

Copenhaver Cousins' News

Letter From The President

By the time we meet again it will be AMERICA 250 anniversary!! Many of you may remember the Bi-Centennial- bring your story of where you were that July 4th!

Join us for a weekend reunion of extended family
Saturday 25 July 2026!

Reunion will begin with an open reception Friday evening in Marion, VA. Look for postings on Copenhaver Family of Southwest Virginia Facebook Page for details.

We have Shelter #1 at Hungry Mother State Park all day 9am - 9pm. Registration opens at 10am for nametags, dropping desserts, and accepting small donation of approximately \$7 per person for lunch. If you wish to help set up you may come early! If you don't know, the lake and park are on an old Copenhaver homestead! You may look up genealogy information, visit with relatives, participate in a short family meeting and win prizes for Oldest, Youngest, and Furthest Traveled! Then stay to enjoy a meal at 12 noon. Members of the family can lead Ancestors Tour leaving around 1pm, and all are welcome to visit the family's genealogy room at Smyth County Library at 4pm. For the evening families bring a sack supper back to the shelter to enjoy a fire and fellowship. We recommend the Dip Dog if you have never gotten take-out there!!! If you would like to volunteer for the next year, please speak with one of us! We are quickly approaching the 300th year of Copenhavers in America!! If you haven't already, buy your copy of Richard Thayer's book "The Copenhaver Family in the American Revolution". This was individually published and we do not get a profit....it's just a good read! See you in July!

Katy Copenhaver Davidson: President



2026 Copenhaver Reunion

Friday, July 24th, 2026

4:00-7:00 p.m. Reunion open house/reception, at Karla Henderlong's, 213 N. Church Street, Marion

Saturday, July 25th, 2026

10:00a.m. Registration at Shelter #1 in Hungry Mother State Park

11:00a.m. Call to order

12:00p.m. Family photo & lunch. (Please bring a dessert to share)

3:00-10:00 p.m. After lunch our annual Ancestor tour will commence. It will run until 4:00 PM and will end at the library. Shelter #1 is reserved all day and evening for the Copenhavers. Plans are for fellowship and to eat dinner at approximately 6:30 p.m. Please bring your own dinner and s'more fixings.

4 p.m. At the library John Hull Copenhaver will be speaking as the first speaker in the Copenhaver Lecture Series for those that are interested. More information to follow.

The price will be \$7. This will cover the cost of the food and other reunion expenses. **As in previous years, we ask that everyone brings a dessert to share.**

Directions to the Reunion

To get to the park, take I-81 to Exit 47. Go left into town. Follow signs to McDonald's. Turn right at the light. Follow route 16 to the park. At the entrance to the park, tell the gate attendant that you are with the Copenhaver reunion and he or she can direct you to Shelter 1.

**There is a \$7 parking fee when you enter the park*

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Overnight Rooms

Here is list of accommodations: nobody offered family bloc or a discount but I encourage you to book early and use common reputable discount travel sites!

- **General Francis Marion Inn** 276-783-4800
- **Hungry Mother Park** uses dcr.virginia.gov for reservations. In addition to campsites and tents inside the park, Hungry Mother Park Camp Burson Campground now has two Yurts for “Glamping” as well....saw them at Christmas! Phone number is (276) 781-7400 or 800-933-7275.
- **Collins House BNB** is awesome and all rooms currently available: 276-378-5345
- **Comfort Inn Atkins, Va** 276-783-2144
- We do not recommend Econ Lodge Marion.
- **Iris' Place Air BNB** is tucked away about 12 miles from the park but run Very Well!
- There are several other options on Air BNB at/near Hungry Mother just PLEASE check your maps before booking and do not book in Saltville etc.

Copenhaver Cousins who have Passed

- Ed Stinson, husband of Lucile Copenhaver Stinson, 5/8/2025
- Martha Copenhaver Hull, 5/30/2025
- Barbara Copenhaver, wife of Julian Copenahver, 9/17/2025

Newsletter via E-mail

A good portion of us already receive the newsletter by e-mail. We are always trying to reduce reunion expenses and you could help us by receiving the newsletter by e-mail. If you would like to help by receiving the newsletter by e-mail please send your information to

copenhaverfamily1728@gmail.com

Thank you!

