

Russell W. STonesifer
Rt. 1

By all means keep in mind that when the name Stonecypher (without first name or initials) is used in the foregoing, it also means all of you Stonecyphers, Stonesifers, Stonecifers, Steinciphers, or any other of the many variants.

Miss Hattie Marsengill, Box 4, Cornelia, Georgia 30531
E. T. Stonecipher, 3118 Wynford Dr., Fairfax, Va. 22030
Genealogy, Compiler

1. Much progress in gathering genealogical information has been made during the past year. Guesses have been replaced by facts. Folk-lore has either been substantiated or proven false. But, unsolved problems remain and, alas, some always will.

Because genealogy is a continuing process, it was decided last August at the reunion in Georgia, to set up the frame work of a national organization. A "Not for pprofit" corporation was proposed. Mr. S. Stonecypher of Tucker, Georgia, an attorney, volunteered his time to set up a legal corporation in Georgia. The name agreed upon was The Stonecypher Foundation of America, Inc.. In addition to providing an "On-going" organization, it will provide a means of conducting the modest business of our group and will be able to accept and disburse funds.

The two day meeting at Clarkesville was well attended by both local and out of State family members. Several visited the site of the old John Stonecypher (1756-1851) home and burial plot near Eastanollee.

In regard to money, numerous people have asked how mailings, reproductions of records, and the printing of this bulletin are financed. The compilers regard the gathering, compiling, and recording of genealogical information as a hobby, and not one dime of personal payment is desired or will be accepted. The Foundation does have a small bank account consisting of donations from those attending the annual reunion in Georgia. Publications and postage require money, of course, and anyone wishing to make a donation may do so. Checks should be made payable to: The Stonecypher Foundation, and mailed to Miss Hattie Marsengill, Sec.-Treas., The Stonecypher Foundation, Box 4, Cornelia, Georgia 30531.

2. STONECIPHER REUNIONS PLANNED FOR 1972:

MARION, COUNTY, ILLINOIS

DATE: Sunday, July 2, 1972. Time 11:00 A.M.
PLACE: Forbes' Park, which is in Omega Township, about twenty (20) miles east and north of Salem, Illinois.
CONTACT: Mrs. Earl Snow, Kell, Illinois 62853

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

DATE: Sunday, August 6, 1972. Time: 10:00 A.M.
PLACE: Oneida Shores Park, located at the southwest end of Oneida Lake, Brewerton, New York. Brewerton is near Syracuse.
CONTACT: Mr. R. C. Theisen, 6072 Muskrat Bay Road, Brewerton, New York 13029.

3. STONESIFERS - present and past.

DR. RICHARD J. STONESIFER, a descendant of Johannes Daniel, (1731-1813), and an authority on the late novelist William Faulkner, became president of Monmouth College July 1, 1971. Formerly, he was a dean at Drew University. Monmouth College, a private institution, has an enrollment of 6,000 and is located at West Long Branch, New Jersey.

Dr. Stonesifer was a cum laude graduate of Franklin and Marshall College in 1946, after serving in the Air Force in W.W. II. He earned an M.A. from Northwestern and later received his Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a faculty member at Franklin and Marshall, his alma mater at Lancaster, Pa.. After a stint at the U. of Pennsylvania as an associate professor in the University's Annenberg School of Communications, he went to Drew University as an English Professor.

He is a prolific writer and for years produced a television show where he interviewed prominent authors and scholars.

HARRY W. STONECIPHER received the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Journalism at Southern Illinois University on September 3, 1971. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Stonecipher of Salem, Illinois. Dr. Stonecipher and his wife, Helen (Leuty) started in journalism as members of the staff of the Salem (Illinois) Republican before he entered the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri in 1950.

Dr. Stonecipher and his wife, upon his graduation, published the Washington, Missouri Citizen (1955-56) and then published the Record-Herald, Arcola, Illinois until 1967. He entered the Graduate School of Southern Illinois University in 1967 and prepared his doctoral dissertation on differing perceptions of people reading the same news presentations. He plans to continue on the faculty of Southern Illinois, teaching courses in news writing, editorial writing, and journalism law.

Source: Salem Times Commoner (Formerly Salem Republican).

JAMES STONECYPHER (1793-1854) was the youngest son of John Stonecypher, (see Revolutionary War Veterans) and a grandson of Johanness Heinrich Steinseiffer. James was born on a farm in Franklin County, Georgia. His mother, Nancy (Curtis) had travelled south from Wilkes County, N. Carolina with her husband in 1784.

In 1816 James married Martha Ruth Camp who was a native of South Carolina. In 1817 twin boys were born to them, named John and Joseph. On April 2, 1817, James and Martha Ruth started out to visit her folks in S. Carolina. Each was carrying one of the twins, and in attempting to cross the Tugaloo River on horseback, Martha and John were swept off their horse and drowned, in spite of James' efforts to save them.

James then married Patsy Morris. It is claimed that she was the grand-daughter of Robert Morris, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, although this has not been proven. They raised an interesting family of seven sons and three daughters. The boys' names were James F., Benjamin, William, John V., Marion, Thomas, and Franklin. The latter was killed while serving in the Confederate Army. The daughters were Sarah, who married Samuel Fuller; Nancy, who never married; and Susannah, who married George W. Fincannon.

