

Walter Stewart Clan 100th Anniversary Reunion

History of the Clan

August 11-12, 2007

Credits

Paper and Talk 38213 Carl E. Kramer, Ph.D.

Presentation 317143 Judith Smith

Pictures 151222 John Hellams

351231 LaMarr Brooks

31714 Dick Newton

Origin of the Stewart Name



The Invasions of England, 1066

The Walter Stewart clan of South Carolina has a proud tradition that is rooted in ancient Scottish history. According to tradition, the Stewart lineage is traced to Walter, a Norman who came to England with William the Conqueror in 1066. His son, Walter, moved on to Scotland and entered the service of King David I, who eventually elevated him to Lord High Steward. The office became hereditary and the title was modified to Stewart as a surname in 1246.

Movement to Ireland

During the late fifteenth century, many joined English efforts to establish communities in Ireland, and during the early seventeenth century some of their descendants received land grants in Ulster from King James I of England to increase the Protestant population in Catholic Northern Ireland.

Walter Stewart, Sr. was born in Ireland about 1758.



Stewart Migration to North America

During the 1620s members of the Stewart clan joined the migration to North America, beginning with a James Stewart, who came to Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1621 and accelerating in 1718, coinciding with enforcement of a Parliamentary Test Act, which limited the political influence of the staunch Stewart Presbyterians.

As the Scotch-Irish population grew, many sent back messages to their kinsmen in Ireland, extolling the opportunities they found in America.

Sons Born in Ireland



- 1 Samuel Stewart, born March 30, 1780
- 2 John Stewart, born June 2, 1787

Antrim, Northern Ireland

Immigration

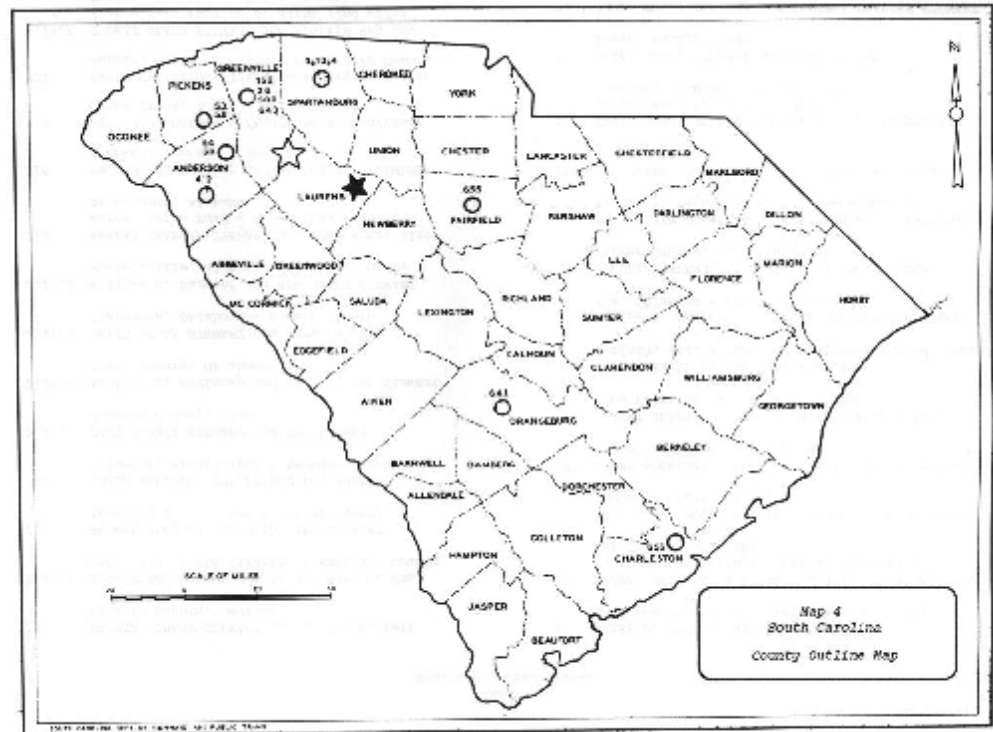
Among those who apparently received such messages were Walter Stewart and his wife Mary Ross, who lived in County Antrim. We know very little about their lives in Ireland, but tradition suggests that Walter was a weaver, and articles in their possession after their arrival in America suggest that they were far from paupers. Nevertheless, Walter, Mary, and their first two sons, eight-year-old Samuel and infant John, left Belfast in late 1787 or early 1788, and arrived at Charleston.



Stewart Royal Tartan

Arrival in South Carolina

Very soon after reaching America in 1788, the Stewarts moved into the upper part of South Carolina, where other Stewarts had already settled, and in November 1795 Walter paid twenty pounds sterling for 185 acres on the Enoree River in rapidly-growing Bethany Community of Laurens County.



Sons Born in Bethany With Mary Ross Stewart

- Walter Stewart and his growing family appeared on the 1790, 1800, 1810, and 1820 census records in Laurens County.
- 3 Robert Stewart was born August 8, 1790.
- 4 James Stewart was born about 1795.
- 5 Walter Stewart, Jr. was born September 17, 1799.



Bethany, upper SC

No. 12										No. 13									
Names										Names									
Drs. Forward										Drs. Forward									
Robert Taylor	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	Robert Taylor	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
William H. H. H.	2	2	5	2	1	6	3	3	3	William H. H. H.	2	2	5	2	1	6	3	3	3
William H. H. H.	2	1	3	2	1	3	3	3	3	William H. H. H.	2	1	3	2	1	3	3	3	3
Robert Taylor	1	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	Robert Taylor	1	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	1
James Cunningham	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	James Cunningham	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
John H. H. H.	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	4	John H. H. H.	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	4
William Cunningham	3	1	3	3	1	3	3	1	3	William Cunningham	3	1	3	3	1	3	3	1	3
Robert Taylor	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	Robert Taylor	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2
William H. H. H.	4	1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1	William H. H. H.	4	1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1
William H. H. H.	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	William H. H. H.	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
Andrew H. H. H.	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	Andrew H. H. H.	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	3
Robert Taylor	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	Robert Taylor	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2
John H. H. H.	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	John H. H. H.	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2
James H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	James H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Andrew H. H. H.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Andrew H. H. H.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
William H. H. H.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	William H. H. H.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
John H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	John H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
William H. H. H.	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	William H. H. H.	3	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2
William H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	William H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Robert Taylor	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	Robert Taylor	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2
John H. H. H.	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	John H. H. H.	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2
James H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	James H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Andrew H. H. H.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Andrew H. H. H.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
William H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	William H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
John H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	John H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
William H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	William H. H. H.	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Robert Taylor	1	2</																	

1800 Laurens County Census

Household	594	396	401	422	214	553	317	343	374	224	2	642
Joseph Williams												
John Williams												
David Linder				1		1						
James Ruffin				1		2						
Joseph Ruffin		2			1		1					
John Ruffin	1			1								
Charles Ruffin	2	2	1	1					1			
Richard Ruffin	1			1								
Spencer Ruffin	1											
James Ruffin	2			1		1						
James Gibson	3			1								
Bayel Robinson	3	1			1		2	3		1		
James Robinson	3							2		1		
James Robinson	1	1			1	3			1			
James Ruffin	1		1		1	1		1		2		
William Ruffin	2	1			1	1	1	1				
James Ruffin	2	2	1		1	2						7
Thomas Ruffin	2	2	1		1					1	2	1
James Ruffin	2	1	1	1		3	1		1			2
James Ruffin	2	1	1		1	2	1		1			5
George Ruffin	2					1				1		
Robert Ruffin	1	1				1	3	2		1		
John D. Ruffin				2								
Total	599	424	331	408	422	678	327	456	382	233	18	682
John D. Ruffin	2			1		2						
Walter Stewart	3	1	1	1								
John D. Ruffin		1	1	1		3			1			
John D. Ruffin												

[illegible]

[illegible]

Life in South Carolina

Although the Stewarts were reasonably prosperous farmers, they were not immune to the trials of southern pioneer life.

