

the Timen Stiddem Society

ISSUE 1 / SPRING 1998

NEWSLETTER

THE FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER FOR THE DESCENDANTS OF THE ORIGINAL IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR FROM SWEDEN IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY TO NEW SWEDEN (WILMINGTON), DELAWARE, ENCOMPASSING THE SURNAMES STIDHAM, STEDHAM, STEDDOM, AND STEADHAM, AMONG OTHERS.

from the president's keyboard

Greetings, cousins all. Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter of THE TIMEN STIDDEM SOCIETY. The Society is brand new. It grew out of discussions and brainstorming by several of us who are among the thousands of direct descendants of one of the first Swedish immigrants in America, Timen Stiddem, who settled in New Sweden (now Delaware) in the 1600s.

We saw the need to have an organization dedicated to gathering information about our immigrant ancestor and his descendants. We recently met in Wilmington, Delaware, to congeal our ideas and to formulate bylaws. I agreed to be your interim president. Richard Steadham from Woodbridge, Virginia, has generously agreed to be treasurer and editor of this newsletter. My father, Jack Stidham of Morristown, Tennessee, and author of the book *The Descendants of Timothy Stidham*, is the Society's historian.

Membership in THE TIMEN STIDDEM SOCIETY is open to all who have an interest in this family's history. And, you can be a charter member if you join in 1998.

I am also keeper of the Society's computer database. I have over 25,000 descendants and individuals from related families on file. I will gladly add your information to the database, and share the data I have with any researcher. I can also help you determine if you are a direct descendant, thereby qualifying for a Descendant Membership.

We hope to soon have a web page on the internet for sharing genealogical information and other Society news and family-related events.

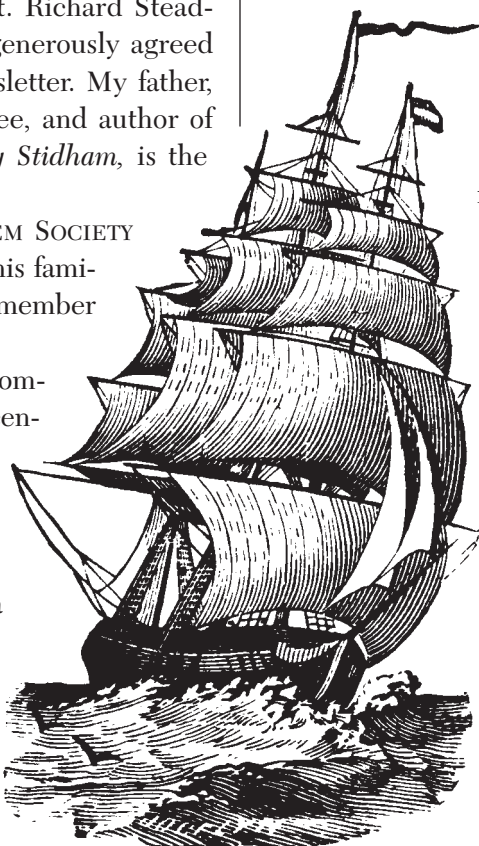
A word about the spelling. There are many variations of the spelling of Timen Stiddem's name in written records. His first name is spelled variously as Timen, Tymen, Tymon and Timothy. In the early Christine Church records in Gothenburg, Sweden (1624-1725), his family's surname is recorded as Stitten or Stidden. In his own hand, Dr. Stiddem signed a 1651 letter to the Swedish Chancellor, "Timen Stiddem, Barber." On his original land grant or patent from the Duke of York, signed by Governor Frances Lovelace, his name is spelled "Tymen Stiddem." The land grant was dated May 3, 1671. However, on a 1661 survey, his name was spelled "Tymen Stidham." You will find the contemporary spelling, Timothy Stidham, often used to refer to our immigrant ancestor.

In later years, after the colonists pledged allegiance to the English Crown, the family name was anglicized from Stiddem to Stedham (with "ham"). By the end of the 18th century, Stidham became the standard spelling for most descendants, with a few exceptions, most notable of these, the Quaker descendants who preferred Steddom.

We find that nearly all the male-line descendants of Timen Stiddem (but not all) have surnames with various spellings, but which "sound" similar to the old, Swedish spelling.

Living descendants spell their names variously as Stidham, Stedham, Steadham, Stidhem, Steddom, Stidam, Stidom, Steddam, Steddum and more.

However, there are some Stidhams in America who are not descendants of Timen Stiddem, but from the





the Timen Stiddem Society

ISSUE 1 / SPRING 1998

PRESIDENT

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HISTORIAN

JACK STIDHAM

The *Newsletter* is the official publication of THE TIMEN STIDDEM SOCIETY. It is published four times a year: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. It is distributed to all members as a benefit of membership.

The objectives of the Society are to encourage and promote the accurate recording of family data, vital statistics, and individual accomplishments of Dr. Timen Stiddem and his descendants.