Joseph, the surviving twin, married Elizabeth Peterson in 1839. In 1840 they moved to Claborn County, Alabama, and later into Shelby County. He is buried there in a cemetery adjoining a Baptist Church which he helped to establish. He was the great-grandfather of this writer.

After his second marriage to Patsy Morris, James bought land on Moccasin Creek, Rabin County, Georgia. It is reported that he owned more than 10,000 acres and numerous slaves. In the early 1840's he sold most of his land and all of his slaves. Most of his sons served in the Confederate Army. His oldest son, Joseph, served as a physician. James and John, his father, are still venerated by people in N. East Georgia as being distinguished pioneers of the area.

By: W. A. Stonecypher, Pres. The Stonecypher Historical Foundation.

4. Several inquiries have been received during the past year regarding ancestors who served in the Revolutionary War. Of course, half of our inheritance comes from the distaff side, and many who can not trace back to a Revolutionary hero by the name of Stonecipher can do so through the female lines. Interest in patriotic or colonial societies waxes and wanes from time to time, but it can not be denied that our family has shared in the development of this country from earliest times. The following individuals are known to have served in the Revolutionary forces, and there may well have been others:

Stinecipher, Joseph (also Stonesiffer, Stonecyfer, Stonecypher, and Stonesifer) enlisted as a private at Wilkes County Court House and served three months. He was later drafted for a three month period. He was a pensioner in Morgan County, Tenn. from 1832-1840. S-1891.

Stonecypher, John, a brother of Joseph, served approximately three and one-half years in the Federal Army as a private, always a volunteer. He, likewise, was mustered in and out at the Wilkes County Court house, Wilkesboro, N. Carolina. After the war he moved to N. E. Georgia, near Toccoa. He is certified by the D.A.R. as a Revolutionary War Hero.

Stonecipher, Henry. He served as a private in the 3rd Company, 5th Battalion, York County, Pennsylvania Militia. He married Elizabeth Hoffheins and moved to Jefferson County, Kentucky before 1800. Shortly afterward, he purchased a farm in Clark County, Indiana. He spent his latter days in Harrison County, Indiana and is buried in Jordan Cemetery about three miles south of Corydon, Indiana. Both the S.A.R. and the D.A.R. accept him as a soldier of the Revolution.

Stonecypher, Richard, File R 3429, National Archives, was a lieutenant in the Revolutionary Army. Neither his origin nor his descendants are known to the writer.

Source; Prof. K.F. Neighbours, Northwestern University, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Documentation has been accepted by the D.A.R. of the service of Joshua Curtis as a naval officer. Two of his daughters married Stoneciphers; Susannah married Ezra Stinecipher in 1802, and Phoebe married Sameul in 1805. Both were married by Ezekial Baird in Buffalo Cove, Ashe County, N. Carolina.

5. PROBLEMS:

First, the relationship of original immigrants. Johanness Stinecyfer left a will in Culpeper County, Va. listing four sons and mentioning a wife, Elizabeth, and four daughters, who were not named. His sons were John-the Elder, Henericus, Henry, and John-the Younger. John-the Elder was probably "John Henry". Henericus is reported to have called himself Henry Richus and to have moved to Surry County, N. Carolina about 1767. Ten years later he moved to Greene County, Tenn. Henry evidently lived out his days in Virginia and had several children by his first wife. They were McHenery, Ephraim, John, plus others. John-the Younger is thought to have moved to Boone County, Kentucky in the 1790's, taking his entire family with him. It is thought that some began to use the name Stansifer and scattered along both sides of the Ohio, with some moving into Illinois. The will mentioned above was registered in 1754 and submitted to probate in 1757. There is firm evidence to support these conjectures, but real lineage is difficult to establish because of the similarity of names and their continuous re-use in each generation.

John Stinecipher left Morgan County, Tenn. about 1851 and moved to Texas, possibly Kauffman County. His father was Joseph and he had four brothers in Tenn., namely: Ezra, Samuel, Benjamin, and Daniel.

William Stonecypher sold land to John Brown, Wartburg, Tenn. Deed book B. Page 114, October 3, 1825. He was not named in the 1830 census as living in Tennessee.

Daniel Stonecypher, Sr., a son of John Henry (1725-1816) and a brother of Joseph, Michael, John, and Peter, is on the Roane County Tax list of 1805 and received land grants in 1807 and 1808. He sold 100 acres of land in four portions in 1812 to Joseph Stonecypher, Nancy Brasel, Rachel Curtis, and Samuel Stonecypher. This land was along the Crooked Creek Fork of the Little Emory River, Morgan Co., Tenn.. With the expectation of a possible land sale in 1824, he does not appear again in Morgan County records. A Daniel does appear in the 1830 censuses of Bledsoe County, Tenn., but the age given does not agree with the age we have for the above.

If any of you have information about these people, please write to Ross I. Stonecipher.

