

# The Doane Family News

Volume XXV, Number 2

Fall 2010

## New DFA Logo Announced



**God-** the (SUN) representing the light of the world. It is probable that Deacon John came to America to escape religious persecution. Faith in God and fellow man is the foundation for this country. Other icons include a cross and bible.

**Family-** the (TREE) a particular pear tree, with branches, fruit, and the stars representing progeny. There is a poem written by Heman Doane about a pear tree transplanted to Cape Cod from England around 1630 by Thomas Prince that bore fruit for over two hundred years.

**Character-** the (ROCK) is a visible symbol of solidity; steadfast and resolute. The Doane Rock is located on the original property of Deacon John Doane in Cape Cod, Massachusetts and is the largest exposed glacier bolder in the region.

**Wisdom-** education is the beginning of enlightenment. Doane College was founded by Thomas Doane in Crete, Nebraska in the year 1872. The Doane Family Association (DFA) was formed in 1907 in order to preserve family history. Genealogical records (BOOK) are archived at the college. The "F" in DFA forms the (KEY) that will unlock the mystery of the origin of Deacon John Doane.

**Fortitude-** symbolized by agricultural (WHEAT) and fishing industries (ANCHOR) which was the backbone of early American industry. The (EAGLE) is the symbol of America and military service. Doane's have served in every U.S. conflict including the Revolutionary War.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What a wonderful reunion we had in July at Doane College. My sincere thank you to President Jonathan Brand for the great hospitality extended to our family. A very special thanks to Chairs: Janet Jeffries Beauvais, Janis Mitchell, and Ted and Alice Doane, with assistance from Joey Fikar, for putting together a super program for the week. If you weren't there, you missed a delightful reunion, but can read about it in the official Proceedings. The Proceedings will be somewhat delayed this year due to medical operations and recuperations of those involved with preparation of same.

The front page of this newsletter depicts our new DFA logo. This logo was designed by Todd Doane of Carrollton, TX. There were six entries in the logo contest and this was the winner. Todd is a graphic designer for a Dallas company. For his efforts, he won a complimentary reunion package. Todd was accompanied to Crete by his parents and brother. During the DFA business meeting, he was nominated and elected to the position of Area Vice President. My sincere congratulations to Todd and I hope we can get more involvement from Texas in the future.

Please take note that the DFA logo has been registered as a copyrighted design, and the use of this logo has certain restrictions. It may be used on any DFA literature, approved DFA chapter literature, approved web sites, and approved letterheads. If you are in doubt about its use, please contact a DFA officer, or your regional vice president. This copyright became effective September 2, 2010, and will remain so for ten years. A copy of this registration has been sent to the DFA officers and regional vice presidents, and to Janet Jeffries at Doane College for the Archives.

Please make special note of the enclosed flyer prepared by VP Derek Done (UK), who is soliciting help in trying to interpret old English court transcripts from the 1600s. This is an effort to find more information about Deacon John Doane's family roots. We do need help and it can be done via the Internet. We have two volunteers so far -- Ken Doane (WA) and yours truly, when I get the reunion Proceedings completed.

We are still financially sound, although we have not seen tremendous growth in our investments this year. But, the Doane Family Foundation is looking forward to making more scholarship awards to our members' children and/or grandchildren for the 2011/2012 school year. Please take note that scholarships are available to underclassmen only, unless special need is required. Please see the application in this newsletter.

By the time you receive this, I will have received my new "eye". While it won't be functional, my wife, Mary, says it will definitely "improve" my looks..... and, maybe my attitude.....!!

*Respectfully,*

*Dick Doane  
President*

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# 2010 DFA National Reunion



Dick and Mary Doane, Arizona with LaDonna Gatlin Johnson and her mom Billie Doan Gatlin, Texas.



Reunion co-chairs Ted and Alice Doane, Nebraska take a break.

