

The 2008 Thomas Stanton Reunion

Stanton's from all over the country gathered for their tri-annual reunion July 25th, 26th & 27th, in Stonington CT. There were 83 Stanton Family attendees plus numerous visitors attending a lively agenda. The reunion committee consisted of Fred Burdick, Evelyn Burdick & Louise Hawley

Attendees came from:

CT, RI, NY, WV, PA, MI, CA, WA, DE, MA, MD, FL, VA, OH, & CO.

The activities were centered on the site of the Stanton Davis Homestead Museum (SDHM). A large circus tent provided protection from the sun and fortunately there was no rain until the church service on Sunday.

The Agenda was lively and full. Friday saw registration and the reuniting with old and new friends. Friday evening during dinner the Joe LoPresti country band entertained, with dancing after dinner.

The Saturday agenda was rich in history. Richard Radune had a presentation covering many aspects of his book "Pequot Plantation". He enlightened us all on many aspects of colonial life in Eastern CT and especially the documented history of Thomas Stanton in America. I found his book to be very entertaining, informative and very readable.

Mary Juliet Paonessa made a lovely presentation about quilts that were found in the SDHM. I never knew so much information could be discerned from the design and construction of quilts. She shared her expertise in that field.

Three University of Conn. interns, Jane Schoonover, Jodi Parda & Dana Canastar shared their scholarly work being done on both the history of the house and the analysis of the artifacts. There were some surprises revealed that I hope they will publish.

The highlight for many at the reunion was the personal tours of the Homestead given by Whit Davis. He seemed to have endless energy both telling his stories of the farm and the artifacts therein. We marveled at his tramping up and down the beautiful staircase giving many tours each day. Whit kept saying, "We must save this house", and we all agreed! We never cease to be amazed by the house and its stories.

A delight for the kids (yes we had a number of kids there) was the drumming and dancing performance of the Unity Drummers, a group made up from some of the local Native American Tribes. Everyone got to participate in some dancing with them. We always reflect on Thomas's association with Uncas and the Mohegan tribe when we make our pilgrimage to Stonington.

The final formal agenda item was a service at the Road Church on Pequot Trail. Thomas was one of the original member/founders of that church. Again we were welcomed with open arms by Pastor Lake and his congregation. They always make us feel like part of the family there. The church ladies provided a bountiful feast for us after the service. And many of us scattered for the four winds and home after the nice lunch.

Some of us even took in some other activities while we were in the area. We had our grandchildren with us and they delighted with the visit to Mystic Seaport. It is an especially good stop for kids and adults. We made a quick trip to the grounds of the Denison Homestead. That is another worthy visit to see a completed restoration in Mystic. Another must stop for us was a visit to the Wequetequock Burial Ground. It is historic and memorable to see the founder's monument and the memorial stone for Thomas and Anna. Some members were able to make a side trip to the Trading Post Rock. The owner was agreeable to letting them venture to the stone. We instead took our pictures from the Marina nearby.

Our business meeting was brief and efficient. The new officers are listed in another document. The group reaffirmed the location of future reunions to be Stonington CT.

The reunion was enjoyable and successful for all.