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Subject: Family Links between Cheals and Standings
To: ...
Cc: ...

As I'm now starting to get my head around all this mass of Cheal / Standing family history, I thought I would send you this paper that my sister Alison prepared around the time she and I attended the 2001 Reunion. I updated it in 2011 (green ink) and added a further update in October 2019.

As I read through this paper again today, with a view to putting out something for the 2021 Reunion, I am getting rather concerned that there is too much information here for the newer members of the wider family.

The problem is that the document as it stands is worth keeping as a historical record, so I'm not keen to hack it about and reduce it to "headlines and soundbites". Is there some way it could be preserved in a family archive and made available on request to anyone in the families concerned?

If we could make that happen, then I would be willing to prepare a new paper (probably no more than 2 or 3 pages) summarising the key points in the story, to be aimed at the 15 to 25 year-old "market" consisting of our grandchildren (present and future). If I can get that done in the next couple of weeks, then I can email it over to Savanna in advance of the Reunion for her to share it as she thinks fit.

What do you think?

On a separate, but related, topic, I am keen to get hold of any photographs taken at the 2001 Reunion which show Mildred Mendenhall (aged 101) holding Jack, the newborn baby grandson of my sister Fiona. Sadly, I cannot now find the photo that I took at the time, but I'm sure that others took photos too. Any picture showing those two together will be quite significant, as it is not every day that you get a lady born in 1899 holding a baby born in 2001, with the whole of a century between their birthdates. Question: who is still alive (and reasonably intelligent) who had a digital camera at the 2001 Reunion in Earlham (the one where Herbert took us all on a guided tour of the Burial Ground beside the Meeting House) ???

220 YEARS OF CHEAL FAMILY LINKS

(in DEWSBURY & CRAWLEY)

with

STANDING & FOX FAMILIES

(in CHARLWOOD, WORTH, CRAWLEY, DEWSBURY,
& IOWA, USA)

culminating in visit of **ALISON & DAVID CHEAL**

to Earlham, Iowa,

and our 'reunion' with some Standing cousins

at

BEAR CREEK FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

Earlham on 16th May 2001

These notes were prepared originally by my sister Alison back in 2001. Now in 2011, given the new surge of interest in the **GEORGE AND DEBORAH STANDING DESCENDANTS GROUP** on Facebook, it seems good to re-issue them with some updates and further comment.

I have added an update in October 2019 to show more recent news of the Cheal side of the family since 2011

1. The original link between Standings & Cheals

Took place on 29th June 1798 at Ifield Friends Meeting House, when

John Cheal senior married Lucy Sayers.

(Richard Standing has posted on Facebook in 2011 a photo of the old Ifield Meeting House which still looks the same today as it did in 1798 !)

Cheals & Sayers were both established Quaker families at Ifield by then.

John lived in Crawley and ran a grocers/ cordwainers/ drapers shop.

John & Lucy had two children, both born above the shop, and both educated at Ackworth Friends' School in Yorkshire:

i. John Cheal junior (1800-1896)

- He carried on with the shop in Crawley, Sussex, living above it, till he married in 1845.
- He & his wife Mary Fox from Dewsbury, Yorkshire, then moved out of Crawley to Oak Tree Farm, Lowfield Heath (just in Surrey about 2 miles away), where he became a farmer.
- John & Mary Cheal had three children, Lucy(1846), Joseph(1848) & Alexander(1850).
- John founded Cheals Nurseries at Lowfield Heath, near Crawley in 1871, establishing the firm with his two sons, Joseph & Alexander.
- John & Mary's elder son, Joseph , also married a Yorkshire woman, Mary Elizabeth Gill from Dewsbury, in 1875.
- Joseph & Mary Elizabeth Cheal became parents of Ernest Cheal, who then became father of Wilfrid Cheal.
- Wilfrid Cheal was born in Crawley in 1907 at the family home built on Cheals Nurseries. He was trained as a nurseryman and landscape garden expert, thus following in his father's and grandfather's footsteps. He died in 1987.
- In 1940, Wilfrid married Barbara Ledgard (1917-2010). They had four children: Alison (1942), David (1944), Fiona (1946), and finally Jonathan (1950). It was Alison and David who visited Earlham in May 2001 and attended the Standing reunion. Alison and I have happy memories of that occasion.

ii. Martha Cheal (1801-1836)

