

Walter Stewart Clan

2021 Newsletter

www.walterstewart.org

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Stewart Descendants,

In a glad return to our family reunion tradition, the 113th Reunion of the Walter Stewart Clan will be held this August. In order to protect the health of our family members, there will be some adjustments to our plans. This year, we are meeting only on Saturday. Additionally, on a one-time basis, our Reunion will be at First Baptist Church in Laurens this year, because this church has a large open-air shelter to host our meeting and family picnic. We are grateful to clan member Stewart Jones for facilitating our use of the church shelter. We expect to have enough tables and chairs, but feel free to bring your own.



In addition to the temporary location change, there will be a revision to food arrangements in consideration of Covid concerns. Of course, all families are welcome to bring food to share only within their own group. We are also arranging for individual box lunches from Chick-Fil-A for those who RSVP and pay in advance for this option. As usual, iced tea and lemonade will be available and we will also have plenty of plates, napkins, plasticware, sanitizer, and masks on hand.

Our hard-working executive committee consulted with a number of family members in making these prudent revisions and we feel our plans are a good transition back to what will hopefully be a very normal reunion in future years. We want to avoid the potential to spread and prolong this dreadful virus this year amongst our beloved family—our older *and* our younger generations are too important to risk! Of course, vaccination is an individual decision, but I would encourage all family members to consider getting vaccinated prior to the reunion.

We will tentatively plan for our next Reunion in 2022 to be much more normal and in keeping with our church rotation if possible. We are excited about a number of possible future fun and interesting Saturday activities with family connections! In the meantime, our Walter Stewart Clan Facebook page has been very active over the past year, so be sure to check it out. This is a great forum for getting family feedback and news, so make a point of joining it if you are a Facebook user!

For those of you who are not already aware, I am deeply saddened to report the death of our Chief Historian, Mary Stewart Newton (seen here in 1953). She passed away on September 1, 2020 after suffering a serious stroke in mid-summer. Mary lived her life exactly as she wanted in her later years, living independently in a retirement community in Charleston, while traveling, learning, and steadily growing knowledge of our Stewart ancestry. A memorial service will be part of our reunion activities this year, and I am grateful to Rev. Herb Codington and cousins Dick Stewart, and Becky Henderson, who will lead us through a celebration of Mary's long and storied life. There will be an opportunity for attendees to speak briefly and relate their own experiences and anecdotes about Mary at the end of the memorial.



Finally, I must echo a comment made by our Treasurers in their report below. As there were no reunion contributions made last year, our bank balance is going to be lower than in many years as the Reunion is held this year. Your dollars are used wisely to allow us to have wonderful newsletters like this one, hold great reunions, maintain our family records, maintain a website, and soon, support a major family history book update project. Please give generously!

We look forward to seeing you during the Stewart Reunion this year to renew old ties and celebrate new ones. As it has for one hundred and twelve years, the call will still go out, bring a full picnic basket and join us. We hope to see you then!

Sincerely,

Judy Smith, Chief
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

CHIEF HISTORIAN'S NOTE

Due to the sad passing of Mary Newton, this normally informative article will return in 2022 after the family elects a new Chief Historian this year at the August 7 business meeting.



2021 REUNION SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 7—First Baptist Church, Laurens, SC, **300 W Main St, Laurens, SC 29360**. We will be in the outdoor shelter behind and to the left of the church, not the church sanctuary. The shelter is at the **corner of Sitgreaves St. and College Place**. There is plenty of parking in the area.

10:00 am Registration begins

11:00 am Annual Business Meeting, followed by a Memorial Service for Mary Stewart Newton

12:30 pm Lunch Picnic—bring food for your group or choose lunch from Chick-Fil-A (**see the order form for RSVP and payment directions**). Drinks and paper/plasticware will be provided.

Directions, photos, and hotel accommodations on our website: www.walterstewart.org > This Year

ESSAY: THE LOST REUNIONS

The Walter Stewart Clan is a family that is dedicated to having our reunions on an annual basis. This year, 2021, we will hold our 113th anniversary reunion since the first took one place in 1907, 114 years ago. However, there have been three occasions, the most recent being last year, when owing to circumstances beyond our control, we have been compelled to cancel a reunion due to concerning local or global events.