## 2010 Reunion Notes

The 51st biennial DFA reunion is now history, but the event remains fresh in the minds of all who attended. DFA members gathered at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, July 19-24, for a week of reconnecting, fellowship, entertainment, touring and more.

Approximately 100 people from all over the United States and Canada attended. The group headquartered in Perkins library where Historian Kay Blair and her assistant Virgil Doan held court in the Doane Family research room helping reunion attendees with their lineages. Visitors enjoyed seeing several DFA artifacts that are housed at Doane College. A special exhibit of watercolors done by college founder Thomas Doane's sister Mary was loaned to the college for the reunion and was also displayed in Rall Gallery. The college is now working with a donor who would like to fund the purchase of these fine pieces of art.

The DFA meetings were very productive and the memorial service moving, enhanced by a vocal solo from Kailynn Doane of Washington. Entertainment featured LaDonna Gatlin, Billie Doan Gatlin's daughter, and a special visit by Colonel Thomas Doane (aka Dr. Tom King). The farewell banquet included a polka band to showcase the Crete area's Czech heritage, and several DFA members tried the lively dance step. Watch your mail later on for the official detailed proceedings of this event.



Little Albert Doane (left), the DFA reunion mascot, found a new friend while touring the UNL Tractor Museum



Todd Doane, Texas and his winning DFA logo



Dr. Tom King as Col. Thomas Doane.

# DFA Chapter News

## New York Chapter

The New York chapter of the DFA held their 106th annual reunion on Sunday, August 1 in Dwyer Memorial Park, Little York, New York just after the National DFA Reunion in Nebraska. DFA members in the New York area shared a 1 p.m. lunch and spent the afternoon reconnecting with family members. The park, equipped with horseshoe pits, playgrounds, fishing and boating spots, and ball fields provided activity opportunities for all ages.

## Niagara Chapter



Nearly 60 Canadian Doan descendants met July 11, 2010 for their annual reunion in Port Colborne, Ontario at a local park and took time to pose for a group photo.

## *In Memory*

It is with great sadness that we report the death this summer of Jerry Fisher, new area vice president and active member of the Niagara DFA Chapter. Many Doanes from the United States first had the opportunity to meet Jerry at the 2008 DFA reunion in Ontario, where he was a delightful participant. Jerry's sister Shirley, and husband Art Charbonneau, also active DFA members, can be reached at this address: 1267 Placid Street, Ottawa, Ontario K2C3A8, Canada. Please see the tribute to Jerry on the following page.

## A Tribute.....

Regional Vice President  
**Jerry Fisher, Ontario**

I am proud to say the late Jerry Fisher was not only my relative, but a good friend of mine. Even though I had just met Jerry at the Doan Outlaw Tour in Pennsylvania last year, we immediately became friends and shared "Doan" information. We emailed each other several times a week with any new information we had found. He told me that for a number of years, now, he had dedicated his life to finding out as much as he could about the descendants of Aaron Doan who was an outlaw in the USA, but received the designation of United Empire Loyalist in Canada for fighting for and being true to Britain. Aaron was caught during the Revolutionary War in the late 1700s and was sentenced to hang, but his sentence was commuted to banishment from the USA and he settled in Humberstone Township Ontario, now Port Colborne Ontario. Unfortunately for Aaron Doan, at age 56, he was again forced into action in 1812 to defend Canada from the American invasion.



