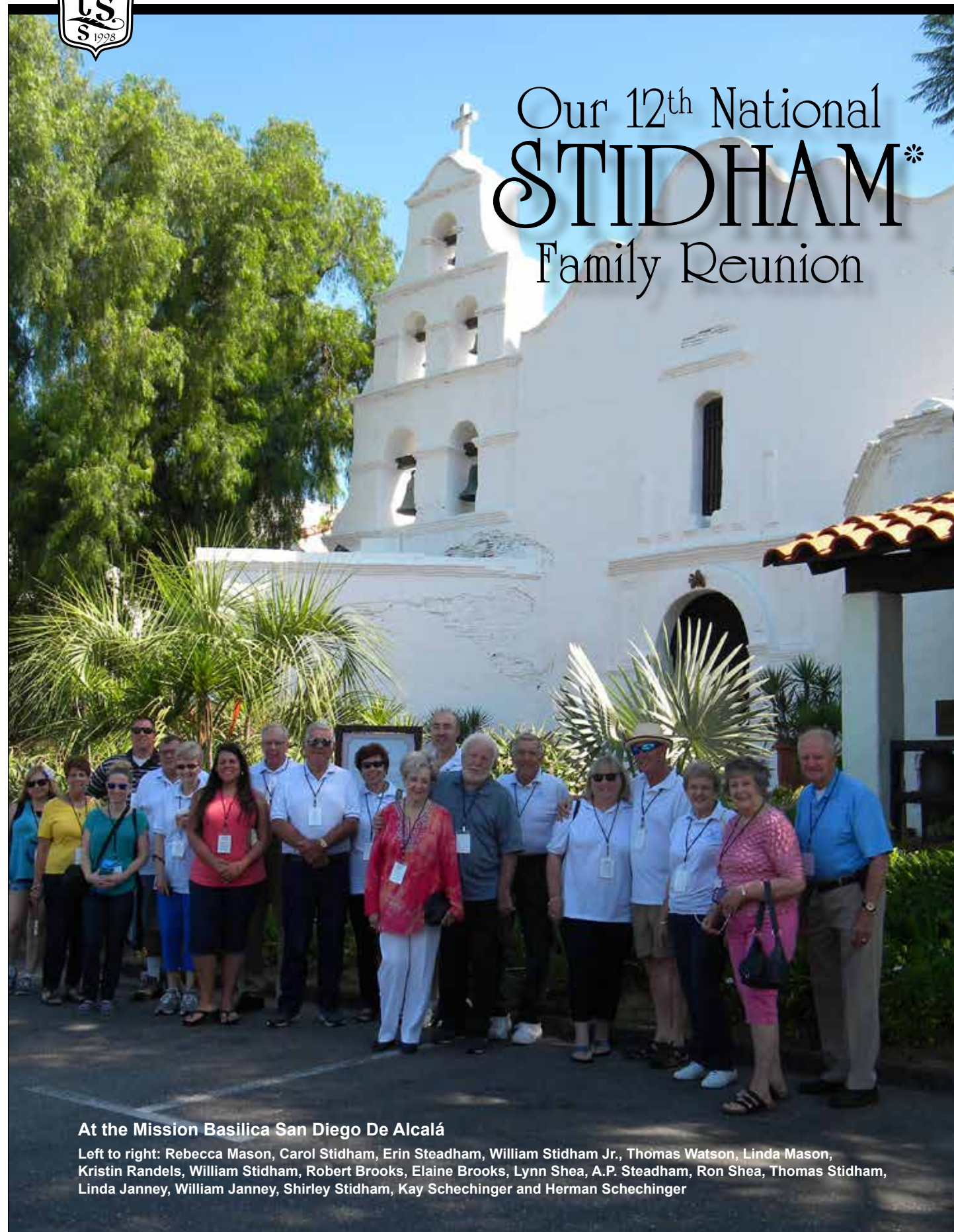


# Our 12<sup>th</sup> National STIDHAM\* Family Reunion



At the Mission Basilica San Diego De Alcalá

Left to right: Rebecca Mason, Carol Stidham, Erin Steadham, William Stidham Jr., Thomas Watson, Linda Mason, Kristin Randels, William Stidham, Robert Brooks, Elaine Brooks, Lynn Shea, A.P. Steadham, Ron Shea, Thomas Stidham, Linda Janney, William Janney, Shirley Stidham, Kay Schechinger and Herman Schechinger

