

SOULE NEWSLETTER

Library of Congress #C371, S717 Vol. XII, No. 4 Oct. 1978 Page 105
Published by the SOULE KINDRED, P.O. Box 1146, Duxbury, Mass. 02332


MAYFLOWER FAMILIES

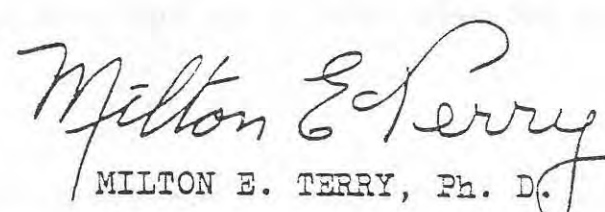
Through Five Generations

DESCENDANTS OF THE PILGRIMS
WHO LANDED AT
PLYMOUTH, MASS. DECEMBER 1620

VOLUME THREE

We are pleased and proud to announce that Miss Anne Borden Harding, a distinguished genealogist, author, and for many years Assistant Editor of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, has consented to edit our book on the Descendants of George Soule. Miss Harding has recently been elected by acclaim the Historian General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.


JOHN SOULE
Colonel USA Retired


MILTON E. TERRY, Ph. D.

The Soule Kindred Newsletter is Published four times a year (January, April, July, and October) by the Soule Kindred in America, Inc. Dues are \$7.00 per year and subscriptions will begin with the first issue of the current year. Late subscribers will be sent back issues for the current year. Checks should be made payable to:

Soule Kindred
P.O. Box 1146
Duxbury, Mass. 02332

Life Membership . . . \$100.00
Patron Membership . . . 50.00
Sustaining Membership . . . 10.00
Regular Membership . . . 7.00

SOULE KINDRED OFFICERS

President Dr. Milton E. Terry, 381 Creek Bed Rd., Mountainside,
NJ 07092, phone - 201-232-2614
First Vice President. . . Kenneth C. Tiffin, 50 Highland, Holliston, Mass. 01746
and Counsellor
Second Vice President . . Shirley Soule Smith, P. O. Box 546, Hollis, NH 03049
Treasurer Betty-Jean Haner, 1491 McClellan St., Schenectady, NY 12309
Historian Colonel John Soule, Apt. 221 - Vinson Hall, 6251 Old
Dominion Dr., McLean, VA 22101 - phone - 703-536-2746
Assistant Historian . . . Isabelle Vernon Freeman, 155 Depot St., Duxbury, Mass. 02332
Membership Secretary . . Mrs. Paul "Avis" Haner, 53 New Shaker Rd., Albany NY 12205
Secretary to the Board . Mrs. Thomas L. "Marian" O'Connell, 2027 Allen Place, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20009
Clerk Carl W. Soule, Jr., 643 Haverhill, Reading, Mass. 01867
Newsletter Editor . . . Dr. Glenn L. Whitecotten, 11513 Colt Terrace, Silver
Spring (or Wheaton), Md. 20902
Newsletter Publisher . . W. Fred Soules, P.O. Box 1788, Waco, TX 76703
Newsletter Indexer . . . Mrs. John P. "Betty" Whitecotten, 2306 Woodland Blvd.,
Fort Myers, Fla. 33907
Membership Solicitor . . Mrs. Robert W. Briggs, Sr., 20 Oleander St., West
Springfield, Mass 01809
Newsletter Custodians . . Colonel John Soule - Back Issues
George Standish Soule - More Recent Issues - 1031 Barracks
St., New Orleans, La. 70116

DIRECTORS - FOUNDERS . . Colonel John Soule; George Standish Soule

Class of 1979:

1. Dr. Glenn L. Whitecotten
2. Ben George Soule
3. W. Fred Soules

Class of 1980:

1. Howard M. Soule
2. Ronald Bruce Soule
3. Opal Soule Manly

Class of 1981:

1. Betty Harris
2. Mary Crismore
3. Hazel Sowle Smith

A note from the Newsletter Editor: It is a difficult task to replace such a competent editor as Mary Crismore. Having assumed the task of editing the Newsletter, I am relying heavily upon your advice, criticisms, and help. Please write -- convey your suggestions; send clippings; share your genealogical researches and questions. I plan to introduce a new frontispiece or cover for the Newsletter on the January issue. I hope to have each new issue to the publisher by the 10th of each issue month, eg. October 10th. Please, therefore, get the material that you wish published to me at least two weeks prior to the publishing date. -- ed.

1978

SOULE KINDRED REUNION

PLYMOUTH DUXBURY

Soule cousins from widely dispersed areas congregated for the Soule Kindred Reunion at Plymouth and Duxbury, Mass. on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of September, 1978.

The Kindred meet every third year in Plymouth. As a youngster, I had travelled in New England, but this was my first occasion to return as a member of the Kindred. It was exciting for me, as well as for my mother who accompanied me on this trip, especially since while on the trip many years ago we had no idea that Plymouth held perhaps more significance for us than the vast numbers of Americans who revere what happened in Plymouth in 1620. We were then totally unaware that our grandmother, Julia Soules Sankey of Vigo County, Indiana was descended from the intrepid George Soule.

It is always a joy to visit cousins with whom one has become acquainted at previous reunions, as well as to meet new "kindred souls". This was certainly the case at the first meeting held at the Howard Johnson Motel in Kingston on the evening of the 8th. There was an air of excitement when Dr. Milton Terry, the new President of the Kindred, brought for our perusal advance copies of the soon to be published Five Generations Project relating to the Soule Family. After a pleasant evening together, we parted.

In the morning, we reassembled for the tour of Duxbury led by George Standish Soule. The first stop on the tour was the Myles Standish Monument. It is placed in a lovely wooded setting atop a hill. The winds were quite high that day -- especially at the top of the monument. Shirley Soule Smith wrote, "As your boys can probably tell you, there are 125 steps to the top of the Standish Monument in Duxbury. As children we asked people if they knew that monument, and that it was miles (Myles) to the top! Captain Myles Standish's granite head was struck off by lightning once and that, of course, was head-line news at the time."

The next stop in our caravan tour of the area was the Myles Standish Cemetery in Duxbury. This is the resting place of, among others, George Soule, John Alden, and Myles Standish. Alas, I in my camper, was lost and thus missed the ceremony at the George Soule gravesite. Past Kindred President, Betty Harris, gave a very moving reading which I regret having missed. She sent a copy of her poem at my request:

To My Ancestor, George Soule, Pilgrim
by Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Brown Harris

Written at the dedication of a stone to
his memory at the Myles Standish Cemetery,
Duxbury, Mass., 1971

Fond affection spreads across this distal space
With gentle pride to you:
Blood claims blood,
Strength claims strength,
Spirit claims spirit - lovingly
In silent rendezvous.

Following the cemetery visit, the cousins faithfully followed George S. Soule to the "King Caesar" House. Ezra Weston or "King Caesar", a Soule descendant, was an immensely wealthy shipowner and builder in the 1840's and 1850's. Lloyd's of London listed Ezra Weston as the largest shipping magnate in America at that time. The house is the headquarters of the Duxbury Historical Society and is beautifully maintained as a museum. An addition to the back of the house has been converted into a nationally recognized nautical museum. One of the exhibits concerned Captain Elijah Soule of Duxbury. From the exhibit, Shirley Soule Smith thoughtfully copied the following, "Captain Elijah Soule of Duxbury typified the men who earned command and responsibility at an early age. At 26, in command of his ship, he died of yellow fever off the China coast and was buried at sea." Further, she wrote, "The James Soule Shipyard was near the Town Landing in Duxbury." There were a number of samplers displayed in the "King Caesar" House. From among them, Colonel John Soule copied the following:

Alitheer Soul
12 Oct 1804
In 8th year of age

Temprance Drew
Age 8 years
27 Oct 1816

The caravan proceeded to the John Alden House for the clambake and the Kindred's annual meeting. While the clambake was being prepared, a number of us toured the Alden home. The Alden Family has maintained the house as a museum. The house had a special significance to those of us who, in addition to our Soule heritage, have an Alden kinship. The clambake was an "eye-opener". Those who ordered chicken, received a whole barbequed chicken in addition to clams, and corn on the cob. The "lobster eaters" received two on their plate, and those who ordered steak, received a more than ample serving. My response after initially viewing this mountain of food was, "I wonder if this is just the first course?"

