



The Doane Family News

Volume XXX, Number 1

Spring 2015

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Greeting Cousins and Friends:

The year 2015 is off and running and I hope all is well with you and your families!

This is the year that most DFA chapters will be holding a reunion of their own, and we all wish them well and hope that you might be able to encourage more participation with your efforts. If your chapter presidents would like some help with name and addresses of DFA members in your areas, please let First Vice-President, Brian Doane, or your President, Ken Doane, know and we will provide you with that information.

Wilma and I would like to be able to join you at your chapter meetings; however, time and other obligations probably will not make this possible. Please add us to your invitation mailing list.

Scholarship deadline is fast approaching so those students interested in applying should be sure to see that your applications are being sent to the Doane Family Foundation Chairman, Ken Doane. We may be a little flexible on the deadline date due to Chairman Doane being out of town most of March. The Foundation committee will be meeting via phone and email in April and probably holding some meeting via Skype and the applicants will be notified via email, so make sure you have entered your proper email address.

Interest in the Doane Family Association of America, Inc. is being generated by the websites and the Facebook pages being sponsored by DFA members. As a result some new members have been added and I suspect that more will be joining in the future.

Please be thinking about the 2016 DFA Reunion to be held aboard a cruise ship. This will be a different experience for our members. I encourage all members to seriously consider this opportunity to make your reservations early once information is available.

Our historian, Arlene Thompson, and her assistant, Virgil Doan, have been working on many inquiries for assistance in their search for ancestors and I expect this to grow as more folks find our organization and see how much help can be provided in their searching.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Doane, President

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Chapter News

Great Lakes/Michigan Chapter

Our winter is fading fast and we are all looking forward to spring and summer here in Michigan. We survived and are rested from our big event, the national reunion of the Doanes last year. It was a thrill to host everyone here in our great state. Congratulations to Grady Doane on being elected at that event as our new Regional Vice-President!

Since the reunion we have lost a long time member. Jane Fineout passed in December. Our condolences go out to the entire Fineout family.

Our regional reunion will be held on July 25th, 2015 at St Paul's Episcopal Church in downtown Lansing. We will meet at 11:30 AM and have a potluck lunch. We love our potlucks!!! Meat and beverage will be provided. We hope to have a good crowd and good conversations. Bring any questions you have about your background as Arlene Thompson will be there to help you. She is now our national historian. She is a whiz at genealogy!!!

—Mary Ann Sindt

Southeast Ohio Chapter

Here is an interesting account of Lila Doan Hill's ancestor and the restoration of his Ohio grave. Lila also reports that the regular meeting of the Southeast Ohio Chapter will be held the first Saturday in October, 2015 in the Lower Salem Community Building.

I would like to introduce my Doan cousins to my Revolutionary War Patriot, Richard Doane. Richard is found in the Doane book, Volume 1, page 196, paragraph 187. Richard was born at Saybrook, Conn., July 14, 1765 and his pension papers show that he enlisted Nov. 1779, so he must have been just 14 years old when he enlisted. He married Anna Post when he was 35, and he and Anna had 11 children.

Richard, Anna, and four children moved from Saybrook to a farm in Salem Township, Washington County, Ohio in 1805 or 1806. They were blessed with seven more children after their move to Ohio. Many descendants of these 11 children still live in the area, and attend the annual area Doan Family Reunion.

My main purpose in writing about Richard Doane is to explain about the restoration of his grave. Richard and Anna were buried in a private cemetery on a farm in Salem Township. Their son Philo and his wife, Sybil Chapman are also buried in this cemetery. The farm was at one time owned by the Chapman family, hence the private cemetery. Over the years, the farm

changed ownership several times, and the cemetery was neglected. The Sons of American Revolutionary Chapter in Marietta, Ohio initiated a plan to locate all of the graves of these veterans in Washington County, Ohio. They submitted an application to the Veterans Administration for a marker for the grave of Richard Doane and it was approved.

