

# Copenhaver Cousins' News

## A warm hello from your Copenhaver Family Cousins!

We are excited to announce that our next Copenhaver Family Reunion will be on Saturday, July 29, 2017 at Hungry Mother State Park in Marion, Virginia. This year's celebration will commemorate the 289<sup>th</sup> year of our ancestors' arrival in America in 1728. It's fun to know that the Copenhaver family used to own the land where Hungry Mother State Park is located and that we can walk where our ancestors walked before us.

## Letter From The President

Dear Copenhaver Family,

I hope that everyone has had a great year since our 2016 reunion!

As many of you know, it was only in 2005 that I became aware that I descend from Frederick and Eve Phillippi Copenhaver. The next year I attended my first reunion and everyone was so welcoming - it was a wonderful experience that I will never forget. In this day and age, family reunions have become rare, and I urge everyone to learn about and celebrate their family history and meet new cousins. I especially urge cousins who have never attended a reunion to join us.

On Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> we will begin the day at 10:00 a.m. by meeting at Shelter 1, which is next to the water and adjacent to the parking lot. It will be fun to meet or become reacquainted with each other! Our official meeting will follow, with a family photograph and then lunch.

After the official meeting and lunch, everyone is encouraged to stay the afternoon and early evening in the park. Our shelter will be available to us into the night, and

families may relax together on the beach, strolling the trails, or renting paddle boats. We encourage anyone with outdoor games such as Corn Hole, Ladder Ball, Badminton or Horse Shoes to bring them with you. For those who wish to participate, we are also planning a Copenhaver Home Site tour to better acquaint ourselves with where our ancestors lived. Another option would be a visit to the Smyth-Bland Regional Library in Marion where the Copenhaver family sponsors the Southwest Virginia Heritage Library, a memorial to Frederick and Eve Phillippi Copenhaver. This special collection room houses books, periodicals, pamphlets, photographs and other materials documenting the history of southwest Virginia and our families. It also houses several Copenhaver family bibles, including Eve Phillippi Copenhaver's family bible which traveled across the Atlantic with her father, John Phillippi.

Our schedule for the day is included in the newsletter. A big thanks to all of the volunteers and officers who give of their time to coordinate the Copenhaver Reunion's business matters, finances, history and communication in order for us to continue this wonderful tradition each year.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Marion on the July 29<sup>th</sup>! Drive safe.

Karla Henderlong

OTHER THINGS  
MAY CHANGE,  
BUT WE START  
AND END WITH

*Family*

Share A Copy Here @ QuotesDump.com

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## 2017 Copenhaver Reunion

Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

- 10:00a.m.** Registration at Shelter #1 in Hungry Mother State Park  
**11:00a.m.** Call to order  
**12:00p.m.** Family photo & lunch. (Please bring a dessert to share)  
**3:00-10:00 p.m.** Shelter #1 is reserved all day and evening for the Copenhavers. Plans are for fellowship and to eat dinner at approximately 6:00p.m. Please bring your own dinner and s'more fixings.

The price will be \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. This will cover the cost of the food and other reunion expenses. **We also ask that everyone brings a dessert to share like last year.**

### Directions to the Reunion

To get to the park, take I-81 to Exit 47. Go left into town. Follow signs to McDonald's. Turn right at the light. Follow route 16 to the park. At the entrance to the park, tell the gate attendant that you are with the Copenhaver reunion and he or she can direct you to Shelter 1.

*\*There is a \$5 parking fee when you enter the park*

### Overnight Rooms

We were able to book numerous rooms at the Comfort Inn in Atkins. We have ten rooms with two double beds at \$94.49 and five rooms with a king sized bed at \$104.49. These rooms are for July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Call for your reservations before July 8<sup>th</sup>, ask for the Copenhaver Family Reunion rooms, and then provide your credit card number. You can call the hotel at 276-783-2144.

Other possible places to stay in the area include:

- General Francis Marion Hotel  
(276) 783-4800  
Econo Lodge  
(276) 783-6031  
America's Best Value Inn  
(276)378-0481

Cabins and camping:

- Hungry Mother State Park  
(276) 781-7400 or 800-933-7275

### Newsletter via E-mail

A good portion of us receive the newsletter by e-mail. We would like to cut costs and this would be possible if more people received the newsletter by e-mail. If you would like to help by receiving the newsletter by e-mail please send you information to

[copenhaverfamily1728@gmail.com](mailto:copenhaverfamily1728@gmail.com)

Thank you!  
Elizabeth Siebold  
Newsletter Coordinator

### Newsletter Information

If anyone has family information that they would like to share, is looking for family information, has something to add to this newsletter or any other suggestions or tidbits for the reunion or other matters please feel free to send the information in! You can send the information to me at