Elizabeth Siebold, Newsletter Coordinator

Newsletter Information

Do you have family information that you would like included in the newsletter? You can send the information to:

510 Winter Span Court

Bel Air, MD, 21015

Or copenhaverfamily1728@gmail.com

Copenhaver Website

We also have a family website! It is hosted by Smythnet which is owned by Michael Perdue. Our webmaster is Michael. The website has been fully updated and is amazing. Please take the time to visit the site at:

www.copenhaver.org



Copenhaver Cousins' News

COPENHAVER FAMILY REUNION

July 26, 2025

MINUTES

The Copenhaver Family celebrated their 297th year in America with a reunion on Saturday, July 26, 2025 at Hungry Mother State Park (Shelter 1), Marion, Virginia.

President Katy Copenhaver Davidson welcomed the family and Will Bates offered the invocation. Officers for the 2025 reunion were then introduced; Mark Copenhaver, vice president (could not attend due to family illness); Mike Davidson, treasurer; Karen Copenhaver, secretary/publicity; Michael Perdue, web master and hosting; Elizabeth Siebold, social media and newsletter, Karla Henderlong assistant.

Treasurer Mike Davidson reported 68 members in attendance representing nine states (VA, NC, SC, GA, MD, PA, OK, MO and NJ) with donations and cash receipts of \$1,1131 and after expenses (food, shelter, Jefferson Cups and other items) our reunion balance is \$1,959.

As chairman of the Frederick and Eve Copenhaver Memorial Library Committee, Katy shared that a family member donated a collection of rare books about Smyth County and histories dealing with the surrounding area. She also mentioned that the committee has been searching for a locking cabinet so rare books could be kept safe, noting that this committee are the trustees of the Southwest Virginia Heritage Library housed in the Smyth County Library and one of three rooms that the Copenhaver family help sponsor when the library was rebuilt. In addition after many years, the people who wrote the book about us, "The Copenhaver Family of Southwest Virginia", Robert Madison Jr. and Mildred Manton Copenhaver now have a laser engraved likeness of them to be placed inside the Heritage Library. It was also mentioned that this is the 50th anniversary of the resurrection of the current reunions after a pause during WWII. Katy then stated that Charlotte Warren reported that there were 25 registered visitors (more who did not register) representing ten different states who visited the library. She then commented that we have a book that is very old, and sometimes we try to locate a modern version; this year they secured "Kings Mountain and Its Heroes", noting the original book will be now placed in the locked cabinet. Katy then commented that she was also contacted about genealogy collections, including a family from Winchester, VA whose family also settled in WVA, before West Virginia was a state and had enormous genealogy collection and sent us a book

"Copenhaver Genealogy" by Lloyd Gale Sparks from Sparks, WV. She then remarked that Davie Davis, (from Max Meadows, VA) reached out to Karen who provided his contact information to Katy about an extraordinary collection of photos of the Frederick Copenhaver family and home place, as well as other artifacts including a copy of a hand-stitched sampler of the baptism of James Henry Copenhaver, which he is now donating to the Heritage Library.

In honor of family member Edward Clifton Copenhaver, a rare item of his military dog tags with the name Copenhaver inscribed was sent to Katy, who described his connection and conducted a tradition to honor to him by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and having prayer to remember him and all those who have served.

Each year we honor family members who have passed away since the last reunion, and this year there were many including: Dennis Copenhaver (Lebanon, VA); John Copenhaver (Sparks, WV); Donna Highlander Copenhaver (Arlington, VA); Linda Evans and Floyd Stanley (daughter and husband of Karen's sister – Roanoke, VA); Dale Copenhaver (Fairgrove, MO); Marian E "Peanut" Copenhaver (Huntington, WV); J Copenhaver (Aberdeen, PA); Eleanor Louise "Tiny" Copenhaver (Chilhowie, VA); Terry Lee Copenhaver (Helena, MT); Rev. John Kenneth Copenhaver (Wilmington, OH); James E. Copenhaver (Lockhaven, PA); Marsha J. Copenhaver (Lockhaven, PA); Perry Wayne Copenhaver (Elkview, WV); Douglas Eugene Copenhaver, Sr. (Elkview, WV); Martha Hull Copenhaver (Marion, VA); Edward Clifton Copenhaver; Neil Siebold (husband of Lelia Copenhaver Siebold - Joppa, MD); Edward Franklin Stinson (father of Kelly and Franklin - Roanoke, VA); Betty Baldwin Copenhaver; Jason Waddle Copenhaver; Eileen Hull and Lucile Copenhaver Stinson (mother of Kelly and Franklin - Roanoke, VA).

It was then time for family introductions as representatives from each family introduced their families, where they were from and family line.

