



The Studebaker Family



A continuing story of the Studebaker Family -- official publication of The Studebaker Family National Association, a non-profit organization. Purpose: to publish a genealogical history of the Studebaker family since 1736

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THE MARRYING PARSON

He had neither the marital eccentricities of the early Mormon, nor the unbridled learnings of a total rake, but he did somehow acquire four wives and that, if nothing else, surely entitles him to some special consideration in our newsletter.

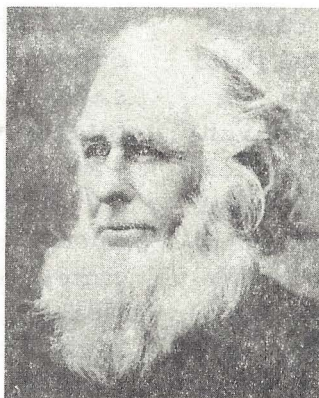
In this case it isn't necessary to resort to those euphemisms by which writers mask unpleasant truths, for each marriage was impeccably valid in the eyes of God and man. He, of all people, would not have had it any other way. He was a hardy, God-fearing soul and a highly respected preacher in the Dunkard faith.

This story is timely for it illustrates the genealogical goldmine once appended in each family Bible.

Our man, of course, had more reason than most to document his domestic involvement and the resulting increase. It must have troubled him to realize he could not instantly recall who was the mother of this child or that!

The oft-married parson was George W. Studebaker, one of the fifteen children of Hannah and John Studebaker of Miami County, Ohio, whose ministry for the first fifty years centered in Delaware County, Indiana. Most of his wives and children are buried therein Studebaker Cemetery and their tombstones have been checked by this writer against the entries in George's Bible. No conflicts were noted.

George's middle initial stands for Washington, suggesting he may have been



Geo. W. Studebaker

born on February 22, but records show the date as March 2, 1818. In electing the name, his parents perhaps hoped that he too would become the father of his country. If so, he made a commendable effort by siring thirteen recorded offspring. But infant mortality was astonishing in those times and at least eight of these children died in infancy, some going to their grave in company with the mother.

George made appropriate entries for the births of all his children, naming them Hannah, Sarah, Catherine, Lydia, Susannah, Adam, Nancy, Mary, Melinda, Barbary, Harrison, Eli and an unnamed "infant daughter". Only by checking against other entries can the appropriate mother be identified. Then too, there are a few entries which cannot be equated with any of the above names. They perhaps are children by the women's first marriage, three of them being listed under dual names and thus indicating they may have been widows when they met George.

George and several brothers, sisters and cousins arrived in Indiana about 1835 and began clearing swampy land along the Mississinewa River. By 1841 enough of the faithful had gathered to justify the formation of a local church. George was elected deacon, thus beginning his long career at age 17. The most obvious difference between a deacon and a minister was that the junior then was obliged to make all his remarks while seated. Some who endured his 3-hour sermons said he never did.



George later said that was a terrible way to learn how to preach.

Throughout his half century in that church, he worked with John Ulery Studebaker, his cousin and son of David. "They were close associates in their work for the Lord", one writer says. He adds that George, though "a rare occupant of any classroom", had a remarkable capacity for Scripture. George himself said he memorized the Bible while incapacitated by an axe. This gave him a ready text on any occasion. He was, they said, "a walking Bible".

On January 25, 1838 and at age twenty, George went to the altar for the first time with Barbary Detrick, age nineteen. Of her, the history of the Mississinewa church says: "Barbary Studebaker, nee Detrick, born May 8, 1819, departed life at the age of 28 years, Jan. 17, 1848. . . . Four children came in blessing to their home". We can assume that these facts are correct, even without comparing with George's handwritten notes, for the published work credits George with being the source of virtually all the facts therein.

The Bible seems to attribute six births to this first wife, but names only three, all girls, as survivors. Barbary died in childbirth along with Adam, their first and only male child.