Mary Ross Stewart died about 1810, leaving Walter to work the farm and rear their five sons.

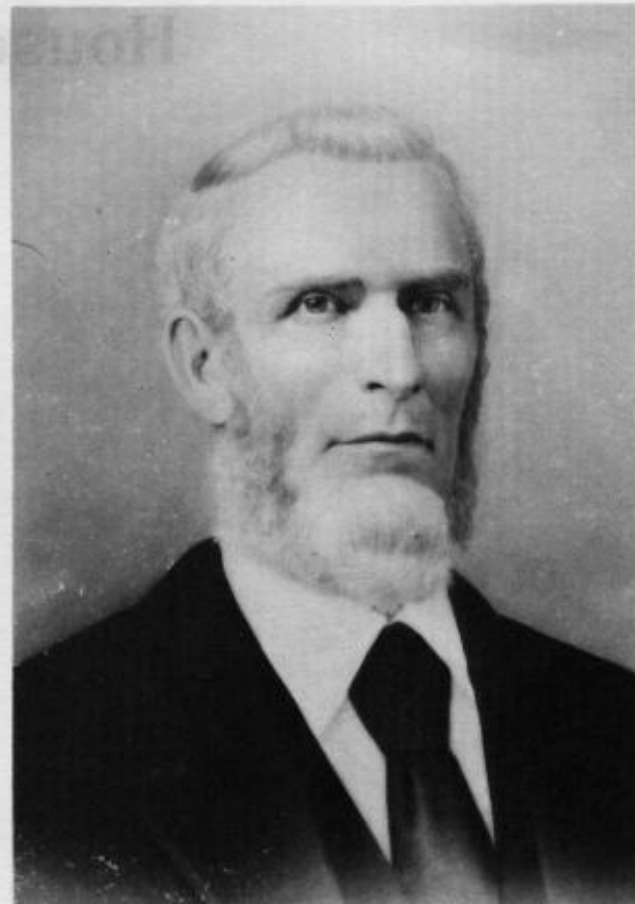
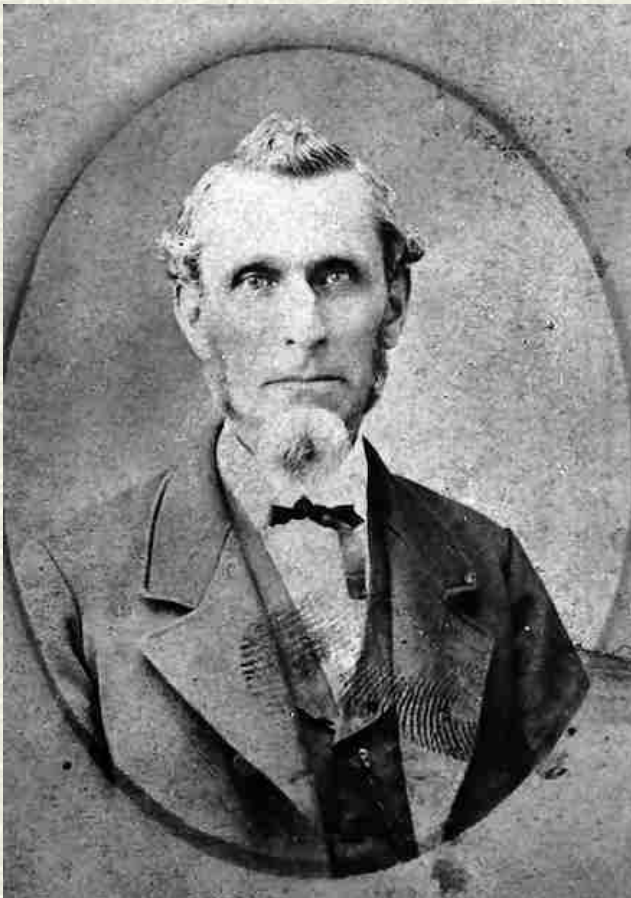
Like many others in his situation, Walter soon remarried, to Isabella Bobo, a daughter of Spencer Bobo, who had moved into the neighborhood about 1810.

In 1810, the eldest son (Samuel) was about 20 years old and the youngest (Walter, Jr.) was about 11 years old.

Sons Born in Bethany With Isabel Bobo Stewart

- 6 Clark Berry Stewart was born January 27, 1813.
- 7 David Bobo Stewart was born November 8, 1818.
- These are the only two sons of whom pictures are available today.

6 Clark Berry Stewart



7 David Bobo Stewart



Move to Georgia

In 1824, like many of their neighbors, Walter and Isabella, their sons Clark Berry and David Bobo, and Walter's son James and his wife Lida Bobo, Isabella's sister, joined the growing westward movement, settling in Gwinnett County, Georgia. But Walter did not have long to enjoy the land; he died in 1825 at the age of about 63, and was buried at his own request on his new farm.



Gwinnett County, Georgia

1 Samuel

As the eldest son, Samuel no doubt was his father's chief assistant in the tasks of clearing the land, planting crops, and hunting game for the family table during their early years in America. In 1807 Samuel married Anna Gilliland in 1807, and they settled on Walter's land in the Bethany community, where they lived out their lives. Samuel and Anna had eleven children—six daughters and five sons. Anna died in 1833, the year Bethany Presbyterian Church was founded. Samuel and several of the children became active members, and he was buried there, along with daughters Nancy and Martha and son Samuel T. Stewart.

1 Samuel



13 Mary Ann Stewart and her husband Isaac R. Henry first lived on this site at 1118 Thompson Road (but not in this relatively recent building). The land passed down through 132 Robert Leland “Land” Henry, and 1328 Clark Stewart Henry. The home shown on the original property is now the home of 1512111 James Allen Thompson.

1 Samuel



This site, currently a vacant field at the corner of Reedy Creek Road and Thompson Road, was first owned by 15 Rachel Ross Stewart and Benjamin Newman. The property is still in the Stewart family and is now owned by 1512111 James Allen Thompson.

2 John

John Stewart, Walter and Mary's second son, grew up on the family place about a mile from the present site of Bethany Church. In 1815, at age 28, he married 19-year-old Linny Pitts, whose family lived nearby. They reared their family of six daughter and five sons in the Sandy Springs community, about four miles east of Bethany Presbyterian Church.

During the early 1850s, in a search for fresh farmland, the family moved to the Fountain Inn area, where they became active members of New Harmony Presbyterian Church. In 1851 John joined his half-brother, Clark Berry, in purchasing a 300-acre tract on Big Durbin Creek, and John took 25 acres on the creek as sawmill site. A flood destroyed the mill in August 1852, but with the assistance of his sons and neighbors, John rebuilt the mill. But on October 7, as he was putting it back into operation, he collapsed and died from unknown causes. The following day, he was buried in New Harmony Church. Linny died five years later and was buried next to him.

3 Robert

Robert Stewart, Walter and Mary Ross Stewart's third son and the first born in America, was 31 years old in 1821, when he bought 96 acres of land next to his father's farm in the Bethany community. There he built a house and settled two years later with his bride, Rachel Gilliland, the younger sister of Samuel's wife Anna. Robert and Rachel proved the most prolific of Walter Stewart's children, producing thirteen offspring between 1825 and 1844.

Robert and Rachel lived for 20 years in the Bethany community.