Membership dues are \$12 annually or four issues of the *Newsletter*. All members joining the Society in 1998 are designated as **Charter Members** and are classified as either **Descendant** or **Associate Members** based on lineage from Dr. Stiddem or not. Anyone with an interest in this Society is eligible to join as an **Associate Member**.

All members are encouraged to submit articles, photographs, or any other material that would be of interest to other Stidham* researchers for publication in the *Newsletter*. The Editor reserves the right *if* and *when* material submitted will be published. These can be sent to the Editor: Richard Steadham, 14085 Ryon Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193.

The official address of the Society is: THE TIMEN STIDDEM SOCIETY, 41 Dellwood Road, Worcester, MA 01602. Email address: Stiddem@aol.com.

Note, Stidham* followed by an asterisk, always refers to all spelling variations of the surname when speaking of Stidhams in general. This spelling is the most commonly used form of the name by Timen Stiddem's descendants today.

Disclaimer: The Society and its officers disclaim responsibility for any errors or omissions, although accuracy is always strived for. It is each researcher's own responsibility to verify any data presented in these pages against the original evidence, if that is of importance to them. Each contributor is responsible for their own material not violating existing copyright laws.

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18th century Scottish immigrant, John Steedman. Steedman took part in the war between Scotland and England, and fled Scotland after the Battle of Culloden in 1745. In order to escape capture by the English, he disguised his name as "Steidham" which was later spelled "Stidham," "Stedham," and "Steadham." John went from Ireland to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Augusta Co., Virginia and eventually settled in South Carolina. To further confuse future genealogists, several of Steedman's descendants in South Carolina were neighbors of, and even intermarried with descendants of Timen Stiddem.

Feel free to write or e-mail me or one of the other officers with your comments and suggestions and offers of help. We hope to make THE TIMEN STIDDEM SOCIETY a useful source for genealogical research, family tree information, and sharing ideas and current news among us cousins all.

—David Stiddem
President



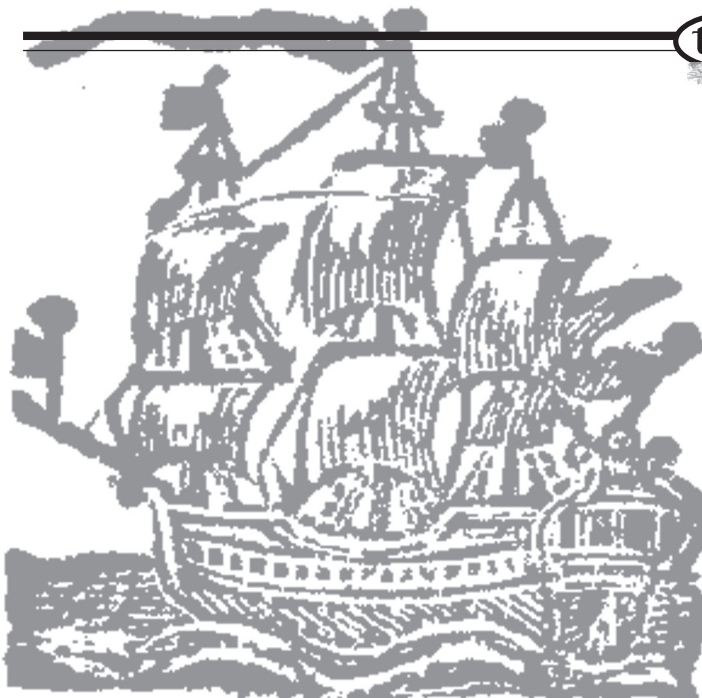
the first known stidham

BY JACK STIDHAM, SOCIETY HISTORIAN

the first known Stidham was Luloff Stidden (b. ca 1580 and d. July 1639, Gothenburg, Sweden). We do not know for sure where he was born. Swedish historians writing about Gothenburg referred to Luloff Stidden as a Dutchman, so he may have migrated from the Netherlands (Holland). This has credence, since King Gustavus II Adolphus of Sweden recruited Dutchmen in particular to rebuild and administer Gothenburg after the Kalmar War (1611-1613) with Denmark. A considerable number of the earliest inhabitants of Gothenburg (founded in 1619) were foreigners, mainly Dutch. As a result of the Dutch influence, Gothenburg took on a certain Dutch quality which is evident today.

Notwithstanding the Dutch connections, Luloff most likely migrated to Sweden from Copenhagen, Denmark. In 1604, a "Lijloff Stijdenn from Copenhagen" appeared before the court in Lodose (predecessor of Gothenburg) over a charter dispute involving a ship from Copenhagen. Others argue Luloff could have been German, since the names of his children are Germanic. (My son recently e-mailed a Stedem in Saarbruecken, Germany.)

There is no doubt, however, Luloff, and his son Timen, were faithful citizens and civil servants of Sweden. Luloff was a "byggmastare" (master builder) and the first "skult" (sheriff or bailiff) of Gothenburg. He



served the city of Gothenburg as its skult from 28 January to 31 May 1622. He was a master builder from April 1624 until his death. (Nils Olsson, a prominent Swedish genealogist, interprets this to mean Luloff was the city's master of shops, or the overseer or supervisor of manufacturing in Gothenburg.)

