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Dear Family:

Some of you received mail, email, etc. RE: the Standing/Nicholson Heritage Tour of 2013. We put the brakes on that trip after everyone said they would prefer to wait a year, even though 2014 is the year of the biennial Standing Reunion in Earlham, IA. I present you with photo highlights of the planned trip and persuasive reasons why THIS heritage tour ought to be part of your late summer/fall planning for 2014.

We propose to be gone for ten days, meeting up at our hotel in Croydon, south of London after flying in from our homes in the US on Day 1. (Most of us will be leaving home the day before; I guess that is Day 0.)



East Croydon Station

Richard Standing



Here's an image of East Croydon Station and one of our cousin, Richard Standing, in the cab of a vintage locomotive. Richard's and our common ancestor, John Standing is one generation earlier than George Standing, who emigrated to Iowa in 1871. Richard's family descends from John Standing's second marriage after George's mother, Martha, died. Richard came to our Iowa Standing reunion in 2008 after finding the reunion webpage. He, his parents Janet and Anthony, and his sister Helen have all pledged to travel with us for all or most of our Heritage Tour.

On Day 2, we are on our own to utilize the excellent train network to see a bit of London. *NOTE: George went to school in Croydon for a short time. Richard says: "My great grandparents on the Standing side lived and are buried in Croydon (4 Neville Road and Queen's Road Cemetery). My great grandfather is the last of our line to be mentioned in the Bax book. Croydon was an early transportation hub on the way to Brighton."*

On Day 3, we do an extensive tour by minivan from our hotel in Croydon *TANYARD farm is the name of the ancestral Standing homestead (possibly at one time leather was tanned on the premises...).* Some Standing relatives are buried in unmarked graves on the lawn. John Standing, George Standing's father, sold steam engines at this location. It is very near Gatwick Airport. *IFIELD MEETINGHOUSE is where it all began for the Society of Friends. It was the first meetinghouse*

anywhere. WORTH, CRAWLEY is where the Cheal Sisters lived--West Sussex south of London. The Cheal nurseries and home were cleared to make way for Gatwick Airport. In the town center is the King George Hotel. Opposite is a building where George lived as a child; Henry Standing's memoir says George could see the King George Hotel from his window. HEVER CASTLE is the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, where Henry VIII came courting. In 1903 the Cheal Nurseries received a contract from William Waldorf Astor (who owned Hever Castle at the time) to redesign the Hever Castle gardens; Astor wanted to show off his collection of classical statuary. The garden is described as flamboyantly grand. BLUEBELL RAILWAY in Sussex: this nearby railway museum was suggested by Richard as an attraction. The railway has been restored by volunteers, so there is a train ride between stations. The museum has a collection of old locomotives and rolling stock, some dating from nearly the time that George and Deborah emigrated to the US. The Bluebell Railway trip passes through West Hoathley, which has Standing connections, per Richard Standing.



Hever Castle



Ifield Meeting House



Knole House



Bluebell Railroad

Day 4= minibus picks us and luggage up at hotel in Croydon and transports us to Knole House, (tour and lunch) then on to East Croydon Station for train to Portsmouth Harbor and the Isle of Wight. *Why Knole House?: David Nicholson, Mary Alice, Frances and Sarah's grandfather, was an architect; in the 1830s he was hired to design a couple of new structures at KNOLE HOUSE: the clock tower and the orangery. Knole House was built between 1456 and 1486; it is a calendar house with 365 rooms, 52 staircases, 12 entrances and 7 courtyards. It is known for the degree to which its early 17<sup>th</sup>-century*



appearance is preserved. See website and keep fingers crossed for partial opening in 2014 to view restoration...

Train time East Croydon to Portsmouth Harbor 1 h 55 min; 40 min. ferry ride to Fishbourne. Ferries run at least every half hour through 10:00 p.m. Bus or train (depending on arrival time) to Sandown, on the east coast of the Isle of Wight. We'll stay in one or more bed and breakfasts (depending on size of the group) within walking distance of the beach.

*Why Isle of Wight?: George Standing was apprenticed to his father's friend, John Harneman, who owned a drygoods and grocery store in Newport on the ISLE OF WIGHT. Per Janet Standing-- Quakers, not being of the recognized church of the land, were not admitted to Oxford /Cambridge and academic pursuits/professions, so many started businesses. Apprenticing to a shopkeeper was viewed as a start for George to make his way in the world. Also, at about the time he became an apprentice, his mother Martha had died and his father, John, had remarried. It was the Isle of Wight store where young George became a tea-taster.*



Isle of Wight Ferry

Freshwater Bay



Osborne House



A Sandown B&B

Day 5: Bus to East Cowes for Osborne House tour in morning. Lunch in East Cowes or Newport Bus through Newport to Yarmouth for open top bus tour of west coast, including Freshwater Bay: Open-top

loop bus tour of west Isle of Wight-Needles, departing and returning to Yarmouth- total travel time 50 minutes/\$15.60 adult, \$7.80 child, \$31.20 family. Bus back to Sandown. Optional second open-top bus tour of Central Isle of Wight Downs OR the southern coast, with opportunities to get down from the bus at any stop. On our own in evening.