3 Robert

In 1844 Robert and Rachel took their family to fresh land in the New Harmony community, where they became charter members of the recently organized New Harmony Presbyterian Church. Like his father and older brothers, Robert died soon after relocating to a new community, succumbing in March 1845 at the age of 54. He was the first person buried in the New Harmony Presbyterian Church cemetery. Rachel reared her thirteen children in the New Harmony community, where they built a second, larger home from portions of their original log house and later built a two-story frame house that still stands. All of their children eventually settled in or near Fountain Inn, the reason that Robert's descendants are the most numerous at Reunions now.

3 Robert



This house is the third one which was built on the 400 acre property, currently at 2384 Thompson Road, which was purchased by 3 Robert Stewart upon his move from the Bethany community to the New Harmony Church area. This house shown was built in 1859 by Robert's wife Rachel Gilliland Stewart and their children after his death in 1845.

3 Robert



This property at 1960 Hunts Bridge Road near New Harmony Presbyterian Church was part of the original land owned by 3 Robert Stewart. This location on South Durbin Creek was first the home of 31 William “Squire Bill” Stewart who married Rebecca Stoddard. 3171 Chief William Tinsley Stewart (1896-1983) and his six younger sisters were raised here.

3 Robert



This property at 743 Stewart Road near New Harmony Presbyterian Church was part of the original 400 acres owned by 3 Robert Stewart. The first Stewart known to have lived here was 38 James Preston Stewart who married Martha Anne Elizabeth Cely. They lived first in a log cabin, and later in a two-story farmhouse, where they reared their family of one daughter and three sons. Today, 3845 Lucy Peden Stewart owns this property.

3 Robert



This property at 2651 Durbin Road near New Harmony Presbyterian Church is adjacent to the original 400 acres purchased by 3 Robert. The first Stewart known to have lived here was 312 Alexander Baker Stewart who married Ella Ann Owings. The Baker Stewart homeplace still stands and 31235 Douglas Wayne Stewart, Treasurer of the Walter Stewart Clan, lives there today.

3 Robert



312 Bake Stewart set up not only a grist and flour mill, but also built a country store, which for many years was the Jakin (Durbin community) Post Office, later known simply as Stewart's Store. The thick-walled old concrete building that housed his store is still standing near his home in the Durbin community, although the building has been unoccupied for many years, except for storage.

4 James

James R. Stewart, Walter and Mary Stewart's fourth son, was reared in the Bethany community. But in 1824, when he was 29 years old, he migrated to Gwinnett County, Georgia, with his father, step-mother, and two step-brothers and several other families. About the same time, he married Scynthia Bobo, his step-mother's niece, and in 1827 she gave birth to the first of their thirteen children, at least four of whom died in childhood.

4 James

Among Walter and Mary Ross Stewart's sons and their families, James's is the one for whom we have the least information. The 1850 census indicates that they probably lived in Forsyth County, Georgia, just north of Gwinnett County. They appear to have moved some time later to Cass County, later Bartow County, and after James's death in 1853, Scynthia may have moved with the surviving children to old Campbell County (now Douglas County), where she had a brother.

5 Walter, Jr.

Walter Stewart, Jr., the last of Walter and Mary Stewart's sons, grew up in the Bethany community and remained there after his father and step-mother moved on to Georgia in 1824. Two years later, he married Sarah (Sallie) Templeton, the daughter of Captain David Templeton, a prominent local landowner, and in 1825 they settled on a 163-acre farm that young Walter purchased at auction.

Walter and Sallie had eight children, seven who lived to maturity. Walter and Sallie both died tragically young in 1840, along with their 6th child David. A notation in the family records attributes their deaths to "slow fever-tuberculosis," a common malady in the nineteenth century. All three were buried at Bethany Presbyterian Church.

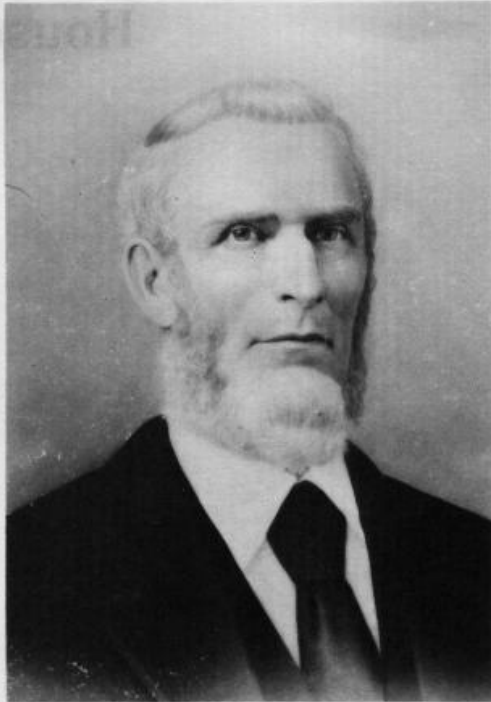
6 Clark Berry

Clark Berry Stewart, Walter Sr.'s sixth child and first by Isabella Bobo, was born in the Bethany community but moved with his parents to Georgia in 1824 when he was eleven.

After his father died and his mother remarried, Clark returned to South Carolina and taught for several years at Bethany and Sandy Springs.

In mid-1837 Clark entered a period of introspection. After undergoing a conversion experience in 1838, he began preparing for the ministry. He entered Columbia Theological Seminary in 1841 and was ordained in April 1844.

6 Clark Berry



In 1843, Clark Berry married Katherine Carson Hitch, a former pupil, and they became the parents of eight children, two of whom died in childhood.

6 Clark Berry



In 1855, after serving mission churches in Laurens, Greenville, and Spartanburg Counties, Clark was called as pastor of Fairview Presbyterian Church near Fountain Inn, where he served until declining health forced his resignation in 1883.

6 Clark Berry



This house at 2406 Fairview Road near Fountain Inn was built by Tully C. Bolling (not a member of the Stewart Clan) about 1840. 6 Clark Berry Stewart purchased the large two story brick home with about 500 acres of land and moved here from his small farm some seven miles northeast of Fountain Inn farm to be closer to Fairview Church, where he was pastor from 1855 to 1883.

6 Clark Berry Stewart



The house survives, overlooked by Sherman's Army by only two miles, and has been restored to its original simple elegance after forty years of neglect. It was recorded in in 1990 on the Register of National Historic Places as Tullyton (Bolling-Stewart House). The detached kitchen-servant quarters with its four beautiful fireplaces remains only a ghostly shell, a mute reminder of a different way of life.

7 David Bobo

David Bobo Stewart, the last of Walter's sons and his second by Isabel Bobo, was about six when he moved with his parents to Georgia in 1924. When he was in his late teens, he joined the gold rush to Cherokee country, settling near Cassville, the Cass County seat. In 1837 he married Virginia Phillips and they had nine children. Five months after Virginia's death in June 1861, David married Nancy Jones, a widow, and they had two more children. All but one of his eleven children lived to adulthood.

Aside from the names of his wives and children, we know very little else about David, though we do know many of his descendants are in Texas. We do have a few pictures of some of his children.

7 David Bobo



Just within the last few weeks, a previously unknown and undocumented branch of the Stewart Clan descended from 75 Jonathan David Stewart and his wife Flora T. Skinner was discovered through the wonders of the Internet.

The Civil War

By 1860 most of Walter Stewart's 75 grandchildren had reached adulthood. Surviving records don't tell us much about their individual sentiments about the increasingly intense debates on slavery and secession. But the secessionist impulse was particularly strong in South Carolina, and when the Civil War erupted in April 1861, the Stewart men answered the call to arms; 41 grandsons and grandsons-in-law eventually joined the Confederate army. Thirteen Stewart men, nearly 32 percent of the total, died of disease or wounds or were killed in action. Among them were five sons of 3 Robert Stewart.