Luloff and his wife (name unknown) had seven children. His first born was Timen Stiddem (b. ca 1610 in Hamel, Denmark—not Sweden as many early historians thought). Timen made several trips to New Sweden (now Delaware) as a barber-surgeon for the Swedish government. In 1654, Timen brought his second wife from Sweden and settled in the area that is now Wilmington, Delaware, where they raised a family of five sons and four daughters.



timen stiddem's struggles to get to america

BY JACK STIDHAM, SOCIETY HISTORIAN

Timen Stiddem (Dr. Timothy Stidham), an educated physician and native of Denmark or the Netherlands (or possibly Sweden), was living in Gothenburg, Sweden in the 1630s. He was no doubt anxious to learn about the new world being colonized by the Swedish, known as “New Sweden” (present day Delaware). Dr. Stiddem signed on as a ship's doctor for a voyage to that distant place.

Dr. Stiddem sailed three times for North America

(arriving twice). He went to New Sweden the first time in 1638 aboard the ship called the *Kalmar Nyckel*, the first of Sweden's attempts to establish a colony in New Sweden. The *Kalmar Nyckel* landed at the “Rocks” or Fort Christina (present day Wilmington, Delaware) on March 29, 1638.

On July 20, 1644, Dr. Stiddem sailed from New Sweden aboard the *Fama*, which had left Gothenburg on December 29, 1643, taking him home to Sweden. For his services, he was paid 468.19 D. (worth about 80 cents per D.).

The Ninth Swedish expedition left Sweden on Sunday, July 3, 1649 on the ship *Kattan*, with Dr. Stiddem and his family aboard (Ref: Johnson, p. 268-269). Had he known what was in store for him on this ill-fated voyage, he never would have left for New Sweden.

More than 70 colonists, including many women and children were aboard. Among the more prominent colonists were Rev. Natthias Nertunius, bookkeeper Joachimus Lyche and family, barber-surgeon Timen Stiddem and family, Johan Rudberus, Hans Persson, and the commander Hans Amundsson and family.

The course of the *Kattan* was close to England, through the Spanish Sea and the “Eastern Passage.” On the evening of August 27th, they entered dangerous waters some 80 miles from Puerto Rico. About 2:00 a.m. the ship rammed a reef. After two more collisions, a large rock penetrated the hull and the ship became grounded. The women and children were taken to a small, uninhabited island about 13 miles away in lifeboats. After a severe storm that night, the men removed the provisions from the ship and joined the women. There was no water on the island, and they had to lick stones for nourishment.

Eight days after the shipwreck, two Spanish ships arrived and asked who the stranded people were, and whence they came. The Spaniards pretended they never heard of Sweden, and challenged the unfortunate colonists to fight or surrender. Of course, they had no choice but surrender. The Swedes were given food and water, and forced to go aboard the foundered *Kattan*. Once aboard, the pirates took everything in sight, even pulled clothes off the men and women looking for money and other valuables.

Later, the shipwrecked Swedes were taken to Puerto Rico. There a large fire was built, and all the Swedish books were burned. Some of the Swedes were imprisoned and killed, including Dr. Stiddem's wife and three children.

The Swedes finally obtained permission to leave

Puerto Rico on a vessel to Spain. However, the city council permitted only Commander Amundsson and his family to leave. As time went by, other colonists including Dr. Stiddem found means to leave the island.

In April, 1650, the city sold Johan Rudberus a little bark in which the remainder of the Swedes, 24 souls in all, set sail. They planned to reach St. Christopher and catch a Dutch ship for either Sweden or New Sweden. Near the island of St. Cruz, Rudberus and his fellow Swedes met a French bark. The French officers boarded their small vessel. The Swedes were again captured and taken ashore where their belongings were divided among the French who “fought like dogs” over what little they had left.

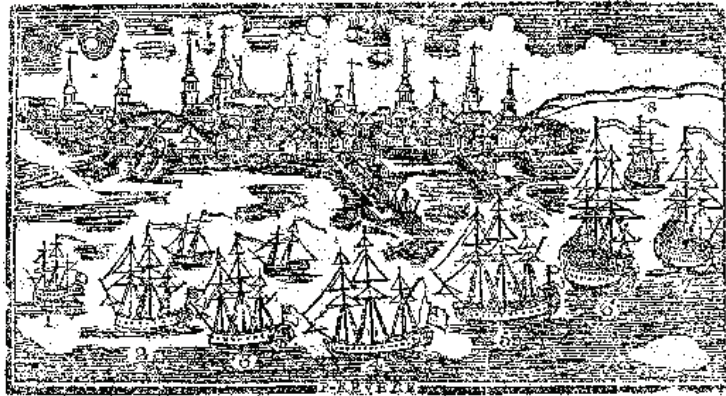
The Swedes were submitted to the most inhumane torture by these French pirates. They were taken before the French governor who had their clothes searched even more thoroughly for valuables. He bound some of the Swedes to posts and had his soldiers discharge their rifles near them. Four of the Swedes were bound with their hands behind their backs. They were suspended on hooks about a yard from the ground for two nights and days until their bodies were blue and the blood pressed out of their fingers. One woman had her feet burned with hot plates. The governor had another woman killed after he raped her. Many other atrocities were committed. Out of the original 24, only 5 were alive to leave St. Cruz. The next day after leaving St. Cruz, two women and the oldest child died; the other child died soon afterwards.