At the Alden House, many new faces appeared, among them a heartily soul, Henchman Sylvester Soule of Freeport Maine. Once again, Shirley Soule Smith faithfully recorded Henchman's remarks. "As you probably know, Soules moved to Maine from the Plymouth vicinity and were prolific. In that area, there used not to be enough coffins to bury the Soules; now there aren't enough Soules to bury."

The business meeting took place following the clambake. After the selection and introduction of new officers, Colonel John Soule and Dr. Milton Terry presented their joint activities regarding the Five Generations Project. It was accepted by the assembled kindred to enter into negotiations with the General Society of Mayflower

Descendants to underwrite, produce, and publish Volume III of the Five Generations Project. As you will note from our Newsletter cover and subsequent pages in this issue, subscriptions are now being taken for Volume III -- OUR Soule Family Volume!

Letters from W. Fred Soules of Waco, Texas and from Ben George Soule of Minneapolis, Minn. were read at the business meeting. Fred could not attend for business reasons; Ben George, unfortunately, has recently had rather severe health problems -- we wish him a full recovery -- and quickly. This was the first reunion in several years that both had missed.

At the conclusion of the business meeting we were entertained and educated by a slide presentation, "From Pilgrims to Patriots", by Cynthia Krusell, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, London. Her scholarly presentation centered primarily upon the Winslow Family.

The Kindred wish to thank the arrangements chairman, Kenneth C. Tiffin, for a well-planned reunion. I, for one, certainly hope that our next reunion in Plymouth will include another clambake!

Please select from among your reunion pictures and send me copies for future editions of the Newsletter. My apologies for not being able to identify by name all of those who appear in the pictures which accompany this article.

Glenn L. Whitecotten
Editor



The Myles Standish Monument
in Duxbury



These Soule Cousins made it to the
top of the monument:

George Standish Soule
Tim and Matthew Whitecotten
Betty Merritt
Opal Manly



Left: Past Newsletter Editor, Mary Crismore, Historian, Colonel John Soule, and on his left, Past President, Betty Harris at the George Soule Stone in the Standist Cemetery in Duxbury.

Below: A group of us at the ceremonies in the Myles Standish Cemetery.



The next stop on the tour was the King Caesar House in Duxbury.



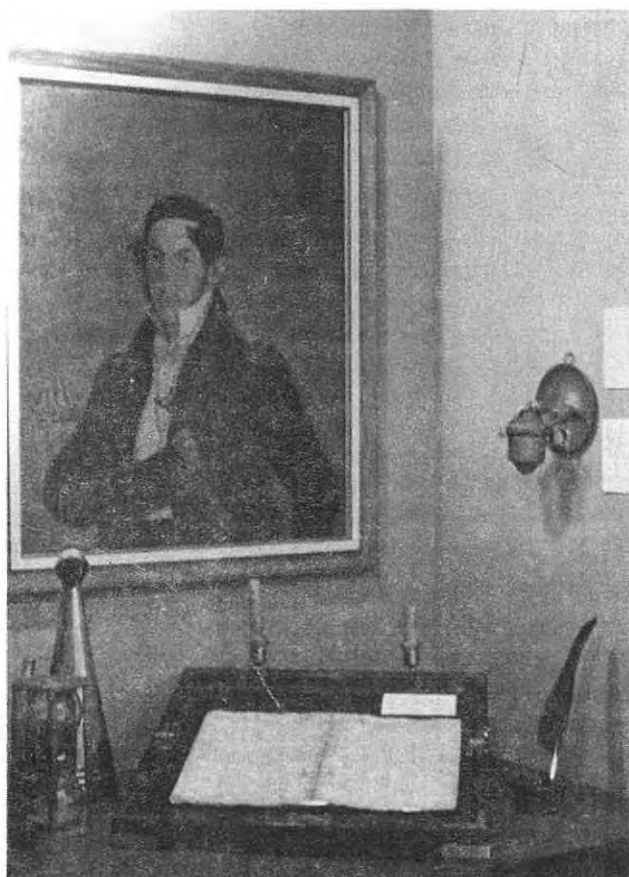
Below: Avis Haner -left.
Shirley Soule Smith
Colonel John Soule
Betty-Jean Haner



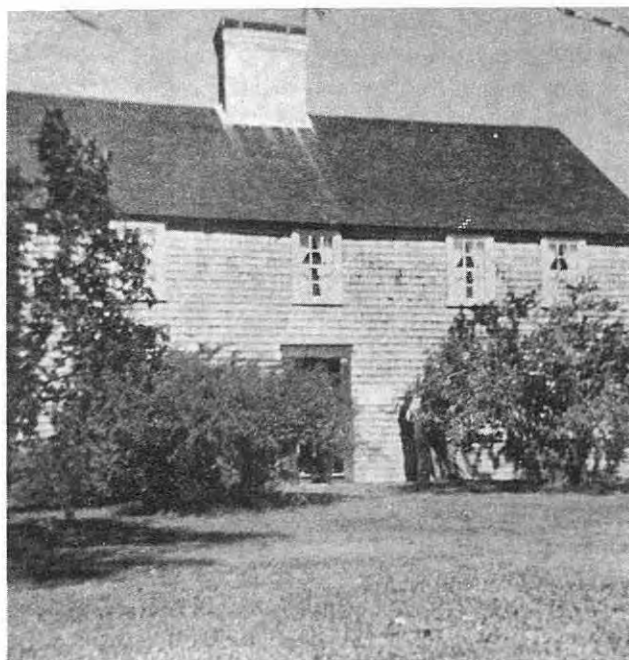
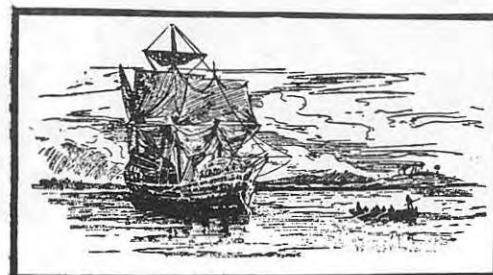
Founders of Soule
Kindred
Colonel John Soule
George Standish Soule



George giving directions for our next caravan tour stop
in Duxbury.



The Elijah Soule exhibit in the nautical museum at the King Caesar House in Duxbury. Artifacts displayed belonged to Captain Soule.



The Alden House in Duxbury. In a building adjacent to the house, we held our annual Kindred meeting. The clambake was situated in a side-yard.

PRE-PUBLICATION SALE

\$15.00 or four for \$50.00 - 1979 Delivery

Make checks payable to SOULE KINDRED. Mail to Betty-Jean Haner, Treasurer
1491 McClellan Street, Schenectady, New York 12309.