Two of these “lost reunions” took place during the years of World War II. We know this, because for many years (prior to starting our annual newsletter), Reunions were announced in the Greenville News. In 1939, the elders of the family decided to cancel the reunion due to a polio outbreak in South Carolina. On 24 August 1939, The Greenville News carried the following announcement: “REUNION CALLED OFF — The Walter Stewart clan will not meet in its annual reunion this year because of the infantile paralysis situation, it was announced yesterday by Dr. H.B. Stewart, chief of the clan. R.W. Stewart is secretary of the group.” With hindsight, we can learn that South Carolina was ravaged by the national polio epidemic in 1939, which led all citizens to take precautionary measures to prevent the transmission of the virus. The reunion resumed in 1940 at New Harmony Presbyterian Church, with Dr. Charles H. Nabers giving a talk. However, on 28 August 1941, The Greenville News wrote: “Walter Stewart Reunion Postponed — The annual reunion of the Walter Stewart clan scheduled to be held tomorrow at Fairview Presbyterian church near Fountain Inn has been postponed indefinitely.” With hindsight and a nugget of info from Mary S. Newton, we know that this Reunion was cancelled due to widespread gas shortages in connection with the War.

**POLIO SCARE
REUNION CALLED OFF**

(Greenville News, 1939)

The reunion resumed in 1942 and continued uninterrupted until 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic caused all of us to adapt our everyday lives, much in the same way that the almost yearly polio epidemics in the 1920s–1940s had caused our ancestors to take appropriate actions to protect vulnerable members of our family. We are thankful for the wisdom of our Walter Stewart clan officers to take, on rare occasions, the decision to postpone a reunion to protect our health and wellbeing, and we are grateful that circumstances have improved enough for us to be able to see one another this year.

—Seth B. Leonard

MEMORIES: REFLECTIONS OF A MIDWEST STEWART COUSIN

My Mother was 3821 Mary Robert Thornwell Stewart Kagin. I was named Roberta Stewart Kagin. From my earliest memories, the Stewart Reunion was important to Mother, but because we were living in Missouri and Kentucky, it was difficult for our family to attend. I was an adult before I ever went to a reunion, and was surprised to find so many Stewart cousins, mostly living in South Carolina. My husband Craig Alexander went one year, and my sister and her husband, Mary and Carl Kramer took Mama Kagin several times. Craig and I took Mary Rob to visit the Thornwell Home and School for Children on their 75th anniversary. As a child, I heard about the Stewart Cottage, and wanted to visit it, and adopt an orphan.

In 2018, I stayed with Judy and Russ Smith, was royally entertained, and recognized all the work Judy put into preparing for the reunion. We visited Mary Newton at Bishop Gadsden. I still remember the tour and the delicious salmon meal we had together. It has been so special to reconnect with many amazing Stewart cousins. I hope to continue to visit, and hope my daughters, Gretchen and Julia can come, too. They once hosted on a cruise ship and a young man registered as a Stewart, and they learned that he was connected to our family. There are many Stewarts in Minnesota, but I haven’t found any with our family connections. My grandchildren are Zachary (17), Heath (15), Tara (13), and Hilde (7) Alaniz (Parents Gretchen and Brad Alaniz), in Rhode Island. Daughter Julia Mensing lives in Burnsville, Minnesota, close to me. Ya’ll come to beautiful Minnesota, the North Star state, and visit the headwaters of the mighty Mississippi River and explore our 10,000 lakes.

—Roberta Stewart Kagin

WALTER STEWART CLAN BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES
REPORTED 2020–2021

132122 ELIZABETH McNEILL COOK, widow of Joseph Henry Cook, passed away on December 24, 2018 with burial at Graceland East Memorial Park, Simpsonville, SC.

13212211 JOSEPH ANDREW COOK, son of Joseph Henry (Hank) and Gail Scott Cook, married Ericka Anne Burns.

132841 JAMES FRED TUCKER, widower of Mary Henry Tucker, passed away January 10, 2011 and is interred at Files Cemetery, Hot Springs, AR.

132841111 YURAI AWAPUI CLEM born June 4, 2003,

132841112 THUJA COPAL CLEM born May 3, 2006,

132841113 LAPIS LIANYA CLEM (Anya) born October 4, 2011,

132841114 GARIN FJORD CLEM born July 26, 2017, and

132841115 THANE ALDRIC CLEM born February 5, 2019 to Jon Matthew and Zazi Freeman Clem. Grandparents: Richard Clem and Bettye Jo Tucker Wilson. GGrandparents: the late James and Mary Tucker.