One of George's brothers later married Barbary's sister.

George continued to farm at Mississinewa, putting aside the plow at frequent intervals to preach, to marry and to bury. And he began to limn some of the heretofore unnoticed benefits of unpaid service in God's cause. He was welcome in all homes, particularly in those in bereavement, and he was soon acquainted with all the widows of the community, many of them quite young. One such was Martha Level, born Martha Learidnas on April 8, 1823 and now a widow at age 26. They were married November 2, 1849. She probably had two children at the time of marriage and two more were born before her death on November 21, 1855 at age 32.

At the close of the Civil War, George was designated a roving missionary and sent into the Deep South to explore that

newly opened evangelistic field. Several letters in church publications have special significance in that they not only report religious progress, but also the conditions, favorable and unfavorable, that would attend Brethren settlement in a particular area. There can be little doubt that such reports occasioned the pattern of Brethren communal settlement throughout the West.

Most of these bruising trips were made by horseback, stagecoach and on foot. Customarily, any reward for a minister would be collected by someone in the community and delivered, together with a sack of edibles, upon his departure. The total rarely exceeded \$2, for actual money was almost non-existent on the frontier.

If faith made extraordinary demands upon these primitive preachers, it sometimes required no less of those being saved. Here is a case in point, taken from a very long letter which appears in Weekly Pilgrim in 1875. This was a walking trip, the writer indicates, and he comments that the temperature stood at 18 degrees below zero: "We arrived late in the evening and continued over Sunday. On Monday two old men, both over sixty years, made a good confession, and were buried with Christ in baptism. To accomplish this we had to cut the ice, which was eight inches thick."

To appreciate this fully, it is necessary to know that three total immersions were basic in the old Tunker faith.

After grieving a few weeks for Martha, George was again wife-hunting. In four months he made an unlikely choice. She was his own step-sister, the daughter of his mother's second husband. He was Elder Benjamin Bowman and the daughter Elizabeth, apparently the widow of a man named Raffe. George was now 38 and his bride 23. They had two children but only one lived to pass on the Studebaker name. George conducted Lizzie's funeral on July 25, 1862. Later that year he buried his mother.

A few months later George made his fourth and final marriage to Elizabeth Funderbaugh, whose maiden name was Arnold, born November 29, 1821. The

birth of a daughter is recorded in 1864, but no name is assigned. This child may be one of several buried in a cluster near the grave of George's mother. George never troubled to indicate where the various marriages took place, but this one can be found in the records of Miami County, Ohio under date of January 6, 1863. The name "Funderbaugh" in various spellings emerges from the German "Von der Burg".

By 1881 George was ready to slow down a bit, no doubt hastened in his decision by the bitter division in his church. He closed out his affairs in Indiana to spend his remaining days in Wilson County, Kansas near Eli, his son. There he came to be regarded as a patriarch of the Studebaker clan and a dean emeritus of Brethren preachers.

Elizabeth died on March 9, 1898 and George noted the occasion in trembling hand. Then, as a final line, he wrote: "George W. will die _____." A much steadier hand has filled in the date of July 22, 1905. He was age 87.



Papers fly at Tipp City as Walter Carlock, foreground, reads his manuscript for publication.

BOARD MEETS

Virtual completion of Peter's genealogy was announced at the 1973 SFNA Board Meeting by Walter Carlock. Now being indexed and checked, it is anticipated that this segment can go to a printer by late Spring, 1974. This represents a major advance in the long research effort and is particularly significant since the Peter line is largest of the three.

Optomistic too are the reports of Dr. Alvin Faust and Irene Miller, who estimate

that their own studies, delayed somewhat by severe illnesses, also will be ready next year.

It appears that the book will require 800-1200 pages and that it can be held to that size only by selective pruning. Such bulk approximates the limit of feasibility for a single volume. Each of the three family branches will appear as a separate section of the book.