Of the 70 original colonists that set sail on the *Kattan* from Sweden in 1649, only 19 colonists and a few officers ever saw their native land again. John Rudberus, among the last to reach Sweden, arrived at Stockholm in the Autumn of 1651. Amundsson, Lyche, and Rev. Nertunius had already made their way to the Swedish capitol. Timen Stiddem managed to reach Amsterdam, but in the most miserable of circumstances. From Holland, Dr. Stiddem was taken to Sweden by a Captain Boender. Later in Stockholm, Lyche, Amundsson, Stiddem and Nertunius made oral reports, and many others corroborated their doleful tales.

Dr. Stiddem did sail again, on Sweden’s Tenth Expedition aboard the *Örn* (Eagle) which arrived in New

Sweden on May 22, 1654. In *The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware*, Johnson mentions Rev. Nertunius, barber-surgeon Stiddem, and several soldiers receiving 3,722 D. of the proposed budget for this expedition (p. 502). This was Dr. Timen Stiddem’s last trip from his homeland, Sweden. He stayed and settled in New Sweden at Fort Christina, or what was to become Wilmington, Delaware.

Timen Stiddem received a large tract of land under Dutch patents (deeds) that included about one third of present-day downtown Wilmington. He later acquired several other plots of land which his heirs acquired after his death. Dr. Stiddem was a prominent citizen and doctor, treating the ill and wounded the best he could. Dr. Stiddem is



recorded in history as the very first physician in Delaware (Ref: J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Delaware*, p. 471). He was a friend of the native Americans, the Finns and the English, and doctored them the best he could with natural herbs and medicines. He was one of the most influential settlers, enjoying the confidence of authorities, and acting as an agent for the Governor. Dr. Stiddem’s home stood near the “Rocks” where the Swedish ship *Kalmar Nyckel* landed in 1638. He and his second wife (name unknown) raised a family of five sons and four daughters.

So you can see, Dr. Timothy Stidham never gave up. He had the fortitude, the strength and the courage to continue on when things looked their darkest. I for one, feel this trait has been inherited by the descendants of Dr. Timothy Stidham.

In order to preserve the lineage and history of these descendants, it must be recorded for future generations to read and enjoy. Many people have spent much time and great expense researching and sorting through information on the Stidham family to share with others. I am documenting this history in a genealogy entitled *The Descendants of Timothy Stidham* I have already published 500 pages in Volume 1, which includes the history of the life and times of Dr. Stiddem in America, and of the first eight generations of Stidhams born in America. Future volumes will trace his descendants to current generations. It has been a real pleasure and self satisfaction to have been honored in writing (Continued on page 6)



the timen Stiddem Society

B Y L A W S

Article I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be "The Timen Stiddem Society."

Article II - OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Society are to encourage and promote the accurate recording of family data, vital statistics, and individual accomplishments of Dr. Timen Stiddem and his descendants and to disseminate such at regular intervals to those interested. Further, to instill a feeling of kinship and pride in the descendants of Dr. Stiddem and his progeny through learning of their ancestors' history which can be gleaned from the recorded past.

Article III - MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Section 1. Descendant Member: One who can trace a direct line of descent from Dr. Timen Stiddem.

Section 2. Associate Member: One who is not descended from Dr. Timen Stiddem, but supports the Society's objectives.

Section 3. Charter Member: One who joins the Society in its organizing year, 1998. Thus, a Descendant Member who joins in 1998 is further designated a Descendant Charter Member. An Associate Member who joins in 1998 is further designated an Associate Charter Member.

Section 4. Post 1998 Member: Descendant or Associate joining after 1998 is classified simply as either a Descendant Member or Associate Member.

Article IV - OFFICERS

Section 1. President: Shall preside over all functions of the Society. Address the members on a quarterly basis through a message in the *Newsletter*. Be the official voice of the Society in all matters relating to the public. Shall serve a term of two years. Shall nominate candidates for all offices of the Society before his/her term expires.

Section 2. Treasurer: Shall have custody of the funds the Society receives through membership dues and donations. Keep a true account of the receipts and disbursements of the Society. Annually report on the Society's finances in the Winter Issue of the *Newsletter*. Shall serve a term of two years.

Section 3. Historian: Shall examine all applications for membership in the Descendant Member category and determine the final basis for membership classification.

Section 4. Computer Database Manager: Shall remain the exclusive right of domain by virtue of ownership of such by David R. Stiddem (Stidham) for as long as he determines.

