

The Stalnaker Family Association Newsletter

May 2018

Website address: <http://www.stalnakerfamilyassoc.org>

It's time to "**Save the date**" for the next **Stalnaker Family Association Reunion!** The **Stalnaker Family Reunion for 2018 year is July 14 & 15, 2018.** (See reunion section of this letter).



A note from our President – Pamela K. Stalnaker

What an amazing year for the Stalnaker Family Association – Captain Samuel Stalnaker Heritage Society! We had so many blessings come our way this year – it's hard to know where to begin. For me the excitement began at the annual reunion, with a tremendous turn out for our featured speaker & family member Brad Stalnaker, joined by his lovely wife. We all marveled at Brad's talents and experiences in his career. We are grateful to Brad for sharing some of his career highlights with us and the special top-secret video he created just for the Stalnaker Reunion. We wish Brad and his wife continued success in the years ahead!

After the annual reunion we had an unexpected communication from the producers of the hit TV show "**Barnwood Builders**", the DIY Network. Our very own **Sandy Wilson**, lead this connection and successful communication which landed **the Jacob Stalnaker Cabin** in the **National Spot-light** and the segment aired on **March 11, 2018!** That's right, a segment called, "**At a Cross Roads**" was about the **Jacob Stalnaker Cabin**. Sandy Wilson, coordinated and scheduled the visit from **Mark Bowe** and his crew to film the **Jacob Stalnaker Cabin**, in late July 2017. What an exciting day! Watching Mark Bowe and his crew at work was an amazing experience, then to see their work on TV was yet another. Sandy, represented the work of the association and Cabin with great integrity and respect, like only Sandy can do!

On a personal note, the membership needs to know – Sandy, is the person who has kept the association going for the past several years. I truly enjoy being around Sandy, to listen to the wealth of information and how effortlessly she articulates details on the Stalnaker Cabin and heritage! ***Sandy Wilson's contributions to the Jacob Stalnaker Cabin, the SFA and the Captain Samuel Stalnaker Society cannot be counted or put into words! Sandy, I am very grateful to you and Dan for the many contributions you have made to the Jacob Stalnaker Cabin and the Stalnaker Family Association. Your dedication and countless hours of work, have not gone unnoticed!***

Your skills and talents in connecting the **Jacob Stalnaker Cabin and Stalnaker heritage** to the hit show "**Barnwood Builders**" on National T.V. was more than an amazing accomplishment! Thank you Sandy for your continued special efforts and dedication in keeping the Stalnaker Heritage alive!

Next, another outstanding year for the consistent connections made by the **Stalnaker Family Assoc. website:** <http://www.stalnakerfamilyassoc.org> (web-master **Nancy Stalnaker Bundy**). This past calendar year the website sent us **twenty-seven (27) new connections**, for a variety of reasons. One email that touched my heart was from a mother helping her son with a social studies project, part of her message read:

"Just wanted to let you know that your genealogy page, has been a big help to me and my son. (He's 8 years old and in 3rd grade!). They're currently working on a family tree project for their Social Studies class."

The mother and son shared with us a website link to consider adding to our page. After reading her email the information was sent on to Nancy and within a few hours Nancy posted the link on the website. (Link is to help people get started with genealogy).

Nancy Bundy is another person, who has been, quietly in the shadow's providing an amazing website for several years for the Stalnaker Family Association. This website has bridged many connections; new members, new information, shares information, and supports making connections! A BIG Thank you to **Nancy** for her continued work on the website and for making it available for so many people to enjoy. If you have not visited the website - Please, make time to enjoy the history, articles, and great information! Website address: <http://www.stalnakerfamilyassoc.org>

NEXT – UP – PLEASE READ!

Shocking News and Events of this year! In years past the membership has been called upon for support, as a result, the SFA met and exceeded expectations! To name a few of these accomplishments;

-Forming the SFA, finding the Jacob Stalnaker Cabin, relocation of the Jacob Stalnaker Cabin, raising the funds to rebuild the Jacob Stalnaker Cabin, growing the membership, many years of Annual Reunions, and the list goes on.

Much like the TV segment titled, *"At a Cross Roads"*, this title reflects a place we find ourselves today!