The annual financial report shows \$3220 income, but more than \$4800 outgo as clerical costs mount in this climate of inflation. No attempt will be made to negotiate a printing contract until the finished work is in hand but investigation of probable cost is continuing.

SFNA active membership rolls now total approximately 1000 families. The non-member mailing list was reduced when 900 recipicants of this newsletter failed to return their mail-back card expressing their interest in continuing to receive it, free of charge.

Another report of special interest was made by Emmert Studebaker, association president, who visited Herr Bernard Freter in Germany in early October. This genealogist, assisted by several Studebaker descendants still living in the Solingen area, is preparing a chapter on our European origin.

During this trip Emmert concluded negotiations for the private purchase of an orginal letter written by Clement and Peter from America in 1737. Assuring parents and other kinsmen that their new homeland appeared to have great promise, this account is perhaps the most valuable family document yet found.

All officers were re-elected for another year.

The Texas State Genealogical Society will hold their 13th Annual Convention on November 23rd and 24th at the Ramanda Inn Central, 6060 Central Expressway, Dalls, Texas.

For further information contact Paul R. S. Jarry, Reservation Chairman, 6814 Shady Brook Lane, Apt. 1102, Dallas, Texas 75231.

STUDEBAKER COAT OF ARMS???

Many people have asked over the years, "Is there a family coat of arms?" Research has been done on this by a number of interested persons, including, Gary L. Studebaker of Oregon, Eugene Wierbach of California, Herr Bernard Freter of Germany, Walter Carlock of Minnesota and Elizabeth Kerr of Kentucky. No coat of arms has been found.

The Studebaker name has been encountered at various locations in Germany back to approximately the year 1200. We believe the Studebakers of South Bend also did some research for a coat of arms. We do, however, have a record of trademarks or crafts-men guild marks registered for Studebakers who were blade makers, or cutlers.

All searches to date have failed to produce any evidence of the existence of a Studebaker coat of arms. It should be remembered that the Studebakers who we have found in the early centuries were craftsmen or peasants.

One of the commercial games going on in this country, and probably Europe as well, is the offering for sale of title and coat of arms. Many families are proud to display such a wall plaque sold by a company researching these records. Some of the emblems sold are quite authentic, others are an artist's conception based on meager evidence and in many cases based on nothing other than a desire to make a fast buck.

Currently, the Studebaker family is being offered such a coat of arms emblem by Halbert Corp. of Bath, Ohio. Supposedly it is the official emblem for our family, showing a traditional knights helmet surrounded by a few corn flowers with what appears to be a pretzel in the middle of the shield.

A telephone call to their office revealed it is an artist's conception and is not based on any valid old source in existence in Germany or elsewhere. We know nothing of the Nancy Halbert Company but presume it is one of a large number of companies dabbling in these matters of "Heraldry" over the years and making a good thing selling their products to Americans who aspire to "being somebody".

This natural urge may not be completely condemned since a lot of our progress is made in response to a legitimate ego.

A MARYLAND RECORD

In neat German script, Walter Von der Burg (now Funderburg) set down basic facts about his family in these charming words:

"The 12th day of June, 1759 am I, Walter Von der Burg born and married my wife Elizabeth Studebecker in Sept. 16, 1783 and we have begot first a daughter Oct. 1, 1784 and we have named her Catherine. Dec. 22, 1785 is to us born a son and we have named him Daniel. April 16, 1788 is to us born a son and we have named him Heinrich, his sign the Virgin. Nov. 9, 1792 is to us born a daughter and we have named her Maria. Oct. 21, 1795 is to us born a daughter and she shall be called Susannah. Nov. 30, 1798 to us is born a son and his name shall be Peter, his sign the Virgin. July 29, 1800 is to us born a son and he shall be named Samuel, his sign is Aries."

The peculiar spelling of Elizabeth's name is in accord with German practice in regard to gender.

