



*News from the*  
**Casper Glattfelder  
Association of America**

Number 53: November 2016

[www.glattfelder.org](http://www.glattfelder.org)

### **2016 Reunion**

Between 75 and 100 people attended Sunday's Reunion and close to 150 were at Saturday's picnic, July 30 & 31 at Heimwald Park. The weather was fairly typical for July on Sunday, but it was quite rainy on Saturday.

For Sunday's reunion, lunch of chicken and sides was served at 12:30 p.m.

This year marks the final program in the series on Glattfelders in war, recognizing Glattfelders in the Korean and Vietnam wars. More on the program appears later in the newsletter.

The business meeting was called to order by President Thomas Shelley. He recognized the Board members and the reunion committee for their work on behalf of the Casper Glattfelder Association of America and those who enjoy the reunion.

The minutes of the 2015 reunion business meeting were reviewed by the board of directors at the summer 2015 meeting. A motion to receive and accept the minutes was made and passed unanimously.

Vice President Judy Martin gave the report of the nominating committee. Board members up for re-election were Thomas Shelley, Rick Hoover, Larry Gladfelter Jr., Rev. Dr. Dennis Gable, Curtis Glattfelder and Judy Martin. All were willing to serve another three-year term, except Curtis Glattfelder, who has moved to Virginia. Judy nominated Rick Gladfelter, and there were no additional nominations from the floor. A motion was made to close nominations and for the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of nominees, and it passed without opposition.

Philip Glattfelder informed everyone about the scholarship set up in honor of his father, Dr. Charles H. Glattfelder. Information on the scholarship appears later in this newsletter.

There was a comment from the floor expressing appreciation for the improvement in the sound system that enabled people to hear the program better this year. Tom gave credit to his longtime friend, Bill Scantling, and applause sounded in appreciation.

The formal part of the reunion then concluded with the awarding of prizes and the closing song.

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### **Summer board meeting**

The board met on August 20 at the Smith Homestead in Jacobus.

Among correspondence, President Thomas Shelley noted Robert Gladfelter's letter regarding accommodations for autistic people who attend the reunion. After discussion, a motion was made that the board provide DVDs of the program to those with handicaps free of charge, which was seconded and passed.

Treasurer Bonnie Flaharty, reporting for the financial committee, presented a letter from the IRS stating that our income from investments is subject to federal tax. The board discussed the possibility of hiring a tax attorney for an opinion. Three options were discussed: engage an attorney; pay the money to the IRS; or ask for mercy from the IRS to exempt the association because of its mission. Rev. Dennis Gable made a motion that the executive

committee contact a tax attorney (Tom suggested Jeffrey Bollomo) to see what can be done. The motion passed.

Treasurer Bonnie Flaharty informed the board that our insurance company (Nationwide Insurance) expressed concern about the use of Heimwald Park by others, and the possible need for a lease agreement. That includes the Boy Scouts, who have encamped at the park while doing park improvements. A motion was made for the Association to contact the local Boy Scout troop to see if we could get a certificate of insurance from them or the national organization, which would eliminate the need for a formal lease agreement. The motion passed.

The nominating committee proposed retaining the current officers, and the motion passed. Tom shared his thoughts about continuing on as president and possible future changes. He said he thought a person with a Glattfelder name should be president for the 275th anniversary celebration in 2018; and he is reluctant to change his own.

For the development committee, Larry Gladfelter Sr. reported that he has a number of videos available on Vimeo. The Association may use this as a fundraiser by supplying a link after receiving payment for the video.

For the historical committee, Philip related Tom and Pat Clodfelter's past correspondence about Michael and that the only information on the website was written by Dr. Charles years ago. He is working on additional information, which will soon be posted on the website.

There was no report from the property committee, but Stephen Gladfelter commented that work done by board member Nelson Brenneman had the driveway in the best condition in years. The Association thanked Nelson for all his hard work on the driveway and for all he does around Heimwald. It was

also noted that Nelson had replaced a section of drainage pipe next to the pavilion that had been damaged.

