

## Minutes

# 2018 STANDING FAMILY REUNION

**Bear Creek Friends Meeting House,  
Dallas Co., Iowa, on June 15-17, 2018**

On a hot sunny mid-June weekend in central Iowa, descendants of George and Deborah Fox Standing came together to be near the spot where the Standing family had begun their American homestead adventure in the fall of 1870. Early in that same year they had left their home in Ashton under Lyne, just east of Manchester, Lancashire Co., England and had sailed on the ship Idaho to New York City in America, before traveling on to the west. A total of 48 persons attended all or part of this reunion, coming from Texas, California, Minnesota, Illinois, and quite a few locations in Iowa – including the Earlham vicinity. The persons who had traveled the greatest distance were Savanna Alliband McGrew and her sons (1,804 miles from Santa Clara, California) and Wayne Clark (1,654 miles from Tustin, California). Representatives came from three of the five branches of George and Deborah’s family: Henry, Charles, and Alfred. Descendants of George and Josiah were not represented; sadly there are far fewer of these descendants remaining.

Folks began arriving at the Bear Creek Friends Meeting House late Friday afternoon. After socializing they enjoyed a taco supper in the lower level of the Meeting House before retiring to motels and other lodging options in the vicinity.

*[Meals for the entire weekend were provided by the organizers, Emily Plagman and Savannah Alliband McGrew.]*

On Saturday morning, breakfast was provided for those who wanted it at the Meeting House, after which folks socialized until about 10 AM. Then those who wanted an outing caravanned to Winterset to see the John Wayne Birthplace and Museum; those who wanted could also see the Quilt Museum and History on the Hill Museum, operated by the Madison County Historical Society. Others chose to stay behind at the Meeting House to continue visiting.

A sandwich and salad lunch was served in the lower level, and as this was finishing up, a “bear hunt” ensued for the little folks – as “Bear Creek” was the theme of the reunion. Teddy bears (some of which been in the Plagman families for many years) were on display around the room, and an actual bear [*Emily Plagman in a bear costume*] led the kids around the room to “hunt” for the bears. They each were allowed to keep one of the bears they “captured” (excluding the heirloom stuffed toys). These prizes were awarded to select other persons as well. Then everyone was invited to play a trivia quiz about bears, and those getting the most answers correct were awarded prizes of their choice of a mug with teddy bear decor or a bottle of honey from Minnesota. The table centerpieces included “honey straws” for all to enjoy.

After this excitement, those who were present went outside for group photographs on the south side of the Meeting House. Photos were taken of the entire Standing family group, by family branch, and one photo was taken of the eldest (Alberta Kisling) holding the youngest (Zariah Glick). *[Unfortunately, everyone who attended the reunion was not available at the time these were taken.]* By 2 PM all came together upstairs for memorials to be read for those family members who had passed away since the last Standing Reunion two years ago. Correspondence from Janet and Andrew Standing in England was read by Winifred Standing. From 3 to 5 PM the “Chautauqua” (readings, songs and prepared skits) took place. Savanna McGrew, as master of ceremonies, introduced the presenters. First up was Joyce Osborn, who read a remembrance initially written and presented by Ellen Standing Buschman at the Standing Reunion in 1970 about her grandfather, George Standing. Nathan Standing (age 13) sang two a cappella solos, Osias Glick (age 4) and his mother Liz presented a camp song skit, three generations of Plagmans participated in several song skits – plus a solo by Autumn Wurzler (age 6), and the conclusion was a reading chorus of “The Little Englishman” – written by Martha Standing Foster (a granddaughter of George and Deborah Standing) and traditionally performed at prior reunions. A supper of grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and salads was served in the lower level of the Meeting House, after which folks went back to their respective night lodgings.

On Sunday morning, breakfast was again provided in the lower level of the Meeting House for those who wanted. At 10 AM there was a reunion business meeting, conducted by Emily Plagman. Sally Russell announced that she had family photos that she “didn’t know what to do with;” others indicated that they also had this situation. Nancy Osborn Johnsen invited anyone who wanted to give unwanted historic family photos to her for documenting and recording for the good of the whole. Joyce Osborn gave a report on the George & Deborah Standing family plaque at Ellis Island, New York City; it has now been engraved and installed to commemorate the Standings’ arrival at Castle Garden in 1870. Paulette Standing provided a financial report, saying that funds on hand prior to the current reunion amounted to \$1,491.70. Donations from the current reunion were still coming in, but she had already received \$850.00. The group agreed to pay the Bear Creek Friends a sum of \$500.00 for “use of the hall” and reimbursements for the prize items and other incidentals needed to be paid. The organizers, Emily Plagman (and Savanna McGrew, in absentia), announced that the cost of the food for the entire weekend was a donation from them, which was appreciated by all. Paulette Standing was thanked for her continuing work with reunion finances.