KANSAS COUSIN REPORTS

Mrs. Edith (Gump) Bennie of Garden City, Kansas, thinks that every issue of the newsletter must be specially written for her because so many people are named, often with considerable detail, that her parents also mentioned when she was a young girl.

Mrs. Bennie, a widow, is the daughter of Abraham and Nannie Younce Studebaker Gump and a great granddaughter of George W. Studebaker. Of him she writes:

"George lived with us about a year when I was a small girl. He was a retired minister and a very kind old man. He came to Kansas from the Mississinewa Church in Indiana and I am proud to be his descendant".

In all honesty we should tell Mrs. Bennie that we wrote the lead story BEFORE we got her letter. We decided long ago that he was quite a guy.



Left to right: Mrs. Clyde Stelling, Mr. Clyde Stelling, Mrs. Fay Watkins, Mrs. Fern Olson.

INTERESTING COUSINS

On page 9 of this issue we present a more or less usual type of news story about the first SFNA California reunion. Here we would like to tell you something about the very unusual sisters who put it all together with such happy results.

Fay and Fern tell us they were born in the village of Centralia in Oklahoma just after the area was opened to settlement. They add that their parents hoped for boys to help with chores in the family mercantile store.

The early promise in Oklahoma was never realized and a gradual movement of the family to the west began, first to Colorado and then to California.

Fay eventually married Charles Watson Curl, a railroad man, and they adopted a son in 1939. He is now Charles Watson Curl, M. D., of Seattle, Washington. Widowed early, she remarried twelve years later. He is Gideon Watkins, who years earlier was the boy next door in Oklahoma! They live on a mountain near Wrightwood.

Fern married Melvin Olson in 1930 and they have a daughter, Zoe. Years

ago she began collecting fine costumes and dolls, eventually filling whole buildings with her finds. Many have since become priceless examples of bygone arts.

How many dolls? Well, about one thousand at last count. And how many fine costumes? Perhaps four or five thousand.

Fern says she plans to make an actual count sometime. She isn't particularly interested in knowing but everyone else is!

SFNA thanks these gals and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde R. Stelling, the owners of the J. M. Studebaker home in Monrovia, who so graciously held an open house the day of the West Coast Reunion.

THE TRUTH OF COST

In saying how much her 95 year old mother enjoyed the California reunion, Vera G. Studebaker of Shell Beach enclosed a contribution to SFNA and added "I'm sure the Association can always use more money!"

Thanks, Vera, for that observation. We are now at the point where significant sums of money are required to get our manuscript into print. Perhaps your generosity will prompt others to assume an added share of the great financial responsibility.

Perhaps YOU will send in a check today.

KENTUCKY COUSINS

Recent visitors to the Studebaker frontier homestead in Tipp City included Mr. and Mrs. Earle King and Mr. and Mrs. Gathiel Baker, all from the original area of Studebaker settlement in Kentucky.

WE THINK SO TOO

The following excerpt is from a newspaper story which urged national participation in Family Reunion Day on Sunday, August 12. It comes from Mrs. Ford Studebaker of Asheville, North Carolina.

"Families are the basic unit of society. They are the wellspring of nation's values and its moral strength.

"Our capacity to love our fellow man, our sense of integrity, our regard for the dignity of the other person and our respect for authority are learned first in the family circle."

May it ever be so!

STUDEBAKEROLOGY

VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE

When meeting a new cousin for the first time (or one of long standing acquaintance) there is established immediately a much different kind of feeling than when contacting a non-relative.

Something inside us recognizes this bond of kinship and an automatic acceptance of this person occurs. This certainly must be from the fact that even tho we live in a very calm and stable society, there is still an ancient instinctive wariness that prompts us to be on our guard with all we meet until we can establish confidence in, and acceptance of a new contact.

With cousins, like brothers and sisters, our instinct says to us, "this person is of my family, he wishes me well, he will treat me and I will treat him like a brother". Much more significant than the elimination of fear and suspicion is the fact that our own inner self reaches out to this cousin with a strong desire to love, to share, to know, to communicate, to become one with him or her.

