

Our Steicamp storybook tells a tale of the clan of John and Mary Agnes Steichen and their decedents from Andrew John & Johannah Kathryn Steichen and Alfred Michael & Angeline Steichen, Steichen brothers who married Bottema sisters. Each of the next four chapters are independent yet connected stories about Yogi Bear styled Pic-a-Nics that are set at Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park and the vastness of the Rocky Mountain National Park where Steicamp 2016 is being held and the descendants are gathered.

Chapter 1:

Our first story begins with Moonshine Michael, the son of Mustang Mark and Honeybee Holly, who descend from Rattlesnake Ramona & Buffalo Bill John.

One day while Steicamping, Moonshine Michael decided to go on a Pic-a-Nic. After he had eaten some of the most delicious food, he decided to go on a hike and soon came upon a cave. He exclaimed, [*"I wonder what could be in here?"*] As he peered into the cave, out came a tremendous roar [*get the crowd to ROAR*], like a bear being disturbed too early from a long winter slumber. Who was it? Well it was none other than **Honeybear Hannah**, who came out growling in disgust. [*Get Hannah to growl*]

By this time it was now mid-afternoon when the clouds typically come bringing refreshing showers. After the rain ended, the clouds cleared there was a bird singing an especially beautiful song that no one recognized. Everyone stood listening for a bit in awe and noticed it came from none other than **Songbird Sally**, the sister of Honeybee Holly's mother, who quickly started humming her most favorite song. [*Get Sally to hum a song*]

With all this noise, beautiful as it was, and with the sun now shining brightly into yet another cave nearby there was yet another great roar (*get the crowd to ROAR*). It was another bear who was truly upset at being disturbed. Suddenly, out from the cave rushed none other than **Sunbear Stacy**, whose mother is the great Kodiak Kathy, the daughter of Rattlesnake Ramona and Buffalo Bill John. [*Get Stacy to growl*]

Sunbear Stacy was so hungry that she ripped open what was left of Moonshine Michael's Pic-a-Nic basket and started eating (...thankfully all that was left was meat, as Honeysuckle Hannah only ate the veggies, remember???). Sunbear Stacy made such a ruckus that soon Honeybear Hannah joined in on the mayhem, quickly followed by Songbird Sally, who was picking at the scraps left behind by the two famished bears.

The moral of the story: When you go to Steicamp, don't leave your Pic-a-Nic basket out where bears, or a bird can get it. That is, of course, unless you're intentionally illegally baiting your game.

Chapter 2:

Our story continues with Daybreak David, Evergreen Emily and their family, who descend from Milkweed Mary and Dairyland Dick.

Meanwhile, in another part of RMNP, far away from the crazy bear behavior, Daybreak David and Evergreen Emily decided to take their family on a relaxing Pic-a-Nic. Leaf Lauren and Jeep Jack were leading the way, headed towards a location where a beautiful Magnolia tree rose to the heavens. It had beautiful large flowers and dark green leaves that created an exquisite canopy for them to sit under. It was due to this great tree that their third child was called none other than **Magnolia Molly**, who has both strength and beauty inside and out.

By mid-afternoon, the clouds came with rain and lightning and the entire family sat sheltered under the tree enjoying themselves and watching nature's fury. As the storm subsided there remained a small remnant of light flittering around in the cloudy sky which was none other than **Lightning Bug Leah**, who was busy buzzing here and there. Everyone was so amazed at her agility and the other kids begged to keep her, so they did.

Milkweed Mary and Dairyland Dicks' third son, Jigsaw Jerry and his wife, Jasmine Jen, joined Daybreak David and Evergreen Emily's Pic-a-Nic with their eldest daughter, Apple Audrey, who was, of course, eating "an apple pie" and not sharing it with anyone else ... and why should she???

As they all sat around eating Pic-a-Nic food to their hearts content, they took in the splendor of all of God's creation around them making it feel almost magical. The beauty then took on a human form - since that moment she was called **Enchanted Ella**. They all delighted and danced around Enchanted Ella who was shining as bright as a star. Still there was an abundance of energy that could be felt by everyone but no one could identify where it came from. Soon it became apparent that it was none other than **Adrenaline Andrew**, who ate so many beans that the energy everyone felt was like the rumbling of an earthquake, if you know what I mean (wink and then plug your nose).

As all of the clouds dissipated, vanishing as quickly as they had appeared, nothing was left but the bright blue appearance of the sky contrasting against the snow-capped mountains, green trees and colorful meadows all around them. It was from this bright cloudless sky that Jigsaw Jerry and Jasmine Jen saw the most beautiful blue they had ever seen, from whence **Azure Adam** got his name.

With all the beauty around them the kids went to play in the meadow - jumping, running, bouncing, darting to and fro. Chief among them was one who seemed to have an extra bounce in his step. He appeared to be able to jump over everyone else and change direction as he did so, it was quite a sight to behold. Especially considering his young age and the extra load he carried in his britches from time to time. Regardless, all present agreed the name **Impala Isaac** best captured the vision seen that day.

All of the kids continued to play, expending the energy they had consumed and enjoying all of what nature offered around them.

