



# The Steere Family Newsletter

January 2015

[www.SteereFamily.com](http://www.SteereFamily.com)

## PRESIDENT

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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*Mr. Jeremy Bourget*  
*Dr. Clifford W. Brown, Jr.*  
*Mrs. Nancy Cowley*  
*Mr. Aaron Steere*  
*Ms. Lori Steere*  
*Mr. Randall Steere*  
*Ms. Amy Lee Thompson*

## A Look Back

There was an unwelcome visitor at the 84<sup>th</sup> Steere Family Association Reunion this past August. No, it wasn't a relative – we welcome all Steere Family members from near and far to come to our annual reunion. It was a rainy day compliments of Mother Nature. We have been very fortunate over the years to have good weather for our reunions; so I guess we can't complain. One of these years we were due for a rainy day.

The good news was with a few adjustments, the reunion went on as planned. A change in venue from our planned Saturday afternoon at Pulaski State Park to the Chepachet Baptist Church solved the rainy day dilemma. Thanks to all who pitched in to convert the church hall into our reunion meeting location.

Highlights of the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion included a Friday night family style dinner at Uncle Ronnie's Restaurant followed by a delightful storytelling session. Lots of funny stories about growing up on Steere farms and everyday life in the small rural villages were told. Many of the stories were from Helen Steere Brown's book, Looking Back. Saturday morning, we learned about 'The 1800's: What and How the Steeres Built' which included a caravan trip to tour the North Scituate Congregational Church. Our thanks to family historian, Cliff Brown for telling us about the types of designs and historical building techniques that have stood the test of time. While the adults were looking at the real thing, the children were busy creating their own Lego buildings with the guidance of Amy Thompson. We have many future architects and designers in the family. Following a delicious catered lunch, we had our annual business meeting with updates on the genealogy project and historical cemetery care, as well as, recognizing folks from around the country and for various milestones. With a break in the weather, the children had a fun and challenging scavenger hunt while the adults had an afternoon of visiting. Saturday wrapped up with the very popular Make Your Own Sundae event with thanks to Lois Boire for all the goodies.

Sunday morning, we gathered for worship at the Chepachet Baptist Church, which was designed by a Steere and has figured prominently in our family history. During the service, we read the names and remembered those members of the Steere Family who we had learned had passed away since our last reunion.

## **A Look Ahead**

In the year 2015, we will be celebrating the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Steere Family Reunion! The Officers and Executive Committee met on October 11 to begin planning this milestone event. Lots of good ideas were shared and we have some preliminary plans to share with you.

**Dates: Friday, August 7, Saturday, August 8, and Sunday, August 9, 2015**

**Theme: Old Steere Homesteads**

**Place (Saturday): George W. Steere Farm in Chepachet**

Our theme this year is Old Steere Homesteads which will include a guided bus tour of many of the family homes that are still standing and being lived in today. This will be our Saturday morning program. Friday night, we will have dinner at the Chepachet Baptist Church, catered by Tavern On Main, followed by an organ recital by Randy Steere. The recital will feature a virtual tour of historic organs around the world using exciting new computer technology.

In keeping with our theme, the George Wheeler Steere Homestead and Farm in Chepachet will be the location of our Saturday lunch, business meeting and afternoon activities. It is the site of the 1810 Anthony Steere Sawmill where John P. Steere Sr. sawed lumber and generated electricity for the Town of Chepachet. Also on the property is the historic 1867 dairy barn. Attendees may also visit the adjacent farmstead of Smith A. Steere and the site of the 1864 gristmill. In addition, family members will be invited to tour the 2014 solar generating facility as the Steere family returns to the electricity business after 60 years.

So that is a brief preview of the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Steere Family Reunion. Put the dates on your calendar and plan to join us. More information will be coming in our spring newsletter.

Stay in Touch –

*Diane*

Diane S. Nobles  
President

