

Copenhaver Cousins' News

Greetings Copenhaver Cousins!

Letter From The President

Welcome to the Copenhaver Family of Smyth County Reunion! We look forward to another year of fellowship with relatives far and near! You will be able to look up your relatives, revisit your genealogy, and see land your ancestors settled. As usual this year we will have Ancestor tours in the afternoon, culminating with a visit to the Southwest Virginia Heritage Library housed in the Frederick and Eve Phillippi Copenhaver Room. Saturday Evening is Brown Bag (Bring your own Dinner) & S'mores at the shelter, and time for fun at the lake. For newcomers it is helpful to know that the days can be warm and the nights chilly even in summer. Hungry Mother Lake offers many water activities, a sand beach, hiking trails, and driving tours. We will have awards for Youngest, Oldest, and Furthest Travelled. Join us!

Katy Copenhaver Davidson

Copenhaver Family Reunion President

2023 Copenhaver Reunion

Saturday, July 29th, 2023

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. After lunch our annual Ancestor tour will commence. It will run until 4:00 PM and will end at the library. 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 \$13 for adults and \$6 for children. This will cover the cost of the food and other reunion expenses. **As in previous years, we ask that everyone brings a dessert to share.**

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*



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Overnight Rooms

We were able to book a group rate at the following hotels and bed & breakfast establishments:

- General Francis Marion Hotel
 - (276) 783-4800
 - 10% off the stated rate
- Comfort Inn in Atkins
 - (276) 783-2144
 - 10% off (variable pricing)
- Collins House BNB
 - (276)-378-5345
 - \$145- call the front desk directly
- Laurel Springs BNB (near Crab Orchard Farm)
 - (276)-782-2291
 - Beautiful farmhouse! Sleeps 10 at \$264 per night which is a steal!

Other possible places to stay in the area include:

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 are always trying to reduce reunion expenses and you could help us by receiving 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

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

Copenhaver Website

We also have a family website! It is hosted by Smythnet which is owned by Michael Perdue. Our webmaster is Michael. The website has been fully updated and is amazing. Please take the time to visit the site at: www.copenhaver.org



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COPENHAVER FAMILY REUNION July 30, 2022

MINUTES

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Elizabeth Siebold, president of the 2022 Copenhaver Family reunion welcomed the family to the 294th year of Copenhaver Family in America, held at Hungry Mother State Park, Marion, VA. Almost 60 family members representing the states of California, Georgia, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

President Siebold asked families to introduce themselves and their family and friends who were attending and how they were connected. Members were excited to hear from regular attendees and new family who were attending the reunion for the first time. Each family took their time introducing their family, who their ancestors were and how they were related. Some families shared their story with a lot of humor and surprises of family news.

In remembrance of family who have passed away, President Siebold shared the following names: Virginia R. Middleton (2006); Tom Copenhaver (2015); Virginia Rich (2019); CC Kurtz, Jr., (09/09/2021); Imogene McGhee

Copenhaver of Rural Retreat (10/25/2021); Virginia Swanson Edwards of Michigan (12/07/2021); Raymond H. Kirby of Virginia Beach, widower of Martha Ann Copenhaver Kirby (03/22/2022; Betty Welch (2022) and Jeff Copenhaver, founder of the Cowboy Church and author, son of Deb Copenhaver, (05/17/22).

Mike Davidson, husband of Katy Copenhaver Davidson then offered the prayer of invocation for the family, and blessing for our meal.

President Siebold then introduced the current officers, Elizabeth Siebold as president and editor of the newsletter and social media; Stephen Copenhaver as vice-president (who could not attend this year); Anne Siebold, treasurer; Karen Copenhaver, secretary and publicity; and Michael Perdue is webmaster and hosts the Copenhaver website.

President Siebold called for the treasurer's report from Anne Siebold, who shared that there is a little more than \$1,000 in the reunion account.

Each year during the reunion, a fun event is held as members are recognized for the oldest attending the reunion, the youngest and traveled the farthest. The only restriction is that you can't have previously won in the same category. This year our oldest family member was Joseph Triggs from York, PA at age 90; the youngest was Brayden Davidson from Greenville, SC at age 10 and Matthew Siebold traveled the farthest with 1360 miles from Corpus Christi, Texas.

President Siebold then called for Katy Copenhaver Davidson, chairman of the Frederick and Eve Phillippi Copenhaver Memorial Library Committee who reported that the Memorial Library archives are one of a kind in southwest Virginia. As highlights, Katy announced that the committee is looking for locking cases for top of the bookcase; Judge Kelly books for sale with proceeds going to the library. In addition, an auction will be held today of the now rare book "Copenhaver Family of Smyth County Virginia", acquired and donated by Trigg Copenhaver and money raised will be

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donated to the library. She also reminded the family that the Homestead Tour will be held after lunch. Please see her full report in the family newsletter.

The annual Copenhaver reunion and other related activities are successful due to the efforts of the officers and President Siebold announced that she and her mother Anne Siebold would be stepping down from their respective positions as president and treasurer. She then opened the floor for nominations for the 2022-2023 officers; and Katy Copenhaver Davidson was elected president; Mark Copenhaver as vice-president; Mike Davidson, treasurer; Karen Copenhaver, secretary and publicity; and Michael Perdue will continue as webmaster and his business SmythNet will host the website.

The family then gathered for the annual photograph followed by a delicious catered meal and the park served as the perfect place to enjoy an afternoon of fun, laughter boat rides, swimming and hiking, and getting reacquainted.

As evening fell, the family gathered one last time again at the shelter to end the festivities with bring-your-own meals, making smores in a warming fire and telling more stories. Until we meet again, keep healthy and safe.

Respectfully,
Karen L. Copenhaver
Secretary

Copenhaver Cousins who have Passed

- Virginia Rich (Mildred), 2019
- Betty Welch (Mildred), 2022
- Margalynn George Kelly, 2022

Library Committee

We continue to serve the Southwest Virginia Heritage Library housed in the Copenhaver Room at Smyth County Library. Last year a generous donor gave us money to pursue overhead locking shelves for precious materials that should not be handled in the regular collection. This will include the Martha Hull Copenhaver Special Collection.

We as a committee have declined the County's offer to create a materials oversight/interest group to make additions and deletions from the collection. Instead, we ask that any stakeholders or interested outside parties contact the family's Library Trustees and Committee to make recommendations.

We are grateful to the Spears for making a donation most recently. Ellen Griffith Spears is herself a published author on Environmental/Racial Justice in the South.

We still offer books written by Roberta Matilda Copenhaver regarding lineage and genealogy of Martha Matilda Peck Kelly (whose family is intertwined with Copenhaver). This book was accepted into the DAR national Archive. All sales of this book benefit the library room. Cost from us is \$35. Cost on eBay and Abe is around \$300. The next in-person meeting of the Trustees will be at Hungry Mother 9:00 am before the start of the reunion. Look forward to seeing you soon!

In your service,

Katy Copenhaver Davidson- Chair