The restoration project involved many volunteers who cleaned off trees and weeds and attempted to locate any grave stones, especially any with legible writing on them. Members of the SAR together with a group of students from the Open Door Home and nearby farmers with tractors and posthole diggers were all instrumental in completing this project. The new stone for Richard arrived and was put in place.

On the day of the grave dedication, October 10, 2008, the Sons of American Revolution was also having a State Convention in Cleveland, Ohio so a contingent of eight members of the color guard came for the dedication, all dressed in the uniforms of Revolutionary War soldiers. It was a beautiful fall day and I was so proud to witness my ancestor being honored.

—Lila Doan Hill
Ontario Chapter

Great Plains Chapter

Plans for a 2015 meeting of DFA members in the Great Plains area are on-going. This new chapter invites all Doan/Doane cousins to join the group and get acquainted. Uncooperative weather hindered plans for a winter planning meeting, however John and his team are communicating nevertheless and considering locations in Kansas for a local gathering that would include interested Doan/Doane cousins in the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado and other near-by states. If you live in this region, please contact John W. Doan at johnwdoan@hotmail.com or Janet at janet.jeffries@doane.edu if you are interested in attending such a meeting and what you would like to see for activities.

New England Chapter

Memories...

The 45th Doane Family Reunion was held more than 16 years ago in August of 1998 at Buzzards Bay, MA. There are a number of memories that I have from that reunion and the time leading up to it. I remember spending time at the Chatham, MA home of Oscar W. Doane, Jr., DFA President from 1967 to 1978, making preparations for the reunion. Oscar could be rather gruff in his demeanor, but the more time that I spent around him the more I grew to respect him. When the actual

Chapter News (continued)

reunion came about Oscar was unable to attend due to illness. I remember the pressure that this put on Brian and Ann Doane of Litchfield, NH, who assumed leadership in Oscar's absence. They did a commendable job, as they always have.

Many who stayed at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, where the reunion was held, will remember the austere accommodations in the dormitory rooms. These were actually barracks, for the MA Maritime Academy is run like a military institution. I remember the great number who attended the banquet and the featured speaker Deborah Doane Dempsey, the first female to graduate from a maritime academy (Maine Maritime Academy Class of 1976). Deborah is first cousin to our Jane Anderson.

The reason that the 1998 DFA Reunion comes to my mind is from reading about the death of Sheldon J. Thayer, Jr. in late January of this year. For that reunion I was responsible for coordinating the presentations and historical exhibits. I had not met Sheldon Thayer before the reunion, but Oscar Doane told me that Sheldon wanted to read a paper that he had written on his great-grandfather Hezekiah Franklin Doane. Hezekiah Franklin Doane was a descendant of Deacon John Doane through his son Ephraim. Sheldon Thayer was descended from Hezekiah through his mother, Grace Doane. Grace was the daughter of Hezekiah Lewis Doane a son of Hezekiah Franklin Doane.

Sheldon's paper on Hezekiah Franklin Doane focused on his position as the keeper of the Old Harbor Life Saving Station in Chatham, MA. Those of you who attended the 2012 DFA Reunion held at Plymouth, MA may recall that this is the building that was dismantled and moved from Chatham in 1977 to Provincetown. It was later reassembled and refurbished, and is now a featured attraction of the Cape Cod National Seashore.

I reread Sheldon's paper that appears in the 1998 Report of Proceedings, but it doesn't have the color that I remember from Sheldon's unwritten remarks that night at the reunion. Toward the end of his talk Sheldon repeated one family story that was handed down to him about his great-grandfather in his later years. After Hezekiah F. Doane had retired from the Life Saving Service he was well enough off to be able to purchase one of those new motor cars. Back in those days you had to start the engine by turning a crank in the front of the vehicle. Hezekiah and his wife would often be seen on a Sunday afternoon touring around in their new motor car. When their touring had ended, and Hezekiah parked the car by the house, his wife, Penina, would have to remind the hard of hearing Hezekiah to "shut off that clacker Hezekiah". It is amazing how many times since we heard that story that my wife Elizabeth and I have repeated that line of "shut off that clacker Hezekiah".

