



THE DODGE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1981 by Col. Robert Livingston Dodge,
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*From the desk of Faith Dorothy Dodge Nelson
September/October 2009*

September is here and we are thick in the middle of school at our house. The books, pencils and paper are laying around everywhere as we tackle phonics, algebra, composition, and biology, to name a few subjects. My ten-year-old son, Seth, and I are doing a year-long study of non-western cultures. We began with the south Pacific islands, are currently studying Antarctica, next week moving on to Asia, beginning with Japan and China. I did this study a few years ago with some of the

older children, and it was a fascinating look at culture and histories that are foreign to many Americans. Yet I am still enjoying the re-reading of stories which take place in exotic settings and past centuries. It helps me to appreciate the richness of civilizations in the world where we live.

With each study, I try to find some way to make learning a little more personal and fun. When we were studying the south Pacific, we learned that copra, the dried meat of the coconut, remains one of the most important exports for these islands. We purchased one to sample. The children unanimously decided that they would only drink coconut milk again if stranded on an island with no fresh water supply. When studying Australia, we read that most Australians live within 80 miles of the coasts and that outdoor grilling is a national past time. "Shrimp on the barbie" was added to our menu that week. And when we moved on to New Zealand, I remembered that I had a table cloth in my cedar chest from that country. I pulled it out and it now adorns our dining room table.

The tablecloth is made of linen from New Zealand and is adorned with pictures of interesting birds and plants native to that country, such as the Kaka, the Saddleback, and the Mt. Cook lily. This cloth was a gift to me from Ralph and Judy Dodge, dairy farmers from New Zealand. Twelve years ago, during their train tour of America, they stopped in Kansas City for a week. It was fun to meet and get to know these distant cousins, and hear about their life which was so different than ours. They regaled us with stories of running a dairy, including the tale of how Judy had lost parts of two fingers in separate accidents. For our part, we amazed them with the many cereal choices at our local supermarket. Our Dodge cousins didn't eat margarine, only butter, and insisted on whole milk, although they preferred a simple dinner consisting of a variety of vegetables. Ralph and Judy thoroughly enjoyed each other's company; while we continued our school routine, they worked every puzzle we owned. And we enjoyed their company. We visited the Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph, Missouri, and toured Dodge City, Kansas, while traveling together to a Dodge reunion in Denver. Their visit was truly a learning experience!

I trust our studies are helping Seth understand the world better. The stories on the evening news of recent tsunamis and earthquakes in the Pacific now have a more complete context in his mind. Although we trace a common ancestry back to England, Dodges can be found in all corners of the globe. **If you live in a foreign clime, Seth and I would love to hear from you. It will make our study all the richer. Feel free to e-mail to us at: Elaragua@prodigy.net**

Faith

P.S. Be sure to check out the other side of this letter where you will find pictures of West Coker, Somerset, England, that go with the article on page 2 in the Journal.

With the November-December Journal, we will have Dodge related pictures of Offerton, Stockport, England, including the Dodge ancestral home of Halliday Hill. We will also have a special offer regarding Halliday Hill House, so look forward to that issue in about 2 months.

You may also renew your dues, give a gift membership, and/or order a set of the new Tristram Genealogy. Send ALL correspondence to: 10105 W. 17th Place, Lakewood, CO 80215

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You will want to read the article on Page 2 of the accompanying Journal which tells more about the book recently purchased by us entitled "The Book of West Coker". Dodges have lived there for 200 years and these Dodges would be from the same line as our John Branch Dodge descendents. DNA from several Dodge men who still live in that area of England have proved the connection. Surnames such as: Edmunds (A whole page of photos), Baker and Trask (3 pages dedicated to these two families), Gould family (a page of photos) Williams, Young, Baker, Taylor, Evans, Rhodes, and many others are very familiar to us and undoubtedly a number of the ancestors of the people who live in that area of England, came to America as did William, Richard, and Tristram. The Dodge and Farnham families share a page.



Since we were limited in the Journal as to how many photos we could include from this book, we are using the back of this letter to print some more of them. Some are in color and some are not. If you get your Journal via email, then you can see the color photos IN color. The Dodge photos are also seen on this page.



The photo on the upper right is a signpost in West Coker showing the direction to Hardington 2, East Coker 1, East Chinnock 1 3/4, Crewkerne 6, Yeoville 3, and Sherborne 8 1/2 miles. Signpost like these are found through Rural England.

On the right is a view of the Square looking West. In the distance you can see the church, St. Martins, that we visited on our first 2 tours and where, on the first visit, we found a stone with the name of 'John Dodge'. On the left is a view of that church close up. This was the Parrish church and Dodges attended here in the



the



On the left is a photo of Mike and Nadine Dodge 'on handover day' of their Butcher Business to Stuart Saunders and on the upper right is a picture of Mike and Nadine Dodge today.



Three views of 'Whirligog Lane'



We hope that you enjoy these and those of you who took the opportunities over the years to join us on one or more of our Dodge Family Tours, will probably experience once again what it was like to visit Middle Chinnock, East Coker, and, on the 1st and 2nd tour, West Coker.

Dear Dodge Family:

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