

## STEWART FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER – March 2008

### BACKGROUND

The STEWART family in Texas was headed by Araminta COLEMAN and Daniel STEWART of Hopkins County. They had twelve children – seven of these married and had children of their own.

These seven were: Sarah Jane Stewart **MARTIN CLIFTON DRENNAN**, Mary Catharine Stewart **WADSWORTH FLORENCE**, Effa Matilda Stewart **POSEY**, Louisiana Caroline "Lucy" Stewart **RABE**, Daniel Morrison **STEWART**, Joseph Coleman **STEWART**, Araminta Emma Stewart **STOCKTON**, and Louvenia Domer Stewart **FLORENCE**.

### THE 2008 STEWART FAMILY REUNION

Thank you to everyone who called about the date and location of the 2008 reunion. Please reserve:

#### Saturday, June 21, 2008

for the 2008 Stewart Family Reunion.

The reunion will be in Sulphur Springs, Hopkins County, Texas, which is about 80 miles northeast of Dallas off Highway 30.

For those of you who would like to stay over Friday and/or Saturday, night(s), we've reserved a block of rooms at the Comfort Suites, in Sulphur Springs, at a reduced rate of \$59.63 per room. With tax that comes to a total of \$66.79 per night. The hotel has many amenities, including a complimentary breakfast and a pool. The rooms are full suites so can accommodate a family.

To get the special rate, call: (903) 438-0918 and reserve from the block for the Stewart Reunion.

### WHY SULPHUR SPRINGS?

When the STEWART family first moved from Alabama to Texas, about 1868 or 1869, they settled near Sulphur Springs, somewhere around Black Oak, Texas. The STEWART's eldest daughter, Sarah Jane STEWART MARTIN CLIFTON DRENNAN and many of the descendants of her three children, Mary Gertrude MARTIN, John Powers MARTIN, and Lula D. CLIFTON, remained in the area. Sarah's sister, Lucy STEWART RABE, lived

**WHY SULPHUR SPRINGS?** continued many years near Sulphur Springs and is buried in Shirley Cemetery, as is her daughter, Kate RABE KNIGHT. There are many STEWART descendants buried in cemeteries along Highway 19, and we plan to have a cemetery tour on Sunday following the reunion.

### REUNION SCHEDULE

#### Thursday, June 19, 2008

Lunch at Niester's in Granbury, Texas, with the Stockton family.

#### Friday, June 20, 2008

Tours of Vernoy Cemetery, Grand Prairie, and Florence Ranch Homestead, Mesquite, Texas. Times TBA.

#### Saturday, June 21, 2008

10:00am - 5:00pm, Buford Park, Sulphur Springs, Texas. Coffee hour, Potluck lunch at noon, afternoon entertainment and visiting. We've rented an air-conditioned meeting hall with a kitchen at Buford Park. Bring a covered dish for our potluck and get together. A swimming pool is available for those who want to take a dip.

#### Sunday, June 22, 2008

We will drive down Highway 19, visiting four family cemeteries: Old Shirley, New Shirley, New Hope, and Greenville.

### R.S.V.P.

It's always a big help to me if you call (toll-FREE: 866-730-6297) or write and let me know if you'll be attending and how many people you think you'll be bringing. (We may need more chairs.)

### MUSIC

Karen and Marvin Stewart, Jr., will be entertaining us again with their wonderful music. Brittany MORAN and Athena HAMMOND MASK are both penciled in for solos. Please let us know if you would like to sing, play, or share another talent with us all.

### SILENT AUCTION

A Silent Auction is your chance to show off your creativity, your craft or collecting interests while helping raise funds to offset reunion and research expenses. If you have something that you would like to donate, please contact LaDena PARNACHER. All items will be on

**SILENT AUCTION** continued

display at the Reunion. For family members that are unable to attend, photos and descriptions of items will be listed on [www.ouramericanfamily.com](http://www.ouramericanfamily.com) in order to give all family members an opportunity to bid. Minimum bids will be posted with each item.

**VOLUNTEERING**

If any of you would like to volunteer to help with the reunion, I would REALLY appreciate it. We will need help at the door with greeting, the sign-in desk, setting up the kitchen, setting up the hall, and of course, clean-up. Also, if you'd be willing to call or write a few members of the family and invite them to the reunion, I'll provide the contact information. This is a good way to make a connection with family members you may not know. If you have any other volunteer ideas, drop me a line.

**APOLOGIES**

I know that Sulphur Springs is a long way for many to travel and I apologize for the inconvenience. I hope that some of you might carpool with each other, and that some of you might stay the night so we might all share a little more time together. People are traveling from all over the country to be here: Meridian, Idaho; Washington, DC; Los Angeles and Corona, California; and Ardmore, Oklahoma.

If Sulphur Springs is too far for you to come, please consider attending one of the earlier events Thursday or Friday in Granbury, Grand Prairie, or Mesquite, as we would hate to miss seeing you altogether.

**MABLE ROSE RAGLAND | PIONEER TEXAS**

Mable Rose RAGLAND married William Berton STOCKTON, the son of Araminta Emma STEWART and Wilce STOCKTON. While researching this family I found two narratives, one written by Mable's younger brother George Wallace RAGLAND, and one written by his wife, Faustina Kate Cline. The narratives detail the RAGLAND and CLINE families' travel across Texas and into Oklahoma from the early 1900s. Travel by covered wagon, sharecropping, Indians, kitchen table surgery, peanuts, cotton, and other fascinating elements of life in turn-of-the-century Texas are featured. Even our dear Dorris Mae STOCKTON TAYLOR makes an appearance.

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

Karen HALE EDDLEMON, the great-great granddaughter of Effa Matilda STEWART and James Henry POSEY kindly nominated me for an award with the Grand Prairie Historical Commission for the work that I've done posting information and photographs of Grand Prairie on our family website. The Commission honored me with a certificate of appreciation, which was received, in my absence, by Norma ROBERTSON HALE, Karen's mother. Thanks so much, Karen and Norma.

**OUCH!**

I've torn two tendons in my right ankle and am waiting for a date to have them surgically repaired. Nothing in particular happened, I didn't have an accident. It is, however, very painful and I haven't been up to doing the work required to produce a newsletter this month, so am sending this very attenuated version. I'm hoping that I will be off crutches and out of my cast by the time of the reunion. Otherwise, you can all call me "Hopalong."



Maybe it runs in the family. Lela Kate WYNN and Reuben Daniel RABE.

**FAMILY UPDATES**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Happy birthday to Warren and Wilber  
STOCKTON (3/27).

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please remember Orion Morgan MCLAIN in  
your prayers as he remains in rehabilitation.  
Please pray for Dorothy Jo MCPHERSON, who  
is recovering from surgery.

**PASSINGS**

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of  
Billy Edwin Barnes, who died 1 MAR 2008.

**THANKS AGAIN**

Many thanks to Brody and Mary Koon for  
helping find the hotel and hall for our reunion in  
Sulphur Springs. Thanks especially to my  
mom, Charlene LARSON STEWART, for her  
proofreading and editing.

Yours truly,

*Teresa Stewart Sitz*

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*"To us, family means putting your arms around  
each other and being there."*  
Barbara Bush