



Soule Kindred Newsletter

Library of Congress: C371, Vol. XXXXVI, No. 1

Winter 2012



Happy Anniversary!



Soule Kindred Celebrates 45 Years: 1967-2012

The following article, published in the January 1967 (Vol. 1, No. 1) issue of the Soule Newsletter, describes the formation of Soule Kindred. The editor was George Soule.

THE SOULE KINDRED IS FORMED

In 1620 the Mayflower landed. In 1894 the first Society of Mayflower Descendants was formed. The Alden Kindred of America was organized around 1902. Now in 1967, the Soules are getting around to formally organizing a Kindred. We might have been slow - but WE all have done a lot of other important things in the past 347 years, and being what we are, we shall get the job done...if everyone in the family helps. No offense is intended for those of you who do spell your name different, when we write "Soule Kindred" instead of "Soule-Sowle Kindred", etc. We simply are being expedient with time and space. Excuse us please!

WE NOTE that there have been in the past at least 4 great Soule Reunions. One being in 1902 at Yarmouth, Maine, another in 1916 at Yarmouth, a third on August 15, 1936, in East Bridgewater, Mass., and a fourth also at East Bridgewater in the building and on the grounds of the A.R. Parker Co., Saturday, 10 September 1949. At this last Reunion, 117 members attended. We hope, with proper permission, to present material from these reunions in this newsletter. If there was some good organizing, a grand Soule Reunion could bring 1,000 of us together with no trouble.

Some of you are familiar with the other family associations, like the Aldens (who were neighbors of the Soules), Bartletts, Howlands, etc. We hope our Kindred will fall along similar lines. What we do & where the Soule Kindred goes, of course, is finally up to you and your support. The foregoing articles show you what is being done now. Not only do we hope this newsletter will furnish you all with vital & interesting historical data on our family, but we also hope to tell you what some of your great & huge family have done and are doing now, whether it be a battlefield medal in Viet Nam or a book published in New York.

One objective of the Kindred we hope will be: A PUBLICATION OF THE SOULE HISTORY* - The last large scale publication, discussed some earlier on page 4, written by Rev. Gideon T. Ridlon, was published in 1926. Only 500 copies were made, and as incomplete as they are, the set of two volumes is worth 100 dollars now [the 2012 price on Amazon is \$450.00]. Your editor spent this sum and 8 years searching for his set. We feel it is time to publish a new set (in more volumes than the original 2) and update them as best possible, certainly correcting known mistakes. A final volume might be added to this set which would be a sort of WHO'S-WHO in the SOULE-SOWLE FAMILY, complete with pictures. Publishing such a set of books is a lot of work, and if it is to be successful, many Soules will have to express interest. Enough copies would have to be sold to make publication worthwhile. Anyone acquainted with the publication of books is invited to give us suggestions.

**NOTE: Volume III, Mayflower Families Through Five Generations: George Soule was published in 1980 after 13 years of "a lot of work" and many Soules expressing interest.*

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Editor's Comments

As Soule Kindred celebrates its 45th anniversary, this issue of the newsletter looks to the past as well as to the future. The cover article was published in the very first issue of the newsletter in 1967, the milestones on page 15 highlight a handful of special moments in Soule Kindred's history, and on page 13 we honor those who have been members of Soule Kindred for 20 years or more.

The future of Soule Kindred is addressed in a number of ways. First, "Preserving Soule Heritage for Future Generations" describes how you can help create a virtual Soule Kindred archive which will endure well into the future on our new website. Second, you can read the results of the scholarship survey in Vice President David Hargreave's article on the future of the Soule Kindred scholarship program (page 7). Third, the results of the reunion survey (see page 12) provided a clear direction for future reunions as we look ahead to Soule Kindred's 50th anniversary and the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* landing.

This issue also contains the second installment of Louise Throop's article on the origins of George Soule which looks at the evidence that may link Hannah Eaton to William Soule, grandson of George. And you can read about David Hargreave's interview with author Maris Soule and her recently published book, *As the Crow Flies*.

Happy New Year! May your future be pleasant and your past a bright dream.

Karen L. McNally

If you would like to submit an article for publication, have a comment or correction, or would like to work on the Newsletter, please contact us at editor@soulekindred.org or call us at 1-888-SKA-1620.

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Soule Kindred Newsletter is a quarterly publication and serves as the voice of Soule Kindred in America, Inc.

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Questions regarding the newsletter should be addressed to the editor.

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Maris Soule is the wife of Soule Kindred member William L. Soule and a writer of romance and mystery novels. Her latest book, *As the Crow Flies*, was published in 2011.



Cover of the first issue of the Soule Kindred Newsletter 1/1967.

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Soule Kindred Newsletter

Winter 2012 Edition
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Continuing the Search for the Origins of George Soule

by Louise Walsh Throop, M.B.A.

This is the second installment of Louise Throop's article titled Continuing the Search for the Origins of George Soule: And Some Incidental Findings in the Search for His Descendants. The first installment, which discussed Jan Solis and Maekin Labis as possible parents of George Soule, can be found in the Fall 2011 issue.

B. Eaton family connection

In 2011 the sixth edition of the Mayflower Families in Progress booklet on the first four generations from George Soule was published.[5] In the course of trying to finalize some of the families listed in this pink booklet, it became apparent in 2010 that some of the spouses had not been identified. In particular, parents were missing for Susannah, wife of George Soule [Family #23], and for Hannah, wife of William Soule [Family #24]. George and William were brothers, being sons of George and grandsons of George Soule, the Mayflower passenger. George and Susannah Soule [Family #23] were apparently married in 1694 as their only daughter Mary was b. Dartmouth 30 July 1695.

Something sudden must have happened to this George as he apparently d. before 25 March 1697 (when his brother William is called eldest son). Earlier Soule compilers were not aware that Susanna was a Soule widow and thus misplaced this Susannah Soule who m. Rochester 1704 Peter Oliver (or Alliver) and then m. Joseph Lisbee.[6] Daughter Mary married and named sons Peter and Joseph, apparently after her two step-fathers. No naming clues relevant to the parentage of Susannah were thus obvious in the naming of this Susannah's grandchildren. A search for clues in Plymouth County deeds yielded nothing pertinent to Susannah's parentage.