Jerry spent the last four years of his life collecting as much information as he could find on the descendants of Aaron Doan, including births, deaths, marriages, etc. Just prior to his death, Jerry published *History in Our Own Back Yard, The Sons and Daughters of United Empire Loyalist Aaron Doan* -- 305 pages long. In 2008, Jerry worked with the local chapter of the UEL and also the city of Port Colborne and had Steele's cemetery in Port Colborne, where Aaron is buried, designated as a United Empire Loyalist Cemetery. Again in late 2008 and in 2009, Jerry's research showed that the Steeles buried in Steele's Cemetery had been re-interred in a nearby local larger cemetery. Also this small cemetery where Aaron, his wife, and a number of his descendants were buried was on the 200-acre Crown Grant Land that Aaron Doan received from the Government when he arrived in Canada. Jerry went into action and the City of Port Colborne agreed to have the name of Steele's Cemetery changed to Doan Cemetery. This was done with great fanfare on July 10, 2010. Along with a bagpiper and many Doan descendants, there were a number of guest speakers including the Mayor of Port Colborne and local dignitaries. The following day, the first Niagara Chapter Doan reunion was held nearby with 60 in attendance. A vote was taken to continue the Doan reunion and to join as an official chapter of the National/International DFA. Over the winter some of us will meet and move forward with our commitments. I only wish Jerry was here to prod us on and continue in his capacity as the leader of the Doans in this area. He does, however, leave behind his legacy of much Doan research and his recent family history book for which we are forever grateful.

-- Rick Doan U.E. Ridgeway, Ontario Canada

# Emily Grace Doane Meitzke

## Master Quilter

My mother was born in her parents' house in Lorain, Ohio, on June 4, 1908. She was named Emily Grace Doane; after her mother's older German sister, Emilie, and her best friend, Grace. Her mother, Hildegard, was born in this country, just after her parents had arrived from Germany. Hildegard had been teaching German at Lorain High School when she married Clarmont E. Doane, a true American, whose ancestors go back to Deacon John Doane who came over to Plymouth, MA, from England in 1630 on one of the many Puritan boats. Thus, my Grandfather Clarmont is our connection to the Emily Grace, the only daughter of Hildegard



Grace, age 7 years, working on her doll's quilt, 1915

and Clarmont, had two older brothers. She was a very bright little girl and always got very good marks in school. By the time she got to Lorain High School she was taking all the math courses and best classes they had to offer. She graduated Valedictorian of her Class of 1926. Emily Grace went off to college where her oldest brother had gone, Oberlin College, and graduated with a mathematics degree four years later, receiving a Phi Beta Kappa. She took a position at Lorain High School teaching mathematics, which she continued to do for seven years. It was during these years that she did her quilting. Later, when I was small, I remember the big quilting frame with sharp hooks on it, in the basement of our house. She made animal appliqué quilts for our twin beds, with our



Made ca. 1930

names worked into the quilting on the pillow part. Those have not fared as well with age.

Emily Grace was taught handiwork and needlework by her mother, Hildegard, who did wonderful handiwork before her. Beginning from when we twins were

toddlers until we were married and had our own machines, mother sewed all our clothes and, of course, dressed us alike. She was very good with the sewing machine and it seemed to me she was always at it. Emily Grace also had taken piano lessons, and became a very good pianist by my standards. Although she would never claim to be, or to play anything very well, she could play a few marvelous pieces like Rachmaninov's "Prelude in C sharp minor", Sinding's "Rustle of Spring", and Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata".



Made ca. 1933

In 1937, Emily Grace quit teaching to get married, (as you had to do in those days,) to her Lorain High School sweetheart, Robert Horn Meitzke, also of German descent. They married June 15, and had a house built on a two-acre piece of an apple orchard that Emily Grace had bought while teaching, a few miles south of Lorain on the edge of Elyria, Ohio, about 20 minutes away from her parents. Eighteen months later Emily Grace and Robert produced twin girls, Joyce Ann and Jane Ellen (the author), October 5, 1938.

Emily Grace went back to teaching when we twins were in high school to be able to send us to college, (marriage rules had changed during WWII). She taught junior high school mathematics in Elyria City Schools for 20 more years, retiring at the age of 64 in 1972. In April, 1995, Emily Grace and Robert moved themselves into an apartment at the Elyria United Methodist Village. Emily Grace continued to do lots and lots of needle-point and knitting those years, and she even had my Dad, Robert, hooking lots of rugs. Emily Grace and Robert lived long,

*continued*

**Emily Grace Doane Meitzke** *Master Quilter* cont. full lives; both passing away at ages 94, at the Elyria Methodist Village. Emily died on May 4, 2002.

