

March 23, 2012

Dear Family:

At the 2010 reunion, we planned for the next reunion to take place at the Bear Creek Meetinghouse site June 22-24, 2012 (Friday through Sunday). Now that date is about 3 months away. This is the time of year when families begin planning their summer activities and make a commitment to weekend events like this one. I must say that I have a fairly sketchy idea about who might be attending this year's reunion beyond the "usual suspects." Ted Foster maintains the reunion website at: <http://standingfamily.org/>. There is also a Standing/Nicholson Facebook, where you have been able to follow the responses of family members to our "Past, Present and Future" questionnaire.

A copy of this questionnaire is enclosed in this letter, or attached if you receive this via email. So far, twenty family members ranging in age from 12 through 95 have contributed: Ruth Alliband, Jean Biere, Gladys Bierma, Ted Foster, John Griffith, Birdie Kisling, Wanda Knight, Lisa Lansing, Mildred Lohans, Addison McGrew, Savanna McGrew, Andrea McMillan, Emily Plagman, Michele Plagman, Tom Plagman, Helen Spriegel, Ellis Standing, Larry Standing, Lee Standing, Kate Wurtzler. Maybe your parent, aunt or cousin is on this list. Wouldn't you like to know what they said? I'll share their responses with you AFTER you send me your questionnaire. There are some great little stories offered up in this collection. You've probably meant to contribute, but time got in the way. I have a new version for those who couldn't relate to some of the questions in the original. Try that one instead, if it seems right. If you prefer completing the questionnaire on line, you can find it on the reunion website (see above).

The Plagmans again are the coordinators of the June reunion, with a big supporting cast of relatives who live close by.

I am copying you with the George and Deborah Standing Descendents Facebook member list, which totals 90. I am thrilled to see so many of our Costa Rican cousins have joined, as well as a lot of those who are 6 or 7 generations removed from George and Deborah.

- When Richard Standing traveled across the pond to be at the 2008 gathering, he said that for him Ifield Meeting House site in England was sacred ground, because it was "where it all began" ... Wedding vows of our ancestors were exchanged there a hundred and eighty years ago.
- Sylvia Thomas said that we gather at the reunion, bound together by our common ancestry and the mystery of our own death.



The Little Schoolhouse, built 2008 by Nick Knight and his crew using plans drawn up by Roy Knight. It is a testament to the community of memory as well as the community that still exists at Bear Creek. Its plans are a model for green technology: materials recycling and alternative energy use.

- Sally Russell brought a new quilt to a reunion a few years ago and said that the family reminded her of the blocks in her quilt, each unique and yet joined by a common pattern.



You may send your completed surveys to my postal address:

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OR via email to: ruth.alliband@gmail.com OR allib001@umn.edu

I will attempt to send more of the reunion mail out electronically, so would appreciate more e-addresses to substitute for US Post addresses. Please also send me mailing address additions and updates, if a family member has moved WITHIN THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

Surveys and Reunion Attendance Response Attached