



# THE DODGE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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*From the desk of Faith Dorothy Dodge Nelson  
July-August 2008*

## **It's time for "back to school." Where did the summer go?**

As I was growing up, I always looked forward to going back to school. Perhaps I was bored with those long, unstructured summer days. Or maybe the allure of long, pointy pencils and a new box of crayons, all unbroken, enticed me. Figuring out if I would like my new teacher, be able to excel in my classes, and have new friends excited me. Like the blank piece of wide-ruled notebook paper, the school year was clean with no mistakes, full of possibility and promise. Of course, a few weeks into classes, the glow was gone and I succumbed to the monotony of lessons and homework. Rarely did the teachers live up to my expectations and I never was part of the "in" crowd which I so craved to join. But I usually brought home A's and B's on my report card.

A few years ago I had the fun of taking my oldest son to visit prospective colleges. We had no idea how to really compare these higher institutions of learning, so we asked questions, toured campuses, ate in cafeterias, and visited classrooms. As we sat in on a college class discussing British literature, I realized with a pang that I wanted to go back to school. My own sporadic post-high school education had finally concluded with a two year program in commercial art. I had been glad not to waste time studying things not pertinent to my planned career. But sitting with my son in that room of inquiring minds, I felt the pangs of an education squandered. In school, I had never really experienced the joy of discovery. I simply figured out how to get a maximum grade with a minimum effort.

My true education actually began when I started teaching my own children. The subjects that I didn't really grasp when I was in school suddenly became interesting. Phonics now made sense, place value was easily understandable, the accomplishments of ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome were remarkable, and the wisdom of Copernicus, Galileo, and Lister was inspiring. Science was fascinating, literature was fun, poetry was complex, and the paintings of Rembrandt were breathtakingly beautiful. I didn't realize how much I had missed in school until I started re-educating myself as an adult.

Most parents I know look forward to the children going back to school, except those who home school. The beginning of a new school year means a loss of the glorious freedom of summer. Any of my summer projects that I don't get finished by the middle of August will have to be put on hold until next June. In fact, not only do I get a little melancholy about packing away the pool towels, I always feel anxiety about facing the new school year. Will I be able to get my lesson plans done before we need to start? How will I find time to do a better job grading those papers and keeping my records up-to-date? Will my children learn what they are really supposed to learn this year? Fortunately, a few weeks into the school year, I feel again the comfort of a familiar routine.

Each season of the year and of life has its own challenges and rewards. Right now I'm painting my living room, and over the next few weeks, we'll get in a few more trips to the pool, a couple of picnics, and a quick trip to visit family in Denver. Oh yes, I had better run to Wal-Mart for some pencils and crayons, because school starts early this year.

**Speaking of learning, I learn something new with each issue of the Dodge Family Journal. This issue features a tribute to my great aunt, Virginia Dodge Murphy, who passed away earlier this month. Also included are illustrations of Eric Sloane, an artist from the Hudson River School of painters whose lifetime legacy includes over 15,000 paintings.**

**ALSO...for those of you who live in New England, on the other side of this letter is the information about the New England Reunion that will be held October 4, 2008 at Victoria Station, Pickering Wharf, Salem, Massachusetts. You won't want to miss this reunion as it MAY be the last one held in New England.**

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*Faith*

**The 23rd Annual New England Dodge Family Reunion will be held  
Saturday, October 4, 2008 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
At Victoria Station, Pickering Wharf, Salem, Massachusetts**



**The meal will be served at noon and the cost will be \$20.00 per person.**

**Your Choices are:**

**Grilled Teriyaki Chicken Breast  
Fresh Baked Haddock  
Grilled 8 oz. Top Sirloin Steak  
Pasta Primavera**

**Includes Garden Salad, Fresh Baked Bread & Butter, Coffee, Tea, or Fountain Soda, and dessert**

**N**orman and Eileen Dodge will have our genealogy data bases for the William/Richard line, the Tristram line, and the Mystery Dodges, on computer and they will be available to help with genealogy. Bring your genealogy complete with names, including spouse, children, and siblings, and any biographical information or other tidbits regarding your Dodge. If we cannot find your Dodge ancestor in our William/Richard, or Tristram data base, we will add it to our on line Mystery file.

Starting at 10 A.M., we will meet for visiting, researching genealogy, and looking at items brought by others Dodges. Family Bibles, Pictures, Genealogies and anything else that you think a Dodge would be interested in will be welcome.

**UPDATE on the DNA Project Presented by Eileen Dodge**

**You MUST send your reservations to the Dodge Family Association, NOT to Victoria Station, and we need those reservations by September 29.** Norman and Eileen will be en route from Olympia, Washington to Massachusetts. If you have questions regarding the reunion AFTER Sept. 29, please phone Eileen Dodge on her cell phone: **206-383-1374**

**YES!** I will be at the Reunion in Salem, Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008 and I will bring \_\_\_\_\_ guests with me. Their names are on a separate paper that I am attaching. I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ Sirloin Steak, \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken breast, \_\_\_\_\_ Haddock \_\_\_\_\_ Pasta Primavera and enclose a check (at \$20.00 per meal ) for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: The Dodge Family Association, 10105 W. 17th Place, Lakewood, CO 80215**