The Civil War

While the grandsons bore the brunt of the battle, so many of the Rev. Clark Berry Stewart's parishioners at Fairview Presbyterian Church donned Confederate grey that he joined them as domestic missionary or chaplain to the Army of Northern Virginia, under appointment of the Presbytery of South Carolina.

The Civil War

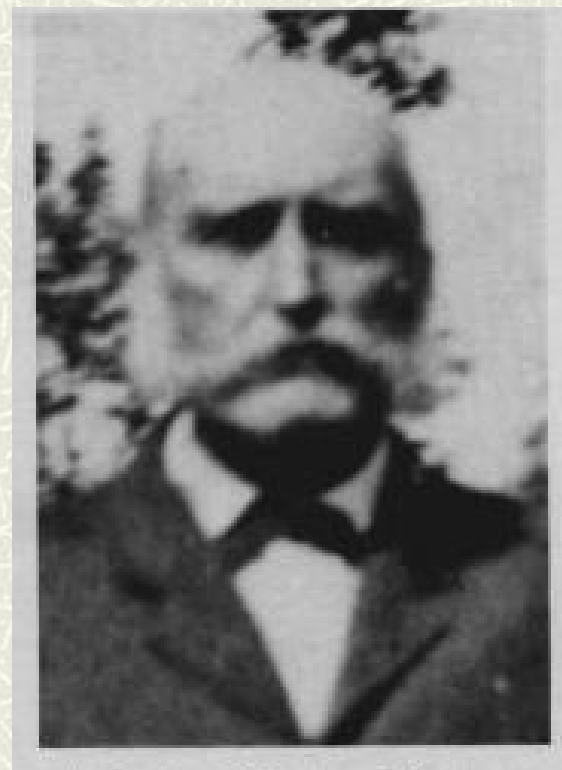
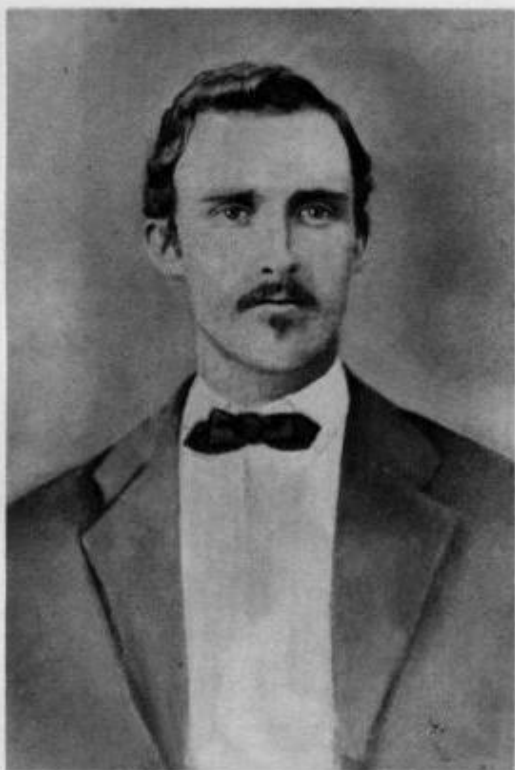
The agony of war also touched Stewart family members who remained at home. One particularly sad episode occurred in the summer of 1864 when Union cavalry arrived in northern Georgia with orders to burn bridges on the Chattahoochee River and mills and machine shops that produced goods for the Confederate war effort. The targets included the Roswell Manufacturing Company in Roswell and the Sweetwater Manufacturing Company at New Manchester, which made Confederate uniforms. The troops also had orders to arrest mill workers and deport to Ohio prisons any workers who refused to sign oaths of allegiance.

You will see a reenactment of this tomorrow, August 12, 2007.

Growing Family

By the close of the nineteenth century, the Walter Stewart Clan numbered in the hundreds, and his grand children and great grand children were spread from South Carolina westward to Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas. As the clan became diffused geographically and generationally, its members began to lose connections with each other and with their roots. One who lamented this development was Clark Berry's son, 62 John Wistar Stewart.

62 John Wistar Stewart



Preparing for the First Reunion

Beginning about 1899, John Wistar pored over his father's records, interviewed cousins who lived nearby, and made copious records of their family memories. Then he pieced together a rudimentary genealogical chart of his father's generation, their wives, and their children. Once accomplishing that, he set to work on the next generations. It was a daunting task, but by about 1906 he was ready to launch the idea of a reunion of the Walter Stewart Clan.

Original Family Records

Walter Stewart of County Antrim Ireland

	Walter Stewart		decd
	Married		
	Mary Ross 1 st wife		decd
	to Ireland by 18 th 22 nd Apr		
3-30-1780	Samuel Stewart	1	18-1846
	Married		15-1846
5-24-1789	Anna Dickson	10-21-1824	
3-17-1788	John Stewart	1	10-7-1852
	Married 1/9/1815		
12-11-1796	Mahinda Bette	4-25-1857	
Sept 17-1797	Walter Stewart	1	May 18-1842
	Married		
Dec 1799	Sarah Humphreys	7-24-1843	
1-17-1800	Robert Stewart	1	2-24-1845
	Married		
4/4/1804	Rache Dickson	9-21-1827	
	James Stewart	1	
	Married moved to Ga. 1824		
	Liza Rache		
	Walter Stewart		
	Married		
	Isabella Rache 2 nd wife		
	to Ireland by 18 th 22 nd Apr		
127-1812	Isabella Rache Stewart	1	10-30-1850
	Married 10-5-1812		
8-19-1820	Kathleen Carson Hilda	10-25-1850	
11-8-1818	David Benny Stewart	1	12-22-1858
	Married 11-8-1818		
7-11-1818	Virginia Phillips	1-14-1852	
	Mrs Mary Jones 2 nd wife		

This is the first page of the original family record book, as transcribed from Wistar's scraps of paper, probably by 373 Robert Walter Stewart, Clan Secretary from 1907 to 1958. We owe him a great debt of thanks!

Original Family Records

The original record book is held by the Chief Historian for the Walter Stewart Clan. There are plans in place to scan it to make the contents widely available and to carefully preserve it for future generations.



The First Reunion at New Harmony, October 17, 1907



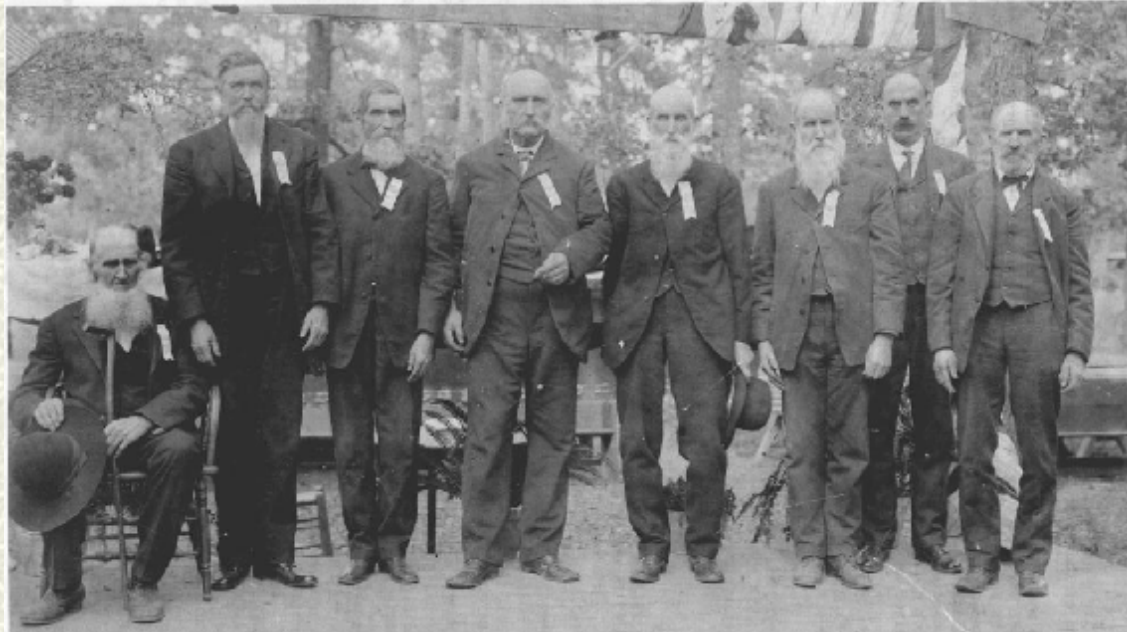
The First Chief, 31 William Stewart, 1907-1909