Section 5. Newsletter Designer: Shall remain the exclusive right of domain by virtue of copyrighted design of Richard L. Steadham for as long as he determines.

Section 6. Election of New Officers: Ballots shall be sent out in the Fall Issue of the *Newsletter* in even numbered years. Officers shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the membership.

Section 7. Announcement of New Officers: Shall be published in the Winter Issue of the *Newsletter* in even numbered years.

Section 8. New Officers Installed: In the first quarter of the year following an election of such.

Article V - DUES

Annual dues shall be \$12 which entitles each member to four issues of the *Newsletter*.

Article VI - MEETINGS

An annual meeting of the officers is encouraged, but not mandated. A realization of the far-flung nature of the membership precludes a mandatory meeting. In the event an annual meeting will not be possible in any given year, the president shall call officers to a "virtual meeting" instead by means of at least one "conference call meeting" to discuss Society direction.

Article VII - NEWSLETTER

A publication distributed to all members on a quarterly basis: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter, shall be produced and mailed by the Society. This publication called the *Newsletter* shall be the official vehicle for disseminating information to members.

Article VIII - AMENDMENTS

Any of the Society's Bylaws can be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership responding to such amendments which would be published in the *Newsletter*.



The Descendants of Timothy Stidham, and will always be in debt to all who have contributed information to make this book possible, especially my son David.

REFERENCES

Much of this early history of Gothenburg, Sweden and Luloff Stidden was first researched by Kay Nielsen, Titusville, New Jersey during a trip to Gothenburg in 1985. The other major sources for this early history are as follows:

- (1) Nils William Olsson, editor of the *Swedish American Genealogist*.
- (2) Johan von Sydow, Chairperson, Western Swedish Genealogical Society, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- (3) Almquist, Helge, Göteborg's Historia.
- (4) Berg, Wilhelm, translations of the Kristine Kyrkas Bocker, 1624-1725, church records of the Christine Church, Gothenburg, Sweden in Samlingar til Göteborgs Historia, Vol. 3.
- (5) Berg, Wilhelm, Genealogiska anteckningar om Göteborgsslakter. Ser. II, Vols. 1-2.
- (6) Langstrom, Erland, Göteborgs Stads Borgare langd, 1621-1864.
- (7) Johnson, Dr. Amandus, *The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware 1638-1664*. Vols. 1-2, pub. 1911.
- (8) Craig, Dr. Peter Stebbins, F.A.S.G., extensive research on Timen Stiddem, his children and grandchildren.



M.H. STEADHAM DIES AT HOME OF DAUGHTER LAST NIGHT

M.H. Steadham [#1034], 85, died here at 8:30 o'clock Wednesday night at the home of a daughter, Mrs. S.A. Morse of 1620 Nineteenth Street, after a long illness.

Last rites will be read at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon at the First Baptist church at Crosbyton with Rev. Zeke Dixon, Baptist pastor of Amherst, officiating. Burial will be in the Crosbyton cemetery with Sanders Funeral home in charge.

He is survived by three children, J.M. Steadham of Chowchilla, Calif., W.T. Steadham of Throckmorton, and Mrs. Morse of Lubbock, and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. He was known by intimates as "Uncle Gum."

Lubbock Morning Avalanche (TX), 27 Oct 1938

JOHN STEADHAM

John M. Steadham [#2147], 84, died in a Stockton hospital Thursday night following a long illness.

A native of Texas, Mr. Steadham had lived in the Chowchilla area for 35 years.

Surviving are two sons, Benjamin, Sacramento, and R.D. of Stockton; five daughters, Mrs. Ivy Hazel and Mrs. Inez Zender, both Sacramento; Mrs. Opel Greer, San Jose; Mrs. Ethel Kluttz, Los Gatos, and Mrs. Ruby Matlock, Mariposa, also 22 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Saturday morning at 10 o'clock in the Jay Funeral Chapel. Pastor Harvey Brodersen will officiate. Burial will be in Arbor Vitae Cemetery.

Madera Tribune (CA), 25 Apr 1958

d

BUD STIDHAM 1908-1993

James T. "Bud" Stidham, [son of #1660; does not have his own # as of this writing] 84, of Grayson, died Wednesday, Oct 6 in Carter Health Care Center in Grayson following a long illness.

Mr. Stidham was born May 28, 1909, in Carter County, a son of the late Lafe and Pheobe Sammons Stidham. His wife, Virginia Greer Stidham, died in 1984.

He was a retired coal miner and farmer and a World War II Army veteran.