On the other hand, Hannah and William Soule [Family #24] had 11 children, so there are plenty of naming clues. Of the first seven children, the first three were named for their parents and Soule grandfather: William, Hannah, and George. The next four were named: Benjamin, Mary, Joseph, and Sarah.

The standard naming pattern for the third son, once the names for the father and paternal grandfather were used, was to name him after the maternal grandfather. Clearly, whoever this grandfather was, he had married before 1700. A search for appropriate Benjamins yielded Benjamin Eaton who m. Plymouth 1660 Sarah Hoskins.[7] The first names Benjamin and Sarah fit into what was expected from the Soule children's names. In the most recent version of the Mayflower Society's silver book for the Eaton family, published in 1996,[8] the family of Benjamin Eaton is notable for its incompleteness in the listing of children's birth years, and for adding in a 'Note' a reference to a 1993 article in Mayflower Descendant with valid documentation as proof for daughter Sarah![9] Certainly, the documented recent addition of a child to this family is an indication that other children have been overlooked and are yet to be documented.

Analysis of calculated and known marriage and death dates for the accepted and proposed Eaton children led to a series of projected birth years for all the children. Thus a family grouping emerged out of the misty 1996 version which easily allowed the possibility of daughters Susannah and Hannah. This Eaton family also seems to follow the general rule that the first and last child of a large family generally died young or never married. The family of Benjamin Eaton (b. 1627/8 d. 1711/12) and Sarah (Hoskins) Eaton, who were m. 1660, thus becomes:

1. child Eaton??, b. ca 1661 d.y.?
2. Benjamin Eaton, b. ca 1663 d. 1745 m. 1689
Mary Coombs
3. William Eaton, b. ca 1665 d. unm. ca 1690/1
4. Susannah Eaton??, b. ca 1667 d. Rochester
1733
 - m1. ca 1694 George Soule (#23)
 - m2. 1704 Peter Oliver
 - m3. 1719-29 Joseph Lisbee
5. Hannah Eaton??, b. ca 1669 d. 1729-34
m. ca 1691 William Soule (#24)
6. Sarah Eaton, b. ca 1671 d. 1712+
m. ca 1697 Eleazar Rickard
7. Ebenezer Eaton, b. ca 1674 d. ME 1735
m. 1701 Hannah Rickard
8. Rebecca Eaton, b. ca 1676 d. 1770
m. 1699 Josiah Rickard
9. Experience Eaton, b. ca 1678 unm. in 1731

continued on next page

Origins of George Soule

Benjamin, Susannah, and Hannah Eaton all had daughters named Mary, perhaps after Mary (Coombs) Eaton. Mary is, however, a common first name in this period. Further research should be done in Plymouth County records and also in the records of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting in order to confirm the marriages of two Soule brothers to two Eaton sisters. The Soule-Eaton connection may have started with the 1623 arrival of the Anne with passengers Christian Penn, future wife of Thomas Eaton and Francis Billington, and Marie Buckett, future wife of George Soule.[10] This Eaton family saw three children marry three children of Giles and Hannah (Dunham) Rickard.[11] Two other children of Giles and Hannah Rickard married two children of William and Rebecca (Brown) Snow.[12] So siblings marrying siblings was quite acceptable in this period.

The grandchildren of Benjamin and Sarah (Hoskins) Eaton thus abound with double first cousins. With the usual ban on consanguineous marriages, we can expect not to find Eaton-Soule marriages in subsequent generations. As expected, there are no further Soule-Eaton marriages in subsequent generations, aside from the marriage of Mary Eaton, daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Coombs), to Zachariah Soule [#70]. This Mary seems to have found a husband who was not a close relative!

Currently, and until further documentation is found, the Historian of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants will not approve a lineage through Hannah, wife of William Soule [#24], to Francis Eaton. The naming pattern has helped to identify the one marriage: Hannah Eaton to William Soule. The marriage of siblings to siblings is also a unique characteristic of these Soule-Eaton marriages. Now to find solid, acceptable proof!

As will be seen in the next section [which will be published in Spring 2012], documentation in the early 1700s is scarce! Nevertheless, naming patterns can be helpful.

SOURCES:

[5] MFIP SOULE (2011) Gen. 1-4 [available from Mayflower Family Publications, Plymouth MA; call 508-746-5058 to order].

[6] MF 3(1980):21.

[7] Torrey, Clarence Almon. "New England Marriages prior to 1700." (Baltimore, 1985) p. 240; a computer search of this book on americanancestors.org for all Benjamins yielded 758 results, which was narrowed to 12 results by searching for 'Plymouth', and then further sorted to 3 results by eliminating marriages after 1670, leaving: (1) Benjamin Bosworth m. 1666 Hannah Morton; (2) Benajah/Benjamin Dunham m. 1660 Elizabeth Tilson; and (3) Benjamin Eaton m. 1660 Sarah Hoskins.

[8] MF 9(1996):7-8.

[9] Merrick, Barbara Lambert. "Four New-Found Generations of Benjamin² Eaton Descendants." MD 43(1): 3-6.

[10] Bangs (2009) p. 726. Single young women on this voyage were: Patience and Fear Brewster, Ellen Newton, Brigett Fuller, and Alice Bradford, as well as Marie Buckett and Christian Penn. Another possible Huguenot coming on the Anne was Goodwife Flauell, apparently following her husband Thomas Flauell who came earlier on the Fortune in 1621.

[11] MF 9(1996):14-16.

[12] MF 7(2002):19, 21.

Remember: As a member of Soule Kindred, you can view the complete article at <http://www.soulekindred.org/index.php/articles>.

Mayflower Trivia Questions

1. How many passengers arrived on the *Mayflower* in 1620?
2. How many passengers arrived at the Plymouth Colony through 1623?
3. What were the names of the ships that arrived at the Plymouth Colony through 1623?

Answers will appear in the next issue of the Soule Kindred Newsletter.