PHOTO BY RICHARD L. STEADHAM

# San Diego California

The Timen Stiddem Society ventures all the way to the West Coast for its 12th gathering of family and friends, August 7-9, 2015

*By Richard L. Steadham DCM-2*

Despite my personal challenges prior to this reunion (see "Notes from the Editor's Desk," page 3), this reunion went like clockwork. And though this was the least attended event we've held to date, the number of attendees (20) in the final analysis worked out to be a dream. It was a very manageable number to get us where we needed to be, when we needed to be there.

As expected, San Diego lived up to its reputation as "America's Finest City," with daytime temperatures hovering in the upper-seventies and nighttime temps in the mid-sixties.

From the Friday evening gathering in the Governor's Suite on the 14th floor (with gorgeous views of San Diego Bay all lit up like a Christmas tree); to the serene and tranquil beauty of an old historic Catholic Mission still in use today; "The Jewel of San Diego," Balboa Park and its many cultural institutions; the military pride of a mighty aircraft carrier, a virtual "city at sea"; to exploring the wonders of maritime history, just across the street from our hotel; the reunion showcased this popular Southern California destination in all its glory.

The attendees, coming from all corners of America, were a pleasure to lead (my own

hobbling aside). Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and the camaraderie with distant cousins. We really were one big family on an adventure of discovery.

If there was one fly in the ointment, it would have been the hour-long wait for our charter bus after we had concluded the tour of the USS Midway. When we were dropped off, I told the driver to be back at 3:30 pm (there wasn't a place for bus parking near the ship). It was 4:30 before she returned, which by then, several in our group had walked back to the hotel on their own steam (which really wasn't that far away). Most were so exhausted by then, only a few ventured on to the Maritime Museum, the last site on our busy itinerary.

Saturday evening, we all gathered across the street at Anthony's Fish Grotto, a San Diego restaurant institution since 1946, with views of the bay from the large windows around us.

After dinner, we all went back to the Wyndham Hotel for more fellowship, which is really what our reunions are all about.

The following pages are filled with lots of photos from our adventures and illustrate well, the many places we visited during our stay in beautiful San Diego. Enjoy!



PHOTO BY ERIN D. STEADHAM

Enjoying lunch under the veranda of Lady Carolyn's Pub, adjacent to The Old Globe Theatre. In the background stands the California Tower and the intricately-tiled Spanish Revival dome of Balboa Park's Museum of Man.



# Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá

The first stop on our itinerary was to visit California's first mission, founded on July 16, 1769 by Spanish friar Junípero Serra.

**1** Gathering at the peaceful fountain in the center of the mission grounds after the tour.

**2** A statue of Saint Francis in the tranquil garden just outside the main chapel.

**3** Interior view of the main chapel, which is still in use today as an active Catholic parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego.

**4** Robert Brooks, A.P. Steadham and Thomas Stidham walk the brick path to the mission's museum at the back of the property.

**5** Linda Janney, Shirley Stidham and Linda Mason explore the lush gardens.

**6** Examining one of the displays in the small, but fascinating museum.

**7** Kay Schechinger and Lynn Shea about to enter the mission's museum.







# Enjoying the Beauty of Balboa Park

With so much to see in the “Jewel of San Diego,” we focused on history with a guided tour of the History Center of San Diego.

**1** The park’s Spreckels Organ Pavilion, the world’s second largest outdoor pipe organ, offers free concerts every Sunday afternoon.

**2** Our group listens as the tour guide describes one of the charming vehicles from the 1915 Panama-California Exposition.

**3** Shirley Stidham and Lynn Shea with the San Diego Museum of Art in the distance.

**4** One of the highlights of the History Center tour was seeing the Dr. Seuss exhibit, who lived and worked in San Diego’s La Jolla beach community.

**5** William Stidhams Jr. and Sr., with A.P. Steadham strolling the arched corridors.

**6** Boarding our charter bus after lunch (on the following two pages) for the next stop: The *USS Midway* over on San Diego Bay.





# Lunch Break Beside The Old Globe

We couldn't have asked for a more magical surrounding than this: the courtyard of the theatre and nearby Museum of Man.