Richard Standing, in England, had contacted family members to remind them that the year 2020 would be the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Standings’ having arrived

in America. He was suggesting that a “reverse migration” of Standings might take place by holding the next reunion in England. This was felt by all to be a truly intriguing idea, although possibly beyond what could reasonably be accomplished by many. No one had yet indicated an interest in leading the family reunion for 2020, but it was decided that a date should be set for the purpose of planning. **The date established was Friday-Sunday, June 26-28, 2020.**

Members of the Bear Creek Friends Meeting agreed that there was a “Standing invitation” that the reunion might be held again at Bear Creek. Nathan Standing offered to be in charge of children’s activities, and Paulette Standing said she could be in charge of food arrangements. Joyce Osborn offered that, if she was able at that time, she could provide the Friday evening meal. Emily Plagman offered to continue being in charge of communications (maintaining the email list, sending out announcements, etc.). She reminded folks that there is an email address ([standingfamilyreunion@gmail.com](mailto:standingfamilyreunion@gmail.com)) and website address (<http://standingfamily.org/>) for Standing reunions. The formal organizer(s) for the 2020 reunion are yet to be determined. The current leaders were thanked for organizing a very successful reunion.

At the conclusion of the business meeting Ruth Alliband gave a short family history discussion and also made a pitch for the Standing clan to help support the Monteverde Friends School in Costa Rica. Toward that end, as fund-raisers, she had brought Monteverde history books and a

variety of fiber ornaments in the form of birds and animals made by local women in Costa Rica as Christmas tree decorations – all for sale. Next, two hymns (“Tis a Gift” and “Amazing Grace) were sung by all, and at 11 AM attenders of the reunion came together with Bear Creek Friends Meeting members in a Meeting for Worship, much as Standing family ancestors had done before them. A Sunday sandwich and salad lunch was served after Meeting, after which farewells were made to those still in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy Osborn Johnsen*

**Special thanks go to:**

Emily Plagman and Savanna McGrew, for organizing the reunion

Paulette Standing, for serving as treasurer

All the volunteer helpers and clean-up crew

Members of Bear Creek Friends Meeting

Jackie Leckband, Bear Creek Friends Meeting, for signage

**Break-down of attenders by family branch:**

**Henry (20)**

Nancy Osborn Johnsen  
 Steve E. Osborn  
 Joyce Osborn  
 Juanita Hicks  
 Sarah Hicks  
 Jason Hicks  
 Gary Bierma  
 Deb Bierma  
 David Nadler  
 Katie Nadler  
 Sam Nadler  
 Gabe Nadler  
 Joe Nadler  
 David Nadler (Jr.)  
 Brian Glick  
 Liz Glick  
 Osias Glick  
 Zariah Glick  
 Paulette Standing  
 Nathan Standing

**Charles (25)**

Wayne Clark  
 Alberta Kisling  
 Jeffrey Kisling  
 Ellis Standing  
 Winifred Standing  
 Cheri Standing  
 Francis Osborn  
 Naomi Osborn  
 Otis Osborn  
 Patricia Osborn  
 Osa Bricker  
 Ruth Alliband

Savanna McGrew  
 Addison McGrew  
 Ansel McGrew  
 Tom Plagman  
 Michelle Plagman  
 Dave McMillan  
 Andrea McMillan  
 Felix McMillan  
 Zelda McMillan  
 Emily Plagman  
 Kate Wurtzler  
 Autumn Wurtzler  
 Nora Wurtzler

**Alfred (3)**

Sally Russell  
 Larry Hutzell  
 Karen Hutzell

**Deaths** reported as having occurred since the last reunion in 2016:

Gladys Marie Standing Bierma,  
 4/2/2017  
 Harold Gilbert Standing, 11/13/2016  
 Craig Hicks, 10/25/2016  
 Al Johnson, 2/--/2018  
 Ed Nicholson, 4/20/2018  
 Joseph Ernest (Ernie) Guindon,  
 11/05/2017

**Births** reported as having occurred since the last reunion in 2016:

Maverick Abram Sorensen, 1/02/2018  
 Zariah Cohen Glick, 1/22/2018