*Why Osborne House and Freshwater Bay?: Well, we NEED to see OSBORNE HOUSE if we are on the Isle of Wight. It is where the young Queen Victoria and her dashing Prince Albert summered. It was her favorite residence and upon Albert's death she decreed that the house should remain just as it was when he was alive. (There is a nice Victorian garden too!!) The public followed the Queen to the Isle for THEIR summer vacations. George mentions IOW's FRESHWATER BAY in his memoir; his son Henry painted a landscape of Freshwater Bay which can be seen on the Nicholson/Standing Art web pages.*

Day 6 Ferry back to Portsmouth, then train to Manchester. Travel time from Portsmouth to Manchester around 5 hours.



Manchester City Art Gallery



Restaurant on "The Curry Mile"

Day 7 Manchester Sights: City Art Gallery (good collections of mid-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century art, at time when Manchester was home to wealthy industrialists), Town Hall w. pre-Raphaelite murals, Museum of Science and Industry (Museum of Science & Industry is 1 mile north of City Center on Liverpool Road, Bus Route #33). Food Alert: The Curry Mile! Also shopping, especially cloth, near mills.

Day 8 Pick-up from central Manchester hotel for group bus tour to Pendle Hill-Lancashire (49 min), Quarry Bank Mill, Styal (1 h. 10 min), Leigh-Manchestershire (34 min), return to hotel (24 min.). 2 hours at Pendle Hill to roam about and climb Pendle Hill. 2 plus hours at Quarry Bank Mill to view exhibits & demonstrations. Back to hotel through Leigh. If we stop in Leigh, it won't be for long. Bus travel time: 2 h. 58 min. Total time out with stops = 7.5 hours.

*Why these stops near Manchester?: There were many communities of Quakers around Manchester. Janet Standing tells us that established Quakers had a tradition of helping younger Quakers break into a business or trade. It is perhaps because of such a connection that George and Deborah moved north from London. Deborah's family were from nearby Dewsbury. PENDLE HILL- this is a hill north of Manchester where George Fox had a mystical vision while traveling. It is near the village of Wheatly-and-Barley. QUARRY BANK MILL is a preserved cotton mill. It is a National Trust property with*



*demonstrations of the milling industry which built Manchester during the Industrial Revolution. LEIGH is where George and Deborah lived and where George owned a store. Henry, Ernest, George, Edith and Charles were born in Leigh between 1857 and 1867.*



Quarry Bank Mill - National Trust --Living History Museum



Pendle Hill-Lancashire



Leigh, Lancashire



Plaque At Former Dewsbury Meeting Site



Ashton Under Lyne

Day 9 Pick-up from central Manchester hotel for group bus tour through Ashton-under-Lyne-Manchestershire (18 min), Low Leighton-Derbyshire (29 min.), Dewsbury-Yorkshire Meetinghouse site (1 h. 6 min), Ackworth School, Pontefract-Yorkshire (27 min), Great Ayton-Yorkshire (1 h. 27 min); Great Ayton-Yorkshire to Thirsk-Yorkshire (36 min). 4 h. 23 min one way by bus. Stops in Low Leighton for about 30 min, Dewsbury meetinghouse site for about 30 min., Ackworth School for about 30 min., Great Ayton for about 30 min. Total time with stops 7 h. 23 min.



Ackworth School, Yorkshire



Yorkshire Dales



North Yorkshire



Great Ayton Meetinghouse



Golden Fleece Inn, Thirsk



Rievaulx Abbey Terrace Garden Near Thirsk

*Why these stops?: ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE was where George's second store was located. The family owns a business card for his Ashton-under-Lyne store. Little Emma Standing was born in 1864 in Leigh and died in 1866. She is buried in the Quaker cemetery in LOW LEIGHTON. DEWSBURY was where Deborah Fox was born and grew up. She and George Standing were married in the Quaker meetinghouse in Dewsbury. Deborah brought butternuts from the tree in the churchyard to plant at her new home in Iowa. ACKWORTH SCHOOL is a Quaker school still in operation. Henry went to Ackworth for a short time and suffered in this boarding school. His bad experience may be one of the reasons that George and Deborah wanted to move to the countryside of Iowa, where they could home-school their children. Deborah's mother Rebecca Payne also attended Ackworth. She returned to Ackworth as a young adult to teach and lived there for eight years until she married David Fox. GREAT AYTON in north Yorkshire is the location of another Quaker school, now closed. Great Ayton is the last place in England that Alfred Nicholson and Rebecca Phillips Nicholson lived; they had moved around a good deal (Brighton, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury, Stockton-on-Tees, then Great Ayton). From Great Ayton they moved to Waterford, Limerick and Belfast, and finally to Rochester, New York. THIRSK is our stopping place. It is a larger town than Great Ayton and is well-connected to London by train. It is James Herriott's home town. I am hoping we will have time to venture over to the 18<sup>th</sup> century Terrace Garden and Rievaulx Abbey ruins 20 minutes east of Thirsk.*