The First Chief and Sub-Chiefs

Chief and Subchiefs

First Walter Stewart Clan Reunion
New Harmony Presbyterian Church
Fountain Inn, South Carolina
October 17, 1907



L-R, 31 Chief William Stewart, 132 Robert Leland Henry, 58 Samuel Dixon Stewart, 62 John Wistar Stewart, 38 James Preston Stewart, 3.13. Samuel Turner Stewart, 174 Robert Walter Stewart, 241 John Westmoreland Bradley

Sub-Chiefs and House Historians

You will notice in the picture of the Sub-Chiefs that there are three representatives of the House of Robert and none of the House of James or David Bobo. It's a reasonable assumption that the duplication came about because there were no local descendants from 4 James or 7 David. The Sub-Chief structure was dropped soon after the 1907 reunion and wasn't revived until 31714 Mary Lesslie originated the idea of seven House Historians about 1980.

The current structure of seven House Historians and one Chief Historian is a happy echo of the original Clan structure.

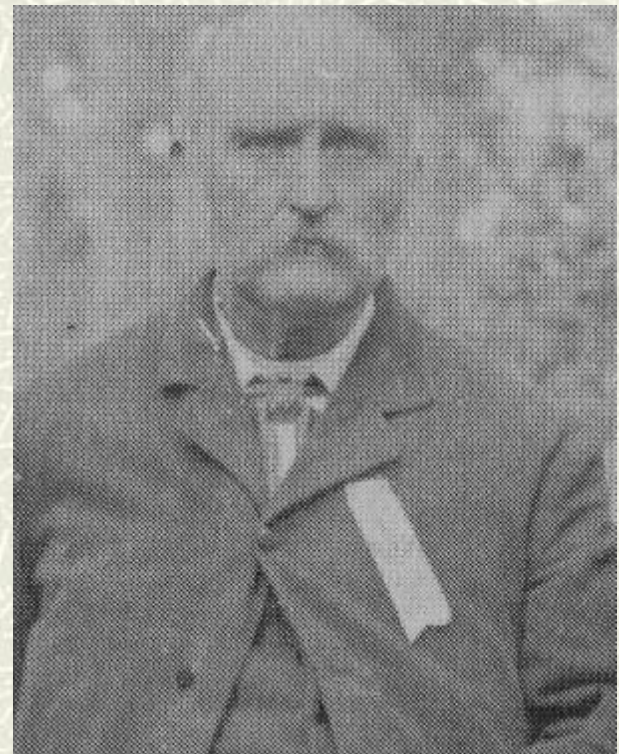
The Medal



This medal is traditionally held by the Clan Chief and today it is held by Chief Charles Ballenger Stewart.

The Ribbon

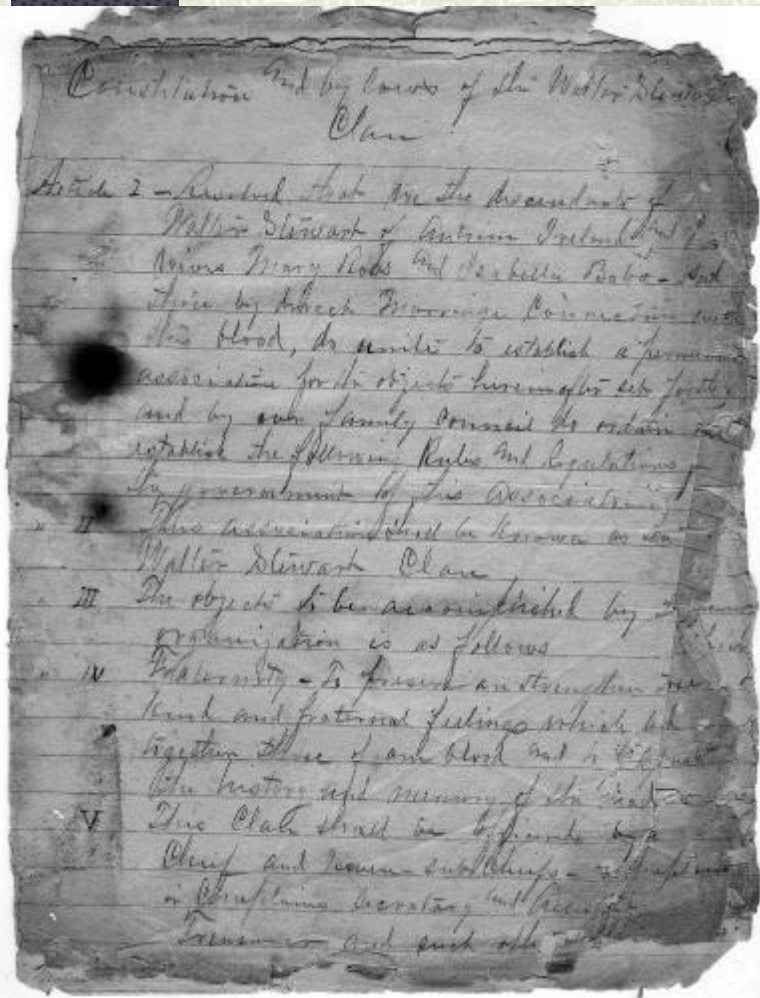
This is one of the original Reunion ribbons. The ribbon is owned by 151222 John and Polly Hellams. John and Polly generously provided similar ribbons for the 100th Anniversary Reunion.



The First Reunion, 1907

The great reunion arrived as scheduled, and it was a glorious success. Although no known members of the House of James could be located and none from the House of David were able to attend, the other five houses were there in force, with a total throng of nearly 200. The Fountain Inn Stewarts threw open their homes to out-of-town visitors, and the tables at New Harmony church groaned with baskets of fried chicken, ham biscuits, potato salad, deviled eggs, choice vegetables, pickles, spiced peaches, and desserts of every variety. Welcoming speeches were delivered, the constitution and bylaws were adopted, and 31 William Stewart of the House of Robert was duly elected the first chief of the clan.

Constitution and Bylaws



This is a copy of the first page of the original Stewart family constitution. It was stuck in the pages of the old genealogy ledger. The handwriting is different from the ledger and it is thought to have been handwritten by Wistar Stewart himself. And once it was written, there was no reason for someone else to make such an early copy. The page is very yellow and tattered, indicating advanced age.

Constitution and Bylaws

ARTICLE I: Resolved, that we the descendants of Walter Stewart of County Antrim, Ireland and his wives Mary Ross and Isabella Bobo, and those by direct marriage connection with this blood, do unite to establish a permanent association for the objects hereinafter set forth; and by our family council do ordain and establish the following Rules and Regulations for the government of this association.