Sheldon J. Thayer, Jr. was born at Hyannis on Cape Cod in July of 1936. He was a Social Studies teacher at Barnstable High School for 28 years. A former student described Sheldon Thayer as "this irreverent wild card of a teacher took my perception of history as a dry, dusty, required class, turned it on its ear, made me love history and made us laugh like nobody else". Sheldon was also very active in the Town of Harwich, MA where he lived. He served on the town finance committee for some twenty years, and was instrumental in the formation of the Barnstable County Finance Committee. Sheldon Thayer was a founder of the Cranberry Harvest Festival in Harwich, MA and helped establish sister community relations with Harwich, England (The Cape Cod Chronicle). Sheldon is survived by his wife, Carol (Higgins) Thayer, four daughters and two sons from a previous marriage, 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren (The Boston Globe).

—James Thomas Doane

Ontario Chapter

Kevin Meyer, Vice President for Advancement at Doane College, in Crete, Nebraska, was the featured speaker at the Markham Lion's Club at the invitation of Ontario DFA Chapter member, Don Brodie, who is also a member of the college's board of trustees. After touring the local sites of significance to Doan/Doane heritage, and enjoying Don's and Cora's hospitality, Kevin gave a power point presentation about Doane College to 40 local Lion's Club members. Hopefully Kevin helped answer the question as to why Don Brodie is such a promoter of Doane College!

The regular meeting of the Ontario DFA Chapter will be held the second Sunday in September at Sharon Temple. Recent activities of the group include making improvements to the Doan House in Newmarket.



DFA member and Doane College board member, Don Brodie stopped to say hello to Janis Mitchell (left) and Janet Jeffries while he was on campus in April.

In Memory

Todd Doane

Regional Vice President, Todd J. Doane, 51 of Carrollton, Texas lost his battle with brain cancer December 6, 2014. Todd spent his youth in Norfolk, Nebraska and after high school earned a BFA degree in graphic design from Wichita State University. Todd was a designer for video and print in the Dallas Market for more than 20 years. During his career he won several awards for his designs. Todd designed the winning logo that is now seen on all DFA publications, and print goods. The logo was unveiled at the 2010 DFA reunion at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, with Todd and several of his immediate family members present. Most recently, Todd designed the T-shirt graphic for last summer's DFA reunion in Saginaw, Michigan. His passing leaves a void in the DFA, both in leadership and with the publications committee. Todd is survived by his wife, Vanessa, son Alex, parents Roger and Patricia Doan of Alamosa, Colorado, two brothers and other family members.



Jane Fineout

Long-time DFA member, Jane A. Fineout, 92, of Michigan, passed away November 19, 2014. Jane, matriarch of the Fineout family, was a talented needlework artist and quilter. She also enjoyed spinning and weaving, antiques, and genealogy. Jane taught school and later when her children were grown, she became secretary for the Michigan Automobile Dealers Association. She was a member of several organizations including the DFA and the DAR, and served for many years on the Haslett, Michigan Board of Education. Jane rarely missed a DFA reunion and was in Saginaw, Michigan last summer, taking part in many of the family activities. Jane is survived by her son, The Ven. William H. Fineout, DFA chaplain, his wife Shannon, two daughters, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Jane's spirited presence will be greatly missed at future DFA gatherings



The Doane Family Foundation

The Doane Family Foundation acknowledges with thanks the following recent donors to our scholarship fund:

- The Doane Family Association in memory of Jane Fineout
- Linda Marie Doane in memory of Jane Fineout
- Kenneth and Wilma Doane in memory of Peter L. Doan



Please consider the Doane Family Foundation in your charitable giving plans. This endowed scholarship fund has helped many family members with tuition at Doane College and at other colleges around the country. This academic year, seven students have benefited from this fund. Three are attending

Doane College in Nebraska, and four are at other institutions. Your gift is tax deductible. For more information, check out the DFA website or contact foundation secretary/treasurer Jane Doane Anderson at jane.anders@comcast.net or (978) 369-9672.