MAYFLOWER FAMILIES

Through Five Generations



DESCENDANTS OF THE PILGRIMS
WHO LANDED AT
PLYMOUTH, MASS. DECEMBER 1620

VOLUME THREE

edited by
Anne Borden Harding

GEORGE SOULE

Colonel John Soule & Dr. Milton E. Terry

Published by
Soule Kindred in America, Inc.
for

General Society of Mayflower Descendants

1978

Approximately 550 page,
fully indexed, cloth,
10 early signatures,
autographed by authors.

Marriage has introduced
the following surnames
through the 4th Genera-
tion:

Ayers	Magoun
Barber	Maxfield
Bentley	Mosher
Berry	Oliver
Brownell	Page
Campion	Payne
Chamberlain	Perry
Chase	Peterson
Clark	Phillips
Cobb	Pierce
Cole	Place
Cory	Potter
Cushman	Pratt
Darling	Runyon
Davis	Sampson
Delano	Shrieve
Devol	Simmons
Drake	Sisson
Drew	Snow
Drinkwater	Standish
Dunham	Taber
Eldred	Tanner
Faunce	Tefft
Fones	Tinkham
Freeman	Tripp
Gifford	Waite
Haskell	Walker
Hayward	West
Howard	Weston
Hunt	Whitmore
Irish	Wilcox
Kenyon	Winslow
Macomber	Wright

A key to abbreviat-
ed titles and complete
indices of persons and
places are important

features of the book. The latter presents a fascinating picture of the extensive migration of the descendants of Pilgrim George Soule through the 5th Generation. Every state in New England, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Nova Scotia, Old England and Carib-
bean countries saw their presence.

Annual Meeting of Soule Kindred in America, Inc.

Held at the Alden House, Duxbury, Mass.

on Saturday, September 9th, 1978

George Standish Soule, co-founder of the Kindred, opened the meeting. He called attention to the Soule Kindred flag, brought by Norman Soule and the additional banner for it provided again this year by Colonel Harris to mark another year of annual meetings of Soule Kindred members. He urged purchase of Soule Kindred postcards, past issues of the Newsletter and of the Index to the Ridlon genealogy of Soules.

Betty-Jean Haner, Treasurer, distributed copies of two financial reports and was happy to report that the time has come when we are able to award scholarships as previously voted. It was voted that a scholarship of \$100 and a second scholarship of \$50 be offered.

Colonel Soule said that he had been requested by the President, Mrs. Harris, to serve as a nominating committee of officers and directors to be elected at this meeting. He cited qualifications of some of his nominees: For President, Dr. Milton Terry. Both Dr. and Mrs. Terry are descendants of Pilgrim George Soule; Dr. Terry has recently completed his third term as Governor of the New Jersey Chapter of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and is co-compiler with Colonel Soule of Volume III, Soule Family, of the Five Generation Mayflower Society Project. First Vice President, Kenneth Tiffin, who arranged this meeting at the Alden House and as our Counsellor has always given assistance when necessary. Assistant Historian and Liaison, Isabelle Freeman, has been one of the most diligent researchers for Volume III of Mayflower Families. Mary Crismore will continue to give her wise counsel as a Director, following her eight years as Editor of the Newsletter. For 3 Directors, whose terms would run from this meeting to the annual meeting of 1981: Betty Harris (Mrs. Edwin S. Harris); Mary Crismore (Mrs. Frank A. Crismore); Hazel (Sowle) Smith (Mrs. Clinton S. Smith).

It was seconded and voted that the slate of officers and directors be placed in nomination by Colonel Soule be accepted. It was then moved, seconded and voted that the secretary cast one ballot for the slate and that the election be thereby declared unanimous.

As President, Dr. Terry proceeded to conduct the meeting. He requested that in correspondence with him, members print or sign their names legibly and that a telephone number be given if a telephone call in reply would be acceptable, with information as to what evening hours would be convenient. As a first suggestion as President, he would like to see one page of each Newsletter devoted to a daughter of Pilgrim George Soule, so to further knowledge of our collateral families. (Parenthetically, he remarked that few of the Pilgrim families are as "footloose" and widespread as the Soules; also that a high proportion of our forebears were artisans, rather than ministers, lawyers, etc.)

Dr. Terry then asked Colonel Soule to lay before the meeting an important proposition. Col. Soule: "Aided and abetted by the retiring Governor General of the Descendants, Soule Kindred of America, Inc. is proposed as the publisher and copy-right holder of Volume III of Mayflower Families for the General Society." In

support of this proposition he read a letter to him from Dr. Robert L. Thomas.

Mr. Tiffin, Counsellor, asked how this would be financed, noting that two volumes banked on pre-publication sales to finish publication and it succeeded, but there was a risk involved.

In effect this proposal would copyright the research that Dr. Terry and Colonel Soule have done.

Dr. Terry: "If our Association authorizes publication, the next step would be to negotiate with the General Society on details of financing, ordering, etc. We are not in the publishing business; we do not want to be responsible for maintaining an inventory", etc.

Member, Mr. Thomas of Illinois noted that the Illinois Chapter would almost certainly order numerous copies, and he, therefore, moved that Soule Kindred of America, Inc. copyright and publish the work of Dr. Terry and Colonel Soule as Volume III of Mayflower Families. The motion was seconded and it was so voted.

Colonel Soule outlined the financial picture as of this time. It is proposed to print 3,000 copies, of which 2,000 will be bound and 1,000 prepared for later binding. The volume would be priced at \$15 per single copy, 4 for \$50. Estimated cost is about \$5 per copy at this time. The hope is "to take the cost of publication off the top of sales; then divide the balance of the cost equally between Soule Kindred and the General Society for ten years; thereafter, Soule Kindred would fade out of the arrangement and liquidate the investment on an equitable basis. There will be a firm contract with the publisher, including delivery at a stated time. It is hoped that the General Society will handle packaging and some other details for, "We are a part of the national organization of Mayflower Descendants and wish to remain so." At the \$15 price, the General Society should realize quite a profit. Our treasurer agrees to receive orders and set up an account for sales of Volume III though she cannot undertake additional details.

Questions: 1. Mrs. Merritt: Would any copies be bound in paper?

Answer: There is not enough difference in price to make binding in paperback advantageous.

2. Miss Smith: Will Soule Kindred not be liable if sales should not cover publication cost? If so, and we do not have enough in our treasury, what happens?

Answer: In that contingency, Dr. Terry said he and Colonel Soule were prepared to subsidize the publication.

3. Mrs. Crismore: Should there not be a time limit on pre-publication orders at the stated price?

Dr. Terry warned that there would be some costs above the actual printing. Mr. Thomas reminded that there must be a central point for ordering and suggested that the General Society might be offered a flat rate for processing orders.

It was moved, seconded and voted that the President, Historian and Counsellor of Soule Kindred in America, Inc. are authorized to negotiate with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants towards Volume III, Soule Family, of Mayflower Families.

It was moved, seconded and voted that pre-publication price of Volume III until March 1, 1979 shall be \$15 per single copy; that 4 copies shall be offered for \$50. Full payment shall be made with the order and that no charge accounts will be acceptable.

Forthcoming meetings will be advised of progress.

The business of the meeting concluded, Sally Harrison took the floor to invite members to hold the next annual meeting of Soule Kindred in Pensacola, Florida, and it was voted that the annual meeting of 1979 shall be held in Pensacola, Florida.

Betty-Jean Haner read messages for Ben George Soule and W. Fred Soules.

With thanks to the Alden House for its hospitality and to Mr. and Mrs. Tiffin for arranging the excellent clambake, it was voted to adjourn the meeting.

Cynthia Krusell of Marshfield then gave an illustrated talk entitled "From Pilgrim to Patriots," with special reference to the loyalist and/or patriot Winslows. Pilgrim Edward Winslow was a neighbor in England, and sponsor of our Pilgrim George Soule.