ARTICLE II: This association shall be known as the Walter Stewart Clan.

ARTICLE III: The object to be accomplished by the organization is as follows.

ARTICLE IV: Fraternity - To preserve and strengthen those kind and fraternal feelings which bind together those of one blood and to perpetuate the history and memory of the head.

ARTICLE V: This Clan shall be officered by a Chief and seven Subchiefs, a Chaplain or Chaplains, a Secretary and Assistant, Treasurer and such other officers as the Clan may find necessary, and these may be elected at such time and in manner as may be best suited; provided the Clan may and does delegate the power to the Chief and Subchiefs to appoint several officers when it may be deemed necessary.

ARTICLE VI: The officers, viz., Chief, Subchiefs, and Chaplain to serve for life, good behavior or resignation in writing and acceptance by the whole Council of the Clan.

Constitution and Bylaws

ARTICLE VII: The other officers, Secretaries and Treasurer, shall serve for two years and until their successors may be elected and installed.

ARTICLE VIII: The duties of the Chief shall be (1) to preside at all Council Meetings and sub-meetings by the Subchiefs - provided he be allowed to appoint an aide-de-camp to act for him under his supervision. (2) To call all meetings of the whole Council or a meeting of consultation by the Subchiefs. (3) His authority shall be a veto upon any or all measures adopted by the whole Council or by the Subchiefs and to be of force unless there be a two-thirds majority obtained against his objection. (4) He shall be required to wear his insignia of rank whilst presiding in whole Council meetings.

ARTICLE IX: The duties of the Subchiefs shall be to consult and advise with the Chief on all matters relative to the good of this Clan and prepare business for the general Council of the whole Clan when called by the Chief with their consent, acting in a representative capacity.

ARTICLE X: The duties of the secretaries shall be those reserved to such officers, acting under the advise of the Chief or his aide-de-camp.

ARTICLE XI: All persons of both sexes descending from Walter Stewart of Antrim or connected by marriage to this blood over twelve years of age shall be entitled to a vote at any general council of the Clan.

Constitution and Bylaws

ARTICLE XII: No person unless a descendant of Walter Stewart of Antrim will be eligible to the office of Chief - but any husband of a Stewart woman may act and be elected a Subchief.

ARTICLE XIII: The sub council of Chief and Subchiefs can at any time when a vacancy arises from death or resignation or for cause, elect an officer to temporarily fill the vacated office.

ARTICLE XIV: A quorum of a general Council shall not be less than three persons from four of the seven houses of Walter of Antrim - twelve persons.

ARTICLE XV: A quorum of the Subchiefs council shall be not less than four Subchiefs acting with the Chief or his representative or aide-de-camp.

ARTICLE XVI: Upon the death of the Chief the eldest Stewart obtainable shall act as temporary Chief until his place can be filled by election by the whole Clan.

ARTICLE XVII: This constitution and bylaws can be annulled, added to or amended by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the whole Council.

ARTICLE XVIII: We hereby adopt two mottoes as follows, viz., first, God our King, and second, Onward and Upward.

New Harmony Presbyterian Church

The First Reunion of Walter Stewart's descendants was held at New Harmony Presbyterian Church, October 17, 1907 and Stewart Reunions are still held there to this very year. In 2007, the Walter Stewart Clan celebrates their 100th Anniversary Reunion at New Harmony Presbyterian Church. This church was organized August 13, 1844. Harmony Baptist Church organized February 1845 at the same location. Both denominations have used this building continuously from 1845 to the present, alternating weeks of use.

New Harmony Presbyterian Church Today



New Harmony Presbyterian Church Reunions



1999



1997



2001

Fairview Presbyterian Church Reunions



3845 Lucy Peden Stewart
holding 384321 Loren
Rome Stewart (youngest
attendee at the 1984
reunion)



3.13.6 Miss Emmie
Fulmer, oldest
attendee at the 1984
Reunion



2000

Early Chiefs and Reunions

Chief William Stewart served until his death in 1909 and was succeeded in 1910 by 62 Wistar himself. He presided at the great reunion of 1913, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of his father's birth. Wistar presented a paper on Clark Berry Stewart's early life and work, and the Rev. Calvin Lewers Stewart, Wistar's brother, presented a paper on their father's ministerial work. Wistar died in 1914 and was succeeded as chief by 3.13. Samuel Turner Stewart of the House of Robert, who presided from 1915 to 1917, during most of World War I. The fourth chief was 65 Dr. Henry Boardman Stewart of the House of Clark, Wistar's brother and a family physician in the Fairview community for many years. He served until his death in 1947, a span of 29 years.

31 William Stewart, Chief, 1907-1909



31 William Stewart
1907-1909

31 William Stewart was the First Chief of the Walter Stewart Clan.

62 Chief John Wistar and 64 Rev. Calvin Lewers Stewart



Wistar presided at the great reunion of 1913, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of Clark Berry Stewart's birth. Wistar presented a paper on Clark Berry's early life and work, and the Rev. Calvin Lewers Stewart, Wistar's brother, presented a paper on their father's ministerial work.

3.13. Samuel Turner Stewart, Chief, 1915-1917



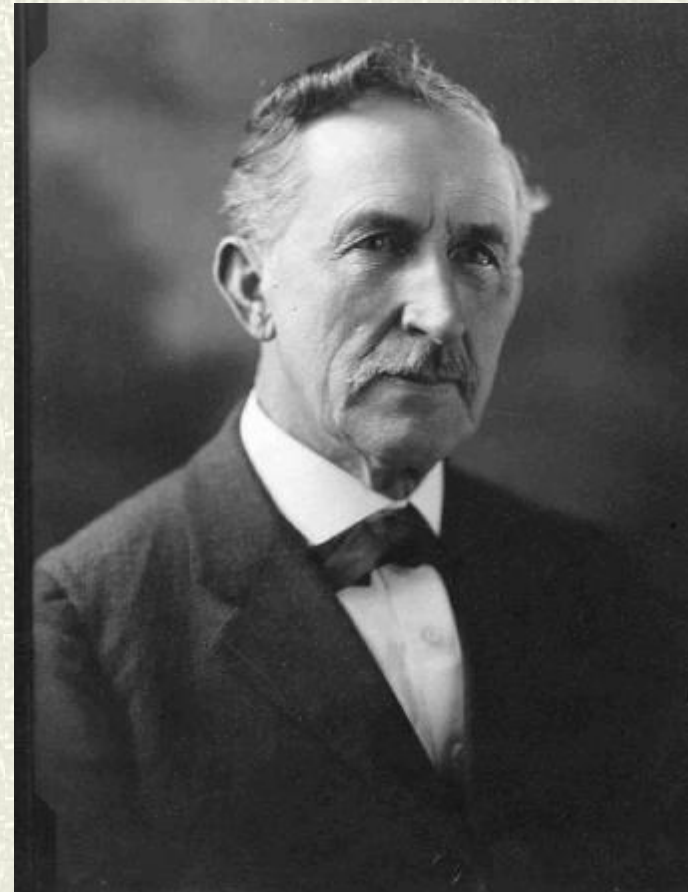
3.13. Samuel Turner Stewart
1915-1917

Wistar died in 1914 and was succeeded as chief by 3.13. Samuel Turner Stewart of the House of Robert, who presided from 1915 to 1917, during most of World War I. Samuel was succeeded by 65 Henry Boardman Stewart.