Memorial Record Reminder

Contact Joey Fikar at Doane College, or Memorial Chair Bill Fineout of Michigan, if you know of DFA members who have passed away. This is important both for maintaining the DFA address file, and to assist the memorial committee as they plan biennial reunion memorial services. It is very helpful when this news is passed along as it happens, and not just before reunion time. Bill may be reached at (517) 332-8651 or wfineout@att.net. Deceased DFA members are recognized at each national reunion.



Remember to inform us if you will be moving, so that you don't miss out on your DFA mail. The nearly 1,000 DFA addresses are managed by the Doane College staff, and it is an on-going process. If you have a change of address contact Jane MacDuff, membership chair, at (703) 560-8928 or janemacduff@verizon.net, or Joey Fikar, Doane College, at (402) 826-8258 or joey.fikar@doane.edu.

Doane's Airport

A recent post on the Doane Family of America New England & Facebookers Chapter page about an abandoned Doane airport in Connecticut sparked some interest. Here are some historic facts about this interesting place. This is reprinted from the CTGenWeb Project website. The author was not listed.

From "Essex Events," Spring 1998

When driving in Centerbrook from "Spencer's Corner" to the Bokum Center on Plains Road, one might not even notice an oddly shaped building about half way between these two areas, on the left hand side of the road. If one did see it, a question would probably arise -- what was this structure all about?

The answer is easy, and does not go into what is considered "ancient" history, by any means. In 1930, William "Bill" Doane built an airplane hangar on his father's farmland. Bill was only 22 years old at the time, but the "flying bug" had apparently gotten to him. Thus was born Doane's Field or Airport. An addition was built in 1935. Rides were given and an occasional "Aerial Circus" or show would be presented. One of the interesting people to land here in the mid 1960s was the famous Howard Hughes, then a Hollywood celebrity. This business was operated up to World War II by the Doane family, when Bill went west to become a flight instructor for the Army Air Force.

During the war and shortly thereafter, Bob Harrison from the New Haven area ran the airport, before moving to Deep River and operating a De Soto car agency. After a short return to Essex immediately after the war, the Doanes removed to Arizona on a permanent basis. Mr. Doane died shortly thereafter in a tragic air accident.

In 1952, Charles Savard leased the Airport from Everitt W. Doane (the father of Bill Doane) for \$90.00 per month, for 5 years, but specified that the lease could be discontinued at any time, if it was not profitable. In 1956, Everitt Doane sold 23.9 acres and the hangar to the R. W. Cramer Co. for \$27,500. At that time, this company was located directly across the street from the Doane's Pharmacy complex on Main Street in Centerbrook. A provision of this deed stated that "the grantee (R. W. Cramer) shall not use the land herein for a public or commercial airport. This restriction shall not prevent such use for the airport by the grantee in connection with its corporate business. This restriction shall be null and void upon the death of the grantor (Everitt Doane)." Everitt Doane died April 7, 1970.

Whether the Cramer Company wanted this land to use as a corporate landing field is questionable. They were probably thinking in terms of physical expansion, and this property was literally, "in their backyard." This was more or less confirmed by the decision to build a new factory, but in Old Saybrook, off Mill Rock Road.

The new parent company of R. W. Cramer Co., Giannini Controls, sold the Airport property in 1966.

The very reason this land was ideal for an airport (or for factory expansion), was a reason Centerbrook was the initial center of Essex -- the flat land, that was ideal for farming. Originally, this whole area (roughly paralleling Route 153) was known as Scotch Plains, and most early Essex settlers owned parcels here, for agriculture was the main factor of life from 1650 to 1770. Indeed, Mr. Justus E. Doane had willed tracts of land in this area to his son Everitt in April, 1919, including this one, with a grand total of 48 acres and buildings. The Everitt Doane homestead itself is still standing, on the north side of the Westbrook Road (technically West Avenue in 1929), close to the Bokum Road intersection. This house was originally built by Josiah Nott circa 1844.