Just as the kids were about to scatter to the four winds, Jigsaw Jerry and Jasmine Jen's salvation arrived. Dashing in for who know where was none other than **Daring Dennis** Known as "the entertainer" who is willing to show his belly at a moment's notice. And always by his side, ready to handle whatever situation Daring Dennis creates is none other than **Magpie Margaret**, who suddenly appears on the scene and gets the kids

moving in the same direction. And last, but not least, to arrive is none other than Carefree Camille, who's ready to relax and chill – getting the kids in the right mood for a long nights slumber.

The moral of the story: When you go on a Steicamp Pic-a-Nic, make sure there's an option for little ones to play so you can relax and enjoy it yourself ... and so they'll be tired enough to go to sleep early at night!

Chapter 3:

Our story continues with Andrew John and Johannah Kathryn Steichen's son, Dealer Don, who married Morning Glory Molly, who had a son, Diamond Don.

Still in yet another part of RMNP, Diamond Don's daughter, Laura, joined him on a Pic-a-Nic in the late afternoon. After spending a relaxing time enjoying food and conversation they decided to hike up a nearby mountain. Upon gaining several thousand feet, they were high above the surroundings and could see a great distance. As they continued upward, Laura discovered a beautiful blue stone, instantly she knew what it was. But how it got here was a complete mystery as she knew it was only found in the Dominican Republic on the island of Hispaniola. She also knew the stone was known for both its healing powers and the ability to aid in communications. As Laura told this to Diamond Don it occurred to him that she had just found her own camp name ... **Larimar Laura** ... matching the beauty and attributes of the Larimar stone she had just found.

It was at that exact moment that Diamond Don and Larimar Laura peered off in the distance to see Sidekick Steve, Dealer Don and Morning Glory Molly's second son, approaching with his family, Mineral Melissa, Samsonite Steven and a new addition to their fold as of July 2015. Diamond Don and Larimar Laura yelled at the top of their lungs but couldn't be heard because they were so far away.

Surprisingly enough, it was the new addition to Sidekick Steve and Mineral Melissa's family who first noticed the Pic-a-Nic basket that was left behind, and to all their amazement it still had food in it. Given they all had Steichen blood coursing through their veins, they weren't about to let this opportunity pass, so they dug in to enjoy the rich bounty. Soon the food was gone, as was their hunger, and they relaxed looking up at the early night sky. It was at this point that they all saw a meteor shower, a truly amazing sight! Sidekick Steve and Mineral Melissa knew instantly that these meteors probably originated from the asteroid belt that orbits around the sun in a region between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Given their amazing good fortune of not only finding the Pic-a-Nic basket full of food ... not any more ... but also seeing the meteor shower they realized the name for their new 2015 addition could be none other than **Asteroid Andrew**, who is truly amazing himself in many ways! May he always remain in orbit and never become a "NEO", which of course stands for Near Earth Object, and plummet to earth causing planet-wide devastation.

The moral of this story: When going on a Steicamp Pic-a-Nic, don't leave your basket of food behind when Steichen's are around unless you want to see something quickly disappear ...or... stay close enough to your food so your shouts of, [**"Stay away from our Pic-a-N basket you dirty rats!!!"**], can be heard.

Chapter 4:

Our story ends with Alfred Michael & Angeline Steichen's first son, Joker John, who married Jade Jeanette. Together they had a daughter, Jellystone Joyce, who is married to Dipper Dave. Jellystone Joyce and Dipper Dave had three girls - Astral Angela, Jewel Jennifer and Starlight Stacy.

Astral Angela had found her best friend and mate in Eagle Eye Eric ... or maybe he found her given his great eyesight??? Regardless, they are together now and jointly have a daughter. They too decided it was a great day for Pic-a-Nic, so off they went to enjoy Estes Park and the Rocky Mountain National Park. From all the supernatural beauty surrounding them, they felt as though magical powers were present, and of course they were. Quietly sitting next to them was a being of elf likeness in form and behavior named none other than **Elphin Eleanna** - a small and delicate Steicamper, who is known to be quite charming.

Their moments of tranquility were soon interrupted as Jewel Jennifer as well as her best friend and mate arrived. They had just come from an adventurous hike in the mountains, and were power walking to the next one. However, they paused to say [***"hello"***] and to enjoy a small amount of the Pic-a-Nic basket's treasures. They also shared tales of past adventures as well as plans for new adventures; however it soon became noticeable that Jewel Jennifer's mate was itching to go, or maybe he just had ants in his pants??? Regardless, it was evident that Jewel Jennifer's mate should forevermore be known as none other than **Explorer Evan**. No sooner was his name settled then off they went to conquer the next mountain and discover what lies beyond it.

They had only just left when the sky suddenly became much brighter. It wasn't from the sun, it came from light emanating from Starlight Stacy. She too was on a power walk with her best friend, Thomas. They didn't even stay long enough to eat, just a [***"Hi"***] and a [***"Goodbye"***], meaning see you back at camp. But as they strode out of sight Thomas yelled back, [***"No worries, I'll get my camp name the next time I come to Steicamp!"***].

The moral of this story: When going on a Pic-a-Nic, bring extra food as you never know what Steicamper might stop by, even for a moment, on their way to the next big adventure.

Our storybook for Steicamp 2016 now comes to a close, but Steicamp will continue as the clan of John and Mary Agnes Steichen, and other Steichen relatives, continues to grow. Each of these families, as well as many others, are independent yet connected by blood and the tradition of Steicamp that will continue to bring the generations of Steichen's together!

Welcome to all the new Steicampers!