Surviving are five daughters, Bonnie Edelen and Betty Kitchen, both of Grayson, Georgia Harper and Peggy Salyers, both of Greenup, and Mary Grace Porter of Sandy Hook; two sons, Bill Stidham of Grayson and Danny Stidham of Ashland; four sisters, Dorothy Vincent of Grayson, Maxine Bellomy of Ashland and Mondane McKnight and Madge Lewis, both of Partridge; 15 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, Oct. 8 at Malone Funeral Home in Grayson by Delmar Rogers, minister. Burial was in East Carter County Memory Gardens in Grayson. (*Editor's note: this clipping was received by Jack Stidham in 1993, but did not show the name of the newspaper or the date it was published*)

Send your obits from yesteryear for inclusion in this section of future issues of the Newsletter. Please limit your submissions to only those individuals who bear the Stidham surname in the following circumstances: (1) Males whose surname is Stidham*; (2) Females who mar-*

ried Stidhams* and took on that surname; (3) Females who were born Stidhams*.

Send either a photocopy of the actual obituary or an email transcription of the obit remaining true to the spelling and punctuation of the original version. Include the name of the newspaper and the date of publication.

Note: the number in brackets immediately following the deceased's name refers to this individual's number designation in the book *The Descendants of Timothy Stidham*, by Jack Stidham, the Society's Historian.

? queries

Leland "Lee" Fordham Stidham, a long lost friend. He was born ca 1920s in or near Detroit. Last known residence was Mt. Clemmons, Michigan. Does anyone have any information on his whereabouts? **Contact: Ellen Johnston**, PO Box 873, Goldendale, Washington 98620.

John Stidham, b. ca 1854, DE, d. 1914; m. Amelia ____? Who were John's parents? 2 known children: Willie A Stidham, b. 1878, Ref: 1880 census and James Henry Stidham, b. ca 1890, d. 1934, MD, Ref: Richard "Dick" Stidham, Tulsa, OK. **Contact: Jack Stidham**, 402 Lee Drive, Morristown, TN 37814.

Zachariah Isaac Stidham, b. 29 Oct 1871, d. 11 Feb 1900, Hunt Co., TX; m. Lilly Page, b. 1816, Jefferson, TX, d. Sep 1923, Hunt Co., TX. Who were Zachariah's parents? There were 7 children: Randolph Marion Stidham, b. 1896, TX; Eulishes "Buddy" Stidham, b. 8 Jun 1897, TX; Bruce Stidham, b. 22 Mar 1899; James Eli Stidham, b. 16 Apr 1903; Hillary E. Stidham, b. 7 Nov 1906, TX; Bonnie Lee Stidham, b. 10 Sep 1908, Tyler, TX; and Nannie Louise Stidham, b. 18 Aug 1916, Hunt Co., TX. **Contact: Jack Stidham**, 402 Lee Drive, Morristown, TN 37814.

If you have an elusive Stidham that someone else might be able to help you locate, why not post a query here and see what turns up? Mail your query to: Richard Steadham, 14085 Ryon Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193. Or send it by email to: RLSteadham@aol.com.*

CURRENT STIDHAM* NEWS



A Stidham Nears the Century Mark

A news article which ran in the February 18, 1998, edition of the *Hazard Herald* in Perry County, Kentucky took note of **General Win-** (continued on next page)



Interested in corresponding with others researching the Stidham* surname over the internet? You can subscribe for free to the "**Stidham mailing list**" maintained by RootsWeb by sending an email to:

STIDHAM-L-request@rootsweb.com

Include as the message the word "subscribe."

Email addresses: David R. Stiddem can be reached at: **StiddemDav@aol.com**

Richard L. Steadham can be reached at: **RLSteadham@aol.com**

Do you have a web page on the Internet that we should tell the members about? Let us post your URL address here so that others may visit it.

field Scott Stidham, 96 years old, born September 15, 1902. The following is paraphrased from that article.

He was presented with a special plaque of recognition from the U.S. Postal Service by Postmaster Vires.

Mr. Stidham came from a family of 23 children, of which 14 were half brothers and sisters. His name was given to him by an uncle who had served in the Civil War and had known General Winfield Scott. He has lived his entire life in Perry and Breathitt counties.

Mr. Stidham married a widow with seven children. Her name was Dora Morgan, and he helped provide for the needs of her children

For nearly a century Mr. Stidham has seen many changes come to the mountains where he has lived, yet he has remained healthy and has worked hard throughout his long life. He has remained happy and has kept a positive outlook, though his hearing has begun to deteriorate.

When the newspaper's photographers were there taking his picture Mr. Stidham said "I want everyone to live as long as I have and have as much fun as I have had."

The article went on to say that Postmaster Vires has known Mr. Stidham for fifteen years and that everyone in the area knows Mr. Stidham and are willing to make sure that he receives any help he needs. A photograph of Mr. Stidham's face is familiar to those who have seen the movie *Fire Down Below*, which is the first photo in the movie.

Back in 1975, David R. Stiddem, the Society's President, took a journey through Kentucky meeting Stidhams and learning about their lives and their relations in that part of the country. After his return he sent his father Jack Stidham, the Society's Historian, the following letter:

4 September 1975,

One of the most interesting persons I met was (General Winfield) Scott Stidham, Andrew Jackson Stidham's grandson. He is a 73 years old widower, in seemingly perfect health, about the size of (my Dad's) Uncle Barsh. He lives by himself on a beautiful farm with no road access—you have to walk across a swinging bridge, then walk about a 1/4 mile to his house. He lived in the same house for 45 years. He didn't have any children of his own, but helped raise 7 or 8 of his wife's.