How very wonderful it is to have a few dozen cousins readily fitting into this pattern!! How very much more wonderful it is to realize that beyond a doubt there are at least one hundred thousand Studebaker cousins or Studebaker descendants fitting this category!!

You are never going to meet them all, but through the Studebaker Family National Association you can come up with a lot of them. In person or by mail you can live over and over the thrill of meeting these very special people and greeting them with the warm enthusiastic confident Studebaker, "Hi, Cousin"!

How does one achieve this sort of feeling? Certainly it goes back to families where people love each other and do for each other and cherish each other. Really, it's a way of life. It is an optimistic outlook rather than one of perpetual pessimism, of love rather than hate, of confidence rather than suspicion, of truth rather than deceit, of honor rather than treachery, of industry rather than indolence, of hope rather than despair, of giving rather than taking.

This is the road to happiness and good cousins are one of the great things that happen to us along this road. Cousins, let's make the trip together!!

Cousins are very special people.

Emmert Studebaker

OUR ABE

Mrs. Frederick Scott of Greenville, Ohio, wishes us continued success with our genealogical project and explains why she is interested tho not a Studebaker:

"Since we live in the home that Abraham built, we have much interest in anything that pertains to this place. Abraham built so well and it is a lovely place to live. Perhaps sometime if enough of the descendants are interested in the old house we might show it."

From out here in California where Mrs. Scott's gracious offer came for possible newsletter use it is difficult to fix definitely the "Abe" to which she refers. However, it must be the pioneer settler whose exploits make a whole chapter in several Ohio history books, similar to Jacob's role in Indiana, told in the last issue. If this is true, we definitely should have a detailed story, with pictures. Maybe Mrs. Scott will try her hand at putting one together.

Abe, assuming we are thinking of the right one, was a VERY important man in early Ohio history.

LOTS OF PUSH

Medical student David Stangland won the 1973 John M. Studebaker wheelbarrow race in Placerville, California on July 22. The annual contest requires the pushing of 56 pounds of rock over a quarter-mile course. He collected \$500 for the win, his third in six races. There were 105 entries.

John, later president of the South Bend Corporation, was a blacksmith in Placerville, then called Hangtown, in Gold Rush times.

David was an honored guest at the recent California Studebaker reunion in Monrovia. (see photo on page 9)

BIRTHS

Goldie Studebaker of Pleasant Hill, Ohio, reports the birth of a grandson, William Richardo, to Ora and Terri Lynn (Ashmore) Studebaker on June 25.

"Ricky" is a descendant of immigrant Peter.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schultz of Milton, Wisconsin are the parents of a daughter, Amy Jo, born April 26. Mrs. Schultz is the former Mary Lou Studebaker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Studebaker of Milton.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Clyde Studebaker of Berkeley, California report the birth of a son on May 1. It's not likely that his full name will ever again appear in print so here it is: Robin Raphael Geoffroy Blaise Studebaker!

Mrs. Donald H. Alleman of Pembrville, Ohio, reports the birth of a grandchild, "a real prune-picker" she called her, in Calif. The youngster is Cheryl Lynne and her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Marion L. Alleman of San Jose.

Cheryl is a descendant of immigrant Peter through his child Jacob.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Studebaker of Winthrop Harbor, Illinois, September 5. Chris Alexander is the grandson of Dr. John Alexander and Gladys Studebaker of Zion, Illinois.

Chris is a descendant of immigrant Heinrich.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren (Geneva Studebaker) Slanker report the birth of a granddaughter, Krista Anne Slanker, to Ted and Anne (Sommer) Slanker on October 1.

Krista is a descendant of immigrant Peter.