Vice President Judy Martin expressed her concern about the work done and the money spent for the Saturday picnic, and people then not showing up. She suggested charging for the Saturday picnic. Judy moved to charge \$5 per adult, \$2.50 for children age 6-12 and free for children under-6. The motion passed unanimously.

Reunion dates and days for the 275th anniversary of Casper's arrival in America were discussed, as well as having some activities for younger children at that time.

Tom said we should take a survey to build a consensus as to whether the reunion should be on Saturday vs. Sunday and whether it should run one or two days. The board agreed that the survey should be conducted utilizing both mail and web-based survey forms.

A motion was made to hold the 2017 reunion on Saturday and Sunday following recent tradition. The motion passed, with two votes opposing the motion and two abstentions.

For more on these subjects, see the President's Message later in the newsletter.

Ben Miller, president of the Glattfelder Education Fund, reported that four scholarships were granted this year and checks have already been sent.

Among continuing business, Philip Glattfelter said he found notes in the archives that mentioned that there should be plaques at Heimwald Park for Dr. Noah Glattfelter and for Casper. Tom mentioned that Casper has a plaque on the spring house.

Also, a brochure was discussed, and Larry Gladfelter recommended the association advertise in the Glarus, Wisconsin, Swiss Center's newsletter. Larry will look into prices for advertising in their newsletter.

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## **Glattfelders in the Korean and Vietnam wars**

The Glattfelders in wars theme continued at the 2016 reunion with the Korean and Vietnam wars. Lila Fourhman-Shaull, from the York County History Center and a Glattfelder relative, and historical committee member Jean Robinson spoke about the wars. Lila provided a transition from World War II to the Korean and Vietnam wars for York County.

*Before I begin, I congratulate this organization for keeping the heritage of this family alive. I work at the York County History Center, previously known as the York County Heritage Trust, and before*

*that, the Historical Society of York County, and the key to all those names is our mission of sharing York County history.*

*To me, the best way to connect and share history is through genealogy, the tracing of one's family. Genealogy gives life to history by connecting us personally to it.*

*The Casper Glattfelder Association has been celebrating its history since 1906 when the first reunion was held, and you should be proud of the longevity of this organization. You are here because of your interest and pride in your heritage as descendants of one of the earliest families to come to York County.*

*The past several years these reunions have told the nation's military history through the stories of its Glattfelder family members, and today we will continue that. Last year, we traveled from the 1920s until World War II, focusing on our WWII veterans, and today we will look at the late 1940s, 1950s and 1960s -- three decades that witnessed many changes.*

*I think it is safe to say that most attending today either have personal recollections of this time or have shared memories with their parents or grandparents. This makes it a tad easier to connect with -- in comparison to the 18th or 19th century history.*

*A year before World War II ended, President Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act. This proved very important as it provided for benefits for returning WWII veterans. Commonly known as the GI Bill, it provided low-cost mortgages, low-interest loans to start a business, cash tuition and living expenses to attend a university, high school or vocational education facility as well as one-year employment compensation.*

*September 1945 brought an end to this war, and the world, nation, state and York County would never be the same. Some families were reunited; others tried to adjust to the loss of loved ones. York County had sent over 20,000 men and women to war, and 570 paid the ultimate sacrifice. Soldiers came home and married their sweethearts and women left their spots on the workforce.*

*Nationally, in 1946, the average price of a house was \$5,600 and annual wages were \$2,500. As the war wound down, the government slowly allowed the auto industry to return to car manufacturing. The 1946 and 1947 Chevys were actually just 1942 Chevys with new grilles and trim. We could fill our gas tanks at 15 cents a gallon, milk was 70 cents a gallon, bread was 10 cents a loaf and first class postage was three cents.*

