



# Soule Kindred Newsletter

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Summer 2013

*Preserving Soule Heritage  
for Future Generations*

## In This Issue:

### **Finding George** p. 4



George Soule headstone  
Mt. Zion Cemetery, Hebron, NE



### **Charles Carroll Soule** **Civil War Officer,** **Businessman, and Author** p. 8



55th Massachusetts Singing "John  
Brown's March" in Streets of  
Charleston, Feb. 21, 1865

## **Immerse Yourself in Southern Soule History**

*Learn about Soule family history*

*Meet your Soule cousins*

*Visit historic Meridian, Mississippi*

*Hear about SKA research and other projects*

## **Soule Kindred 2013 Reunion** **November 1-2, 2013** **Meridian, MS**

**M**any of our members have indicated that an interest in meeting cousins is one of the reasons they joined Soule Kindred. Well, the 2013 Soule Kindred reunion is your opportunity to fulfill that interest. The reunion, hosted by Helen and Bob Soulé, will be held in Meridian, MS, and will provide plenty of opportunities to meet and learn about Soule cousins, both past and present. Meridian has been home to Bob's Soulé family for more than 130 years and offers a friendly and welcoming culture.

The Executive Director of the Meridian/Lauderdale County Tourism Bureau had this to say about the reunion:

*"We look forward to welcoming the family and friends of [George] Soule to Meridian in 2013. Your visit coincides with one of the most popular and anticipated events of the year, our **Whistle Stop Weekend**. The combination of our Meridian Railfest and Soulé Live Steam Festival along with our historic attractions guarantees your visit to be both enjoyable and memorable."*

*"To all organizers and attendees of the Soule reunion, their families, friends, colleagues and visitors from home to around the world, we look forward to your visit."*

Dede Mogollon,  
Executive Director, *Visit Meridian*

*continued on page 7*

# Contents Summer 2013

## Editor's Comments

*A family tree can wither if nobody tends its roots.* Unknown

The above sentiment is most certainly true, but not a concern for the Soule family tree. As you will find in this issue, tending to the roots of the Soule family tree is what Soule Kindred (and its members) is all about.

Soule Kindred member, Elizabeth Radley, tended her Soule family tree roots by successfully pursuing an application to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. You can read about her journey on page 4.

Tending roots also means learning about some of our more "Memorable Soules". One such Memorable Soule is Charles C. Soule who was Captain of the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, a unit composed of soldiers of African American descent. His story begins on page 10.

And tending our Soule family roots would not be complete without researching the origins of our foremother, Mary (Buckett/Becket) Soule. And that is just what Soule Kindred is doing. A brief description of this new research effort can be found on page 15.

Finally, the 2013 Reunion in Meridian, MS, provides a wonderful opportunity to explore Soule family roots face-to-face with close and distant cousins and visit a city that has been home to George Soule descendants for more than a 130 yrs. Register today and help tend the roots of the Soule family tree.

*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](mailto:editor@soulekindred.org).*

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## Soule Kindred Newsletter

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## FEATURED ARTICLES

*On the Cover:*

### Immerse Yourself in Southern Soule History by Helen Soulé

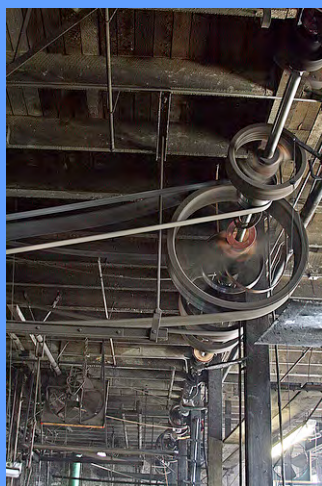
Come, meet your cousins, and enjoy Southern hospitality at the **2013 Soule Kindred Reunion** in Meridian, MS, November 1-2, 2013.