Among Emily Grace's life remembrances, and Robert's too, is one memory they both very vividly never forgot. We twins grew up with it, as if it were our own, we heard so much about it. I feel it needs to be included in any bio of Emily Grace. When my parents were 16, at the end of their sophomore year of high school, the tragedy of their young lives occurred; the Lorain tornado of June 28, 1924. Hildegard and Clarmont's 1903 Victorian home with a corner tower, which Emily Grace and her mother and father were in at the time, was completely flattened while they were descending the stairs to the basement. Lorain lost 72 residents, and much of its downtown that day. Emily Grace and her parents lived with her paternal grandparents for

nine months, until they could arrange to purchase another house a few blocks away in Lorain. (For details see the DFA Reunion *Proceedings* from 2008, Barrie, Ontario for *The Lorain Tornado*)

Emily Grace had only two grandchildren; my two girls. My surviving daughter, Melanie Ann MacDuff Haus, (born May 15, 1964), produced Emily Grace's only three great-grandchildren, two girls and a boy, Emilinda Jane Haus, Holly Elaine Haus, and Adam Lighter Haus.

Two of Emily Grace's quilts now reside in the International Quilt Study Center & Museum, a world class facility located at 1523 N. 33rd St., Lincoln, Nebraska. This unique museum was included in the tour of Lincoln during the 2010 DFA Reunion in Nebraska and is the perfect place to keep Emily's workmanship in a prolonged safe condition.

— Jane Ellen Meitzke MacDuff

## The Brabecs Take in the Wilber, Nebraska Czech Festival

After the late July DFA reunion at Doane College, Russ and Eunice Brabec of California stayed on in the area to visit family, and were able to take in the annual three-day Czech Festival in Wilber. DFA reunion participants will remember this town as they were treated to an authentic Czech pork dinner and polka party in Wilber's Sokol Hall on the Friday night of the reunion. During the festival, 30,000 visitors from all over the world converge on the little town (less than 3,000 in population) for a celebration of Czech heritage. Russ is of Czech descent and when he and Eunice announced that they would be in town for the festival, Doane College staff, Janet and Janis, wasted no time in convincing them they needed to participate in the parade helping with the Doane College float. Russ and Eunice threw candy from the college's parade car – a 1924 Model T Depot Hack – sporting black and orange Doane shirts all to the strains of polka music on the accordion played by Janet and husband Ted. The Doane Tiger (aka Doane senior Sasha Denton) was also involved. A good time was had by all.



The Doane College Czech Festival parade entry prior to take off. From left, Sasha Denton, Doane College student who put on full Tiger gear right before the start of the parade, Eunice and Russ Brabec, and driver Maynard Hessheimer, Doane College volunteer. DFA Liaison Janet Jeffries and husband Ted are out of camera range practicing a few polkas on their accordions.



## DOANE FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The Doane Family Foundation now has two scholarship funds. One is to assist non-family members who wish to attend Doane College in Crete, NE and one to assist Doane family members who wish to attend Doane College or another Institution of higher learning.

The Doane Family Foundation has endowment funds co-mingled with Doane College endowment funds. A certain percentage of the Doane funds are used each year for scholarships to those attending Doane College, although 20% of each year's available funds can also be used for other Institutions attended by family members. Doane College administers these funds and determines the recipients of said funds, with input from the Doane Family Foundation Board of Directors.

The Doane Family Scholarship Fund is administered by the Doane Family Foundation Board of Directors. This fund is endowed by the Doane Family Association of America, Inc., and will accept tax-exempt donations from Doane Family members or other contributors. Through many years of making sound investments, their Endowment Fund has reached a proportion where it not only pays to operate our association, but is able to provide funds for this new Scholarship Fund. A minimum of \$10,000 a year is contributed by the Association to the Foundation's Scholarship Fund. This contribution could be more if the Endowment Fund increases in value in any given year.