*A few years passed when the Korean War pulled York countians into service again, as well as reactivated the York Plan on a national level.*

*York City's population reached its peak in 1950 as residents started to move out into the county, caused by very few building sites left in the city. This move led to the creation of suburban developments such as Haines Acres.*

*The educational system with one-room schools was outdated and the consolidation and creation of 16 school districts began. A 1983 York Daily Record article noted that in 1886, York County had 397 schools, most of the one-room variety, 144 were frame construction and 220 were brick.*

*Following the construction of numerous elementary and secondary schools, these buildings closed. Mrs. Carrie Kaltreider was the last teacher at the Glattfelder one-room school in York Township, which closed in 1949. McGuffey readers, slate boards and pot-bellied stoves, wooden benches and desks and, of course, use of the outhouse, has memories for former students.*

*In 1956, the average price of a house was \$22,000, annual income was nearly \$4,500, bread was 18 cents a loaf and postage was still three cents. We could now dust with Pledge, clean our clothes with Wisk and children could play with Play-Doh. Gas was 23 cents a gallon and we could order our 1957 Chevy with new options such as power steering and brakes, power windows and seats, and air conditioning, although that was rarely ordered.*

*The nation watched Elvis on the Milton Berle Show, the Steve Allen Show and, of course, the Ed Sullivan Show, although he also appeared here in York County at Valley View Park in Hellam Township.*

*York stores and businesses begin to leave downtown; Sears and Roebuck was one of the first and became the anchor store for the York County Shopping Center.*

*During World War II, the limitations of the county infrastructure, its roads and bridges, became evident and continued to worsen as the population grew. Solutions included the construction of Route 83, which was completed in 1959, as well as the Route 30 bypass in the late 1960s and 1970s.*

*In 1962, Memorial Hospital relocated to South Belmont Street from West York. In 1966, house prices now averaged over \$23,000, postage was up to five cents and gas was 32 cents a gallon. We cleaned our clothes with Tide, enjoyed an Almond Joy, tasted our first Dorito and freshened our breath with Scope. We bought a Dodge Charger and watched Mission Impossible, Star Trek or Family Affair on television.*

*In 1968, the York County Parks system was created, beginning with Rocky Ridge Park. Hurricane Agnes paid a visit to the east coast in 1972 and left 13½ inches of rain in 24 hours.*

Jean then continued with the program:

*Once again, in a relatively short time, since the end of World War II, York countians, including our Glattfelder cousins, are being selected to serve their country in a military presence stateside and overseas.*

*After World War II, after 1945, the Cold War reared its ugly head, mostly between the United States and the Soviet Union. Other skirmishes in Europe and Asia, and land grab expansions brought crisis situations such as the Suez Crisis, Baltic Crisis and the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. These and many events occurred to roll us into Korea and Vietnam. And so wars and rumors of wars goes on.*

*Korea, June 1950 - July 1953: North Korea invaded South Korea. The United Nations, with principle force United States, provided protection to the South, and China and the Soviet Union provided military aid to the North.*

*This conflict came about with the division of Korea, fueled by the Cold War fears and tension. Several battles that we might be familiar with are Battle of Bloody Ridge, Battle of Heartbreak Ridge and Battle for Seoul.*

*Eventually, a liberated Korea from Japan occurred, with the 38th parallel as the boundary line. This Korean Conflict continued until an armistice was signed in 1953. The agreement created the Korean Demilitarized Zone to officially separate North from South Korea, but no real peace treaty.*

*Even today, the war sabers rattle, with the North challenging the South for its independence.*