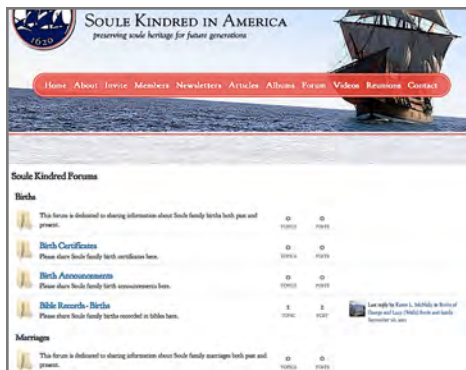
Preserving Soule Heritage for Future Generations

by Karen L. McNally

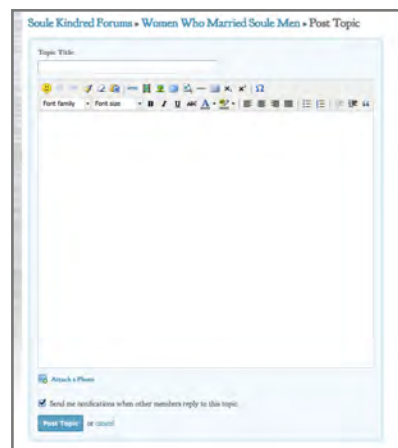
Preserving Soule Heritage for Future Generations is the Soule Kindred tagline, and in many ways, it is a perfect description of what our organization is all about. Co-founder, Col. John E. Soule, started the preservation with his own extensive collection of books, documents, and research related to the Soule family. Thirteen years after the founding of Soule Kindred, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, as part of its Five Generations Project, published *Volume III, Mayflower Families Through Five Generations: George Soule* written by Col. John and Dr. Milton E. Terry. After Col. John died in 1980, Historians Dr. Terry, Geraldine Schlosser, and Charles Sowles continued to collect Soule family information and publish it, both in the newsletter and through the Soule indexes. In 2010, the Soule Kindred archives were moved to the Drew Archival Library in Duxbury, MA, where they are being preserved, catalogued, and made available to those who visit the library. Now, all of us can continue this long tradition using 21st century technology.

The interactive capability of the new website means we all can contribute to the creation of a virtual archive. In ancient Rome, the Forum was the center of public life -- a place of assembly for the people to come together to discuss topics of public interest. So too, the Forum is the heart of the Soule Kindred website -- a place of assembly for information related to the heritage shared by Soule cousins. The Forum is actually the Soule Kindred **Forums**. Forum categories currently include Births, Marriages, Deaths, Soule Family Tree Project, Families Who Married Soules, Hit a Brick Wall?, and Events.

The Soule Kindred Forums are available to members only so you will need to sign in to access them. Once signed in, click on Forum in the red menu bar. This will open the Forums page (see picture A below). To share information in a forum, just click the appropriate Forum topic (e.g., Bible Records -Births). You will then click Post New Topic which will take you to the topic-creation page (see picture B below). There you will need to give your topic a title. Once you have done that, you can share information in the following ways: 1) create your own document from scratch, 2) copy and paste the contents of a word document, or 3) attach a photo or scanned document (JPG, TIFF, PNG, etc.). If you attach a photo or scanned document, you will need to provide a written description. Finish your work by clicking Post Topic. Congratulations! You have now contributed to the creation of the virtual archive and the preservation of Soule heritage (picture C).



A



B



C

Soule Kindred Awarded Grant

The Luke and Merle Soules Family Foundation has awarded a grant in the amount of \$6,400.00 to Soule Kindred to continue expansion of its new website through the use of social media (e.g., Facebook, blogs, Twitter, chat, etc.). The grant will support the development of a well-planned and executed social media marketing effort using the website as the foundation. Social media can help Soule Kindred reach, literally, millions of people. It can provide the means for Soule descendants from all over the world, even those who may not yet know they descend from George Soule, to come together as a family and share both their individual heritages and their commonality. Additionally, greater use of social media will attract young people who may discover their Soule kinship, learn about their lineage, and come to more fully appreciate their family's place in the founding of America.

This is a very exciting opportunity for Soule Kindred as it works to adapt to and take advantage of 21st century technologies in order to build the future of the organization, broaden and deepen its knowledge-base, and become a recognized authority on topics related to its mission. The Board, on behalf of all members, thanks the **Luke and Merle Soules Family Foundation** for its generosity and continued support.

2011 Soule Kindred Scholarship Recipients

Katherine M. Lanfranki, the daughter of Tom and Karen Keldgord Lanfranki of Walnut Creek, Ca. is the recipient of the *Bertha Soule Erickson Memorial Scholarship*. She is attending California Polytechnic State University of San Luis Obispo, CA. Katie is majoring in mathematics and communication in a dual major with the hopes of continuing on to Medical School



With an outstanding high school career and school and community service activities behind her, she is facing a bright career future. Her former principal says of her, “Katie ranks as one of the top students I have ever had the pleasure to be associated with. She is motivated, caring, hard-working, intelligent and mature beyond her years.”

Katie says of herself; “I recognize that a long road of academic studies, clinical training and refining communication lies ahead of me; however I do not think there is a more noble cause than helping people and I am committed to pursuing a medical degree.”

Micah, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tobin Proctor of Gladstone, Missouri is the 2011 recipient of the *George Soule Memorial Scholarship*.

A top scholar, Micah is an International Baccalaureate graduate and a National Merit Finalist. Her school and community activities are wide and varied from music, theater, mentoring, working with special needs children, church, Girl Scouts and Children of the American Revolution, She received awards in nearly every activity.

Micah’s dreams are to become an Editor and Publisher following her studies in English with concentration in Literary Critique at Truman State University.



Rebecca Margaret Soule is attending Concordia College in Montreal, Canada. She is preparing to become a teacher of English as a second language to children whose native language is other than English. She has specialized in French at Massey Vanier High School (a French speaking High School). Becky continued her foreign language education at John Abbott College in Montreal studying Spanish, German and French. Upon graduation she began her University training at Concordia.



Among her interests are alpine skiing, swimming, theater and travel. She has worked as an aupair for 2 summers and as a camp counselor this past summer, teaching English to French speaking children.