In the school year 2009-2010 we were been able to contribute over \$25,000 from these two funds to approximately 20 students with funds from \$1000 to \$1500 each. For the school year 2010-2011 we have been able to increase these scholarship awards.

### THE PROCESS

February 28 – Applicants submit the completed Doane Family Scholarship application, essay and a copy of the current year's processed FAFSA results to the Doane Family scholarship organization.

March 1 - Doane College advises the Foundation Board of funds available for use for Doane College scholarships. Doane Family Association advises the Foundation Board of funds available for use in the Scholarship Fund program.

March 15 - Foundation Board determines eligibility of applications and forwards some to Doane College and maintains others for non-Doane College support.

May 1 - Foundation informs the applicants of scholarship awards. Doane College informs the Foundation of scholarship awards at Doane College.

July/August – Applicants receiving scholarship awards for other than Doane College must submit a certificate of enrollment in their choice of institution for the ensuing year. After which, checks will be made co-payable to the student and college of choice.

### ATTENTION MEMBERS

The Doane Family Foundation is now approved by the IRS as a 501(c) 3, not for profit corporation. ID 26-3452510. The Board encourages contributions to the Foundation to help increase scholarships to member students. Your contributions are tax deductible. Think about doing this before year end. A receipt will be sent to you. Send donations to:

Doane Family Foundation, Inc.  
Kenneth Doane, Treasurer  
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Ridgefield, WA 98642

# DOANE FAMILY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

## Minimum Requirements:

1. Doane Family Association member or son/daughter/grandson/granddaughter of a DFA member
2. Must be admitted as a full-time, degree-seeking student
3. Attending an accredited post-secondary institution
4. Demonstration of need by submitting a processed copy of a current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form
5. Completion of this application and successful essay submission

Applicants full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete permanent address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Doane Family Association member & relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Post-secondary institution you plan to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested amount: \_\_\_\_\_

College Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested college contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach a one page essay telling the Doane Family Foundation about yourself and your educational plans.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return this completed form, essay **NO LATER THAN February 28, 2011** to:

Dick Doane, DFA President  
3888 Mark Twain Dr.  
Pinetop, AZ 85935

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## The DFA Song

Originally created at the 50th Biennial DFA Reunion, Barrie, Ontario, Canada, 2008.

DFA family members continue to add verses.

Sing to the tune of *Oh Susanna*

Oh... the Deacon came from England  
way,  
In the seventeenth century.  
His family grew and stayed here too  
And multiplied with glee!

**Chorus:**

*We're the Doane family and we sure  
took a stand,  
From North to South and East to West,  
we settled all the land.*

In Canada, the Doanes were tough,  
They fished and worked the land.  
The Quaker group was tried and true,  
And always lent a hand.

**Chorus**

The outlaw Doans, they liked to roam  
And got into some jams.  
They terrorized and told some lies,  
While Moses led the clan.

**Chorus**

Survivors of the Outlaw Doans,  
Niagara bound they came.  
They settled in the wilderness,  
To start their lives again.  
*(Jerry Fisher, Canada, 2009)*

**Chorus**

Edmund Doane sailed from old Cape  
Cod  
To the Nova Scotia shores.  
His family farmed and fished and  
whaled  
Accomplished so much more.  
*(Maureen Scott, Barrington Doanes, Canada, 2010)*

**Chorus**

They toiled all day to clear the land  
Wife Elizabeth nursed the ill.  
His children taught, preached and built  
some ships  
And prospered with God's will.  
*(Maureen Scott, Barrington Doanes, Canada, 2010)*

**Chorus**

O-hio bound was Clarence Do-ane  
The city was Lorain.  
So please accommodate our branch,  
By calling us Do-ane.  
*(Jane McDuff & gang, Ohio, 2008)*

**Chorus**

Thomas Doane, our engineer,  
A college he did build.  
On prairie land his railroad ran,  
To towns that are there still.

