



### ***The Gathering EFA's 2013 Reunion***

The 2013 Eaton Families Association Reunion held over the weekend of October 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> was a rousing success! Attended by about 40 members and non-members from all over the world, it was an exciting get-together.

The venue was the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. The weekend was just at the middle of fall foliage season in Central Massachusetts. A ride around the area confirmed how beautiful fall is in New England. Although the weather was not perfect, it was fine for the outside events.

As proven in past reunions, providing ample down time to gather and socialize with each other proved to be one of the best activities, especially for the first timers. A "Gathering Room" was provided for socializing and working during the unscheduled time.



Opening night we greeted guests at a picnic buffet dinner, followed by an interesting presentation on migration of Eatons to and through New York State, by EFA member Richard Eaton of Geneva, NY. Dick has become our resident expert on New York Eatons and he did a wonderful job. The presentation is on our website.

Friday was left open, as we wanted time to get to know each other and to allow some to go off and do their own things. Some went antique shopping and one found a very interesting used book store in neighboring Brimfield and came back with a couple of good finds.

Another group, John of Dedham descendants, went to Ashford, CT, home of some of their ancestors. (See the separate article on our website, by John Taylor).



Back in the Gathering Room we swapped stories and did a bit of research, laptops at the ready.

We conducted the EFA annual meeting on Friday evening. The minutes to that meeting are in the November, 2014 New Etonian. In short, we are financially healthy and have a growing list of members who are attracted to the association for a myriad of reasons, but mainly to help find Grandpa.



After Dinner at the Host American Grill, we enjoyed a keynote speaker, the Curator of Old Sturbridge Village, Tom Kelleher. He spoke about what it was like to live in rural New England in 1830 and gave us a glimpse of what we would see the following day at the Village.

Saturday we enjoyed Old Sturbridge Village, a living history museum. Many of us got to see almost the entire village. They were harvesting the fields and grinding apples for cider on that particular day.



We enjoyed a wonderful dinner created by Old Sturbridge Village that evening and retired early to the Gathering Room.



The following morning we enjoyed a leisurely send-off brunch at the hotel, many of the group stopping for a quick bite on their way to check out.