Submitted by Shirley Soule Smith, recorder pro-tem.

.....
Below- The chow line for the clambake held at the Alden House during this year's Soule Family Reunion in Duxbury.



SOULE KINDRED TREASURER'S REPORT

For the period Jan. 1, 1977 - Dec. 31, 1977

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1977 - Checking Account	\$ 249.18
Savings Account	3,124.13

RECEIPTS

Interest on Davings Accounts	\$ 221.75	
Dues and Sustaining Members	2,241.00	
Newsletter Sales	276.10	
Life Memberships	600.00	
Patron Membership	50.00	
Life Membership Fund	525.00	
Reunion Refund	131.00	
Miscellaneous	.30	
		<u>\$4,045.15</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$7,418.46

EXPENDITURES

Newsletter (printing, postage, typing, etc.)	1,633.44
Membership (typing, postage, supplies)	80.69
Family Historian (postage, phone, photocopying, supplies, vital statistics, clerical, genealogical help, etc.)	584.78
Newsletter Editor	19.61
Reunion (printing, postage, etc.)	67.01
Miscellaneous (servicing box, filing fees, contest, etc.)	<u>48.00</u>

Total - All Expenditures	\$2,433.53
--------------------------	------------

CASH BALANCE - Dec. 31, 1977	<u>\$4,984.93</u>
------------------------------	-------------------

Savings Account #E617-063 - Philadelphia Savings Fund Society	\$ 78.07
Savings Account #03514942 - Schekectady Savings Bank	1,985.66
Savings Account #035344968-Schenectady Savings Bank - Life Membership Scholarship Fund	2,766.40
Checking Account #14881547 - Manufacturer's Hanover Trust Co.	<u>154.80</u>

ALL BILLS PAID	\$4,984.93
----------------	------------

Respectfully Submitted,

Miss Betty-Jean Haner, Treasurer

SOULE KINDRED TREASURER'S REPORT
For the period Jan. 1, 1978 - Sept. 1, 1978

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1978 - Checking Account	\$ 154.80
Savings Account	4,830.73

RECEIPTS

Interest on Savings Accounts	\$ 160.24
Dues & Sustaining Members	2,376.00
Newsletter Sales	107.00
Life Memberships	500.00
Patron Membership	150.00
Life Membership Fund	422.75
Reunion Refund	2.75
Miscellaneous	1.00
	<u>\$3,739.74</u>

TOTAL RECEIPTS\$8,704.67EXPENDITURES

Newsletter (printing, postage, typing, etc.)	1,166.34
Membership (typing, postage, supplies)	34.36
Family Historian (postage, phone, photocopying, supplies, vital statistice, clerical, penealogical help, etc)	786.14
Newsletter Editor	10.02
President	30.25
Reunion	25.00
Secretary	7.50
Treasurer	7.50
Miscellaneous (servicing box, filing fees, contest, etc.)	<u>73.00</u>

Total - All Expenditures	<u>\$2,140.11</u>
--------------------------	-------------------

CASH BALANCE - Sept. 1, 19786,564.56

Savings Account #E617-063 - Philadelphia Savings Fund Society	80.15
Savings Account #03514942 - Schenectady Savings Bank	2,729.05
Savings Account #035344968 - Schenectady Savings Bank - Life Membership Scholarship Fund	3,654.92
Checking Account #14831547 - Manufacturer's Hanover Trust Co.	<u>100.44</u>
All Bills Paid	6,544.56

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty-Jean Haner, Treasurer

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

From your past Editor: It has indeed been a pleasure to serve as your Editor for the past six years. I appreciate all the kind words given me and the encouragement to do this work for you. It was a means of knowing you better. I want to sincerely say Thanks to one and all who helped to make these years successful.

Signed: Mary Thomas Crismore

DID YOU MISS THE 1978 REUNION?

If you missed this meeting you missed some fun and we missed you. It was another great get-together. There was a nice crowd and we came from the north, south, east and west and in-between. George Standish Soule conducted a tour of the George Soule old stamping grounds. We visited the grave of our George Soule, placed a wreath on the site and our President, Betty Harris recited a poem in his honor.

The "Clam Bake" was served at noon in the Alden Hall. A good hearty Eastern style Clam Bake meal was served. This was enjoyed by all that chose that dinner menu.

We had the business meeting following the dinner. New officers were elected and duly installed. The report of the Mayflower Book III was given. The Soule family is nearly ready for press. A discussion was held about the publishing of the book and orders were taken for the pre-publication prices set. The book can be ordered through our Treasurer, Betty-Jean Haner. There were some checks given and the new book is on order by some of the Soule Kindred.

If you were one of the lucky Soule Kindred to stay over for the Mayflower Congress you had another few days in Plymouth to attend meetings. There were several Soule Kindred attending Church with the Mayflower group. We had the usual presentation of the Mayflower wreath for the Pilgrim Fathers. This was under the direction of Gov. Robert Thomas of Mayflower. Then the Pilgrim Progress with our own George S. Soule marching in the group.

Many stayed over for Mayflower Congress and we sometimes had a moment to greet and see our Soule Mayflower members. Those attending that were recognized were:

Col. John Soule, Betty Merritt, George Standish Soule, The Terry's, Opal Manly, Betty-Jean Haner, Irma Paschon, Mildred Warrington, Mrs. Bozardt, The Tiffin's, Mary Crismore, Roberta Johnson, The Goodwin's and possible others I did not see at the Congress.

Mary Crismore of Indianapolis, Ind. was elected Deputy Governor General for Indiana and Irma Paschon was elected Assisting Deputy Governor General for Iowa, for three years for Mayflower Society.

All in all there was a nice trip East for all these Soules. Some of us met from time to time to lunch together. These get-togethers will long be remembered. The last day in Plymouth seven of us Soule's met for lunch, The Terry's were in the group. It was here I was asked to head-up the Daughters of George Soule and get a story for the Newsletter for a later date.

See this page story of these sisters' histories to be worked on for the Newsletter. I hope we descendants of these four Soule daughters will come up with a good story.

THIS IS WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT. WORK TOGETHER. SHARE WITH OTHERS.

Signed: Mary Crismore, past Editor

THANK YOU

Two of our members have been diligent Soule Kindred workers. Each has spent many hours helping to make our organization a success.

Past President Betty Harris . . .

Betty has just completed two years as the President of Soule Kindred in America, Inc. In that capacity, she has done a superb job! As she performed her duties, we all admired her gentle thoughtfulness -- evident in so many ways. We look forward to having Betty share with us her wise counsel in our future activities.

Past Newsletter Editor Mary Crismore

For the past 6 years, Mary has served as the Newsletter editor. She has received many well deserved compliments for her accomplishments in producing and editing this publication. At the recent reunion, Colonel John Soule concisely, but aptly summarized her Kindred activities by saying, "Mary has done yeomans work for the Kindred as the editor". Even as she retires for the editorship, she continues to work for the Kindred by volunteering her time and expertise.

Both of these kindred are now members of our Board of Directors. In that capacity, we look forward to their continuing advice and counsel.

Harry S. Truman once said, "Behind each successful man stands . . . a surprised mother-in-law!". We might paraphrase that quotation a bit by saying, "Behind each of these women stands . . . a helpful, supporting, but unsurprised husband.". We owe a great deal of thanks also to Betty's husband, Colonel Edwin S. Harris, and Mary's husband, Frank A. Crismore -- thank you, gentlemen.



THE GEORGE SOULE's DAUGHTERSSUSANNA, MARY, ELIZABETH and PATIENCE SOULE

What do you know about them and their descendants?