510 Winter Span Court  
Bel Air, MD, 21015  
Or [copenhaverfamily1728@gmail.com](mailto:copenhaverfamily1728@gmail.com)

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## Copenhaver Website

We also have a family website! It is hosted by Smythnet which is owned by Michael Perdue. Our webmasters are Michael and his wife Valerie. The website has been fully updated and is amazing. Please take the time to visit the site at: [www.copenhaver.org](http://www.copenhaver.org)

## Reunion 2016



## Minutes: 2016 Reunion

The 2016 Copenhaver Family Reunion began with introductions of all the branches of families that were present. Then Martha Pearl Copenhaver Bates talked about Roberta Copenhaver, better known as Aunt Roberta, who passed in September, 2015. Roberta was the youngest child of Robert Madison Copenhaver Sr. and Martha Matilda Kelly, and was the last of her brothers and sisters to pass. She was 103 years old when she died.

Next the winners of the annual Jefferson Cups were decided. The youngest award went to Anaïs Spears-Espada who was 2 months old at the time. The Jefferson Cup for the oldest was awarded to Rhudy Darrell and the furthest traveled Jefferson Cup was given to Rachael Griffith who traveled 867 miles from Florida to get to the reunion.

Lelia Copenhaver Siebold (sister of Martha Pearl) discussed the letters that both she and Martha Pearl have been documenting. The letters were saved by Roberta Copenhaver and the oldest dates back to May 10, 1882. There are approximately 1,070 letters and other documents in total. The binders that contain the typed copies of all of the letters will be given to the library next summer.

Sarah Copenhaver Carr discussed a monument honoring one of our cousins that is in Capital Square outside of the capital building in Richmond. The monument is a bronze statue honoring Laura Lu Copenhaver (1868-1940), and is a part of a group of monuments called Voices from the Garden. It honors women from across Virginia's 400 year history. Laura Lu was from the Smyth County/ Marion area and worked to improve the lives of farm families through the cooperative marketing of farm products. She did this through her job as the director of information for the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. She hired women to produce coverlets that were made from local resources. Her efforts eventually lead to the creation of Rosemont Industries and helped families for many years.

Elections for the 2017 reunion board were held and the results were the following:

President: Karla Henderlong

Vice President: George Griffith

Treasurer: Anne Siebold

Newsletter: Elizabeth Siebold

Secretary: Sarah Copenhaver

Will Bates led the family in prayer before lunch was served. The prayer was written

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by Reverend Bob Copenhaver. Once the prayer had been said, the annual family photo was taken and then everyone broke for lunch.

## Copenhaver Family Trivia

It is time to test your family knowledge! How many grandchildren did Frederick Copenhaver (1770-1836) and Eve (Eva) Phillippi (1770-1857) have?

93 from 12 children!

How many people are included in the book "The Copenhaver Family of Smyth County, Virginia" compiled by Mildred (Manton) Copenhaver and Robert Madison Copenhaver?

Over 20,000! (Yes I did count)

## Library Committee

During the 2016 meeting of the trustees of the library fund it was reported that we had 125 visitors from 18 states. We gratefully saw income from the excellent sale of t-shirts by Lelia Spears, and outside contributions in memory of Roberta M. Copenhaver. We are placing identifying engraved name plates on certain items in the library and constantly pursuing preservation and cataloging of all family items. A massive cataloging effort was undertaken by sisters Martha-Pearl Copenhaver Bates and Lelia Copenhaver Siebold to preserve the private papers of our beloved Great-aunt Roberta. Many of these papers included primary source documents from the 1800-1900s. Copies of these will be available for viewing while the originals remain in safe storage. "The Cousins" Martha and Lelia are also currently transcribing old family letters of hers, for which we are eternally

grateful. In 2016 we also did a major intake of historic books regarding family and region by a gift from Martha Hull Copenhaver. These will be housed in special secure shelving as *The Martha Hull Copenhaver Special Collection*. To research the online archive of Copenhaver materials please use the following succession of links: SBRL.ORG- Home- SBDigital Collection-Family History-Copenhaver. Be advised there have been several changes to the library administration over the last year which may cause delay or disruption of service, and we will have an update for you at the reunion. If you have any problems call the friendly staff at 276-783-2323. Don't forget to give your donations to the Copenhaver Library Fund or purchase a copy of "Ancestors and Descendants of Judge John A. and Martha Matilda Peck Kelly" (closely related family) all proceeds go to the library!

Katy Copenhaver Davidson

