



STANDING REUNION

On June 14-16, 1985, nearly one hundred and fifteen years after George and Deborah Standing first settled north of Earham, one hundred and ten of their descendants gathered at the Friends Meetinghouse north of Earham for a family reunion.

Coming from 15 states, they relived together some of the experiences of those who came before them. Through letters written by George and Deborah and others they heard about England and the crossing of the ocean to a new land. And from a touching and humorous choral reading, "The Little Englishman" written by granddaughter Martha Foster, they learned of the adjustments required in this new land.

George Standing, "the little Englishman," was born in Battersea, England in 1830 and Deborah Fox, whose family had been Quakers for many generations, in Dewsbury, England in 1832. George, an expert tea taster, had a store in England before he and Deborah emigrated to

America on the Idaho, a ship propelled by both steam and sails, in 1870. They married in 1855 and by 1870 they had six children. A daughter, Edith Rebecca, had died but five sons, Henry, Ernest, George, Charles and Alfred emigrated with their parents. Another son, Josiah, was born after settlement here. They settled on land four miles north of Earham. Their original home was on the Miriam Standing property and the cottage they built later was located on the farm where Roy and Wanda Knight now live.

Highlight of the weekend reunion was a George and Debbie Look Alike Contest Saturday night. Candidates were chosen through nomination to the Look Alike Committee, Nancy and Joyce Osborn. For the contest, nominees were supplied with appropriate accessories - for Debbie, a bonnet and shawl worn by Deborah, and a white tie scarf, and for George, a Quaker hat, bow tie and black vest. Debbie look-alike nominees were: Grandchildren, Amy

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written by Reva Griffith

Mott, Albert Standing, Miriam Standing, and great grandchildren Alberta Kising, Reva Griffith and Barbara Lesh. George look-alikes were: great Grandchild Ellis Standing, and great-great grandchildren Steven E. Osborn, Chris Griffith and Peter Wolfe. Audience applause for each contestant was measured by a committee made up of members from each branch of the family. The winners were: Albert Standing as Debbie and Ellis Standing (Albert's son!) as George. Each of the winners was awarded a picture of George and Deborah Standing. All contestants received buttons reading, "Has thee hugged a STANDING today?"

Feature attraction Saturday afternoon was the "Great Standing Chautauqua." The eighteen acts, performed by representatives from most of the families present, included a harmonica duet, vocal duets, original writings, accordion/vocal duet, ballet, pantomime, magic act, guitar and vocal solos and a letter written by Deborah.

Other activities of the weekend included a hay ride and tour, a pig roast, picture taking in old-fashioned clothes, a story telling session and picture taking of the whole group. On display was a family tree, family pictures and an exhibit of hobbies, ranging from quilts and rugs to writing and various kinds of art work. All meals were served in the meeting house basement. Many family members stayed for Quaker meeting for worship Sunday before departing for home.

States represented by the Standings included: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Texas. Standing descendants in the area coordinated the reunion. Helping in the

planning and hosting were: Roy and Wanda Knight, Ellis and Winifred Standing, Miriam Standing, Amy and Lewis Mott, Elsie Osborn, Bertha Osborn, Osa Bricker, Nicholas and Dawn Knight, Steve and Jeannie Osborn.

Bernard and Mildred Standing should be added to this list.



Miriam Standing telling it like it is on the tour.