**Chorus**

Thomas Doane's young daughter  
Helen  
Fell in love with the college pres.  
She was a socialite in Crete,  
And as a helpmate she was best.

**Chorus**

Helen's husband David Perry  
Doane College he did run.  
For forty years he taught and planned  
and was proud of what he'd done.

**Chorus**

Up the Chisholm Trail in Texas,  
longhorns pushed by brave cowboys.  
Through Doan's Crossing at Red River,  
Those were the greatest joys:  
*(Loa Doane, Texas, 2010)*

**Chorus**

With a homestead on the great prairie,  
Got a patent and a deed.  
By the grace of God they worked the  
sod,  
The families of Doane and Reed.  
*(Todd Doane, Texas, 2010)*

**Chorus**

With DNA we'll find our way,  
It's not just hit or miss.  
We'll learn our genes have much to say,  
With haplogroup fifty-six!  
*(Todd Doane, Texas, 2010)*

**Chorus**

The New York Doanes have several  
questions  
Still up in the air.  
We are slowly learning our lineage,  
Through the historian Kay Blair.  
*(Michele Rogers, New York, 2010)*

The DFA is here to stay,  
And membership will grow.  
Through fire and flood and rain and  
snow,  
Those cousins you will know!

**Chorus and tag (slower) from...  
Through fire and flood....**

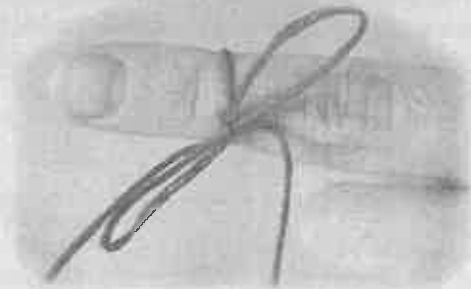




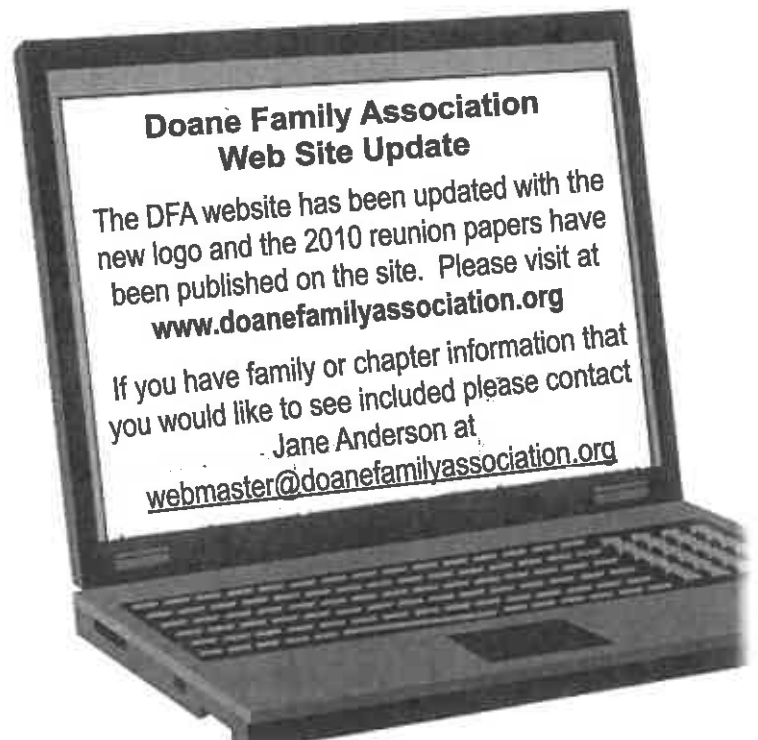
## **Thomas Doane with the Grandchildren**

This photo was recently discovered in the Doane College Archives. It shows the ever stately college founder Thomas Doane and two of his grandchildren, Helen and Henry Perry, children of Doane's daughter Helen and her husband David Brainerd Perry, college president. This is the only photo the Doane College staff has seen depicting Thomas Doane in a family or personal situation. All photos of Colonel Doane in the college collection discovered to date, are head and shoulders portrait shots. Of course Thomas Doane, who had a reputation for always looking his best even when drilling and surveying in the bottom of a river channel, stills looks rather formal in this photo, but it's nice to see him as a family man. The photo was taken in Crete, Nebraska about 1892.