As a special award each year, family members are recognized and have not previously won, who are the oldest, youngest and traveled the farthest and given an engraved Jefferson Cup as a remembrance of the reunion. This year award winners are Phoenix Lok, 9 months old (son of Megan and Wesley Lok); Bud Porter, 85 and Nemo Vazquez from Miami, OK traveled the farthest at 739 miles.

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A nomination was made and seconded that the same slate of officers be re-elected for the 2026 reunion as Katy Copenhaver Davidson, president; Mark Copenhaver, vice president; Karen Copenhaver, secretary/publicity; Mike Davidson, treasurer; Michael Perdue, webmaster/host; Elizabeth Siebold, social media and news letter. The members were elected unanimously.

After the traditional group photo, the members enjoyed a delicious meal and an afternoon of activities at the park, old home site tours and fellowship.

Family gathered again at the shelter at 6:00 pm for a bring-your-own dinner, making smores and saying their good bye until next year.

Respectfully

Karen L. Copenhaver, Secretary



COPENHAVER FAMILY REUNION
July 26, 2025

Treasurer Report

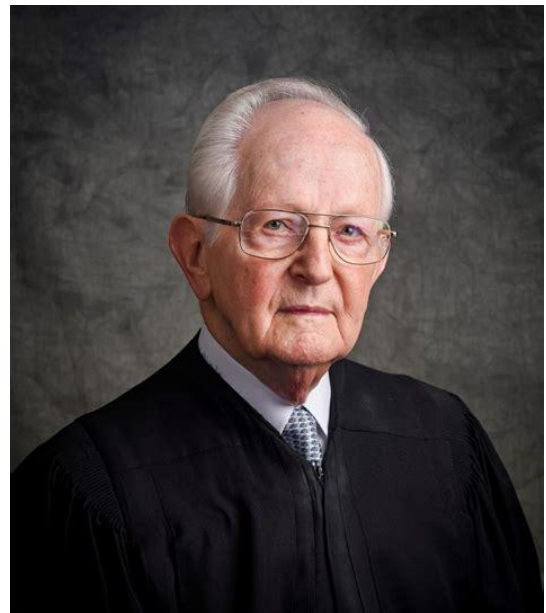
Our treasurer, Mike Davidson, reports that after the reunion we have a final balance of \$1,959.70. We started with \$1,786.04. We received donations totaling \$1,131 and costs totaling \$957.34.

News of the Copenhavers

We would like to celebrate our 100-year-old WV State Supreme Court Judge John T. Copenhaver, JR. who was recognized in this article as the longest serving on the bench.

Please see the linked article for more information.

https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/legal_affairs/deeply-respected-as-100th-birthday-nears-judge-copenhaver-still-wields-gavel/article_6dcca54-3683-49d1-ae9e-c06e3339d636.html



Copenhaver Cousins' News

Library Committee

The Library is in good standing thanks to donations. We were sad to lose a great cousin, friend, and patron in the passing of Martha Hull Copenhaver this year. She donated some lovely special books to us which are placed as The Martha Hull Copenhaver Special Collection. Her wish was to have these books protected so we embarked on a search for a locking bookshelf to fit our diminutive space.

Your Library Committee has successfully completed plans for that locking bookcase to be installed to house these and other sensitive original book donations. Thanks to generous donations, this has not cost any of our normal budget. This year we received a lovely donation from Brian and Ellen Griffith Spears in memory of Barbara Copenhaver, wife of Julian Vawter Copenhaver. We were sad to hear of Barbara's passing this winter. Julian Copenhaver has graciously displayed a major Family Bible in our library room on a 100-year loan. It is open for viewing any time you are there. A picture plaque memorializing our founding library members Robert Madison and Mildred Manton Copenhaver has been framed and installed for viewing. We are eternally grateful for what they did to revitalize our reunions, publish our genealogy, and raise funds for the Southwest Virginia Heritage Library. Any donations made to honor or memorialize a family member can be sent to Copenhaver Library Committee, Joe Copenhaver, 515 Crab Orchard Lane, Marion, Virginia, 24354. Looking to the date of 2028 we are excited to offer an ad hoc committee for our Tri-Centennial! This committee will be working to make it a memorable year! If you visit the library room please sign the guest book!

LIBRARY COMMITTEE will meet prior to the reunion hour as trustees are available. If you have an interest in being on a Committee please see me.

As always I will have interesting facts and Show-And-Tell for you at the reunion!

Katy Copenhaver Davidson: President