*I would like to take the time to mention the Glattfelder family soldiers who were stationed in Korea, "The Forgotten War." I feel we need to recognize their service to this country and our freedoms:*  
**ARMY -- Albert M. Gladfelder Jr.,** (I think he served stateside); **Charles A. Glatfelder;** **Harry L. Glatfelder;** **Samuel J. Gladfelder;** **Samuel S. Glatfelder;** **Warren M. Baublitz,** a member of the "Lucky Bastards Club"; **Millard L. Kroh II,** Signal Corps, became postmaster at Seven Valleys; **Gerald W. Plummer;** **Richard E. Robertson;** **Kent Roseberry;** **Kenneth D. Glatfelder,** Camp Pickett, 33rd Infantry Division, serving in RCT of 25th Infantry Division in Korea, known as the "Wolfhounds," as well as receiving various Army service medals; **Robert B. Glatfelder,** received various Army service medals, including three Bronze Stars; **Richard C. Altland,** received various Army service medals, including one Bronze Star.

**NAVY -- George R. Glatfelder,** retired after 22 years service; **Edward T. Blymire;** **Jack Nace,** who served on our Board of Directors.

**MARINE CORP -- Sterling K. Glatfelder,** retired after 25 years of service (side note: early in his career in the 1960s, he served on the security detail for Pres. John F. Kennedy and on Air Force One; **William R. Glatfelder.**

**AIR FORCE -- Dean K. Gladfelder,** stayed in aviation in one form or another after his discharge and also restored antique airplanes; **Mahlon L. Gladfelder,** in civilian life became a barber in York New Salem.

*We received a nice letter from Joanne Gladfelter from Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her husband, **Ralph J. Gladfelter**, served in the Air Force in Korea. I will quote from her letter. "... He served as a radar operator with the rank of Staff Sgt. ... He was awarded various service medals and ribbons, including five Bronze Stars. ... One thing that stands out in my mind is his telling of seeing the campfires of the Chinese soldiers across the Yahn River waiting for the river to freeze so they could cross over. Once they were able to cross the frozen river, Ralph's radar site had to be abandoned. This was when the Chinese entered the war. Ralph didn't talk too much about the war, but he had nightmares and would yell and reach for his gun. I know he had some bad memories of events he witnessed or lived through."*

*We received an email from Linda Moore and one of her relatives lost his life in Korea. **Jack Currie** fought and died in Korea for the United States. Jack was Canadian by birth and his family home is Alberta. The family name is spelled Glotfelty and descends from Solomon.*

*Memorials: Part of East Market Street, York, is known as the Korean Veterans Memorial Highway. There is also a memorial located on West Market Street, York, along the Heritage Rail Trail near the Codorus Creek, across from the Colonial Court House.*

*The Vietnam Era occurred November 1955 to the Fall of Saigon April 1975 and included Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. North Vietnam was supported by the Soviet Union, China and their Allies. The South was supported by the United States and anti-communist Allies. This war was the longest for United States involvement to date, soon to be superseded by the current War on Terror.*

*The Vietnam War was escalated by the Gulf of Tonkin incident, and then the U.S. committed many more troops. I can mention names of incidents that will be familiar, such as the Tet Offensive, Ho Chi Minh Trail or My Lai Massacre.*

*To end this war, the Paris Peace Accord was signed in 1973 by all parties involved. However, the fighting continued. By this time, a large worldwide anti-war or large counter-culture had taken hold to add pressure to come to some kind of resolution.*

*The capture of Saigon by the North in April 1975 marked the official end of the war.*

*The Vietnam War was the first fully-televised war. What a difference that made, in our living rooms every night.*

*Here in York County, there was no exception to the counter-culture influence as it can be clearly seen how unpopular the war had become. Soldiers returning home did not feel welcomed or that their service to this country mattered.*

*I have made this war sound very simple – it was not. And we cannot erase in 10 minutes what has seemed a lack of support for our servicemen and women.*

*Welcome home, Veterans. We do care.*

*This war was also considered a war of containment and there were not always outright victories on the battlefield.*

*Allow me again to take the time to name our Glattfelder family members that we know:*