## **Looking Ahead to 2012**



**Don't forget to keep July 2012 on your radar screen and in your calendar! That's when the next DFA national reunion will be held. It will take place in Massachusetts -- the original Doane family stomping grounds.**



### **Doane Family Association Web Site Update**

The DFA website has been updated with the new logo and the 2010 reunion papers have been published on the site. Please visit at [www.doanefamilyassociation.org](http://www.doanefamilyassociation.org)

If you have family or chapter information that you would like to see included please contact

Jane Anderson at  
[webmaster@doanefamilyassociation.org](mailto:webmaster@doanefamilyassociation.org)

**The Deacon John Doane Research Committee**  
*of the*  
**DOANE FAMILY ASSOCIATION**  
**needs you....**



Recently, research into the origins of Deacon John Doane has concentrated on the Y-DNA program reported on at this Reunion by Dick Doane (TX), but there is still work that needs to be done to follow up the traditional paper trail research started by Gilbert Doane. There are still many documents we have not yet looked at that might give us more information about the background of men who might turn out to be 'our' John Done. Because it is now quite easy to obtain access to these documents without the need to visit a library, such research can now be carried out remotely. Many documents held in the UK National Archives in London can now be purchased and downloaded online. Someone in the USA or Canada, where 99% of DFA members live, would be just as able as someone living in England to carry out this research.

Among documents still to be analysed are records of legal proceedings in the English Court of Chancery that took place in the early 17th century. These are not in Latin, but in English, but in the handwriting of the time, which can be difficult to decipher. Fortunately, there is a very useful tutorial available on the website of the UK National Archives that explains how this can be done. To be fair, it should be pointed out that this work can be quite time consuming - as I know myself, having analysed a number of such documents - and it is important that volunteers are aware of what they might be undertaking. The main consolation is that those who do take it on will, I am sure, find it both fascinating and rewarding.

If anyone wishes to consider doing this type of research, they are welcome to discuss what is involved with me. My e-mail address is: [derek.done@btinternet.com](mailto:derek.done@btinternet.com).

**Derek Done**

*Chair – Deacon John Doane Research Committee, 2010*

Prepared for the 51st Biennial Doane Family Association Reunion, July 2010, Crete, Nebraska

# Charles A. Doane and his Sword

The following news story published June 12, 2010 in the *San Francisco Chronicle* tells about controversial California sheriff Charles Doane. The article was forwarded to us by Russ and Eunice Brabec who live in South San Francisco. This Sheriff Doane (we learned about another Sheriff Doane from Nebraska at the 2010 DFA reunion) is #374 in *The Doane Family*, Volume 1.

## Storied Sword Makes a Visit

by Carl Nolte, *Chronicle Staff Writer*

The sheriff's office in San Francisco's City Hall was put on the cutting edge of history Thursday afternoon when a descendant of the city's most controversial sheriff brought an elaborate sword in for a ceremonial visit.

The sword, an antique Army officer's weapon with a golden hilt, had been presented to San Francisco Sheriff Charles Doane on the occasion of his retirement in the fall of 1861.

Doane was probably the most unlikely man ever to hold the office of sheriff in San Francisco. He became sheriff in 1857, a little more than a year after he had led more than 1,000 armed men to the county jail and taken two prisoners from the previous sheriff.

The prisoners - Charles Cora, a gambler, and James Casey, a member of the city Board of Supervisors - were then taken by the vigilantes and hanged for murder after a drumhead trial at "Fort Gunnybags," the vigilante headquarters on Sacramento Street.