Justus himself had purchased land here from the heirs of Seldon Mather Pratt in 1903. One of these heirs, James Pratt lived in Ohio, while the other, Jane Pratt, was a resident of New Mexico territory. One of the parcels purchased was 14 acres, "land, being part of the farm of Seldon Mather Pratt, deceased." The total price was \$800. Seldon Mather Pratt's homestead stood where the Cumberland Farms Store is currently located. This house location dramatically indicates how large this particular farm was, encompassing most of the land on the east side of Westbrook Road to the corner of Bokum. The Central Burying Ground was cut from this area. Going back further, prior to Pratt ownership, this airport land was controlled by members of both the Williams and Nott families.

Interestingly enough, the Town of Essex used aerial photography in 1929/1930 to formulate its tax maps. These are an incredibly valuable resource, and fortunately have been kept in excellent condition by our Town Clerks and Assessors. One of the maps, #63, shows the E. E. Dickinson "Tank Building," which was 78' by 159' and was/is located relatively close to the airport, with a name painted full size on its essentially flat roof, ESSEX -- this was surely a sign that the age of flying had come to the lower valley.

Some of the information used herein was garnered from a fine article in "The Gazette," in the January 18, 1979 issue, which featured an interview with Mrs. Louise Doane, the widow of William Doane.

The Missouri Star Quilt Company – A Doan Family Business



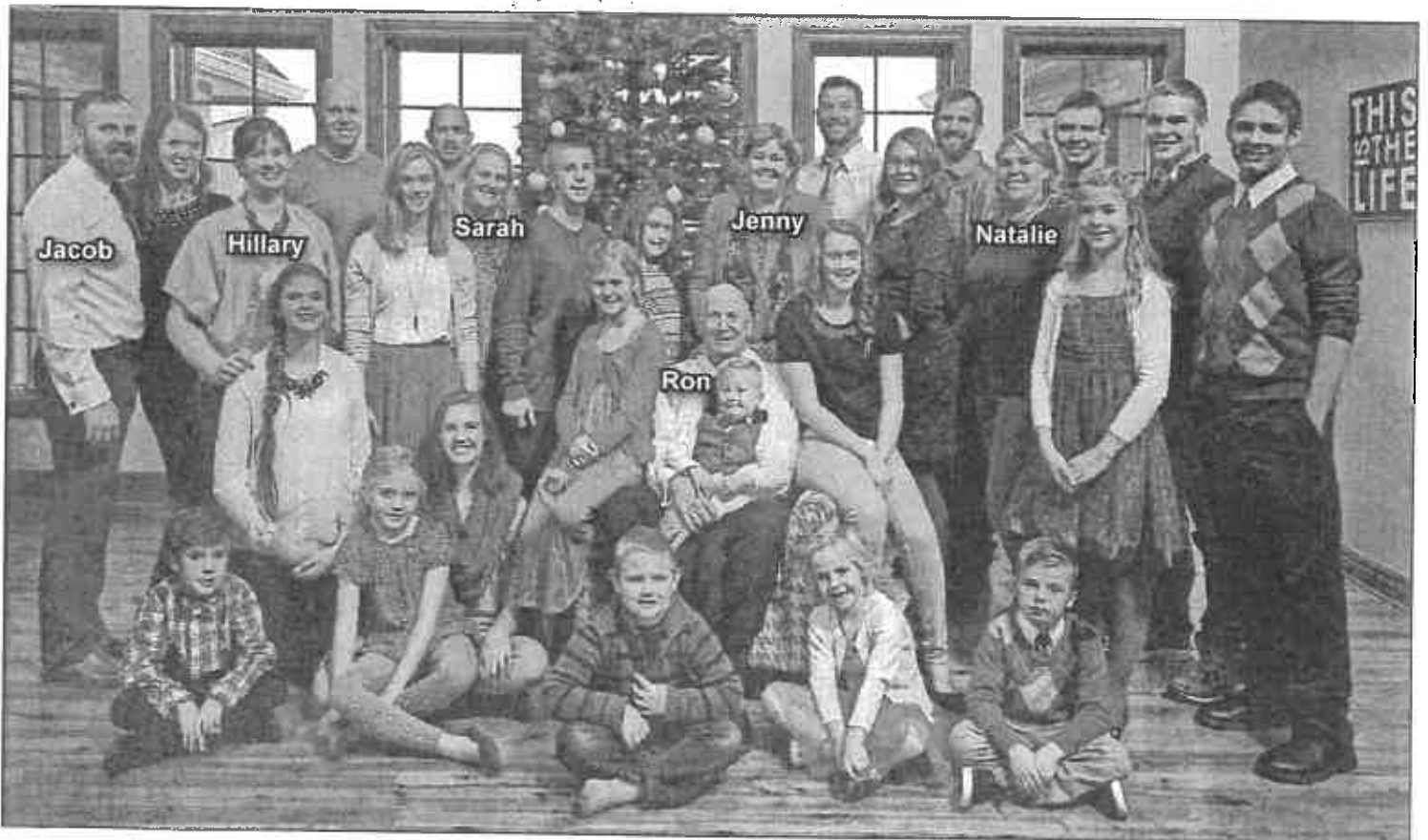
When Ron and Jenny Doan moved their family, that included seven children, to rural Missouri about 20 years ago, they had no idea that they would eventually