132841121 SAVANNAH ADLEIGH HOWARD born June 5, 2006,

132841122 ANNALYSE LONDON HOWARD born February 27, 2008, and

132841123 TUCKER ELIJAH HOWARD born June 4, 2012 to Christopher Howard and Jennie Leigh Clem. Grandparents: Richard Clem and Bettye Jo Tucker Wilson. GGrandparents: the late James and Mary Tucker.

15125211 ELISE ANN WOODWARD, daughter of James Richard and Janet Hearn Woodward, married Daniel Zillweger June 5, 2021 in Savannah, GA.

174342 DONNA MARIE STEWART, daughter of Daniel Lewis and Helen Rush Stewart, Jr. married James D. Chastine on October 15, 2016 at St. James Methodist Church in Wattsville, SC.

1743421 KAREN MARIE ROACH, daughter of Ricky Miller Roach, Sr. and Marie Stewart Chastine, married Stephen Kitchens on June 11, 2011.

17434211 MAKAYLA ANNE KITCHENS was born December 29, 2016 to Stephen and Karen Roach Kitchens. Grandparents: Ricky M. Roach, Sr. and Marie Stewart Chastine. GGrandparents: Daniel L. Stewart, Jr. and Helen Rush Stewart.

1743422 RICKY MILLER ROACH, JR., son of Ricky M. Roach, Sr. and Marie Stewart Chastine, married Elizabeth Bauer on August 1, 2009.

17434221 DANIEL MASON ROACH was born December 12, 2012 and

17434222 ETHAN THOMAS ROACH was born July 26, 2016 to Ricky Miller Jr. and Elizabeth Bauer Roach. Grandparents: Ricky M. Roach, Sr. and Marie Stewart Chastine. GGrandparents: Daniel L. Stewart, Jr. and Helen Rush Stewart.

2521213 MARIAN MICHELE SHAVER, daughter of the late Jimmie and Eleanor Shaver, married Douglas Wayne Gilliland on August 17, 2019 in Spartanburg, SC.

25263 JUNE WILLIS MAXWELL, widow of Charles C. Maxwell, passed away May 27, 2021. Services were held at Simpsonville City Cemetery, Simpsonville, SC.

262.11.121 GRANT THOMAS HAWKINS, son of Raymond Thomas and Alicia Ruzbacki Hawkins, married Alicia Kathryn Rambo on May 30, 2021 in Birmingham, AL.

2.10.361 JUDITH STEWART HOLLEMAN, wife of Ralph Gene Holleman, passed away July 26, 2020.

314223111 CHARLOTTE MAY GOOCH was born October 13, 2020 in Matthews, NC to Robert and Rose Murray Gooch. Grandparents: Sandra and Michael Gooch. GGrandparents: Jesse Prior and Sandra Ann Bradford.

314531 EDGAR HENDERSON LONG, JR., husband of Amy Tripp Long, passed away on January 15, 2021. A funeral service was held at the Stewart Farm in the Durbin Community. Judge Long will be remembered for his advocacy for adopted children and pushing for the establishment of an annual joyous Adoption Day. (<https://bit.ly/3c05xmb>)

3145311 EDGAR TRIPP LONG, son of the late Edgar H. Long and Amy Tripp Long, married Brittany Danielle Pack on April 28, 2018.

31714 MARY STEWART NEWTON, widow of Richard Cecil Newton, passed away September 1, 2020 and is interred at Greenhaven Memorial Gardens, Woodruff, SC. Dr. Newton served as Chief Historian for the Walter Stewart Clan from 1977 until the day of her passing in 2020. She will long be remembered for her dedication in editing and publishing the original 1982 edition of *The Walter Stewart Family History*, developing the House Historian structure, and progressing many other projects for the family. She was the daughter of long-time Chief William Tinsley Stewart and Mabel Stewart and the sister of long-time Chief Charles Ballenger Stewart. (<https://legcy.co/2TfEahd>)

317511 KAREN VANMETER MITCHELL, wife of Timothy Mitchell, passed away on June 5, 2020 at her home with burial at Union Cemetery in Columbus, OH.