Has any research work been done on them and their families?

WILL YOU HELP?

There is a desire to get into print some facts about their lives and more about their families.

Your past SOULE NEWSLETTER EDITOR, Mary Thomas Crismore, has been selected to head-up a group or club to learn more about these four sisters.

A "Story of the Lives of George Soule's Daughters" is needed for a later issue of the Newsletter. I will seek more information on them and their lives but I need help. Who will volunteer to take any one of these sisters and learn more about them? I will do some extra work on my own special ancestor, Elizabeth (Soule) Walker. We need other volunteers.

Some of you Eastern State residents could look up documents, Wills, Deeds, facts, probate records, etc., of the very early happenings of them and their husbands.

When you find something, write it up, type it off or Xerox copies of these facts and send to me. When I get enough material together I will compile into a good story for everyone to read.

How many descendants does each Soule daughter have? How many are Mayflower Society members? Will you furnish some or all data on your lineage? Can you furnish proof like a Mayflower membership form with Mayflower numbers? A Xerox copy of your own approved lineage is needed. Tell your story of how you tie into the George Soule daughters lineages.

WILL YOU (whoever you are) volunteer to send me some data on you own special SOULE daughter?

These FOUR SISTERS are: SUSANNA (SOULE) WAST/WEST
MARY (SOULE) PETERSON
ELIZABETH (SOULE) WALKER
PATIENCE (SOULE) HASKELL

Do you want to form a GROUP or CLUB?

What would you like for a Club or Group name?

Put together any data you can find. Send a copy to me and it will be used later. I will try and do a good story on this group and will appreciate any help offered.

Write to me: Mrs. Frank A. Crismore (Mary Thomas Crismore)
3139 West 51st Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

2306 Woodland Blvd.
Fort Myers, Fl. 33907
October 4, 1978

Dear Editor and Kindred,

I would like to express my gratitude to the people who have properly identified themselves in their articles to the Newsletter by showing how they fit into the Soule family. This gives valuable information which may help someone in the future. Also to the ladies who have stated their given name, initial, maiden name and married name, thus "Jane B. (Soule) Doe" and the men signing their full names.

If a line is still unestablished, please give the information back as far as you know, such as "my grandmother was Julia Esther Soules"

When reporting births, please state how they fit into the Soule family.

We also index the cities and states. Please give both as there are many states with cities of the same name.

This would help us "nail down" all the information possible, making our articles of real value.

With love and best wishes,

Elizabeth "Betty" Whitecotten

(Mrs. John P. Whitecotten)
Newsletter Indexer

My Soule lineage: 1. George 2. John 3. Moses (for the Kindred who have these first three ancestors, they are also descendants of John Alden) 4. Isaac 5. Moses 6. William Bildad 7. Charles William - William Jr. 8. Origen Brigham 9. Julia Esther (Soules) Sankey 10. Charles Origen Sankey 11. Elizabeth E. "Betty" (Sankey) Whitecotten.

This issue of the Newsletter does not include a section for clippings from newspapers or magazines which is a usual feature of the Newsletter. We were somewhat in a rush to get this issue to the publisher. The clipping section will be included in the January issue. Keep sending them in.

Editor.

NOTE: Last call for any information about the first six (6) generations that should be included in Volume 3. Send to Colonel John Soule-Isabelle Freeman or Dr. Milton Terry. Do not send to editor or publisher.

A PROPOSED FATHER OF GEORGE SOULE,THE MAYFLOWER PILGRIMby Roland P. SouleForeword

Neither the paternity nor the birthplace of George Soule, the Mayflower Pilgrim, is known at the present time. Past proposals have been found to be completely untenable. While the proposal which is here presented has not been made before, it has not been based on any new genealogical research in England. It has been based solely on an analysis of what records have been found in this country. It attempts to do no more than indicate a new direction of possible field research which may prove to be more productive than the disappointing investigations of the past. But, if such research should validate the candidate who is here presented as the possible father of George Soule, it would prove him to be an ancestor much more attractive than any previously proposed.

Past Investigations

Of the various investigations of the past those of Dr. Charles E. Banks have been accepted as the most authoritative on the ancestry of the Pilgrims in general. Banks had been a surgeon in the U.S. Marine Corps and first became interested in genealogy in an investigation of his descent on his mother's side from the Pilgrim Soule. After studying all available American records he made a "long sojourn" in England in 1922 and 1923 in an effort to discover the Soule parentage. He later extended his investigations to the other Pilgrims and in 1929 published a book, "English Ancestry and Homes of the Pilgrim Fathers."

Banks chapter in this book on George Soule was, surprisingly, one of the shortest in the book and was quite lacking in the many names, dates and related documentary evidence characteristic of the other chapters. Here he simply stated of the Pilgrim that "He has been tentatively identified as a son of John Soule of Eckington Co. Worcester, and probably kinsman to Robert Soule, a wealthy London salter, who died in 1590, a native of Eckington. Robert Soule had a son Miles, and a grandson of George, the emigrant, also had that name. All other George Soules found in England at that period have been satisfactorily eliminated. Further particulars of this identification will be found in the recently published Soule genealogy for which a special research covering a number of years was made to the compiler of this book." Because of the prestige of Banks as a genealogist this John of Eckington has often been quoted as the father of George Soule, and not always with the qualifying "tentatively" and "probably".

The "recently published Soule genealogy" to which Banks referred was, of course, the "Sole, Solly, Soule, Sowle and Soulis" history written by Gideon G. T. Ridlon and published in 1926. But if an examination had been made of the chapter in this book written by Banks (pp. 147-153), it would have been found, incredibly enough, that it was not John of Eckington whom Banks had there cited as the Pilgrim's father, but rather Robert of Eckington. This Robert, he reported, was a "husbandman" with three sons Thomas, Robert and George, who had been named in his will of 1612. Banks' conclusion (p. 151) was that George, the youngest son, "answers best of all the candidates (to be the Pilgrim) the demands of identification in point of time, locality and relationship to the Sole family which had contact with Governor Winslow in London and Worcestershire."

The "Sole family" to which Banks thus referred in his 1926 chapter was clearly that of the "wealthy salter" mentioned in his 1929 book, although in this later version the salter's name was spelled "Soule". Also in his 1929 version Banks based the indicated relationship of the Eckington family to the Sole family on the appearance of the name Miles in both families whereas in the 1926 chapter he based it on the names of Thomas, Robert and George in both families.

A further examination of Banks' chapter in Ridlon would have revealed, moreover, a rather casual but very surprising statement which appeared to cast grave doubt on Robert of Eckington as the father of the Pilgrim George. Thus on page 153, two pages after his nomination of Robert, he made the off-hand remark that the parish records of Eckington prior to 1612 (the date of Robert's will) had been lost but that "an examination of the years remaining show that a George Soule married in 1631 and that a Nathaniel Soule, presumably his son, was baptized four years later." But would not this George Soule have been the reported son of Robert since his indicated age would have been about the same and the possibility of two such George Soules in the small village of Eckington appear quite remote? And how could this second George Soule have been the Pilgrim if he had fathered a son in England fifteen years after the Mayflower sailed?

Perhaps Banks himself had later become aware of such a possible error and this was his reason for switching from Robert to John in his later book of 1929. It would then have explained why he had dropped Robert's three sons, Thomas, Robert and George, and replaced them by the more remote Miles in indicating a linkage with the salter's family. And, also, there actually was a "John Soole" of Eckington. He was mentioned by Ridlon (p. 132) among the miscellaneous notes he had received from Banks. He apparently was an impecunious and illiterate yeoman whose will (undated by Ridlon) disclosed some very small bequests to "John George, Thomas Sool the younger and Thomas Sool my sonne." He seemed in all respects so unlikely a father of the Pilgrim that it is hard to believe that he can have been so regarded by Banks. And if in fact Banks had decided in 1929 to abandon Robert in favor of some other candidate, would he not have made some qualification in the blanket referring of his readers to the Ridlon book?