Becky is the daughter of Randy and Monica Yapp Soule and granddaughter of Stanley and Carol Soule. Rebecca attended Soule Kindred reunions in Burlington, VT, and Ottawa and Montreal, Canada, which her grandmother and mother planned and hosted. She also attended the Los Angeles reunion. Rebecca is the recipient of the *Bertha Soule Erickson/Mary Soule Kelly Memorial Scholarship*.

**Submitted by B.J. Haner
Chair, Scholarship Committee**

The Future of the Soule Kindred in America Scholarship Program

by David Hargreave

In September the SKA Board sent out to the membership a survey regarding the organization's ongoing scholarship program. Many of you responded to that survey and the Board, during its October meeting, reviewed those responses and formulated a plan of action based on the input received. What follows is an attempt to set forth the issues confronting the Board, your collective response to the survey, and the Board's deliberations on the subject.

THE ISSUES

There are in fact three intertwined issues involving the scholarship program as presently constituted that will have to be addressed in charting a course for the future. The first of these, as discussed in the background information included with the survey, is the fact that, due to the protracted depressed state of the economy, together with the manner in which past SKA Boards chose to fund scholarships, the program has become a substantial and unsustainable drain on the SKA budget. Please refer to the background document mentioned above for a detailed discussion of this issue. Two other issues not discussed previously are presented in the following paragraphs.

Though current funding mechanisms are unsustainable, it would be easier to justify the continuation of some sort of scholarship program if such a program could be shown to have a tangible benefit to the organization to offset its cost. It has already been noted in the aforementioned background information that the granting of scholarships is neither expressly set forth nor implied in the purpose of our organization which, as stated in our bylaws, is "to study and promote knowledge and understanding of Colonial American History; the Pilgrims; their settlement in Plymouth, Massachusetts; their descendants; and in particular Mayflower passenger George Soule, his life and contributions to the colony."

That purpose is, however, an educational one, so it is not out of the question that a scholarship program might be seen as an integral part of who we are. But the program as presently articulated can't be said to do that.

Applicants must be descended from George Soule (which is a fancy way of saying that they are almost certainly the children and/or grandchildren of SKA members), demonstrate scholastic aptitude in high school, and be accepted in a program of study at an institution of higher learning. They do not have to demonstrate that they themselves know anything about their Pilgrim heritage, they do not have to produce anything that might be construed as educating others about that heritage (say an article for the newsletter), nor do they have to indicate they intend to take even a single course in

Colonial American History at the institution they will be attending.

One desired effect of the scholarship program was that it would encourage new, younger people to become SKA members. This would help to grow the organization which in turn would provide more resources to carry out our educational mission.

But it has failed to produce the desired results. Of the 75 or so scholarships that have been given out over the past 30 years, only a handful of recipients (fewer than 10%) have become dues-paying members of Soule Kindred. It is quite possible that some of the parents of those recipients have been moved to "pay it forward" by making subsequent donations to the scholarship fund, but it is not hard to argue that the money used for scholarships could have been more wisely spent to directly fund research and/or educational programs consistent with our mission.

In the end, about all that can be said about the current scholarship program is that it makes us feel good to help some of our younger cousins and, at the same time, honor the founders of SKA. This is not meant to disparage the virtue of being philanthropic, but it does beg the question of the extent to which and how we choose to exercise our philanthropy.

This ties in with the third issue, the value of the scholarship itself. Soule Kindred has been offering scholarships for almost three decades now, first in the amount of \$500 and, since the early 1990s, in the amount of \$1,000.

According to a recent article in *Time* magazine, the cost of college has risen 538% during those three decades. At the outset of the 1990s, annual tuition and fees (not including room, board, books, etc) at the average four-year public institution was about \$3,000 and at a four-year private institution it was about \$16,000. Two decades later those figures are about \$8,000 for a public institution and \$27,000 for a private institution. Yet the SKA scholarship has remained \$1,000 and we struggle to find the where-with-all to support even that amount.

To put this in context, the emeriti (retired faculty and staff) of the public university where I taught for over 30 years give out scholarships in the amount of \$450 to cover just the cost of books for a single semester. With higher education costs increasing at about 8% per year, how long will it take before a \$1,000 SKA scholarship becomes totally irrelevant?

If the organization doubled in size, we could probably afford to be more generous in our

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Scholarship Program

granting of scholarships. To grow, however, we will have to devote more of our current organizational resources to programs and initiatives that have a chance of substantially increasing our numbers.

SURVEY RESPONSES

All 334 Soule Kindred members were invited to fill out the scholarship survey. Those who had known e-mail addresses were invited to respond on-line. All others were mailed copies of the survey and background information with an inclosed self-addressed return envelope. A total of 52 members filled out the on-line survey and 30 of the mailed surveys were returned to us. For one reason or another, four of those mailed surveys were not filled out, leaving an effective sample size of 78 which is about 23% of the total SKA membership. Though the Board would have liked to have heard from a larger fraction of the membership on this important issue, the Board thanks the 78 members who took the time to give us their input.

Survey participants were provided with three courses of action to choose from:

(1) to continue to provide a single annual scholarship using the annual interest derived from money in the scholarship fund (currently about \$300), to be augmented either by (a) raising membership dues by about \$3 to obtain enough for a \$1,000 award, or by (b) relying upon voluntary donations to increase the award to something in the vicinity of \$1,000;

(2) to continue to provide a single \$1,000 scholarship annually using both the interest from and principal in the scholarship fund until said money is exhausted, then cease providing scholarships; or

(3) to cease giving out scholarships immediately and redirect the remaining money in the scholarship fund to other SKA endeavors. Below are the results of survey.

About 46% of the total sample (representing a little over 10% of the total membership) chose action #1. Of those respondents, 72% supported raising dues to provide sufficient money to fund a \$1,000 annual scholarship. The other 28% were only willing to rely on voluntary donations to provide for an annual scholarship exceeding \$300. The second course of action was chosen by 18% of the total sample (and 4% of the membership). Finally, almost 35% of the sample (and 8% of the membership) voted to terminate the scholarship program immediately (action #3).

