

The 2025 Standing Family Reunion Will Be a Virtual Reunion

The Standing Family Reunion of 2025 will be a virtual Zoom only meeting. This has been decided by the “Standing Committee” (pun intended) for this year’s reunion, as planned during the Reunion’s Business Meeting of 2023 (I am attaching the Business Meeting minutes to this document). Our committee consists of Ruth Alliband, Deb Bierma, Emily Plagman Frank, Savanna McGrew and Jennifer Sotelo.

Our reasoning as to the Virtual Only reunion this year is:

1) We lack the technical support necessary to loop an assembly at the Bear Creek Meeting House into the World Wide Web Information Slipstream. We really DID make history two years ago. The Meetinghouse briefly lifted off its foundations and flew through space. Ted Foster has videos to prove this (or to prove something almost as magical). He recorded the entire on-line proceedings as an MP-3 and it remains available for us and for posterity. In the room at the time were Wayne Clark and his cell phone, Ted Foster with a boatload of equipment, as well as several tech-savvy Osborn clan members. None of these savants will be present at the Meeting House for this reunion.

2) Technology and aging have changed our preferences. The Committee looked at each other and asked who, among the loyal Standing Reunion stalwarts of the past, has the drive to drive from the far reaches of the country to the Standing Nest. For those who still love to drive, it’s never been their “nest”; they have no “homing instinct” to “return” to Bear Creek, since it was their parents or grandparents who knew every little side road and every dirt path down to Bear Creek. Some in the younger generation were treated to hayrides through the creek and up the far hills on devil-may-care “hay rides”, but these have now been deemed hazardous and are no longer offered.

3) But we’re not done yet—I don’t think so. This first email is the messenger saying the times are changing, but we are Still Standing. The next email or two will be about which summer weekend to host a virtual reunion. I think obvious Saturdays are:

June 21

June 28

July 12

July 19

July 26

(DO any of these Saturdays compete with Henderson Clan planning?)

I'm also open to other dates on into August. Left out the first Saturday in June (graduation), second Saturday in June (Father's Day) and first Saturday in July (4th of July).

Savanna says she will host the 2025 Virtual Reunion. We would also like to offer another Zoom session that would be more of a discussion—last time we had a “Maker’s” circle and participants (Joyce Osborn, Nancy Osborn Johnsen, Osa Bricker, Sandy Braa, Janet Standing, Merilee Johnson, (possibly) Merilee’s sister, and I) showed slides of quilts and other handiwork. A topic for this round might be gardening—I know we have a lot of gardeners in our group.

Another thought I had was if anyone who has ever been to a Standing Family Reunion any time in the last 53 years could share one story or memory. We could put these into a collection to share with everyone.

Savanna said that probably there are those who will receive this email who are unaware the Circular Letter/Round Robin exists. That has had a run of about 125 years or so. Another theme could be “gleanings” from the circular letters. Maybe one story apiece in a section of our on-line reunion or a timed presentation of as many gleanings as will fit into a 4-5 minute segment. This would include gleanings from the precious hard-copy letters a few folks (David Cheal, for instance) have in their collection.

We may need a second Zoom host—Emily indicated to us that her federally funded job may be in jeopardy so that she was uncertain if she could be Savanna’s side-kick in the Zoom room as she has done in the past.

Write me with your thoughts. Stay tuned for the second email RE: scheduling and planning, which will follow.

Out Standing In Our Fields

Standing On The Promises Of God

Standing Pat

(your turn),

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