65 Dr. Henry Boardman Stewart, Chief, 1918-1947



65 Henry Boardman Stewart
and Martha Eugenia Peden
Stewart



65 Henry Boardman Stewart

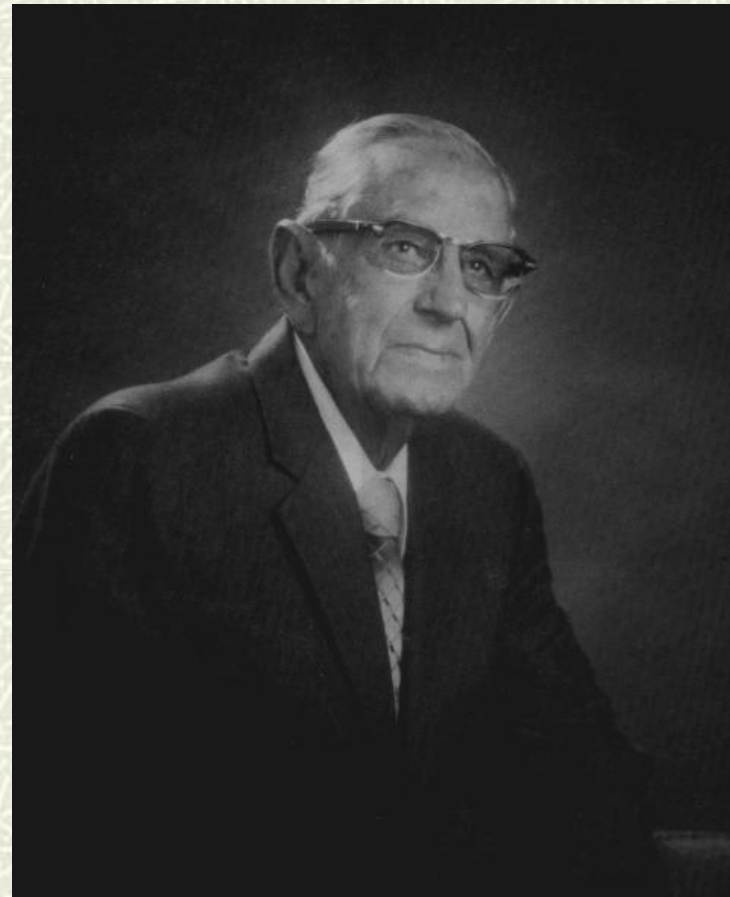
3.13.1 Wesley Brooks Stewart, Chief, 1948-1965



In 1965, Chief Brooks Stewart, the last survivor of the original Reunion Invitation Committee, died at age 96 after 18 years of service.

3171 William Tinsley Stewart, Chief, 1966-1983

In the mid-1960s, many large family reunions were dying out and attendance at the Stewart gathering was in decline. Some feared that the Stewart Clan would meet the same fate. But the new chief, 3171 William Tinsley Stewart, was determined to reverse the downward trend and reinvigorate the clan.



31712 Charles Ballenger Stewart, Chief, 1984-Present



Charles Stewart succeeded his father as Chief in 1984. He has continued the reinvigoration of the Walter Stewart Clan and has overseen its move into the computer age, together with his sister 31714 Mary Stewart Newton.

Family Record of Chiefs

285

Stewart Clan Chiefs -			Served
	William Stewart	1907	July 6, 1909
	J. Wistar - Farmer	1910	Dec 19, 1914
Nov 24, 1844	Samuel Turner (aged 2 years?)	1911 to	1917
5-1853	Mr H.B. Stewart -	1918	Sept 15-1947
*	Brooks Stewart	now 1955 -	to 9/9 1965
	William Tinsley Stewarts	Aug 1966 -	to 8/5 1983
	Charles Ballinger Stewart		

Reinvigoration

3171 Chief Tinsley Stewart asked reunion attendees to sign a register and to provide their addresses. He then passed them along to his daughter, Mary S. Lesslie (later Rawlinson) who mailed out postcards announcing the time and date of annual reunions. The reminder sparked new interest, and attendance soon recovered to former levels of about 100 annually.



Signing in in 1995. L-R, 31714 Bill Rawlinson, 31712 Chief Charles Stewart, and 31714 Mary Stewart Rawlinson.

Chief Historian

Another step in reinvigorating interest evolved after the death in 1972 of 3173 Fronde Stewart, who had succeeded her sister 3174 Nan as custodian of the archives. The records were delivered to Chief Tinsley, whose formal proposal to create the office of Chief Historian at the 1977 reunion was approved. Elected to fill the position was his widowed daughter, 31714 Mary Stewart Lesslie (later Rawlinson, then Newton), who had just completed her doctorate in psychology at the University of South Carolina. Although relatively ignorant of genealogical techniques, she put her numerous talents to work bringing the records up to date.

31714 Mary Stewart Newton, Chief Historian, 1977-present



31714 Mary Stewart Rawlinson
(later Newton), 1995



31714 Mary Stewart Newton with
husband Richard C. Newton, 2006

House Historians

Despite the immensity of her task in 1977, two developments worked in her favor. First, other members of the clan had begun working on the records of their own families, some of them tracking entire houses. Second, the use of computers to organize genealogical data was becoming increasingly common, and xerographic technology made it easier to reproduce data in large quantities. These developments inspired the appointment of house historians who would document the continuing development of their families. Soon she had recruited historians for each of the seven houses, including the “long lost” house of David Bobo Stewart, with which there had been no contact for more than fifty years.

Bringing Records Up-to-Date

The house historians set to work at their various tasks, and by the beginning of the 1980s a move was afoot to publish a formal history of the Walter Stewart Clan. In 1981, the clan formally approved a proposal to publish a book-length clan history. Over the next year, with assistance from her new husband, her daughters, and dozens of others, Mary sifted through old photographs, updated family records, consulted with editors, and double-checked facts, names, and dates. By the time it went to the press, the book had over 6,000 names. As the reunion neared, orders poured in and the excitement was palpable. Coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the first reunion, the August 1982 gathering was the largest in decades.

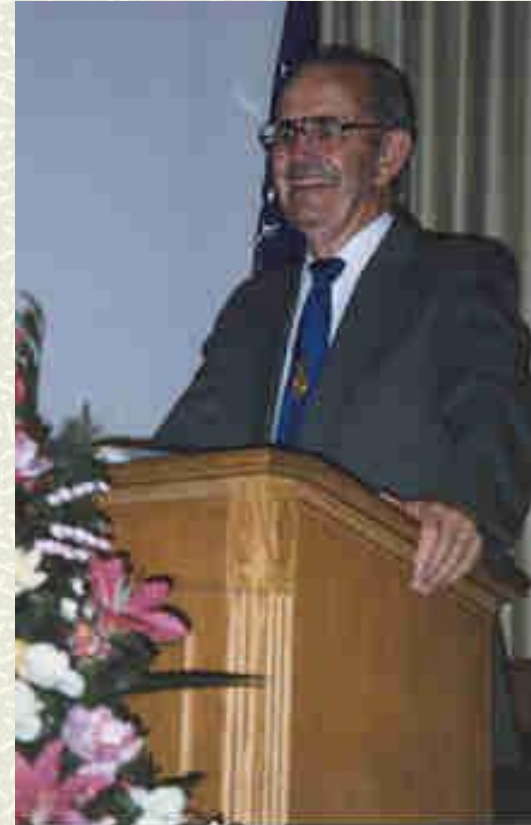
And on to the Present...

Having achieved his goal of pumping new vigor into the reunion, 3171 Chief Tinsley Stewart died in 1983 and was succeeded by his son, 31712 Charles B. Stewart, a partner in the Stewart Furniture Company in Woodruff, South Carolina.