Twenty five of the 78 respondents were life members and almost half of those (12), voted to terminate the scholarship program. Sixteen of the respondents had either received a scholarship themselves or had a close family member who had

done so. Not surprisingly, they were more supportive of the scholarship program than the membership as a whole. Respondents were pretty evenly spread out with respect to the number of years they had been members of Soule Kindred; 20 have been members for fewer than six years, 19 between six and ten years; 20 between 11 and 20 years, 12 between 21 and 30 years; and six over 30 years. Though these sample sizes are statistically small and there were multiple variables at play in the survey responses, there does appear to be a correlation between length of membership and support of the scholarship program, with newer members being less committed than older members. Again, this is not terribly surprising since the key decisions involving the scholarship program were made many years ago and the membership has not been asked to consider or voice its support for the scholarship program in recent years.

The question is, what can we make of the survey results? It seems clear that, among those who took the time to respond, there is a significant difference of opinion on the subject of the continuation of the scholarship program. That is something that the Board has sensed over the past year or so and it suggests that any course of action taken by the Board is likely to upset a number of SKA members. As is the case with any survey, those who feel most strongly about an issue are the ones most likely to respond. That would seem to be the case here as well. The two "polar" courses of action, numbers one and three, attracted the most support. The second course of action, which would seem to support continuation of the program (painlessly) in the short term but termination in the long term, was judged least attractive. One thing does appear to be evident from the results, however. Even among those who do support the continuation of the scholarship program, there is no great desire to raise membership dues in order to put that program on a solid footing. Of the 26 respondents who voted to do so, four were life members who would not be personally affected by a dues increase. Obviously those who opted for the second or third course of action have no desire to increase dues to support a scholarship program. If we presume that the 77% of the membership who chose not to respond at all to the survey have no strong feelings on the subject of scholarships, it is unlikely that they would be supportive of a dues increase for that purpose either.

BOARD DELIBERATIONS

At its October 22 meeting, the SKA Board once again addressed the issue of the scholarship program in light of the survey results presented above. It was obvious that the survey results, even though they confirmed some things that Board

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members had presumed based upon their conversations with SKA members, provided no clear mandate from the membership. Coming up with a course of action which would address the problems surrounding the current scholarship program in a manner that most SKA members would find satisfactory would not be easy.

After much deliberation, the Board chose to do two things. First, *for this coming year only*, the Board agreed to extend the current scholarship program using both the interest from and principal in the current scholarship fund to support a single \$1,000 scholarship. Second, it commissioned the SKA vice president and present writer to form a committee to attempt to develop a scholarship proposal that (a) is consistent with the purposes of Soule Kindred in America, and (b) can be funded by a mechanism that is realistic, stable and transparent to the SKA membership.

The committee is to report back to the Board by the middle of 2012 and, if it is successful in bringing forth a proposal that the Board deems worthy of consideration, that proposal will be put before the membership for its consideration. You will be asked once again to voice your opinion, this time with an up or down vote on a specific scholarship proposal. In the event that the committee comes to the conclusion that an acceptable scholarship program cannot be established given our resources,

that too will be conveyed to the Board and ultimately to the membership.

The committee has yet to be formed. It is projected that it will begin to tackle its task in January of 2012, probably via internet conversations. The many constructive comments made by those of you who filled out the scholarship survey will be considered. If you did not comment at that time but would like to offer suggestions for the committee's consideration, please feel free to contact me at the e-mail address below.

In closing, it should be noted that there has been in the past, and undoubtedly will continue to be in the future, money donated to SKA specifically to fund a memorial scholarship in someone's name. These are usually occasional scholarships, although there is nothing to prevent an ongoing scholarship of this nature if it is fully funded by the donors. Though folks who make such donations in the future may wish to make use of the same granting criteria as those proposed by the committee mentioned above, they will not be bound to do so. The committee's mandate is to address the ongoing annual scholarship program instituted by Board action back in the 1980s. If you would be willing to serve on the committee, please contact me.

David Hargreave is the current Vice President of Soule Kindred. He can be reached at hargreave@wmich.edu.

REMINDER!

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to renew your membership in Soule Kindred.

Members receive the quarterly Soule Kindred Newsletter, assistance with their Soule lineage, guidance on applying to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and other hereditary associations, access to the members-only portion of the Soule Kindred website, invitations to the Soule Kindred reunions, and a membership directory as well as the opportunity to connect with cousins, both distant and close. You can renew your membership or purchase a gift membership online at www.soulekindred.org (where you can pay online or download membership renewal and application forms) or contact the Membership Chair, Helen Soule at 1-888-SKA-1620. You will also find a membership form on page 14 of this newsletter.

DON'T MISS OUT! RENEW TODAY!

Who Do You Think You Are?

Season Three of the very popular TV show, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, which follows celebrities as they discover their ancestors, is back. Last year, one of the celebrities the show followed was Ashley Judd who discovered not only the courage of a Civil War ancestor, but also that she descends from William Brewster. All Soule Kindred members whose lineage traces back to George Soule can appreciate the thrill experienced by Ms. Judd upon learning of her Mayflower ancestry. This year's celebrities include Martin Sheen, Marisa Tomei, Blair Underwood, Reba McEntire, Rob Lowe, Helen Hunt, Rita Wilson, Edie Falco, Rashida Jones, Jerome Bettis, Jason Sudeikis and Paula Deen. What will these celebrities discover about their heritage? The first show airs on February 3 at 8:00 p.m. EST on NBC.

Those who enjoy the show might also want to read *Who Do You Think You Are?: The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History*, the official companion guide to the show which features step-by-step instructions for beginning (or continuing) your family genealogy journey. The author, Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak (yes, that is her name), is one of America's top genealogists.

There's an Author in the House

by David Hargreave

Maris Soule didn't set out to be a writer of romance novels. She didn't even know that there was such a thing. However, as a child the stories she imagined always involved romantic relationships and had happy endings. So, when she did decide to become a writer, it was only natural that she would construct story lines that had those characteristics. Only when she sought a publisher for her first novel in the early 1980s did she learn that there was a genre of that name. But, no matter how fortuitous her introduction to the genre was, Maris soon became a well-known author in the field of romance fiction. Between 1983 and 1999 she had 25 romance novels published by some of the giants of the business, Harlequin, Silhouette and Bantam, garnering a number of awards along the way.