*ARMY -- **Barry E. Glatfelter**; **Ronald E. Gladfelter Sr.**, wounded twice, and with the second injury became a disabled veteran; **Stephen Gladfelter**; **William E. Gladfelter**; **Charles L. Fourhman**, Vietnam era stateside peacetime service; **Daniel L. Fourhman**, Charles' brother who served overseas; **Donald E. Gembe**, served two combat missions, worked with helicopters and became a pilot in civilian life; **R. Michael Lentz**; **Terry Wallace**, served 1961-1964.*

*AIR FORCE -- **Perry L. Glatfelter**, served 1961-1967; **Terry Lee Glattfelder**, Circle Ranch, son of Jack F. Glattfelder.*

*Finally, our family grieves the loss of one Glattfelder cousin, **SP5 Larry E. Gladfelter**, Army, who served in the 538th Engineering Co. and died when his truck hit a mine riding back to camp in Vietnam in 1969. He was awarded various Army medals, including a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was only 20 years old and had graduated from Susquehannock High School, York County.*

*Memorials: There is a Vietnam Memorial located on the York Fair Grounds (or the York Expo Center), Carlisle Avenue, York.*

*This will conclude our look at our family serving in the Armed Forces and the sacrifices they and their families made for us, whether serving stateside or overseas.*

Program notes: In 2018, we will be celebrating Casper Glattfelder's arrival to America and it is not too early to announce this anniversary event. We hope to do a few special things at that reunion. Of course, we are open to suggestions from you for that occasion.

Next year, we hope to have something leading up to that arrival. Again, we would appreciate any suggestions for a presentation.

**ANOTHER TORCH IS PASSED**  
***PHILIP "OF COLUMBIA" GLATFELTER***

The Casper Glattfelder Association has now lost the last of its 20<sup>th</sup> century titans ... Philip Glatfelter, often identified in directors' correspondence as "of Columbia" to differentiate him from Phil Glatfelter "of Hellam," entered into Life Eternal in early October. He served as Vice President for 41 years.

Phil was tremendously active in financial services and civic affairs in and around Columbia, Pa. His published obituary lists the following:

*He was President of Columbia Catholic Housing for the Elderly and the sponsor of Trinity House and St. Peter Apartments. He was President of the Columbia Healthcare Foundation. He served on the boards of St. Anne's Retirement Community, Columbia Hospital, Lancaster General Hospital and St. Joseph Hospital. Other public services included Vice Chairman of the Lancaster County Housing and Redevelopment Authority and Trustee of the Lt. Richard Glatfelter Memorial Field Foundation. For his community service he was recognized by the Boys and Girls Club with the Man of the Year Award, the Lancaster New Era Red Rose Award and the Susquehanna Sports Hall of Fame Jimmy Sheckard Award. He, his wife and seven children were recognized by the Pennsylvania Knights of Columbus designating them as family of the year.*

*He was an active member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Columbia, and Our Lady of the Angels Catholic School, formerly Holy Trinity Catholic School, where he graduated. He chaired several improvement drives, including a new rectory, school addition and computer lab. He was a graduate of Lancaster Catholic High School Class of 1948. He was a member of several fraternal groups, including Knights of Columbus Council #2294, where he served as past Grand Knight, and he was a member of the Santa Maria General Assembly 4th Degree. He was a member of the Catholic War Veterans Post #1306, that his father helped to organize, Columbia Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2435, Columbia Lions Club, Columbia Middletown Elks Lodge #1074 and a Life Member of the Columbia Canoe Club.*

Yes, Phil was truly "of Columbia." With his passing, the leadership torch of our Association has fully moved to new hands. There are now no living past Presidents or past Vice-Presidents. The "institutional memory" now resides solely with the incumbent directors and officers. Ironically, that leadership (President Tom, Vice President Judy and Assistant Treasurer Dallas) are the only directors who began their service in a 20th century year. Everyone else began in the new millennium ... if indeed it is still "new," nearly 16 years after January 1, 2000.