A Stonecypher Coat of Arms is available from the "Studio of Heraldic Arts, 308 S. Main St., Lawrenceburg, Kentucky 40342. This firm is approved and the purchaser will receive a list of books and authorities used in research, notes, and the meaning of the surname, and a short historical sketch of the family. Those interested should write to the Studio.

- e. All voted to hold our next meeting during August 13, 1978, at the North Habersham Junior High School Cafeteria at Clarksville, Georgia where we have had at least our last three meetings. However, recommendations were made from the floor, that we consider holding our 1979 meeting at Lawrenceville, Georgia at the same location where the Foundation was originated. Lawrenceville is located about twenty miles east of Atlanta. Mr. Henry Stonecypher of Toccoa, Georgia agreed to check this out and report his findings at our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 A.M. The ladies of the Foundation are certainly to be complimented for the wonderful lunch prepared and served by them after the meeting.

EDITORS COMMENTS: Until about 1100 A.D. most people of Europe had only one name. As the population increased it became increasingly confusing to live in a locality where a sizeable portion of the population had only one name such as Jim, or Joe, or John. To distinguish one Jim or Joe from another, a second identification was needed. It then became customary to add the fathers or mothers name to the Jim or Joe, if it was different. However, if it was not, then to resort to some other description such as locality, occupation, physical make up, or what have you. Thus the name of Hill, Tanner or Long, might be added to the name of Jim should he live on a hill, or should he be a tanner, or should he be tall of stature. This new system of nameing persisted and was improved on as time passed.

As experienced today, it appears that peoples or countries, of the past were constantly at war with one another. It was the "in thing" of that day and time for the fighting man for protection to enclose himself in a sheet metal suit generally referred to as armor. This made it practically impossible to distinguish friend from foe during the heat of battle. In order to alleviate such a situation the idea of painting signs, symbols, or names, on the armor or shields was hit upon. Accordingly, these signs or symbols, were handed out by the King or ruling class of the day, to those of royalty, or to families of certain occupations, or to others, who were within the good graces of the King. These signs or symbols, were called "Coats of Arms" and in the beginning were assigned (the equivalent of being trade-marked) to those favored persons and could not be used by any one else except the one favored and his descendents. To those not favored I can imagine it was a "dog eat dog" situation.

The name of Steinseifer when translated to German means stone cutter or polisher, and when translated to its English equivalent means practically the same. Books on German Heraldry indicate the name Steinseifer was issued a coat of arms in the eleventh century described roughly as follows....

"A golden painted surface encircled by a border in which three Corn Flowers (Bachelor Buttons and probable the national flower of Germany at that time) are placed in the center and surrounded by eight cut and polished semi-precious stones of such colors to harmonize with the gold painted background. Any other decoration or filigree which the owner wanted and could afford might be

added outside the encircling border as long as it did not interfere with that which was within the border".

This tends to bear out the assumption that the name Steinseifer, or Stonecypher or any of its variations, was occupational in nature and that our Forefathers or the very early ones at least were workers or fashioners of semi or precious stones. In other words, I believe such craftsmen would be referred to as diamond cutters today.

In later years it appears that every one engaged in some sort of craft belonged to some trade guild. Apparently these guilds promoted more prosperity among the rank and file which enabled some of them to purchase armor for themselves. These guilds adapted their own coat of arms with or without the Kings permission. However, in the passing of time, the descriptions of them have been lost in antiquity as very little if any record remains of them today.

In News Bulletin No. 5, mention was made of the early origin of the Stonecypher Family as supplied to me by Rev. W. A. Stonecypher of Lucedale, Mississippi. Reference was also made at that time to the small German Town of Eiserfeld, in West Germany, and the house in which the first Stonecypher (Johannes Steinseifer) emigre to this country resided. Below is a photograph of that house which was razed in 1971 to make room for a parsonage. Johannes was born in this house in 1692 as well as all of his eight children at a later date. He, together with his wife Elizabeth, and children left this house in 1749 to come to America.

The house was built in 1255 and from its type of construction, indicated the locality of Eiserfeld had severe winter weather. I can't tell from the photograph but undoubtedly it was of frame construction built from very large hand sawed timbers. It also had what appears to be a diagonal slate roof which is not unusual for that part of the country. You will note that on the left there is a portion which appears somewhat to be a built in attached garage. I do not what this could be used for unless it was used to house the carriage and live stock during the long winter season. The smaller door probable was to permit the owner access to the building within without giving Old Dobin the horse or Elsie the cow the opportunity to dash for freedom as when the larger door was opened. Just how they got the carriage out without turning everything loose is anyones guess and I will leave that up to some of you smart Stonecyphers out there.

The Lady in the foreground is Emmy Steinseifer, a distant relative of Johannes Steinseifer. She was the last occupant of the house before it was torn down. The house had been occupied continually by Steinseifers, predecessors of Johannes, since the year 1255 according to Mrs. Emmy and other sources. During the construction of the parsonage the towns people of Eiserfeld had a bronze plaque mounted in the main entrance door which reads "HE WHO BELIEVES IN GOD AND TRUST HIS WORDS IS WISE-- THE STEINSEIFER HOUSE".