purposes and for the same price \$50, which includes shipping and handling. (As you may know, volumes I through III are currently out of print.) All proceeds from the sales go to Stowers Families of America to pay for publishing costs for future volumes of the books.