Maris was born and grew up in California, living on two acres of land in Walnut Creek. She graduated from U.C. Davis and U.C. Berkeley and taught art and math for four years in California. While attending U.C. Santa Barbara, she met and married current Soule Kindred member, William L. Soule (George, John, John, John, John, Aaron, Aaron David, Aaron, Melvin P., Lyle A.). Soon after their marriage, Bill convinced his wife to return to his ancestral home in Climax Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Though the move was to be only temporary, their plans were later altered and the couple put down roots in Climax Township, a location four previous generations of Soules had called home. Bill's great-, great-grandfather, Aaron David Soule, was one of the earliest settlers in that part of Michigan, trekking northwest by oxcart from Union County, Ohio to Climax Township in 1834. In that rural setting, Bill and Maris raised a son and daughter amidst an array of barn and household creatures that whetted Maris' lifelong interest in animals. Before the children came along Bill and Maris bred and showed Rhodesian Ridgebacks, still her favorite breed of dog. Maris also taught school for another four years, but gave that up to raise her children. It was then, as a stay-at-home mom, that she was really bitten by the writing bug and began her career as a romance novelist.



It is not surprising, given the trajectory of her life, that rural life and animals tend to play a significant role in her novels. There is, however, another strand that was woven into the fabric of her later romance novels that has served her well in her maturation as a writer. Maris admits that she has always been a fan of mystery and suspense novels and love for that genre induced her to weave suspense into many of her romance novels. The melding of these two genres has stood her in good stead for, by the end of the century, romance novels were at a crossroads. Mergers and acquisitions had wrought substantial changes to the publishing industry, leading to the disappearance of some of the flagship romance-novel publishing concerns. At the same time, there was a push in the industry towards the inclusion of more overt eroticism in romance literature. For Maris, it was time for a change.

As the new millennium dawned, Maris re-cast herself as a mystery writer. "Finally, I decided what I really wanted to write were mysteries with just a touch of romance . . . and that's what I've been doing with my Five Star mysteries." Maris introduced herself to her new audience with her 2007 novel titled The Crows. I freely admit that the writer of this article, himself an avid reader of mystery novels, was initially drawn to The Crows by the surname of the author and by the fact that the setting for the story was in the very county where I have lived for over forty years. However, the novel can stand on its own as an engaging mystery read. The plot is complex, there is sufficient suspense to keep one turning the pages, and the characters are believable and engaging.

It must be added, though, that Maris has leavened the plot with more than a *touch* of romance. It is not that a romantic interest is itself foreign to mystery and suspense novels, but in The Crows a good portion of the suspense itself seems to center upon the question of whether the major character will or will not end up in

continued on next page

bed with the handsome detective. It is, in the end, a matter of balance more than anything else. The descriptions of and interplay between the two characters who become romantically entwined seems to be painted in much more elaborate detail than are other characters and relationships. In turn, all of the human interactions in the novel fare better than the descriptions of the stage upon which those interactions are played out (i.e., the landscape, urban places and building interiors). Though the story takes place in Kalamazoo County, I never found myself thinking, oh yes, I've been there or, that's the feeling I get when I'm in that area. However, this latter point is probably a minor one unless books are for you a vicarious form of travel as they are for me.

The lead character in The Crows is a 28 year old single woman, P.J. Benson, who is working as a tax accountant. She has recently inherited the old home of her paternal grandfather just outside the mythical village of Zenith, a thinly disguised stand-in for the village of Climax, Michigan, and has moved from Kalamazoo into the ancestral homestead with her Rhodesian Ridgeback puppy, Baraka. While out walking the dog in the woods behind her new home, she is shot at. She returns to the safety of her dwelling only to discover an unknown man dying of a bullet wound on her dining room floor. Thus begins a series of puzzling events in and around her home involving P.J. and an odd assortment of neighbors that leave both the police and P.J. herself questioning her sanity. To say more about those events would be to give too much away concerning the twists and turns of the plot. Suffice it to say that most readers will remain in the dark until the last couple of chapters of the book, which is the essence of a successful mystery or suspense novel.

After the publication of The Crows, Maris turned her attention to writing a sequel, once again centered on P.J. Benson. That sequel, As The Crow Flies, was published in 2011. She is at work as this is written on her third mystery novel and has several more ideas in mind. For those interested in reading either of her published mysteries, Maris has some words of advice. Five Star, the publishing concern that handles the works, is small and tends to focus more on selling to libraries than to bookstores. You should be able to order through a bookstore, but they probably won't actually have the works in stock. The books can also be purchased from Amazon. The Crows is also available in audio form and in e-forms that can be downloaded to a computer or e-book reader. For more information concerning Maris Soule and her work, including a list of all of her published titles, reviews, information on how to order her novels, and chapter one of each of the two works mentioned above, go to her web page: [\[http://marissoule.com/\]](http://marissoule.com/).

The nest is empty now for Bill and Maris . . . well sort of anyway. They do have a 150 pound Rhodesian Ridgeback, as well as two granddaughters to brighten their day. Freedom from work schedules and parental obligations have allowed them to move to a condominium in South Haven, a Lake Michigan community about 35 miles west of Kalamazoo, where they can enjoy time out on the water during the warm summer months. Winter finds them in Florida, again close enough to the Gulf to allow them time on the water. Could it be that some Maris Soule mystery novel of the future will be set in a boating community? It is quite possible if actually being on the water doesn't trump writing about it.

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Board of Directors Election Results
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In Soule Kindred's second membership-wide Board of Directors election, 35% of the membership voted for the slate of candidates endorsed by the Board of Directors. Judy Hughes and Karen McNally were re-elected to the Board for another term and Peggy Jared was newly elected to her first term as a Board member. As a Past Governor General of the Texas Mayflower Society, Peggy is a welcome addition to the Board. Thank you to all who voted.