Mrs. Rita Warner of Farmersville, Ohio, reports three new births to the Clement line:

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Beck of West Lake, Ohio, became the parents of a daughter, Michelle Lynn on May 9. Mrs. Beck is the former Carol Sue Studebaker.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Studebaker of Englewood, Ohio became the parents of a daughter, Danee' Rachelle, born March 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rauscher of Arcanum, Ohio became the parents of a

daughter, Melissa Marie on March 25.

BIG BRANCH HAS MORE TWIGS

A daughter, Steffanie Jo was born April 1 to Vicki and Craig Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil (Joyce Zeller) Studebaker announce the birth of a son, Jonathon David, born September 24.

Mr. and Mrs. Joel (Beverly Sayers) Eikenberry announce the birth of a son, Torin Shawn Eikenberry, born October 12.

The above are great-grandchildren of Cyntha Smith Studebaker and the late Russell Jacob Studebaker, descendants of immigrant, Peter.

DEATHS

Hugh Studebaker of Elmhurst, Illinois died August 28. A longtime member of SFNA, Hugh also had a wide circle of friends in Studebaker Drivers Club because of his extensive collection of cars.

His family continues to live at 711 Saylor Street in Elmhurst.

Milford E. Denlinger, 69, died September 20 in Dayton, Ohio.

He was a son of Harvey and Clara Denlinger, a grandson of Daniel and Elizabeth Studebaker and a longtime resident of the Dayton area. Survivors include a wife, Frances, and a son, Gale.

Mrs. Velma Studebaker Kuehner of Stratford, New Jersey died June 9 at age 54. She was the daughter of Mrs. Cyntha Studebaker of Springfield, Ohio and the late Russell Studebaker.

Surviving in addition to her husband and mother are four daughters, Mrs. Geo. (Barbara) Cantwell of Swathmore, Pa., Mrs. Wayne (Joan) Munyon of Morris Plains, N. J., Mrs. Richard (Karen) Fowler of Bordentown, N. J. and Patricia, at home; one granddaughter; five brothers and four sisters, all residents of Ohio, as follows: Laurel and J. Homer Studebaker of New Carlisle, Don and Carroll of Springfield and Dale of Columbus, Mrs. Esther Snyder of New Carlisle, Mrs. Evelyn Sayers and Mrs. Wilma Kreps of Columbus and Mrs. Naomi Noll of Pleasant Hill.

An SFNA membership would be an ideal Christmas gift for your son or daughter.

THOSE GENEROUS STUDEBAKERS

In the last few months these cousins have contributed to the support of Project Studebaker either in payment of membership dues or donations. THANK YOU!!!

Charles V. Studebaker, Calif.
 Lois H. Knighton, Calif.
 Joseph I. Deal, Calif.
 Mrs. Ruth Thomason, Calif.
 Mrs. Charles B. Carroll, Jr., Colo.
 Douglas E. Studebaker, Colo.
 Astrid Puetz, Germany
 Elmer L. Studebaker, Ill.
 Elmer D. Studebaker, Ill.
 Dr. Harold W. Gehrig, Ill.
 Mrs. Jesse Dennis, Ill.
 Elizabeth Ann Gray, Ind.
 Roger E. Studebaker, Ind.
 Naomi V. Studebaker, Ind.
 Robert L. Smith, Ind.
 Dr. & Mrs. John D. Stoner, Ind.
 Marion B. Simmons, Ind.
 Lloyd R. Studebaker, Ind.
 Mrs. Ralph Colwell, Ind.
 Mrs. Harley Howard, Iowa
 Mrs. Roger L. Amidon, Iowa
 C. F. Studebaker, Iowa
 Mrs. Wilbur Ulrich, Kan.
 Edith Bennie, Kan.
 Mrs. Pauline Tague, Kan.
 Mrs. Joe Powers, Kan.
 Donovan R. Beachley, Md.
 Ken J. Heeter, Md.
 Alan J. Pizor, Mich.
 Gertrude Lien, Nebr.
 David S. Feron, N. Y.
 Helen Hill, Ohio
 Nancy Studebaker Smith, Ohio
 Frank Studebaker, Ohio
 Robert G. Gump, Ohio
 Harold E. Oyster, Ohio
 Donald H. Alleman, Ohio
 Everett L. Frank, Ohio
 Peggy Jo Grunewald, Ohio
 Marjorie O. Regan, Ohio
 T. G. Widener, Ohio
 Milford E. Denlinger, Ohio
 Marie C. Grafton, Ohio
 Mrs. Howard Humphrey, Ohio
 Ross Brookshier, Okla.
 Ora G. Kinzie, Okla.