**Dr. Charles H. Glatfelter Scholarship**

Board member Philip Glatfelter spoke at this year's reunion about a scholarship begun in his father's name.

*Several years ago, shortly after our dad passed away, my sister Chris and I were standing in front of Mom and Dad's house at 36 Apple Ave. near Gettysburg -- an address at least some of you have heard of -- when a suggestion was made: Wouldn't it be a good idea to start a scholarship in Dad's name?*

*In the meantime, you have heard or read about the scholarship here at the reunion and in our newsletter. There have been discussions with several people and organizations about how to start the scholarship. It has been a bit of a journey, which recently reached its end.*

*In June, Chris and I completed paperwork with the Adams County Community Foundation, establishing the Dr. Charles H. Glatfelter Scholarship.*

*Chris and I put \$15,000 toward the scholarship and the Casper Glattfelder Association of America generously contributed the money from the Geneva Kaltreider bequest, another \$20,000, giving the scholarship a solid starting point of \$35,000.*

*Many of you know of Dad's background with this association and Gettysburg College; some of that you can read about on the plaque at the back of this pavilion. His ties to York and Adams counties, to history and to education are very deep. Geneva taught in York City schools for 40 years. Those were among the things considered when setting up the scholarship.*

*The criteria for the Dr. Charles H. Glatfelter Scholarship are similar to the Association's current Nathan Glattfelder and Ives Bricker Scholarship. First priority will be given to Glattfelder descendants.*

*Because of Dad's great interest in history, the next preference will be history majors, and with both Dad and Geneva being teachers, education is the third priority. If there are neither majors, any Glattfelder descendant will be eligible.*

*By publicizing on our website and in our newsletter, the scholarship will be more widely known to our Glattfelder descendants than the general public. But if no Glattfelder descendants apply, the scholarship will be open to any student, again with history and education as the first two priorities.*

*The Adams County Community Foundation will allow the fund to grow for at least a year, with the 2018-19 school year being the first for scholarships to be awarded. Applications will be accepted beginning in January 2018. As with the Bricker Scholarship, the Dr. Charles H. Glatfelter Scholarship will be \$1,000, with the number of scholarships awarded each year based on the returns.*

*The Adams County Community Foundation Scholarship Committee will select the recipients, with Chris and I to participate if we choose.*

*For those wishing to make contributions to the scholarship, which are tax-deductible, information will eventually be available on the Foundation website, [www.adamscountycf.org](http://www.adamscountycf.org). Information on the scholarship will be included in our newsletters and will eventually appear on our website.*

*I was told by several of my Glattfelder relatives that "good things take time." While we were hoping for a speedier resolution, it's safe to say that Chris and I left the foundation office that June day feeling quite satisfied. It was indeed worth the wait.*

### ***President's Message***

Our lives often find great stability in traditions, such as patterns of how we observe or ignore various holidays, where we go on vacation and what we do when we reach those favorite destinations.

As this is true of individuals, it is also true of groups of individuals: volunteer fire companies, congregations and, yes, family reunion associations.

The Casper Glattfelder Association is no exception. Indeed, the very purpose of this Association, as stated in the 1908 Charter of Incorporation, is for holding reunions "from time to time." The holding of reunions is our capital "T" Tradition.

Precisely when, where and how such reunions are held are our small "t" traditions. Even a hurried look at the Centennial Reunion book authored by the late Dr. Charles Glatfelter reveals that the reunion has not always been at Heimwald, nor always on the final Sunday of July and preceding Saturday.



With the significant and ongoing investment in the park, holding reunions at Heimwald Park has quite appropriately elevated to a capital “T” Tradition. But the timing and formatting of the reunion remains lower case.

In the very first years, the reunion was held on a Saturday in early September. Most of the attendees were from York County and a few adjacent counties. There was little significant travel involved and children did not need to be excused from school.