own and operate a successful quilt business. The Doans, formerly of California, settled in Hamilton, in north central Missouri. That meant Ron had a long commute to his job as a mechanic at the Kansas City Star newspaper. In 2008, with the stressful financial climate in the country and the waning of the newspaper industry, two of the Doan children, Sarah, a quilter, and Alan, a technical expert, began to think of alternative ways for the family to generate income. Alan's friend, David Mifsud, who had a financial and marketing background, was called into the mix and the three started an on-line business. They started a YouTube channel and put mom Jenny in front of the camera as the quilting instructor. Jenny taught quilting techniques appealing to beginners and advanced quilters, and soon the Missouri Star Quilt Company was the largest YouTube channel in the nation and Jenny was famous. Missouri Star also offers a Quilter's Daily Deal (30 % - 100 % off), machine quilting services, quilting supplies,

and the largest selection of pre-cut fabrics in the world. The thriving on-line business, is augmented by a brick and mortar storefront, that has become a destination for quilters across the country. Hamilton (population 1,500) has benefited by the growth of the Missouri Star Quilt Company, that employs about 160 people.

Nearly the entire Ron Doan family is involved in the company. Siblings Sarah Doan Galbraith and Alan Doan, the founders of the business, own the company. Mom Jenny is the face of everything the company does – they call her the "star power." Dad Ron does maintenance and machine repair, son Jacob does videography, and daughter Natalie Doan Earnheart is the managing editor of the publication department that produces thousands of copies of their magazine and books each year. Another daughter, Hillary Doan Sperry, designs and builds the window and merchandise displays, and Sarah's husband Seth Galbraith runs the five man construction crew.

DFA members who attended the 2010 reunion in Crete, Nebraska may remember meeting Jenny and Ron when they made a quick stop at Doane College. Their busy schedule did not allow them to stay for the week. Check out their website, www.missouriquiltco.com, and if you're in Missouri stop by and see these cousins.



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2016 DFA Reunion...

Plans are progressing for the summer 2016 reunion cruise. Chairman Dick Doane is getting final quotes and available schedules from cruise lines, and the committee will soon make a decision on the company and exact dates. Contact Dick for more information at (602)317-8827 or rdoane54@gmail.com

