

SIMI VALLEY DODGE FAMILIY REUNION

by Judy Ragan raganje@aol.com



Standing: JUDY RAGAN the hostess of the SIMI VALLEY reunion

On May 17, 2014, a group of 18 Dodge descendants and their families met to break bread together and to enjoy a beautiful spring, felt like summer, day.

When you enjoy genealogy as much as I do, it is important to keep in touch with your relatives. We discovered that these 18 folks represented all five lines from the sons of Richard Dodge.

Most of us are not closely connected; however, the bond was there nevertheless. As 93 year old George Dodge said, "We must all be Dodges", when someone would comment about how nice everyone was and how much fun we were having.

In attendance that Saturday were the hosts, Bill & Judy Ragan and Bill & Sharon Martin, all from Simi Valley, CA.; Norman & Eileen Dodge from Washington State; George & Joanne Dodge with daughter, Sara Faust, granddaughter Kristen Gay from Arizona; David & Eleanor Dodge from Nevada & sister, Sherry Bornick from Wisconsin; Chuck & Jane Dodge from Escondido,

CA; Kim & Christine Dodge from Santa Rosa, CA; and Diane Flynn from Oxnard, CA. For such a small group we represented, not only many Dodge lines, but a wide range of locations.

Judy made a chart showing the lineage from John or Tristram Dodge for everyone attending. Everyone was excited to see how they fit into the chart of fellow Dodge descendants and how the lines inter-connected.

Eleanor and Sherry shared information about their family reunion held in Wisconsin. Eleanor made a banner of pictures from their family and from previous reunions. It was fun to see John Dodge 1816-1898 on our chart and then to see his picture on Sherry's banner.



Above, Vintage photo of the John Dodge family of Wisconsin.



Fromleft: Bill Ragan; Kristen Gay; Sara Faust; Eileen Dodge

Food was plentiful and delicious and enjoyed by all. I can say that because I didn't cook it!

As some folks had to leave for other commitments, it became clear that the rest didn't want to leave. So as the afternoon wound down and the day cooled off, we decided to snack on the leftovers and keep enjoying each other's company. We all said we'd meet again next year and hoped that we would get more attendees then.

TIP: Make the most of your summer and host a reunion with your family. It's the best source of genealogy you can find.

There are more photos on the following pages.



Above from the left: DFA President Norman E. Dodge, Chuck Dodge, Bill Martin, Kirsten Gay, George Dodge, Joanne Dodge, Sara Faust

Below: Christine and Arthur 'Kim' Dodge. Arthur descends from William Earl Dodge and Melissa Phelps. William was a great Philanthropist from New York, and helped start the YMCA.



Sherry Bornick and Eleanor Layton are holding a chart of their Dodge line from John Dodge who went to Wisconsin. They would like to invite you to their reunion to be held on June 19, 2014, at the Cambria Park, Wisconsin, at 12 noon. They have a baseball game and other games, ice cream, bar-b-q beef, hot dogs and you bring a pot luck dish to share. They provide pop & coffee. They'd also like folks to know that on the last Sunday of June next year 2015, they will celebrate the 60th anniversary of this Dodge Family picnic. For further information contact Sherry Bornick at bornie@frontier.com or Eleanor Layton at: elayton_89820@yahoo.com.

On the right is a picture of group , from left to right, Sharon Martin, Christine Dodge, David Layton, Bill Martin, Kristen Gay and Jane Dodge.



Photo on the left: Kristen Gay; George Dodge; Joanne Dodge; Sara Faust.

Those with backs to the camera from left: David Layton, Chuck Dodge, Norman Dodge, Jane Dodge

Those attending were actually able to do genealogy stuff . They viewed and discussed and signed the wall chart that Judy and Eileen Dodge (wife of Norman Dodge and one of our volunteer genealogy experts) put together - it was a big hit for everyone to see how they were connected.

On the right you see Diane Flynn on a computer looking at genealogy.

There was 'free' stuff (perks for those who took the time to travel and attend this reunion) on the tables which was a big hit - all but a few things were gone by the end of the day.



It was truly like a real family reunion - not just a meet and greet but there was lots of time to talk and get to know one another rather than just say hello or not even get a chance to talk to some of the people. The cost of \$12 per person was very affordable.

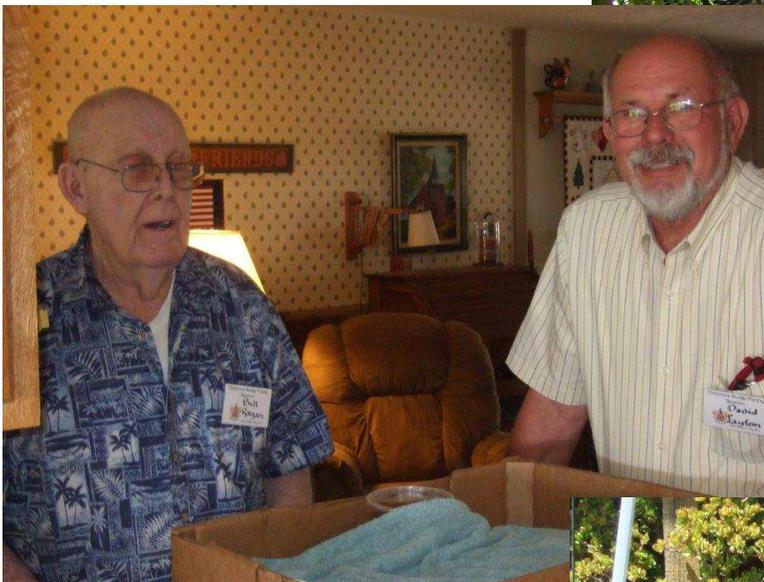
We HOPE that this reunion format will encourage others of you across the county to think seriously about holding a Dodge Family Reunion. We will promote any such reunions in our Dodge Journal and on our website dodgefamily.org, and will send out flyers encouraging people to attend.



On the left is the food before it was attacked by hungry Dodges and Dodge descendants. It was plentiful and diverse with many options served and was eaten from paper plates - on tables under canopies outside in the fresh air.

You could go back for more food if desired. There was a choice of two different cakes and vanilla ice cream for dessert long after the main meal was over. Those who stayed for the entire day and left at 9 PM ate leftovers for dinner.

On the right: Norman E. Dodge, our DFA president relaxes and visits with Jane Dodge from Escondido, CA. Chuck Dodge (seen in the top left photo on page 7). Many years ago, Chuck solved one of our big mysteries out of Massachusetts and has helped with genealogy many times over the years.



On the left is Bill Ragan who is the husband of Judy Ragan. They hosted this reunion. Visiting with Bill is David Layton of Battle Mountain, Nevada.

On the right: From the left we see the head of Joanne Dodge: next to her is Sara Faust, Eleanor Layton and Diane Flynn.

The entire day was informal, not stuffy, no men in suits, no women in dresses - all very casual and comfy.

There were soft drinks, bottled water and juice in a cooler as well as regular iced tea for drinks - coffee too if they wanted.

There was a snack table with a variety of crackers, cookies, etc.

It was all day - come and go as your schedule permitted with no stated time to 'end' the reunion. We could be indoors or outdoors on the patio or under the canopies in the yard.