In 1909 -- one year before incorporation -- a decision was made to move the reunion to the second Saturday in August, away from the school year and away from the York Fair, which had moved its date to early September. That August date would continue for over half a century.

One unintended consequence was that this date conflicted with some large public fundraising Church picnics. I had often wondered why, in my former congregation in which a third of the baptized members were descendants of Casper, so few actually attended the reunion -- until I realized that, until the 1960s, the reunion conflicted with the annual Shaffer’s Church Picnic. About the time the overhead lighting wire was stolen from the picnic grove and the Shaffer’s Church picnic came to an end, this Association changed the reunion date. But for the Glattfelder descendants of Neimans, the damage had been done.

In 1968, the reunion was moved to its current date: The last Sunday in July.

A quarter century later, beginning with the 250th anniversary of the arrival of our family in America, the reunion became multi-day, with an informal picnic preceding on Saturday. As the years went by, the picnic became more organized. The Brodbeck’s Band was engaged to present a concert. More food was offered -- and all of it free.

Now, the “Saturday Picnic” has totally eclipsed the Sunday reunion in terms of attendance. The costs associated with Saturday have correspondingly grown. At the August 2016 directors meeting, it was determined that the Saturday picnic can no longer remain free. A modest \$2.50 registration fee for persons age 6 – 12, and \$5.00 for those over 12, will be charged beginning in 2017.

The directors also discussed the format of reunion weekend. Realizing that for most of this Association’s history, the main reunion was NOT on Sunday, there is growing unease with holding a reunion on the day when many in leadership positions in the Association also have significant responsibilities with their faith communities, some of which are located several hours away.

Even though the exact day and date of the reunion are small “t” traditions, a change will not be enacted without soliciting input from the larger family. And let this be clear: There will be no change in 2017. The reunion will be on Saturday, July 29, and Sunday, July 30, as listed on the last page of this year’s reunion program. The soonest that a change might take place would be 2018.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a brief survey to gain your input. Please complete this survey and mail to PO Box A, Jacobus, PA 17407, by December 31, 2016. Alternatively, you may go to [glattfelder.us/en/reunion-day-survey.html](http://glattfelder.us/en/reunion-day-survey.html) and complete it online. The directors will discuss the results at their January 2017 meeting.

Let us not confuse traditions with our great Tradition of gathering in reunion “from time to time.”

*J. Thomas Shelley*

### **A lonely, but meaningful journey**

Taking a bicycle ride can be both enjoyable and beneficial. But for Rod Gladfelter, the ride he embarked on was quite different and meaningful.

Gladfelter took a 3,000-mile ride this past summer. The inspiration came from his mother,

who suffers from dementia.

The ride’s cause was to raise awareness and funds to fight dementia and other brain illnesses.

“You’re sitting there feeling helpless,” said Gladfelter in an article in the York Daily Record on May 30. “It’s like, ‘Mom, what can I do for you?’”



In addition to the main purpose of the ride, another goal for Gladfelter was to enter “that dimension of loneliness where my mother is right now,” he said in the article. “My mother can’t remember anyone or anything. She sits there in the blankness of her mind all alone. That’s a very lonely place to be.”

Gladfelter, an elementary physical education teacher in the Dallastown Area School District in York County, had another journey earlier in his life.

The 59-year-old was one of the best football players ever at York County Tech in the 1970s, went on to star at Liberty University in Virginia and earned a tryout in the NFL with the Dallas Cowboys.

Then, with that portion of his life behind him, he was pushed to greater levels after an accident at his welding job in Lancaster County in which 300 pounds of steel fell on him. He had a compressed spine with two blown-out disks and had to undergo 16 hours of surgery. He could hardly move his arms and legs after waking up.

It took about a year for him to recover, and the experience bolstered his faith and drove him physically. In addition to being a motivational speaker, he trained to run in various distance races, took bike trips, which were sometimes a week long, learned to fly planes and fished for marlin and tuna.