The officers of the 2012 Board are:

- Karen L. McNally, President
- David Hargreave, Vice President
- Helen A. Soulé, Secretary
- Andrew B. Turner, Treasurer

The Board wishes to thank outgoing Board member Kathleen Strauss for her service.

The Board also offers many thanks to Peg Rocke for her many years of service to Soule Kindred. Peg resigned from the Board in December after ably serving as Secretary from October 1996 to October 2009 and as a Board member since October 2009. Marcy Kelly Brubaker has been elected by the Board to fill the remainder of Peg's term which ends 12/31/12.

Soule Kindred Reunion Survey Summary

by Karen L. McNally

The Board of Directors wishes to thank all Soule Kindred members who participated in our two member-wide surveys in 2011. Your input is invaluable for the the Board as it makes decisions regarding the organization on your behalf. Below is a summary of the Reunion Survey results and the subsequent decisions of the Board based on those results. You'll find a summary of the results and decisions related to the Scholarship Survey written by Dave Hargreave on page 7.

The overall response rate for the Reunion Survey was 33% (N=109). This is a very good rate of response. Also, the data showed the respondents accurately reflected the breakdown of member characteristics (e.g., long-time members vs. short-time members, Life Members vs. Non-Life Members). Both of these factors allow for a more accurate interpretation of the results. Here are some highlights:

- 43% of all respondents have attended at least one reunion; 57% have never attended a reunion.
- 49% of all respondents indicated they are likely or very likely to attend future reunions.
- 54% of all respondents indicated a frequency for reunions of every 2 years
61% of those who are likely or very likely to attend future reunions indicated a frequency of every 2 years.
- 49% of all respondents indicated 3 days as the length of the reunion.
49% of those who are likely or very likely to attend future reunions indicated a length of 3 days.
- 76% of all respondents ranked Genealogy/History as their most preferred activity. Sightseeing, Social, and Soule Kindred news/updates ranked second, third, and fourth, respectively.
75% of those who are likely or very likely to attend future reunions ranked Genealogy/History as their most preferred activity.

As was indicated in the cover letter to the survey, there has been a trend in recent years of fewer and fewer members attending Soule Kindred reunions. The 2011 reunion in Salt Lake City was no exception despite its emphasis on genealogy and sightseeing.

Many factors undoubtedly contribute to this decline, including the current economic climate and the changing technology which allows instant communication 24 hours a day. Age and ill health were also mentioned frequently by survey respondents who will not or are unlikely to attend future reunions. Most clearly, though, the survey responses indicate that members may now prefer to have reunions every other year rather than every year. Additionally, survey respondents indicated a preference for shorter reunions rather than the four day reunions of the past several years.

After reviewing the survey results, the Board has voted to hold reunions every two years. The number of days may vary according to location, but the recommendation is three days. The focus of the reunions will be Genealogy/History with a mixture of Sightseeing, Social, and Soule Kindred news/updates activities. The next four reunion years and locations will be as follows:

| Year | Location | Feature | Host(s) |
|------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2013 | Meridian, MS | Soulé Live Steam Festival | Bob and Helen Soulé |
| 2015 | Fort Wayne, IN | Allen County Public Library | Anna Bristol and Dave Hargreave |
| 2017 | Duxbury, MA | Soule Kindred 50th Anniversary | Host to be determined |
| 2020 | Plymouth, MA | Mayflower 400th Anniversary | Host to be determined |

Happy Anniversary to Our Members

40-44 years

Grace M. Bishop
Shirley Thomas Denison
Janet Soules Frame
Elizabeth-Jean Haner
Mary Jo Hurdle
Betty Jean Jacobs
Clareda Allen McCombs
E. Emogene Osborn
Clarice Soule Pahle
George Alan Soule
Norman R. Soulé
Peter Fayette Soule
Ralph L. Soule
Randy Arnold Soule
William Fred Soules
Daniel D. Soule

35-39 years

Charles Samuel Dickenson
Donald S. Mathison
Frederic A. McBurney
Eleanor J. Couture McNellis
Shirley S. Patterson
Luther H. Soules III

30-34 years

William Blanchard
Janet Sowles Carper
Deborah Soule Esposito
John O. Goehl
Dorothy Smith Harrigill
Phyllis S. Hulse
Peggy C. Jared
Mona C. Moeckel
Margaret E. Mostert
Kay Pettit
Christine Schlosser
Dan Schlosser
Jackie Wayne Soles
John G. Soule
Ronald J. Soule
Victor Clay Soule
Jane Audrey Hilton Steinmetz
Jeanette E. Taylor
Virginia Walker
Nancy Blanchard Watts
William Soule Widnall

25-29 years

Shirley Abraham
Margaret M. Bloomfield
Elizabeth Lovell Bowman
Marcy Kelly Brubaker
Doris Ellen Millard Clark
Toni Elizabeth Soulé Dark

Chloey Sowle Foust
Marilyn Soule McCabe Gower
Susan Soule Harrison
Robert E. Keldgord
Patricia Soule Kendrick
Leola V. Marvin McAfee
Christian M. McBurney
Josephine Howland Morrow
Virginia Green Nickeson
Bruce D. Patterson
Wayne Ackley Patterson
Norma B. Pugh
Margaret A. Roche
Rose P. Sawyer
Janice Schindler
Charles Everett Soule
Kate Soule
Robert Scott Soule
Jay T. Soules
Frank Sowl
Fred Forrest Sowl
Charles Jack Sowles
Laura Stallcop
James Eldon Vaughn
Glenn L. Whitecotten
Nils William Wilkes
Bonnette Jeanne Broughten Wochnick

20-24 years

Robert Bothfeld
Barbara Bardeen Cobb
William Nicolas Colwell
Joe E. Cox, Jr.
D. Alberta Epperson
Elizabeth C. Franze
Thelma Soule Gage
Winnifred S. Gill
Natalie S. Goodrich
Timothy C. Harris
Martha Bothfeld Hartmann
Julia Soule Holden
Leigh Schuyler Houck
Dianne Lynn Hulse
Eleanor J. Soule Irwin
David S. Martin
Mary Athearn Matson
Priscilla Ross
James Schlosser
Joan Gallagher Schoshinski
Donald E. Soles, Jr.
Michael Stanley Soule
Greg J. Soules
Scott Soules
Ruth S. Sykes
George Robert Soules Trask
Charles Rockwell Turner
Barbara E. Wallace
Deborah Darlene Werner