3177121 MATTHEW STEWART HANNAH, age 25, son of Mark and Angela Farrow Hannah died April 6, 2021. Grandson of Kenneth and Patricia Farrow.

3211321 LEIZE CABELL, daughter of the late Leonard N. Campbell and Louise Hoyt Campbell, married Brannon Boggus on September 16, 2017 in Alpharetta, GA.

3211522 MARK RYAN LEONARD, son of Benjamin Rhett Leonard, Jr. and Sally Ann Karr, married Brittany Noel Estelle on December 19, 2020 at Grace Church in Greer, SC.

3711213 WILLIAM CLARK STEWART II was born May 1, 2018 in Charlotte, NC to Joseph Clark and Sarah Stewart. Grandparents: Joseph and Myra Stewart. GGrandparents: the late William and Mary Stewart.

3734321 MEGAN STEELE, daughter of Timothy and Rena Steele, married Billy Christopher Martin on May 11, 2019 in Seneca, SC.

422122 ZENITA BARTLETT HUNT, widow of Robert G. Hunt, passed away March 15, 2019 with burial in Edmonds, WA.

4295111 HENRY GARLAND HAYNES was born December 30, 2017 in Atlanta, GA and

4295112 GEORGE ABERNATHY HAYNES was born April 18, 2020 in Atlanta, GA to Matthew Stewart and Tara Fouts Haynes. Grandparents: Jerry and Anita Abernathy Haynes. GGrandparents: the late Joseph Abernathy, Jr. and Martha Stewart Abernathy.

5852 GEORGE KENNETH BROWN, widower of Esther Stewart Brown, passed away in October 19, 2017.

6851 DAWN STEWART MURR passed away September 12, 2019. There was a memorial service held at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, Lutherville, MD. (<https://bit.ly/3bXnJg4>)

IN MEMORIAM TO MARY STEWART NEWTON



Cheesecake. Oh my. Andrew, my oldest son, and his precious girlfriend came over for Mother's Day. And Kitty brought a cheesecake she had made. It was perfection. Creamy, soft and with a crunch of crust. Later, in the quiet cover of the night I sneaked into the kitchen and nipped a bit more. As it melted with silky smoothness, my calm and happy mind drifted. Cheesecake. My Aunt Mary Stewart Newton made cheesecake when her girls were small as was I. I loved being at their house. All girls! Yay! I have so many memories swirling about Aunt Mary. Her direct smartness. Her inky dark wavy hair. Her gentleness when she brushed a knot from poodle Buffy's coat. Her concerned face as she rescued and kept safe a teeny bluebird. Made him a fortress in a washer box from the store. Her standing over the box to feed him with an umbrella shielding them both from the rain. She was always and forever watching over and quietly helping her family. Those she loved. I think the loyalty and compassion she draped over us was a hallmark of the Stewart Family. I hope and ask God, may our Family that has gone before us, all be together, in a Reunion. With the line of our people smiling and waiting to greet one another as we will be able to do this year. I know her smile and laugh are echoing here with us. ♥

—Beth S. Hall



AN UPDATE ON *THE* UPDATE: WALTER STEWART FAMILY HISTORY 2.0

During the 2019 reunion, a motion was made and voted in favor of forming a Study Committee to update *The Walter Stewart Family History*, published in 1982. Volunteers for this committee included Carl Kramer, Kathy Fields, Judy Smith, LaMarr Brooks, and Seth Leonard. Progress made in 2020 was minimal due to the pandemic. There are many phases to a project like this, and it will take the involvement and hard work by many over several years to accomplish it. For now, we need as much information on those who were born, married, or passed away since 1982 as possible. Any updates you can provide **right now** would be greatly appreciated. There are several ways to submit updates.

- Use the paper form in this newsletter and scan or mail in;
- Use the web forms on www.walterstewart.org; or
- If you have a number of updates, email judy smith3.14@gmail.com for a easy to complete spreadsheet.

If you have questions about whether information is missing or not, email linclark@homesc.com with questions.

—Chief Judy Smith

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our starting balance from before the 2020 Reunion expenses (newsletter expenses only) was \$2846.16. The current balance after 2020 expenses and before printing the 2021 newsletter and other Reunion expenses is \$2510.16, which includes donations of \$572.76 made in memorial to Mary Newton. There were none of the normal donations made last year, as we did not meet in person. The expected balance after the 2021 newsletter mailing is about \$1,600.00.