- She married **John Standing** junior, a carpenter and farmer, from a nearby Quaker family living at Charlwood, Surrey.
- Martha & John later moved about 20 miles to Battersea (at that time a village, but now part of Greater London), then on to Essex.
- They had five children, the last two of whom were twins. Martha never recovered from their birth, and she died at age 35 in Essex.
- The eldest of the three other children was **George Standing**, who was born in 1830 when his parents were living in Battersea just south of the River Thames in London. Interestingly, we see that John Cheal wrote in his diary on the day after George was born “Martha was safely delivered of a fine boy”. George went on to emigrate to the United States and was the ancestor of all the Standing family branches in the US. He died 1912, Earlham, Iowa.

2. The marriage of George Standing (1830-1912) & Deborah Fox (1832-1901)

- They married at Dewsbury Friends Meeting House on 22 Nov.1855; both were from Quaker families.
- George & Deborah had in fact been introduced by John Cheal junior, George’s uncle, who had taken him in in the late 1830s, after the death of the boy’s mother (Martha, John’s sister). John educated George at home and trained him to run the shop. We read in John Cheal’s diary how George and his uncle would take the dog for walks over the fields near the family home in Crawley.
- When John’s friend from Yorkshire, Mary Fox (who was also a distant cousin), came to visit him in Crawley, she sometimes brought her much younger half-sister Deborah with her, as chaperone for herself and company for George (who was 30 years younger than his uncle John)
- By 1845, John Cheal & Mary Fox had married, left the shop, and moved to Oak Tree Farm at Lowfield Heath; and young George had been apprenticed by his father & uncle to a grocer/tea dealer in the Isle of Wight.
- Ten years later, George had returned to northern England and started in his own shop in Harrogate (in the county of Yorkshire) then Leigh (in the county of Lancashire), re-met Deborah and married her.

- George Standing thus became brother-in-law to his uncle John Cheal, (now you have to concentrate, because the next bit is complicated...) and George's new wife Deborah was his sister-in-law as well as his wife!
- Mary & Deborah Fox were already half-sisters (with the same father, David Fox). They then became sisters-in-law as well, and their husbands were uncle and nephew respectively! (Got it ??)

3. The emigration of George & Deborah Standing from Lancashire to Iowa

They emigrated to USA via Liverpool-New York in **Nov.1870** with their five boys. They settled in Earlham, Iowa, with its established Quaker Meeting House, the following summer. They bought 80 acres of prairie there and added another 80 acres later on, and built their own farmhouse on their land.

The five sons who emigrated to Earlham with George & Deborah in 1870 were:

Henry	born 1857
Ernest	born 1858 died 1885 aged 27 unmarried
George Edwin	born 1861
Charles	born 1867
Alfred	born 1869

Their ages ranged from 13 to 1 at the time they emigrated. (Their only sister Edith, between George Edwin & Charles, had died in 1866 at the age of 2, back in England). They have all left written records of their journey westwards, and early life as settlers.

George and Debbie then had one further son, **Josiah born 1872**, the only born American among them (the others all became naturalised Americans). Ernest died young with no children (from TB caught from a visiting Fox aunt in the early 1880s), but all the others went on to have large families.

4. Their descendants today

This next section was written by my sister Alison in 2001. It reflects the Standing family members we met with at that time. Obviously in the last 10 years the family branches have all expanded – as shown by the exciting inclusion of so many from the newer generations who are now learning about their family origins for the first time through Larry Standing's Facebook Group.

- Herbert Standing, son of Bernard Standing & Mildred Mendenhall Standing (now 101), grandson of Charles & Mary Alice Standing Deutsch (from her 2nd mge. to Emil Deutsch, German refugee), & great-g'son of Charles, and half-brother to Marie Clark, above.
- Hazel Alberta (Birdie) Standing Kisling, dau. of Albert George Standing, & g'dau of Charles Standing.
Married to Burton Kisling & live in Earlham.
- Ellis Standing, son of Albert, g'son of Charles. Married to Winifred; they live in Earlham.
- Osa Marie Osborn Bricker, dau. of Elsie Standing & Robert Osborn, g'dau. of Charles Standing.
Married to Kenneth Bricker & live in Earlham, Iowa.

c) Alfred Standing's family

Alfred & his wife Alice (nee Crew) had three children, Miriam (1902), Eleanor (1906), Gordon (1913).