This leaves as the only other explanation of the much-quoted "John of Eckington" that he was nothing more than a "slip of the pen" by Banks, who apparently wrote "John" when he really meant "Robert" and that "Robert" still remained his choice. And, if this should seem an unlikely possibility for a genealogist so well regarded as Banks, it may be noted that in this period of his writing he was suffering from a terminal cancer and was in severe pain. He died in 1931 at the age of 77.

Banks' investigations were by no means confined to Eckington and the Worcester area but covered much of the south of England, as reported in his Ridlon chapter. And in recent years some far more extensive searches have been made by the Mormons, who examined the parish records throughout much of Britain in search of records of their ancestors. But, despite all of these investigations, the parentage and birthplace of George Soule, the Pilgrim, have yet to be established.

George Soule, the Pilgrim

George Soule signed the Mayflower Compact in November 1620 (old style) and died in Duxbury in January 1680 (new style). As a signer of the Compact he must have been of the required "majority" age in the year of the signing. Such an age could have been as young as twenty since that was Gilbert Winslow's

knowledge when he signed the Compact. Hence George could have been born as late as 1600 but not much later. Also he was born probably not much earlier than 1595 since a life span of over eighty-five years was very rare in that period. Thus his likely birth-date may be placed sometime between 1595 and 1600. On this basis he would have been in the company of Gilbert Winslow and John Alden as the youngest of all the signers of the Compact. He was outlived among the signers only by John Alden.

George Soule married Mary Bucket (or Becket) soon after her arrival on the "Ann" in Plymouth in July 1623. He had received a building lot earlier in that year and soon erected for himself and his new wife the modest structure, a reproduction of which has been included in the "Plimoth Colony" examples of early Pilgrim architecture. He was a respected member of the community and in 1627 was one of the group of "Purchasers and Old Comers" that assumed the colony's burden of debt to the "London Merchant Adventurers." He and Mary had nine children.

George appeared to have had the benefit of some education. His 1679 will (Ridlon, p. 190) disclosed an item "Books" (valued at 100 shillings), a possession not common in that period.

George also appeared to have pronounced his name to rhyme with "Sole" rather than with "Soole", the name of the above-mentioned John of Eckington. Thus in his will he wrote "I committ my soule into the hands of Almighty God." And Governor Bradford in his 1651 list of Mayflower passengers wrote his name as "Sowle" and showed that it rhymed with "Sole" when he stated that "aboute a hundred sowls came over in this first ship."

What has been of far greater interest to Soule genealogists, however, was Bradford's citing of George Sowle and Elias Story as "servants" of Edward Winslow. Obviously here was a very significant clue to the background of George, the Pilgrim.

Edward Winslow

Edward Winslow's great grandfather, Thomas, started the family's sheep-raising business in a large estate in the village of Kempsey, a few miles south of the city of Worcester, which in turn is 15 miles south of Birmingham. Kempsey is just north of the village of Eckington, which figured so much in the searches of Banks.

Kenelm Winslow, the son of Thomas, raised his family in Worcester, where he was officially recorded as a "yeoman". Edward Winslow, the son of Kenelm, moved a few miles north to the town of Droitwich, where his eldest son, Edward the Pilgrim, was born in 1595 and a younger son Gilbert in 1600. Throughout this period the large ancestral home in Kempsey, known as "Carswell", was kept in the family.

The Winslows, who made no claim to the gentry, accumulated a considerable fortune in selling wool to the crofters in the nearby Cotswold area and sheepskins to the book-binders in London. Young Edward, despite the ample means of his family, spent some time in London as an apprentice printer. Although he had been baptized and raised in the established Church of England, he became interested in the Non-Conformist movement first in London and then as an active Pilgrim in their community in Leyden in Holland. Here he met and married Elizabeth Barker.

Edward Winslow was not only one of the wealthiest of the Pilgrims but also one of the most active in their public affairs. He relieved William Bradford as Governor of Plymouth Colony in 1633, 1636 and 1644 during Bradford's periods of indisposition. He made long sailings across the Atlantic to represent

Plymouth Colony before the Merchant Adventurers and the newly created Commission of Colonial Affairs. Cromwell appointed him Grand Commander of a British expedition against the Spanish in the West Indies, in the course of which he died in 1655 at the age of sixty.

The Signers of the Compact

The Mayflower began its journey in London and then stopped in Southampton to pick up its major delegation from Leyden. This comprised 17 of the 41 signers of the Compact and included John Carver, William Bradford, Edward Winslow, and William Brewster, who became the first signers of the Compact in that order. Presumably most of the other signers originated in London, although some are known to have boarded in Southampton.

About half of the passengers on the Mayflower were men and half were women and children. Of the 51 men only 34 were share-holding "Planters". The other 17 consisted, in Bradford's language, of 3 "hired men", 2 "employees" and 12 "servants". The "hired men" were John Alden (a cooper hired in Southampton) and two seamen, all of whom had been engaged by the expedition as a whole to remain in Plymouth after the Mayflower's return to England. The "employees" had been engaged by Stephen Hopkins and came with him from London. The 41 signers of the Compact consisted of all of the Planters, "hired men" and "employees" but only 2 of the 12 "servants".

The distinction apparently drawn by Bradford between the "employees" and the "servants" was that the "employees" were those who paid their own passage while working their way to America while the "servants" were those whose passage was paid by others. Although Bradford said nothing about "indenture", Banks asserted (Ridlon p. 151) "The emigrant ancestor went across in the Mayflower as "servant" to Edward Winslow and therefore his voyage to Plymouth was in a business, and not a religious, relation to the expedition. In other words, as an indentured servant, he was not technically and legally a free agent, but was obligated to go with his employer." This opinion seems still to be widely held today although evidence is not lacking to indicate a contrary point of view.

John Carver, the leader of the Leyden delegation and the already elected first governor of the new colony, was the only Pilgrim other than Edward Winslow to have two "servants". One was John Howland and he and George Soule were the only two "servants" to sign the Compact. Elias Story, the other "servant" of Edward Winslow, did not sign the Compact. The indicated different status of both Howland and Soule suggests strongly that, contrary to Banks, they were not indentured servants.

This suggestion is supported by an article which appeared in the March 1935 "Seventh Record Book of the Society of Mayflower Descendants". Here it was pointed out that the solemn pledge in the Compact to "submit and obey" could only have been made by men free to make such a commitment. "John Howland is termed a 'servant' of Governor Carter...The meaning of the word then differs from its meaning at the present time...A servant might be a companion as well as a servant...Squires and country gentry sent their sons to serve men of rank. John Howland was not an indentured or menial servant because he signed the Compact...Of the males on the Mayflower every one of legal age and a free agent signed it without exception. Those who did not sign were minors or indentured servants...George Soule was not an indentured servant because he signed the Compact."

This indicated non-indentured status of George Soule and John Howland is further supported by the identity of the Pilgrims with whom they were associated. Thus both of them served as governors of Plymouth Colony and

were among the most distinguished of all the Pilgrims. They also were perhaps the wealthiest and had the means to finance the passage of more than one so-called "servant" when the cost of such a passage was a ten-pound share of stock. This was a very substantial amount of money at that time, particularly when it would gain only the casual company of another companion and not his contractual service for the common indentured period of seven years.