He even became an ordained minister.

But with his life becoming fulfilled, the dementia soon attacked his mother, now 82, and wore out his father, who was her primary caregiver.

The idea of the race, something Rod’s father Bill didn’t totally understand, soon came to Rod.

“Deep down, this is something to pay back

for his mom for all she did for him,” said Bill in the article. “He’s doing it for the love of his mom.”

On the website [www.catherineroberto.wix.com/mysite-1](http://www.catherineroberto.wix.com/mysite-1) entitled, “Conquering the Lonely Road: One mile at a time,” Gladfelter made posts of his trip.

His first post: “Hello everyone, started riding today June 12th @ Lake Tahoe. Got caught in a cold down pour...freezing and soaked but still riding. Will have over 70 miles today.”

Third, in Nevada: “Covered 71 miles, four mountains over 6,000 and 7,000 feet. Top temperature 102 degrees max speed down mountains 47 miles an hour max speed of trip 54 miles an hour average speed 12 miles an hour.”

Four, also in Nevada: “Temps reached 113 degrees at one point in direct sun. ... The day started 32 degrees at Austin Summit, which still had some snow. To go from 32 to 113 amazes me.”

Eight, from Colorado: Thought temps would drop but it was 122 degrees. Police stopped to check on me on interstate 70. ... The metal cleats on my bike shots were so hot it burned a blister on both feet. My hands are both numb but good.”

He made his 25th and final post after he returned home July 15. Appropriately, the journey ended at the nursing home where he immediately greeted his mother.

In addition to the website where Gladfelter documented his trip, Liberty University’s Liberty Sports Network did a piece on Gladfelter ([gameonlu.com/video-gallery/?videoID=355](http://gameonlu.com/video-gallery/?videoID=355)).

Rod informed us that his parents have attended our reunion in the past, but was unsure of the families’ lineage.

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## Brick Patio

Orders for bricks were placed prior to the reunion, and an order for an additional 13 new bricks was placed in October, but wasn’t received by the time of this newsletter.

A chart of the brick patio, which will be updated with the recent additions in the near future, and an explanation of how named bricks are laid out are on the Association website.

The deadline for ordering bricks for next year’s reunion is May 5, 2017. Cost remains \$75 (see enclosed order form). For more information, contact Philip Glatfelter, 430 Charles Circle, Hallam, PA 17406. Call (717) 968-4577 or e-mail to [glatfelterph@aol.com](mailto:glatfelterph@aol.com).

## Obituaries

As the family tree continues to expand, tracking family members and accumulating corresponding obituaries has become more and more difficult. Members of the historical committee are continuing the task as best they can.

However, the list of deaths in our annual reunion program will be limited to those that include the most common Glattfelder names in their obituaries, with others listed by request. To do so, mail obituaries to the association address (PO Box A, Jacobus, PA 17407-0310) or email Jean Robinson ([jrobinson2344@comcast.net](mailto:jrobinson2344@comcast.net)) or Philip Glatfelter ([glatfelterph@aol.com](mailto:glatfelterph@aol.com)).

## Scholarship

Ben Miller, president of the Glattfelder Education Fund, announced the 2016 recipients of the Nathan Glattfelder and Ives Bricker Scholarship grants at this year's reunion. Each receives a \$1,000 academic scholarship.

The 2016 recipients are **Sarah Dudney**, attending Lehigh University; **Jonathan Vandenberg**, attending Furman University; **Matthew Gaikema**, attending Texas A&M University; and **Truly Sanders**, attending Portland State University.

The Association congratulates all these students on their exceptional grades, which continue to fulfill the scholarship requirements.

The selection committee meets in early May to make the selections and then announces the winners at the July reunion. The next scholarship application period will begin in January 2017. However, anyone interested in starting early for next year can request an application by sending an email to [scholarship@glattfelder.org](mailto:scholarship@glattfelder.org).