**1** Securing enough tables to seat everyone in our group was easy at noon. 90 minutes later would see this area overwhelmed by theatre-goers to the matinee in The Old Globe. Lady Caroline's Pub is on the far right, offering beer and wine to those on a liquid diet.

**2** Kay Schechinger (standing) talks with Karen Steadham, who delivered our delicious boxed lunches to the site, the logistics of such being no small task.

**3** Thomas Watson and Linda Mason in the foreground, with others in our group beyond.

**4** Looking over the shoulders of the Janneys and Rebecca Mason to the picturesque California Tower and the tiled dome of the Museum of Man.





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# Touring The USS Midway

When our lunch was finished at Balboa Park, we boarded our charter bus and headed to our third tour site of the day to experience San Diego's well-deserved military reputation up close.

**1** Superstructure and Naval aircraft on the flight deck of the *USS Midway*.

**2** The "Unconditional Surrender" statue stands 25 feet tall, dwarfing visitors below.

**3** The statue is located in the adjacent Tuna Harbor Park off the port side of the vessel.

**4** Visitors get a history presentation from one of the many docents aboard the ship.

**5** Looking NW off the port side to North Island Naval station across the bay.

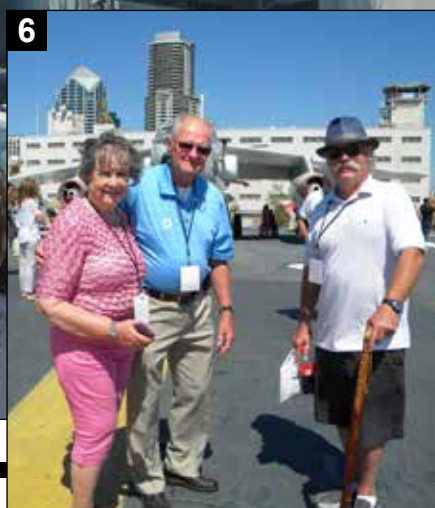
**6** Kay and Herman Schechinger with Richard Steadham on the sunny flight deck.

**7** Below decks in the main cargo area where planes are kept in bad weather. It truly has the feel of a "city at sea."

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# Exploring The Maritime Museum of San Diego

After our delayed pickup from the previous site, only five intrepid adventurers made the decision to soldier on to this final destination on the itinerary.

**1** Rigging and sail on the *Star of India*.

**2** Maritime Museum ticket booth along the Embarcadero (our Wyndham Hotel is in background).

**3** The *USS Berkeley* holds many of the fascinating model ship miniatures.

**4** William Stidham, Jr., checking out one of the ship models.

**5** Linda Mason on the main deck of the *Star of India*.

**6** Kristin Randels examines one of the encased ship displays.

**7** A fanciful figurehead, which during its heyday was once attached to a ship's prow.







## Saturday Evening Dinner

For this reunion, rather than a formal banquet as in the past, we opted for casual dining at a popular restaurant.

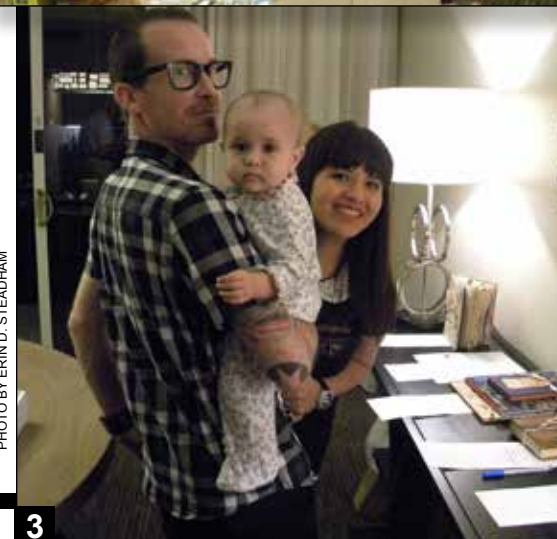
- 1 Anthony's outdoor sign along the Embarcadero.
- 2 Let me see, what shall I get? Checking out the menu.
- 3 Overflow table for more of our cousins who couldn't fit at the other two large tables we were sitting.
- 4 A broader view of the dining room at Anthony's.