Meet the Soule Kindred

Board of Directors

Officers

Karen L. McNally
President

David Hargreave
Vice President

Helen A. Soulé
Secretary

Andrew B. Turner
Treasurer

Directors

Marcy Kelly Brubaker
Marjorie Everoski
David Hargreave
Anna L. Bristol
Helen A. Soulé
Andrew B. Turner
Judith A. Hughes
Peggy C. Jared
Karen L. McNally

Contact Information

General Information:

info@soulekindred.org

1-888-SKA-1620

Annual Reunion:

reunion@soulekindred.org

Membership:

membership@soulekindred.org

Newsletter Editor:

editor@soulekindred.org

Soule Family Tree Project:

familytree@soulekindred.org

Volunteer:

volunteer@soulekindred.org

SOULE KINDRED IN AMERICA, INC
MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

SOULE LINEAGE (if known or if you have not already provided this information): _____

Sample: George, Nathan, John, Asa, Mary (Soule) Smith, Adele (Smith) West, Joshua West... [PLACE MAIDEN NAMES IN PARENTHESES.] If you need assistance with your lineage, contact familytree@soulekindred.org.

New ***Renewal*** ***Gift***

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES—SELECT ONE

| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular \$35 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$15 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5-Year Membership \$150 | |

Gift Recipient Information

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

WE'D LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR INTERESTS:

| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning about my Soule ancestors | <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayflower Registry | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Cousins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Reunion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

...AND YOUR TALENTS:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer | <input type="checkbox"/> Database Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Webmaster | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal | <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel Expert | <input type="checkbox"/> Writer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | | |

Would you be interested in serving on a Committee? If yes, on which one?

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Reunion | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |

How can Soule Kindred best serve you? _____

SEND APPLICATION & CHECK TO:

Soule Kindred in America, Inc. 7331 E. Rocky Creek Place, Tucson, AZ 85750
or sign up online at www.soulekindred.org

This and That

Item for Sale

Elizabeth "Bettie" (Ragle) Soule (d. 2010) commissioned cup plates made by the Pairpoint Glass Company located in Sagamore, MA, to commemorate the 1984 Soule Kindred Reunion held in Plymouth, MA. The plates, hand pressed in first quality lead crystal, feature the Soule House at Plimoth Plantation with a border design of trailing arbutus, also called "mayflower".



To order this special plate, contact Anna Bristol at dabristols@wcnet.org or (419) 872-0124. The cost for members is \$10.00 per plate, plus shipping.

Many thanks to Bettie's son, Bob Soule, for donating the plates to Soule Kindred.

Give the Gift of Membership

If you're looking for something unique for friends and family, consider a Soule Kindred gift membership. It's a gift that gives all year, supporting our work while informing your loved ones about their family history. To purchase a membership as a gift or for yourself, simply visit soulekindred.org or call 1-888-SKA-1620. Memberships are essential to our present and future as we honor the past.



Give a Donation

And support the preservation of Soule heritage for future generations. To donate online, visit soulekindred.org, click on Donate, and choose the Colonel John Soule Research and Publication Fund, the Soule Kindred Memorial Scholarship Fund or the General Support Fund or call 1-888-SKA-1620.

Soule Kindred Milestones

- ❖ 1967 Soule Kindred founded by Colonel John E. Soule and George Standish Soule. First Soule Kindred Newsletter published.
- ❖ 1969 First Soule Kindred Reunion held in Plymouth, MA.
- ❖ 1971 Soule Kindred donates and dedicates George Soule gravestone in the Standish Cemetery, Duxbury, MA.
- ❖ 1972 Soule Kindred incorporated.
- ❖ 1980 Volume III, Mayflower Families Through Five Generations: George Soule, written by Col. John E. Soule and Dr. Milton E. Terry, published. Col. John E. Soule dies.
- ❖ 1983 First scholarships awarded.
- ❖ 1998 Soule Kindred owns its first Internet domain name.
- ❖ 2002 First Soule Kindred grant awarded by the Luke and Merle Soules Family Foundation to research George Soule's origins.
- ❖ 2010 First membership-wide nomination and election for Board of Directors. First membership directory published. Soule Kindred archives moved to the Drew Archival Library, Duxbury, MA.

Soule Kindred offers many opportunities for you, our members, to help fulfill its mission to study and promote knowledge and understanding of the Pilgrims and their descendants, with particular emphasis on Mayflower passenger George Soule.

Here are a few ways you can contribute:

Join a committee.

Membership
Publication
Research
Reunion/Education
Scholarship
Soule Family Tree Project
(See ad below)
Web Communications

Submit articles or milestones to the Editor.

Be an active participant on our Facebook page.

Offer your suggestions for future research topics.

Contribute information to the Soule Kindred website.

To help fulfill Soule Kindred's mission or to find out more, contact us at volunteer@soulekindred.org or by phone at 1-888-SKA-1620.

Love Genealogy?

If you have a passion for genealogy or have ever been the recipient of one or more Random Acts of Genealogy Kindness and would like to pay that kindness forward, you might want to volunteer to assist Soule Kindred members in discovering their Soule lineage. Contact us at familytree@soulekindred.org or 1-888-SKA-1620 to become part of the Soule Family Tree Project team.

Soule Kindred in America, Inc.
1348 E. Vinedo Ln.
Tempe, AZ 85284-1667

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Happy 45th Anniversary, Soule Kindred!
Founded January 1967

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1st President: | William Nelson Soule, Jr. |
| 1st Newsletter Editor: | George Standish Soule, Co-Founder |
| 1st Historian: | Col. John E. Soule, Co-Founder |
| 1967 Dues: | \$5.00 contribution to receive newsletter |
| Objective: | Publication of the SOULE history |