I spent a night with him and listened while he told me a little bit about his life (if I had only had a tape recorder!). Scott said he had worked hard all his life, and I believe him. He was a miner for 28 years (worked in the same mine for over 20

(continued on page 10)

Stidhams* in the 1790 Census of the United States

CENSUS RECORDS are very important tools employed by family historians to find a particular family in a geographic location at the beginning of each decade. The 1790 Census is important because it marks the first national census taken of the United States.

A major drawback of the 1790 through 1840 readings was that they named only head of the households. Usually this was a man, the wife and any children were only numbered, as well as any slaves the family owned.

The following transcription is from the Census records in states where a Stidham* family is found in the listings. It is not implied that *all* of the entries *are* descendants of Dr. Stiddem. However, because of the propensity of census takers to misspell the name Stedham as Stedman and vice versa, we offer this extended transcription. Those with a John Steedman connection might also benefit (see page 2).

The Key to the numbers: Following a person's name the first number refers to the number of free white males of 16 years and upward, including heads of families. The second is the number of free white males under 16 years. The third is the number of free white females, including heads of families. The fourth is the number of all other free persons. The fifth is the number of slaves.

You'll note the omission of numbers following the listings in two states, Delaware and Georgia. This is because the Census readings in these states were lost many years ago. These lists represents a reconstruction of the readings of those two states by the use of tax lists, petitions to the Governor, will books, voters for delegates lists, jury lists, headrights and bounty grants of those listed from that period.

Delaware

KENT COUNTY

Murderkill Hundred
Stidham, Thomas

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Brandywine Hundred
Stedham, Cornelius
Stedham, Jacob



Christiana Hundred

Stedham, Henry
Stedham, John Jr.
Stedham, Jonas
Stedham, Jonas Jr.
Stedham, Jonas Sr.
Stedham, Joseph
Stidham, John
Stidham, John Jr.

New Castle Hundred

Stidham, Isaac
Stidham, Lucas
Stidham, Peter
Stidham, William

St. George Hundred

Stedham, Mrs. Sarah

Georgia

BURKE COUNTY

Stidham, Adam

CHATHAM COUNTY

Stateham, Robt.
Steadman, Wm.

ELBERT COUNTY

Statham, Love
Statom, Jas.
Statom, Jno. Sr.
Statham, Jno.

GREENE COUNTY

Steedman, Thos.

RICHMOND COUNTY

Statham, Chas.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Statham, Chas.

WILKES COUNTY

Statham, Jno.

Maryland

CECIL COUNTY

Stedham, Henry: 1, 2, 1, 0, 0

North Carolina

CHATHAM COUNTY

Hillsborough District

Steedmon, Nathan: 1, 0, 1, 0, 10

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Fayette District, Fayetteville Town

Stedman, Elisha: 2, 0, 0, 0, 3

WILKES COUNTY

Morgan District

Stiddim, Sam: 1, 3, 4, 0, 0

South Carolina

BEAUFORT DISTRICT

Stedman, Jos: 1, 2, 2, 0, 0

CAMDEN DISTRICT

Fairfield County

Stedman, John: 1, 2, 3, 0, 0

CHARLESTON DISTRICT

St. Phillips and St. Michaels Parish

Steadman, James: 2, 2, 4, 0, 11
Steedman, Charles: 1, 1, 2, 0, 4

NEWBERRY COUNTY

Ninety-Six District

Stedmon, Margaret, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1

NINETY-SIX DISTRICT

Abbeville County

Stedman, John: 3, 0, 3, 0, 0

Union County

Stedum, George: 1, 0, 3, 0, 0
Stedum, John: 1, 0, 1, 0, 0
Stedum, Zachariah: 1, 2, 3, 0, 0

ORANGEBURGH DISTRICT

Stedman, James: 1, 0, 1, 0, 0



years), and he called himself the “champion coal loader.” He told me he often drilled and loaded by hand 14 tons of coal, a railroad car, a day!

After working 12 or so hours in the mines, he would go home and work the fields till after dark. He said he wore out 4 1/2 mule teams in his lifetime—a good team couldn’t last much longer than 10 years as hard as he worked them. He still has one mule and is trying to find a good one to match!

Scott feels anyone should be given a chance. He often would bail out some young juvenile and work him on the farm, or take custody of a parolee from Chester Allen Stidham, the state prison parole officer. Scott had some interesting comments about the Stidhams and the law. He said that every family in the area, in every generation, would have a wild son that would kill somebody, except the Stidhams. The Stidhams, says Scott, never killed anybody.

Scott has become the person that apparently everyone in his area looks to for help. He told me “no one will go get anything unless I go with them.” But, he said no one comes to see him unless they want something. The morning we left his place he was greeted by a carload of what he called “those that want something.”