Of their descendants, we met the following:

- Joy Lee Hutzell Johnson, dau. of Eleanor S. & Lawrence Hutzell, g'dau. of Alfred. Married to Leroy Johnson & live in Mt.Pleasant, Iowa. David & I stayed with them there, with their elder daughter Merilee visiting from New York.
- Larry Hutzell, brother of Joy as above. Married to Karen & live in West Des Moines. Visited with them there.
- Gayle Sheetz, younger dau. of Leroy & Joy above. Married to Jeff Sheetz, and we stayed with them in Coralville, near Iowa City.
- Sally Standing Russell, dau. of Gordon Standing, g'dau. of Alfred. Married to Wilbur Russell & live in Ankeny, Iowa (summer) and Mesa, Arizona (winter).

d) Josiah Standing's family

He moved out west (early 1920s) with his wife Frances (Nicholson) and two surviving children, Ernest & Hilda. They settled in California where Josiah became a fruit grower.

David & I were able to speak on the phone to Josiah's two remaining grandchildren, Barbara Lesh & Hilda Swartz, daus. of Ernest & his wife Clarion Standing, while in California.

2011 Footnote re current Cheal families in the UK and US

- Alison Cheal married Chris Benton in 1975. They have a daughter, Claire, (1978) and a son Nicholas (1981). In 2009, Claire married Phil Andrews, and their son Charlie was born in 2010. Alison and Chris live near Bristol in the south-west of England.
- David Cheal married Jan Moen in 1971. They have two sons: Alex (1978) and Richard (1984). In 2006 Alex married Kathryn Adams in Australia. They now live in Sydney with their daughter Charlotte born in 2008. David and Jan live in Northern Ireland.
- Fiona Cheal married Kurt Stackhouse in 1968. They lived in New Jersey and had two children: Garth (1971) and Kate (1975). Fiona subsequently married Ken Fuhrman. Garth is married and lives in Iowa. Some of you may remember Garth attended the Standing reunion in 2001 with his youngest, Jack. Kate is also married and lives near Chicago with husband Nathan Osborn and their two children, Edison and Rene. Fiona is now living in England, just south of Crawley.
- Jonathan Cheal married Miriam Mead in 1986. They have three children: Diana (1988), Miney (1990), and Henry (1993). They live near Bath in south-west England.

It may be of interest to members of the GEORGE AND DEBORAH STANDING DESCENDANTS GROUP on Facebook to know that Alison Benton has written and published a fully researched and illustrated book entitled "Cheals of Crawley". published 2002 with ISBN 0 9532833 1 3. This book contains a wealth of family history covering the Cheal family including early connections with George and Deborah Standing. Alison has confirmed she has a few copies of her book remaining unsold.

2019 Post-script

Sadly, I do not have enough information to provide an update on all of the branches of the Standing clan, but I can give you an outline of the recent developments in the Cheal families since the “Footnote” prepared in 2011, shown in green on the previous page.

Alison and Chris Benton were living near Bristol when I wrote my 2011 update. Since then, Chris has passed away and Alison has moved into a residential care home in Frome to be near my brother Jonathan and his family. Alison is no longer able to function independently, and it is sad to see her in decline.

Alison’s daughter, Claire, is no longer married to Phil, but she is raising their son, Charlie, at home in Yate near Bristol. Claire’s brother Nick is married to Triona and they now have a son, Cedar. They live in London, very close to Battersea where George Standing was born in 1830.

David and Jan are still living in Coleraine, Northern Ireland. Jan is still busy running our Bed & Breakfast business. Our elder son, Alex and his wife, Kathryn now have two daughters, Charlotte (2008) and Lucy (2011) and the family are living near Sydney in Australia.

Our younger son, Richard, married Deborah in July this year, and they live in Shrewsbury with their son Callum. It is good to have another Deborah in the wider family.

My younger sister Fiona has moved back to the USA to live with her daughter Kate in rural Wisconsin. Fiona’s son Garth (who attended the Standing reunion at Earlham with us in 2001) is still living in Iowa, and is now married to Jenny.

My brother Jonathan now lives near Frome in Somerset, close to the home where Alison is now a resident. His daughter Diana has been working in Australia, while his daughter Miney is now teaching in Yangon (Myanmar). His son Henry is working in England.

If any of the current Standings would send me an update on their branch of the family, I would be grateful to receive it, and will circulate it to anyone for whom I have an email address.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to you all !