Doane, then a San Francisco merchant with some military experience, was the grand marshal of the Committee of Vigilance, as the vigilantes called themselves. He had 2,000 to 6,000 armed men at his disposal, the enforcers of vigilante justice.

Civil order in the city had broken down in their view and they were going to do something about it.

## Doane is Sheriff

The vigilantes had such broad public backing that a political party with vigilante ties nominated him for sheriff. He was elected and served four years.

"One day he was breaking into the county jail and the next he was running it," said Michael Hennessey, the current sheriff. "It's a very San Francisco kind of story."

On Thursday, Hennessey presided over a small gathering of historians, deputy sheriffs and police officers at City Hall. They listened as Hennessey and James Davis, Doane's great-great-grandson, told tales of the vigilante days. A few picked up the sword and looked at it reverently.

"I think it's beautiful," said Senior Deputy Sheriff Mi-

chael Anderson, "Not just beautiful, it's outstanding. It is hand-made with skill and care. You don't see that kind of workmanship anymore."

Doane was a merchant and former soldier. Born in Vermont, he turned up in California in 1851, when he was 39 years old.

San Francisco was a wild and lawless place in those days. Murders, robbery and arson were common. A previous Committee of Vigilance had cleaned up the town in 1851, but by 1856 San Francisco was in control of what Hennessey called "rascals," including Cora and Casey.

Both had killed men in cold blood - Casey's crime was to shoot down James King of William, the editor of the *Daily Evening Bulletin*. There was widespread belief that Cora and Casey were "in cahoots" with then-Sheriff David Scannell and would get off scot-free.

## Vigilante justice

"The feeling was that the criminal justice system was not going to serve justice," Hennessey said. So when Doane, riding a white horse with perhaps 2,000 men at his back, appeared at the county jail on Broadway in North Beach and demanded the prisoners, the sheriff had little choice.

The vigilantes were dissolved after four months. They then turned to politics and what they called "moral force," and Doane was elected sheriff. He served two two-year terms. In those days, county sheriffs were also in charge of executions and Doane presided over the hanging of five men in his time in office.

He retired in 1861, was made a general in the California militia, and died in 1862, at age 50.

His sword became a family keepsake, and Davis, an 83-year-old former California state parks official, acquired it about 75 years ago.

Davis has been corresponding with Hennessey and promised he'd bring the sword to San Francisco next time he was in town. He's going to see his granddaughter get a master's degree at Santa Clara University this weekend and the sword came with him.

There will be no public display of the heirloom; Davis is taking it back to Hawaii with him. Eventually, he said, the family plans to present it to the Society of California Pioneers in San Francisco.

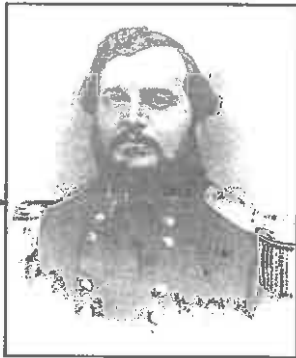
## Sheriff Doane's Sword

The sheriff's sword is an 1852 Model US Army Staff Officer's weapon built by W. H. Horfmann and Sons of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The hilt is inset with a piece of white Quartz rock laced with gold, known to miners as Picture Rock. At the top of the scabbard in relief is the figure from the Seal of the Great State of California. Below that is a plate in gold inscribed as follows:

### PRESENTED TO

Brig. Genl. Charles Doane  
upon his retirement from the  
Shievalty  
by his late attaches  
October 1861

---description prepared by James  
G. Davis, Sheriff/General Doane's  
Great Great Grandson.



(No. 374.)  
CHARLES DOANE

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## VOLUME III SURVEY

We will be making print copies and CD copies of *The Doane Family Volume III* in 2011. We need to get an idea of the percentage of print copies and CDs that our members might purchase before we go to press.

Please respond to this survey as best you can.

Clip and return this survey to:

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