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PLEASE NOTE in this section we want to give recognition to the everyday, yet significant events which mark the lives of current Stidham families such as the news article and related letter above. Send your announcements of birth, graduation, engagement, wedding, career advancement, obituaries, etc. Please limit your submissions in this section to those currently bearing the Stidham* surname.*

a 360-year anniversary commemorated

With temperatures in the mid-eighties on a March 29th day in Wilmington, Delaware, this year, it was more than just a pleasant Spring day for many Americans of Swedish descent, for it marked a day in history that our forefathers landed on these shores and founded what was then called New Sweden (see opposite page for photographs).

Among the passengers on that first ship the *Kalmar Nyckel* was our forefather, Timen Stiddem, the barber-

surgeon., in the employment of the Swedish crown.

The day-long festivities were staged to commemorate the landing at the “Rocks” by the Swedes 360 years ago.

The day began with the Holy Eucharist at the Holy Trinity (Old Swedes Church) at 11:00 a.m., led by the Reverend David Ware, after which the congregation followed him in procession from the church down 7th Street a short distance to Fort Christina Park.

It was here that official ceremonies took place beginning with a welcome by Herbert R. Rambo of the Swedish Colonial Society in 17th Century period costume. The Invocation was delivered by Dr. Kim-Eric Williams of the Swedish Colonial Society.

The Swedish and U.S. National anthems were performed next by Evelyn Swensson of the Delaware Swedish Colonial Society and Philip Simmons of the Holy Trinity (Old Swedes Church) respectively.

Next, a posting of the colors by the U.S. Marine Corps, 6th Engineer Service Support Battalion and the New Ark Fife and Drum Corps was followed by the all-important reenactment ceremony with a landing at the “Rocks” by crew from the *Kalmar Nyckel* who were welcomed ashore by a party of Lenni Lenape people.

Remarks from Governor Thomas R. Carper of Delaware about the significance of the day’s events and its importance to this region were symbolized by his proclamation of “this day being Delaware Swedish Colonial Day.”

Herbert R. Rambo then presented Governor Carper and Mayor James H. Sills Jr., of Wilmington, distinguished service awards for their continuing support of Swedish colonial history in the Delaware River Valley after which Mayor Sills addressed the audience and thanked them for being here to celebrate this day with the citizens of Wilmington.

The official ceremonies ended with a wreath laying at the Carl Milles Monument by former Governor Russell T. Peterson accompanied by a U.S. Marine and descendants Ruth Ellen Davis and John B. Tepe who were dressed in period costume.

Reverend David Ware gave the benediction after which the crowds began making their way next door to the *Kalmar Nyckel* shipyard for an old-fashioned pig roast and a brief look at the finishing touches being made to the vessel. She is being made ready for her commissioning to be held here in Wilmington, May 9th of this year.

Look for coverage of that important event in the Summer issue of the *Newsletter*. If you can make it, we’ll see you there!

—Richard L. Steadham
Editor

some moments captured at the commemoration

Sunday, March 29, 1998 © Wilmington, Delaware



The Old Swedes Church in Wilmington, with the ancient burying ground where many Stidhams are buried in the foreground. Services here at 11:00 a.m. began the day for many.

This reenactor makes for a fine Governor Printz, don't you think?



A family of Lenni Lenape are portrayed by this group.



Evelyn Swensson of the Delaware Swedish Colonial Society sings the Swedish National Anthem.



Reenactors portray the landing party being rowed ashore to the "Rocks" by the crew of the *Kalmar Nyckel* with Kapten Peter Minuet as their leader.



An onlooker watches as reenactors stage a Swedish and Finish military formation.



IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

American Independence

Stidham* Patriots and Loyalists in the Revolution.
Who were they and where did they serve?

Delaware's Count

This state's first surviving census, the 1800.
Which and how many Stidhams* were still there?

The *Kalmar Nyckel* Sails!

A Report from Wilmington, on the May 9th
commissioning of this proud new ambassador for Dela-
ware, the authentic replica of the first ship
that brought Timen Stiddem to America.

PLUS:

Current Stidham* News

Member Queries

The First of Our Members' Genealogies

And More...

IF YOU KNOW of someone who might be interested in joining the Society, please photocopy the form below (unless you don't mind cutting a hole in your newsletter!) and have them send in the completed form along with their membership dues of \$12 to: Richard Steadham, 14085 Ryon Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193.

☐ I would like to join THE TIMEN STIDDEM SOCIETY as a **Descendant Member**. My known descent from Dr. Stiddem is: _____

(You may enclose any documentation you have showing your lineage, or simply name your ancestors by generation back to Dr. Stiddem. Use separate sheet if necessary).

☐ I would like to join THE TIMEN STIDDEM SOCIETY as an **Associate Member**. I have an interest in this family's history, but don't knowingly descend from Dr. Stiddem.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone (optional): _____

Email Address (optional): _____

the timen Stiddem Society
41 Dellwood Road
Worcester, MA 01602-1835

Stamp