Mrs. Peter Frye, Penna.
 Isabel & Bobby Lau, Penna.
 Eleanor Campbell, Texas
 Thomas K. Studebaker, Wash.
 Mona Gibson, Wash.
 Ruth Studebaker, Wash.
 Donald E. Gradeless, Wisc.
 Martin F. Studebaker, Wisc.
 Vivian Walker, Wisc.

WHERE TO LOOK

Most bookstores have a few titles on genealogy and most of these no doubt will help a beginner in the field. However, anyone familiar with the rudiments of scholarly research is apt to need more information on the "where to" than the "how to" stressed in many such books.

The Handy Book for Genealogists is a reference work published by Everton Publishers, 526 North Main Street, Logan, Utah. This guide will enable almost anyone to go direct to the original source of basic genealogical information whether at the state or county level. The current price is not available, but is about \$4.00. Check at your own bookstore.

DUSTER TOPICS

A 1909 EMF-Studebaker roadster entered by Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Studebaker of San Diego won the Henry Ford Museum Trophy as oldest car to complete the recent California Glidden Tour. The 400-mile run was made without trouble of any kind, much of it in desert temperatures.

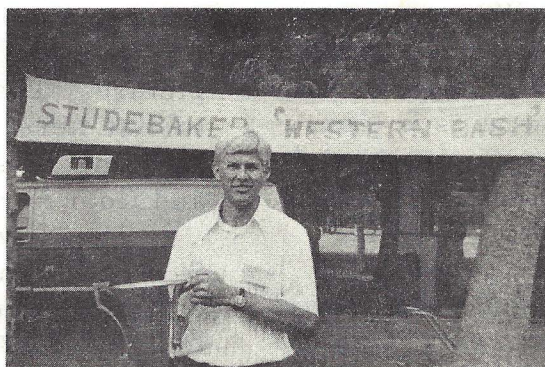
Mrs. Studebaker also was named "best dressed" for the tour and the many social events enroute, each of her several complete changes being rated authentic for the year of the car.

We would like to do a piece about James and Fanny (Studebaker) Quinter but need their pictures to accompany the story. Can you supply them? Too, you may have information that has escaped our attention. We could use more about Fanny.

Has the family met you yet? Send in some information and a black and white snapshot and we'll do the rest.



J. M. Studebaker Home
Monrovia, Calif.



David Stangland, winner of last three
"Wheelbarrow Johnny" races



Mr. and Mrs. Robert
Foldenauer

"BASH" A SMASH!!!

"The Studebaker Western Bash", probably our first major family reunion beyond the Rockies, was held in Monrovia, California on September 23. Some 150 person attended despite threatening skies. Emmert Studebaker was there to represent SFNA.

The whole reunion idea and the program to carry it out was conceived as a "spur-of-the-moment" thing by Studybaker descendants Fern Olson and Fay Watkins, sisters residing in the Monrovia area.

"I just thought it was time we knew a few more of our many cousins out here", said Mrs. Olson. (More about these remarkable women on page 5)

The gathering specially honored John M. Studebaker, or "Wheelbarrow Johnny" as he is now fondly recalled in the West, who made a substantial grubstake in Old Hangtown in Gold Rush days and then returned later to spend many quiet hours as a citizen in the hamlet of Monrovia. Reunion guests toured the quaint 1880 house believed by many to be John's actual home. It is now being restored to its original grandeur by the Stelling family, special guests at the gathering.