It may also be noted that the marriage of George Soule and the construction of a house of his own within three or four years after his arrival in Plymouth are hardly consistent with a seven-year indenture contract. Also noteworthy has been the attempt, first by Ridlon and later by others, to place George Soule in a more favorable light than that of an indentured servant by suggesting that Edward Winslow may have engaged him as a tutor for his children. Such an attempt has not only been needless, as indicated above, but ill-informed as well since Winslow, who appears to have been little older than George, had no children until after his second marriage in Plymouth.

Indicated Direction of Possible New Search

The facts and conclusions stated above indicate that any new genealogical search for the father of George, the Pilgrim, should be directed toward finding a man who could have had a son named George (1) born between 1595 and 1600; (2) with an early life in Worcestershire near the homes of the Winslow family; (3) with a social background qualifying him to have been a companion of the Winslows; and (4) with both a father and grandfather who were active Non-Conformists in their religious convictions.

The reason for this last qualification is the complete failure of all previous searches, extensive as they have been, to find any record in the parish churches in England of a George Soule of the indicated age and location. While this failure may be regarded from one viewpoint as a disappointing absence of any clue to the Pilgrim's parentage, it may be regarded from an opposite viewpoint as a clue of extreme importance. Thus it may be that no records of either George or his father have been found in the parish churches simply because they were never made there in the first place.

It is recognized, of course, that a British law enacted in 1576 required that all births, marriages and deaths be registered in the nearest parish church and that the penalties for failure were so severe that even most non-church goers observed the law. Hence both the father and grandfather of the Pilgrim George, if they had faced this risk, must have been Non-Conformists not only of a very strong antipathy to the established church but also of considerable confidence in their position in the community.

The qualifications indicated above for the unknown father of the Pilgrim George point strongly in a single direction:- toward the family of Robert Sole, the "salter", whom Banks characterized as a "probable kinsman" of both his John of Eckington and Robert of Eckington.

The Family of Robert Sole

Robert Sole's father was John Sole, who served as a mayor of Worcester in the early sixteenth century. His home was in Eckington, near Worcester, and he was described in contemporary documents as a "gentleman", i.e. as a member of the gentry and not a yeoman. He had been granted an "honorary" coat of arms.

The interest of Robert Sole in salt operations can be explained by the location in Droitwich, north of Worcester, of some of England's best known salt wells, which have been worked continuously since the Norman conquest. He became very successful in the salt business and accumulated a considerable

fortune. In June 1591 his father's coat of arms was "confirmed to him by grant of a crest" by the College of Arms in London (Ridlon, pp. 26 and 108). A reproduction of this coat of arms appears between pages 30 and 31 of the Ridlon history.

Robert Sole died in London in 1593 and what is known now about him has not been found in any parish records but chiefly in his will (Ridlon pp. 114 and 148), which Banks described as "one of the longest documents of its kind I have ever seen." Robert left two daughters and five sons:- William, Miles, Walter, Thomas and George.

Banks detected in Robert a very strong antagonism to the established Church of England. He noted that his two oldest sons had been sent to Cambridge University, "which was the great Puritan university of that period" and the alma mater of Elder William Brewster. William, however, instead of responding to the Puritan influence of Cambridge became a rector in the Church of England. As a result his angry father provided no more for him than the purchase of the "advowson" of a rectory in Norfolk and deprived him of his primogenitural rights as his eldest son. Banks remarked, in something of an understatement, that "it is evident from the language of the will that the father and son were not on friendly terms as a result of this situation." Banks also reported certain Non-Conformist language in the will. Thus, in his bequest to the trade association of salters (known as the "Keepers and Wardens and Commonality of the Art or Mystery of Salters") of certain buildings he had acquired from the established church, he described them as "previously bequeathed or assigned to superstitious uses."

Under the terms of Robert's will the second son, Miles, became the residual legatee and inherited all of his father's property not specifically bequeathed elsewhere. Miles had left college before his graduation and had become associated with his father in business. Walter, the third son, was willed "certain woollen cloth or kersies of the value of 150 pounds." Banks speculated that it was his father's intention to "set him up in the woollen trade." Thomas, the fourth son, was either physically or mentally incapacitated and was left a trust fund for his support.

George, the fifth and youngest son, was given "a great house or inn scytuate in Evesham in Worcestershire" plus 10 pounds payable in five installments. While the will gave no further information about him, Banks concluded that before the death of his father in 1593 "He probably lived in Eckington, the ancestral home, as in 1590 George Soule of that parish was co-defendant in a Star Chamber suit: for refusal to pay tithes to the proprietors of the advowson of the rectory." (Ridlon, p. 150) The presumption thus is that upon his father's death the ancestral home reverted to Miles as residual legatee and that the bequest of the inn gave George not only another place to live but also the means for self-support as in the case of his brother Walter.

Here, then, in the person of George Sole of Evesham, the son of Robert Sole, the salter, is the candidate proposed herewith to have been the father of George Soule, the Pilgrim.

Summary of Qualifications of Candidate

(1) He would have the same name as the Pilgrim George, which Banks stated to have been very uncommon in England at that period (Ridlon, p. 147).

(2) He could be identical to the "George Soule" living in Eckington in 1590 since Eckington was the ancestral home of Robert Sole and another man

of similar name and age living at the same time in this same small village seems quite unlikely. Banks' writing of "Soule" rather than "Sole" was probably due to his demonstrated indifference to such spelling: witness his "Robert Sole, the salter" in his 1926 Ridlon chapter, followed by "Robert Soule" in his 1929 book.

(3) His indicated age would have permitted him to have been the father of a son born in the period between 1590 and 1600, as estimated above for the Pilgrim. Thus, the birthdate of his oldest brother, William, is known to have been 1543, since he alone of Robert's seven children had a recorded birthdate as a result of his having become a member of the established church. And Miles, the second son, appears to have been born about 1553, since he matriculated in Cambridge University ten years after William. Hence, George, who was born after Walter and Thomas and possibly one of the daughters, could have been born as late as 1575, for example, and still have been 20 years older than a Pilgrim George born in 1595.

(4) He could have brought about a close acquaintance between his son, the Pilgrim, and the Winslows. Thus, he could have fathered his son before 1593 in Eckington, which would have been very close to the Winslow family estate in Kempsey. Or, after his forced departure from Eckington in 1593, he could have fathered him in Evesham, which is not far away. It is only 15 miles northeast of Worcester at the intersection of the roads to Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon. And, after he left the ancestral home in Eckington it presumably would have been occupied by Miles, the residual legatee. Thus both Georges, father and son, would have had ample opportunity to meet both Edward and Gilbert Winslow, born in 1595 and 1600.

(5) Since both he and his son were of the gentry and Edward Winslow was a self-proclaimed yeoman, there can be no question concerning the social qualifications of George, the Pilgrim, to have been a paid "companion" of Edward Winslow on the Mayflower.

(6) His refusal to pay tithes on the Eckington property to the local parish church would demonstrate convincingly that his Non-Conformist convictions would have been strong enough so that, like his father, he would not have recorded the birth of a son in the established church.

(7) On the other hand, while he had a brother named Miles and the Pilgrim George had a grandson also named Miles, and while Banks cites this fact as a possible connection between the Sole family and the Pilgrim, it seems much more likely that the grandson was named after his grandfather's friend, the well-known Miles Standish, rather than after an obscure uncle of his grandfather.