We would like to encourage contributions with a generous heart this year for two reasons. First, we did not have normal contributions in 2020, but we did have major newsletter expenses. Second, we expect significant upcoming expenses for the *Walter Stewart Family History* update project long before we are ready to begin asking for advance orders. Please consider giving generously either in advance as described in the order blank below or in person at the Reunion. Thank you!

—Valerie and Les Jones, Treasurers



REPORT FROM OUR WESTERN COUSINS

Greetings all Stewart Cousins from your Stewart cousins out West! It's been a challenging 2020 and 2021 here in California as it has been for many of you. Covid was severe here for a while, and we have had severe fires here in recent years. Starting in March of 2020, all offices of the law firm that I work at, Fenwick & West, were shut down and all of us have worked at home since except for a small facilities staff in each office. I really like working at home and wish I could continue, but we are due back in person in our offices on September 7th.

One interesting tidbit happened in the past year: I did a DNA test with 23andMe as they had a holiday sale and I figured why not. My dad's side of the family is fairly well known, at least the Stewart side (he was James Lures Stewart of the Walter Jr. line) but my mom (Margaret June Stewart, maiden surname Kent, birth last name Suiter), from Odessa, Missouri, where my dad lived for a time as a kid, was adopted. Then it seemed from my limited genealogical research that my mom's mom was adopted! So I figured do the DNA, what the heck. Well, it was interesting but probably not surprising to any of you, I was mostly Scots-Irish-English (although the part of Ireland surprised me; almost all my Irish DNA seems to be similar to people in western Ireland, nowhere near Northern Ireland which is what I was thinking—after all, almost everyone in my dad's family were staunch Presbyterians).

In any event, I have a bunch of 4th cousins but couldn't make any progress figuring out my mother's side of my immediate family. However, I got an email from a 4th cousin, Tiree MacGregor, who lives in Nova Scotia and was born in Scotland. Tiree's mother's side has Stewarts so he was trying to figure out if he was related to our Stewarts. As almost his entire family was born in Scotland, as far as he knows, I told him it did not appear that his Stewarts had any relation to ours here in the States, but I pointed him to our Walter Stewart website in case that would help him. He later confirmed that it seems to be another line of Stewarts that his mother was related to. However, we've become email friends so it was nice to gain another friend and a 4th cousin no less! Tiree always gives me the Nova Scotia weather report, and I in turn give him the California one. He is envious of our warm winter temperatures, but I told him 100 degrees and fire season is here, so don't be too envious!

—Donna Skarloken
House of Walter Jr. Historian



2019 WALTER STEWART REUNION MINUTES

The meeting minutes were published in the 2020 Newsletter. Those minutes will be considered during our 2021 business meeting. Copies will be available for review.

HOUSE HISTORIAN VACANCY

WANTED: Descendant of the House of James. Historian needed to assist with reaching out to James family members (primarily in Texas and Oklahoma) and keeping family records.

WALTER STEWART FAMILY UPDATE REPORT 2020–2021

*Please help us keep the records up to date on your family! Use back of sheet or extra pages if necessary.
Bring this information with you to the Stewart Reunion, give it to your house historian, or mail to the Newsletter Publisher:
Linda L. Clark, 265 Clark Lane, Dorchester, SC 29437.
New family data can also be added at www.walterstewart.org.
A small donation to defray the cost of keeping the family records is always appreciated.*

BIRTHS

This child is # ___ in this family.

Child's Stewart code (if known) and full name:

Date and place of birth:

Father's full name and occupation:

Mother's full name and occupation:

Paternal grandparents' names and residence:

Maternal grandparents' names and residence:

Family's mailing address:

MARRIAGES

Descendant's Stewart code (if known) and full name:

Date and place of marriage:

Spouse's date of birth:

Spouse's parents and place of residence:

Descendant's parents and mailing address:

DEATHS

Please enclose a copy of the newspaper obituary if available.

Stewart code (if known) and full name:

Age of deceased:

Date of death:

Place of burial (cemetery and city):

Occupation (before retirement):

Last address:

Name of spouse:

Your Name:

Phone:

E-mail:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip-code:

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Address Correction Requested