## After Dinner Gathering

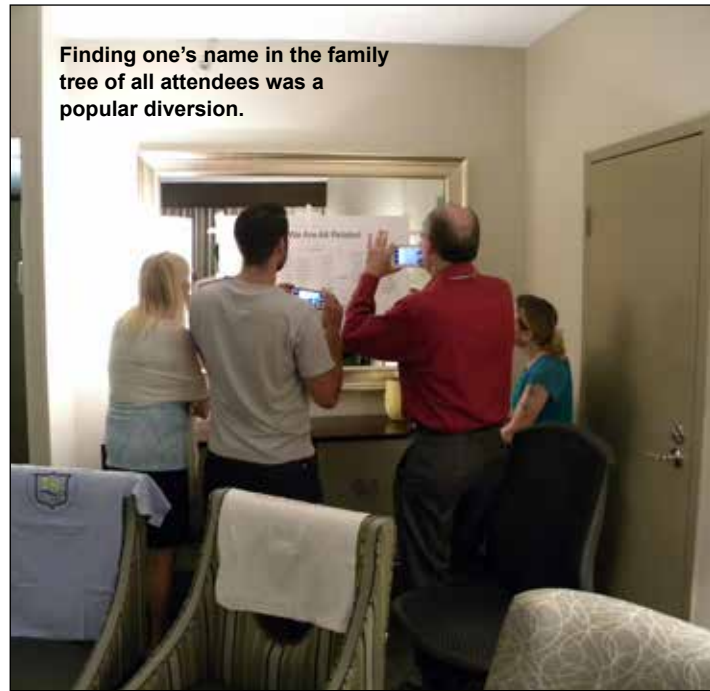
We regrouped back in the Governor's Suite at the Wyndham Hotel after dinner for drinks and the always-fun auction.

- 1 Conversing with extended family, a real treat.
- 2 More fellowship in the dinning room.
- 3 Nathan and Lucy Steadham with their one-year-old daughter, Sailor Rose.
- 4 Some of the items on display for the silent auction.





# How We Were All Related



Finding one's name in the family tree of all attendees was a popular diversion.

One of the popular items we had on display in the Governor's Suite at the Wyndham Hotel was a large family tree chart showing how we were related to each other through our various descents from Timen Stiddem. At the bottom of this spread is a smaller version of that chart.

## Reunion Trivia:

- States represented: 8  
Alabama, California, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Texas and Washington
- Sons of Timen Stiddem represented: 4  
Lucas, Erasmus, Adam and Benedictus
- Closest generation to Timen Stiddem: 10th  
A.P. Steadham and Elaine Brooks are 7th-great-grandchildren of our Swedish patriarch
- Furthest generation from Timen Stiddem: 13th  
Rebecca Mason and Erin Steadham are 10th-great-grandchildren of Dr. Stiddem

## List of reunion attendees taking part in all activities over the entire weekend

Herman and Kay Wootten Schechinger (DCM-23)  
Ron and Lynn Shea (DM-470)  
Thomas and Shirley Stidham (DCM-26)  
Thomas Watson and Linda Mason (DM-585)  
William and Carol Stidham (DCM-68)  
William Stidham, Jr. (DM-326, son of William and Carol Stidham)  
Kristin Randels (DM-375, daughter of William and Carol Stidham)  
Robert and Elaine Brooks (DM-471)  
A.P. Steadham  
William and Linda Janney (DM-564)  
Rebecca Mason (daughter of Linda Janney and step-daughter of William Janney above)  
Richard Steadham (DCM-2)  
Erin Steadham (daughter of Richard Steadham)



Angel, our charter bus driver, snapped this photo of our group just after we disembarked from the bus at the Mission Basilica.

In addition to the list of official reunion attendees on the left, the following local cousins joined the group for the Saturday evening dinner at Anthony's Fish Grotto and the after-dinner gathering in the Governor's Suite at the Wyndham Hotel:

Sal and Janice D'Amico, with their sons Stephen and Brendan (Janice is the sister of A.P. Steadham)  
Karen Steadham (wife of Richard Steadham)  
Taylor Steadham (oldest son of Richard Steadham)  
Nathan Steadham and his wife Lucy, along with their daughter, Sailor Rose (Nathan is the youngest son of Richard Steadham)

## Timen [1] Stiddem