Hypothetical Sequence of Events

A hypothetical sequence of events suggested by the above relationships would begin with George, the presumed son of George of Evesham, being approached by one of the Winslows to learn if he would like to join the Pilgrim expedition. It perhaps would have been Gilbert rather than Edward, who was living in Leyden in the period immediately preceding the departure of the Mayflower. And George would have been very disposed to join not only because of his family's strong Non-Conformist heritage but perhaps also because of a rather drab future facing him at the inn in Evesham. But neither George nor his father would have had the ten-pound cost of the trip and uncle Miles, the residuary heir of most of the Sole fortune, had proved himself a very inept successor to his father. Thus he had admitted in his 1613 will (Ridlon p. 116) that his debts were in excess of his assets. Perhaps it had then been at Gilbert's suggestion that his brother Edward

had advanced the funds to enable George to become a paid companion on the trip to America. Gilbert and George could then have gone together to Southampton to join Edward and his wife and their indentured servant, Elias Story, on the Mayflower.

Since George was not a paying passenger but only a member of the Winslow party, it may be assumed that it was Edward Winslow rather than George who recorded George's name on the roster of the Mayflower. Why he happened to write it "Soule" instead of "Sole" is open to a number of guesses in this hypothetical reconstruction of events. One is that George's father, a member of the gentry, did not want a public record of his son as a servant of a yeoman and asked for no mention of the Sole name. Another and more likely speculation is that Winslow, fresh from Leyden and confused by the numerous Soules in the village of Eckington, simply used that spelling out of either ignorance or carelessness. And, with equal indifference, Bradford recorded it as Sowle! Certainly in that age spelling counted much less than pronunciation, and the pronunciation was always "Sole."

Need of Hard Evidence

This hypothetical sequence of events is believed to be consistent with all known facts and inconsistent with none. While it would point strongly to George of Evesham as a possible father of the Pilgrim, it would of course fail to provide enough hard evidence to support an officially acceptable line of descent. To obtain such evidence it would appear fruitless, on the assumption of a Non-Conformist avoidance of the established church, to continue further searches of parish records. Instead, major reliance would have to be placed on civil instruments such as wills, transfers of property, articles of litigation etc. The discovery of a will by Robert's son, George, would certainly be very helpful and it might conceivably be found in either Evesham or Worcester. But George may well have moved away and died in a place as remote and difficult as London. It would seem, however, that the possible genealogical reward would justify some further research of this nature.

Such a search might well start with the presumably available record of the 1590 "Star Chamber suit" against the "George Soule" of Eckington reported by Banks (Ridlon p. 150). The details of this suit might reveal some information about his family. This "Soule" belonged to an earlier generation than the George Soule whose Eckington church records showed him to have married in 1631. The spelling of "Soule" rather than "Sole" was very likely due to Banks' often demonstrated indifference to precise spelling but there is an outside chance that this indicated son of the salter may have had some personal reason to alter the family name.

Banks and the Sole Family

It may be asked why Banks, who showed such a great interest in the family of Robert Sole and who was such an experienced genealogist, apparently did not give consideration to his son George as the possible father of the Pilgrim. Actually he gave some consideration but it was brief. He wrote (Ridlon p. 150) "I consider him a possible parent of George, the emigrant, for reasons which can be stated in these terms:- as the only son of the salter having the name of the emigrant and, with the exception of Walter, the only one who could have a son named George at the right period, he remains a factor until otherwise eliminated. As there is no evidence he married or had a son, his status is of doubtful importance."

It is clearly apparent, however, that Banks was in no frame of mind to pursue the "son named George" any further even if some apparently favorable

information should be uncovered. He had a deeply-rooted antipathy toward the British gentry as possible parents of the Pilgrims. Thus, just three pages before the paragraph quoted above he had written (p. 147):- "Fortunately there was no titled family of Sole existing then in England (sic) with a convenient younger son named George born about the appropriate time who could be dressed up in a Puritan hat, with bands, drab coat, breeches and heavy clogs, and commandeered (as many a younger son has been by family genealogists) to serve as the ancestor of an American family. No such lure disconcerted my investigation."

If any future investigation is to be "disconcerted", however, it may be not so much by an aversion to a "titled family" as by the simple lack of enough hard evidence to prove a connection with such a family. While the ancestors of many Mayflower descendants were members of the established church before they joined the Pilgrim movement, the Sole descendants have had no such benefit of church-recorded births, marriages and deaths. The avoidance of such records by this Non-Conformist Sole family has certainly left a heritage of frustration for their ancestor-seeking progeny. There exists the possible ancestry of a sixteenth-century mayor of Worcester and a hereditary coat-of-arms but it is still only a theory. Hence any present-day Soule who would now lay claim to such an ancestry must face the risk of a possible outcome well described in the literature of scientific research:- "The greatest tragedy in science is the death of a beautiful theory at the hands of an ugly fact!"

Notes

It may be speculated that the history of the Sole family of Worcestershire before the sixteenth century had its beginnings in France. The name of Soule' (pronounced "Soo-lay") is of long standing in that country and is believed to indicate an origin in the Basque province of Soule, one of the three Basque provinces on the French side of the Pyrenees. During and after the Norman conquest in the twelfth century there was a considerable migration of the French to England including many bearing the name of Soule. In the following four centuries, when illiteracy was widespread, the name was preserved by some families but anglicized by others in a variety of ways as illustrated by the five titles of Ridlon's genealogy. Thus the very common name of "Sole" may have resulted from the careless dropping of the final "e" of "Soule" to produce "Soul" and the resultant pronunciation and spelling of "Sole".

Many thanks are due to Dr. Gilbert H. Doane for information on the painful last years of Charles E. Banks and to Col. John Soule for information on the British law requiring parish church recording of births, marriages and deaths.

Roland P. Soule
1400 East Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14610

August 1978

I wish to thank Dr. Roland P. Soule, the author of the preceding article A Proposed Father of George Soule, The Mayflower Pilgrim, for sending his well-presented efforts to the Newsletter. I felt that our readers would enjoy knowing something about the author, thus the following biographical sketch-- ed.

Roland Soule, born in Rochester, N.Y. in 1896, has been active in an unusually wide variety of fields. His research in coal technology led to a PhD. from Columbia University in 1922 and eight years of employment in executive positions by companies attempting to develop synthetic substitutes from coal for oil and gas then believed to be threatened by early exhaustion.

When unexpected new discoveries of oil and gas put an end to such developments, Dr. Soule moved in 1930 to Wall Street where he became an investment consultant specializing in technical stocks and serving various nationally known banks and firms of investment counsel. He also had industrial clients, among which was American Machine & Foundry Co., now AMF Inc. with sales in excess of a billion dollars a year. In 1945, he became a Vice-President, Research and Engineering, for that company and continued as a director and member of the Executive Committee until 1965. During the period of his employment, AMF developed the automatic bowling pin machine and a tobacco process which subsequently revolutionized the making of cigars and cigarettes.

In 1949, Dr. Soule joined the Irving Trust Company as a Vice-President and division head to introduce industrial research methods into commercial banking and continued with that institution at 1 Wall Street until 1965. He then spent two years as an independent consultant specializing in the industrial aspects of the plastics industry.

Dr. Soule was a frequent contributor to technical and financial journals and was a director of seven companies in widely differing industries. When active he was listed in both "Who's Who in Engineering" and "Who's Who in America". He is a member of a number of honorary societies among which include, Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Beta Pi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, and Sigma Xi. In 1972, he became a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

He has now returned to the activity in which he was first engaged over fifty years ago. He is sending critical and analytical reports to the Department of Energy based on his early and extensive experience in coal gasification. He and his wife are now dividing their time between summers in Rochester and winters in their home in Florida.



Street sign for Soule Avenue
in Duxbury, Mass.