What I am about to share is truly difficult. In fact, when the news came to me – I was shocked and thought there must be some details lost in the message. I soon learned, differently! As we (the SFA officers and Board members) identified and hired a contractor to complete maintenance work on the Jacob Stalnaker Cabin. Fast forward to the day the contractor showed up to complete the work. (This is the short version) Later in the day, I received a phone call reporting, A RCHS board member, ran the contractor off saying he owned the Cabin, and threaten to call the police – if the contractor did not leave immediately.

Immediately, we began to contact the Randolph County Historical Society (RCHS), to understand what happened. It was at this time we learned of some question or challenge to the ownership of the **Jacob Stalnaker Cabin!** There were many communications initiated by SFA to clarify and come to an understanding about ownership of the **Jacob Stalnaker Cabin!** The SFA Officers and Board members continued to reach out for opportunities for discussion with RCHS through various methods of communications; several emails, meetings with their President, and a joint meeting on-site in Beverly, WV. The joint meeting was scheduled for December 17, 2017 at 1:00pm in Beverly, WV.

In attendance for the joint meeting; five (5) Stalnaker Family Association Officers/Board members and two (2) RCHS Officers. There was a collective feeling the joint, two (2) hour, meeting was productive and we all left the meeting with a good faith verbal commitment from both groups (SFA & RCHS), to move forward with a draft MOU – based on the content discussed, during the two hour meeting.

Cela Burge, licensed WV attorney & SFA Board Member, was present and facilitated the joint meeting, fully disclosing her credentials with those present. At the end of the meeting Cela, restated a summary of discussion points, action steps agreed upon, and moving forward her commitment to prepare the draft MOU between the two groups.

Cela delivered on her commitment providing a well-crafted and timely MOU, which factually outlined the details of the joint meeting and the agreed upon commitments made to move forward.

Several weeks after sending the MOU to RCHS we received a reply communication from RCHS – informing us they had consulted their attorney and they own the STALNAKER Cabin. ***Again – SHOCKING!***

Needless to say, it's been a challenging, overwhelming, and difficult experience for us all! We know the Cabin is in need of immediate repairs and these repairs must maintain the integrity of the Jacob Stalnaker Cabin.

This is all beyond my level of experience and knowledge! I am stepping aside, and calling on the membership to offer up the leadership and direction for this situation. If there is ever a time its now, the STALNAKER MEMBERSHIP needs to answer this call.... Membership Leader, Membership - guidance, ideas, recommendations – and – MEMBERSHIP talents, knowledge, solutions! I know there is a STALNAKER and STALNAKER's out there with the ability to lead this effort –

PLEASE answer this call! The SFA needs -the memberships support to keep our heritage alive and growing!

Please share ability to volunteer-comments to Website email account: <https://stalnakfamilyassoc.org/contact/>

A Bit of History

Association website: Click this link to the historical documents: <http://stalnakfamilyassoc.org/historical-documents/>

Stalnaker Family Reunion: Saturday, July 14, 2018 & Sunday, July 15, 2018

Saturday, July 14, 2018: History day is **10am to 4 pm** at the cabin. We give guided tours of the cabin and discuss family history. It is great for new members and first time visitors to the cabin. The Stalnaker Cabin will be open with association members available to answer questions.

Sunday, July 15, 2018: The potluck lunch and live auction will be held at the Beverly Fire Department. This event **begins at 11:00 am** starting with the **annual meeting**, the potluck lunch will immediately follow with time to look over the items for the live auction. **Please bring a covered dish and send items to be auctioned** to **Darrell Allman - 450 Center Ave Weston, WV 26452**. All proceeds from the auction, annual dues, and monetary donations support the future goals of the Stalnaker Family Association.

We look forward to seeing you at the reunion! There are many historical sites to visit in and around Beverly. For more information, contact the Randolph County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800-422-3304 or visit the website:

www.RandolphCountyWV.com Come and enjoy both days with us!

Dues and Donations:

Annual dues time! Special thank you to everyone who has sent in their dues. If you have not sent dues - **good news - it's never too late!** Remember with a **generous donation** to the cabin and cemetery maintenance fund – a special gift from the board will be sent.

Enclosed is a form for your convenience to submit your annual dues. We need and appreciate your continued support to maintain and grow the success of our association. **Thank-you in advance for your support!**
*Remember your help is needed, Just a few hours **makes a REAL DIFFERENCE!***

Warm regards,

Pamela Stalnaker