31712 Charles Ballenger Stewart, Chief, 1984-present



31712 Charles Ballenger
Stewart and 3171 William
Tinsley Stewart, summer 1942



31712 Charles Ballenger
Stewart, 1995

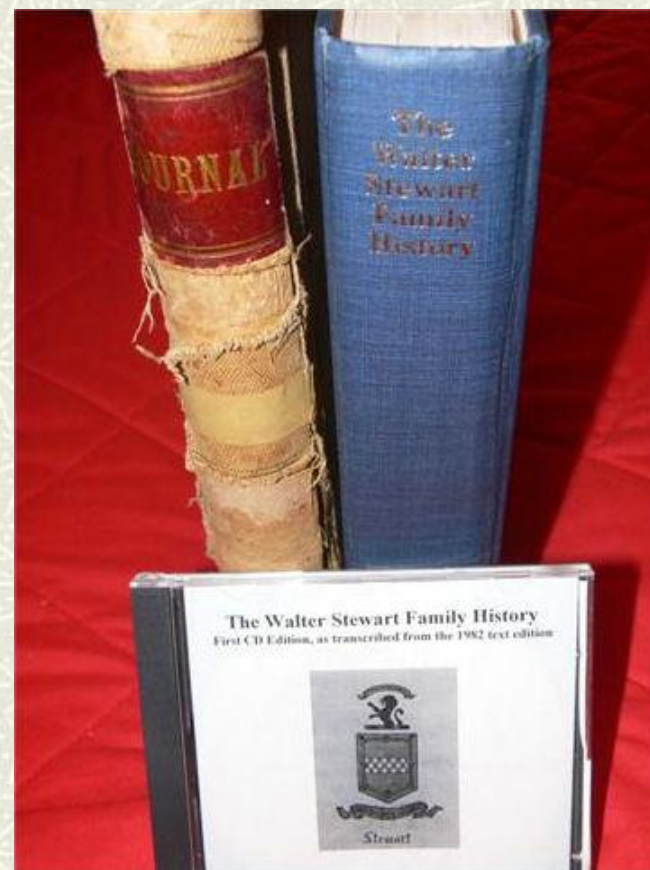
The Reunion Today

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, the reminder postcards of the 1960s and 1970s gradually developed into the informative annual family newsletter that is mailed to all known clan members today. The reunion evolved into a 2-day event, highlighting the clan's history with Saturday field trips to homes, churches, cemeteries, and other sites associated with each house.

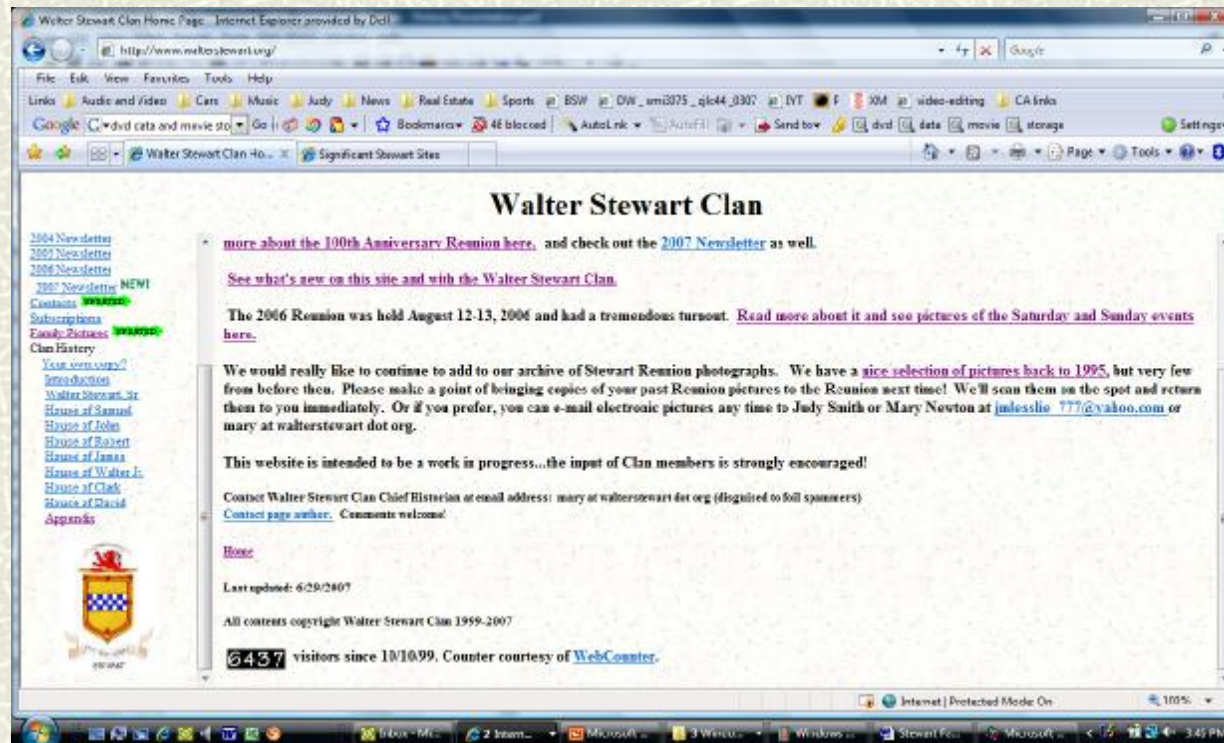
The Saturday field trips have continued, focusing on other interesting historic and contemporary sites, ranging from the homes of famous South Carolinians such as States Rights Gist (a Confederate general) and John Calhoun to the new BMW automobile plant in Spartanburg.

Computerization, 1999-present

It was only a matter of time before the family records were computerized. In 1998 and 1999, the Stewart History book was scanned and painstakingly converted over to editable electronic format. This effort was headed up by 317143 Judith Lesslie (now Smith), with able proof-reading assistance from 317142 Linda Lesslie Clark and 3171421 Chelsea Clark. This version of the book, while not yet brought up to date, was widely dispersed among the family at the 1999 and later Reunions.



www.walterstewart.org

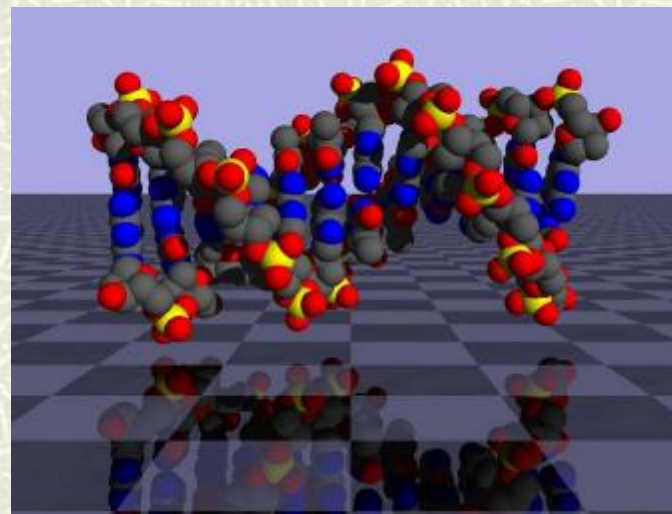


Another development in the 1990s was an Internet site for the family, www.walterstewart.org, begun in 1999 by 317143 Judith Lesslie and under continuous development since then.

And Tomorrow...

In the most recent development, 3171421 Chelsea Clark is continuing updates of the family records in proper genealogical database format, which bodes well for the future. Volunteers to assist with the effort would be very welcome!

And on a different front, DNA testing is the wave of the future in genealogy, especially for the Walter Stewart Clan – stay tuned for more exciting news on this subject from Chief Historian 31714 Mary Newton.



The Reunion Today



As the Walter Stewart Clan gathers for its 100th Anniversary Reunion in 2007, this reunion remains a remarkable expression of the importance and resilience of the family as a fundamental building block of any society.