Tours of the home were arranged, with transportation supplied by the Antique Studebaker Club. National President Bob Foldenauer and founder, Bill Cannon, were present. Both are SFNA members.

A fashion show illustrating high-fashion clothing appropriate to the dozen old-time cars was a highlight of the reunion, all the authentic original costumes being supplied by Mrs. Olson from her private collection, possibly the world's largest. Mrs. Marvin Studebaker, who also has a fine collection, acted as narrator. Models were Jenny and Pam Stelling and Carrie Hostetter. Zoe Brown assisted.

Much of the morning was devoted to perusal of the many exhibits of Studebaker interest brought by various members of the family. Bibles, photos, old letters and the like kept the adults busy through the morning, but the many youngsters were more fascinated by the Studebaker goat-cart, restored to like-new condition.

Prizes were awarded in many categories including "oldest Studebaker present". This went to Daisy Studebaker of Seal Beach, Calif., who

told of pioneer times in Edgerton, Kansas, where she was born 95 years ago!

Special recognition went to a Studebaker related descendant of Enoch Eby, Lela Eby of Mill Valley, Calif., who reached Monrovia by public transportation, which she found included hours of travel by almost every known means, plus miles of walking. She received an ovation for her effort.

Eugene Wierbach of Laguna Beach appeared briefly on the program to tell of his early interest in genealogy. He appeared fit after years of inactivity because of health. Both he and Emmert spoke of progress on the family book and mentioned favorably the work of Mary Studebaker of Indianapolis.

One of the several surprise guests was David Stangland of Placerville, who has won three of the last five "Wheelbarrow Johnny" races at Old Hangtown and thus paid part of the cost at a California school of medicine. He told how he trains on a year-round basis for the few minutes of the race itself.

Marvin Studebaker of San Diego acted as master-of-ceremonies.

Would someone, perhaps in the Seattle-Portland area, like to manage a gathering of Studebakers in that corner of the United States in 1974?

ABE TAKES LAND

Recent publication of the original land entry book for Allen County, Ohio shows that Abraham Studebaker of Miami County was claimant for six tracts totalling approximately 900 acres. He is one of the few down for more than the usual 160 acre tract.

Allen County, then hardly more than a swampy forest in the northwest quarter of the state, was formed from territory defined by the Maumee Rapids Treaty of 1817 and was organized in 1831. All the Studebaker entries were made within the next two or three years.

Several other Miami County neighbors made the 100-mile move at about the same time and most of them can be identified as probable close relatives of Studebaker.

Among these are the families of Joseph Rudy, Jacob Gump, Peter and Anne Jacobs and William Ward.

ALIVE AND MAKING MONEY

Although the Studebaker family was forced out of the Studebaker Corporation during The Depression, there is a continuing interest in company affairs if only because of the understandable public association of one with the other. Anyone named Studebaker is asked almost daily what happened to the company, yet very few of us are able to give a cogent and correct answer.

At the end of Canadian operations in 1966, the considerable assets of company, together with some of its corporation genius, were lumped to create Studebaker-Worthington, Inc., an early conglomerate with worldwide subsidiaries and affiliates.

In 1972 the major elements of the vast company and the percentage of S-W ownership were as follows: Campbell Chain (47%), Clarke-Gravely (80%), Masoneilan Int. (82%), MLM-Worthington (56%), Onan Corp. (80%), Pasco (52%), STP (53%), Susquehanna (38%), Turbodyne (84%), and Wagner Electric (85%). A half dozen other

relatively minor service and manufacturing affiliates also appear in the corporate picture. The product line is too extensive to list here, but ranges from missile systems to such things as frozen foods and floor scrubbers.

The New York Stock Exchange lists S-W stock under the symbol: SKW. The corporate address is Studebaker-Worthington, Inc., 530 Fifth Avenue, New York City, 10036. A 1972 annual report is available on request.

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