### Finding George 4 by Elizabeth Radley

Soule Kindred member, Elizabeth Radley, completes her journey to become a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

### Charles Carroll Soule Civil War Officer, Businessman, and Author 10 by Charles E. Soule and Karen L. McNally

Charles Carroll Soule served the Union cause from 1862-1865, becoming, in 1863, Captain of the second military unit composed of men of African American descent to be raised in Massachusetts.



*Soulé Steam Feed Works drive shaft, the longest operating one in the country.*

## Also in this issue:

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## President's Corner

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*It's time for the Nominating Committee to begin recruitment for SKA Board nominees. This year the committee is led by Jo Anne Makely. As you know, the Board is the governing body of Soule Kindred and, as such, has responsibility for determining and articulating the Corporation's mission and purpose; identifying and monitoring effectiveness of the Corporation's goals; selecting officers; providing for adequate financial resources; insuring financial oversight and controls; and enhancing the Corporation's public standing. The Board meets by conference call quarterly and in person at the biennial reunions. If you or others you know are interested in becoming more active in Soule Kindred by serving on the Board, please contact Jo Anne!*

*As many of you are aware, this year Soule Kindred made several changes to the Scholarship process, as recommended by the Scholarship Assessment Committee, in order to ensure that the program aligned more closely with the mission and purpose of Soule Kindred. The Board voted to pilot the new scholarship process and requirements this year and then to evaluate the results. However, this year we did not receive any applications by the deadline. Several reasons were suggested including the heightened requirements and the shortened time frame for completing the application. Therefore, the Board decided not to award a Soule Kindred Scholarship this year and asked the Scholarship Committee to review the new requirements, process and timeline, and make recommendations to the Board at the October meeting regarding the Scholarship Program. We look forward to hearing the results of the Committee's review and welcome feedback from our members. Please contact Chuck Soule, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, at [cesoule@cs.com](mailto:cesoule@cs.com) if you have feedback you would like to share.*

*I hope you are making plans to attend our 2013 Soule Kindred Reunion to be held on November 1-2, 2013, in Meridian, MS. The reunion agenda, lodging and transportation information, and registration form can be found on the website ([www.soulekindred.org](http://www.soulekindred.org)) and in this issue on pages 7-9. The reunion promises to be fun and informative, as we experience life and work in the south for Soule families. It is being held in conjunction with the Soule Live Steam Festival (<http://www.soulelivesteam.com>) held at the historic site of Soule Steam Feed Works (operated by George Soule descendants for 100+ years). In addition, the Smithsonian's traveling exhibit "The Way We Worked" will be on display there. We also have planned opportunities for you to get acquainted with your Soule cousins, learn more about Soule Kindred's programs and member activities, and provide input into future strategic direction of SKA. Hotel arrangements should be made directly with the hotel. The link is in the newsletter and on the website. Make your plans soon-see you there!!*

*Helen Soule*

President

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### 2013 Soule Kindred Directory Now Available!

Soule Kindred has just published its third Membership Directory. Judy Hughes and the members of the Soule Family Tree Project Committee (Janet Carper, Alan Fitch, Keith Kingman, Jo Anne Makely, Lynde Randall, Dianna Saario, Janet Sprague and Kathi Wilhelm) did an outstanding job contacting members and updating names, addresses, and family lineages. We all owe them a heartfelt "thank you" for a job well done.



Members can access the 2013 Soule Kindred Directory on the Soule Kindred website at [www.soulekindred.org](http://www.soulekindred.org). Sign in using your e-mail address and password. Then click on 2013 Soule Kindred Membership Directory in the right-hand column.

Print copies of the directory are available by request. To request a copy, please contact Andy Turner via e-mail at [abt85750@comcast.net](mailto:abt85750@comcast.net) or by phone at (520) 577-0586.

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### New Members January-June

Lisa Armbruster, MO  
Robert Black, RI  
Cindy Burdick-Smith, TX  
Darlene Cromer, FL  
Ronald Eyres, KS  
Marcia Kuehl, CA  
Judith Lopez, CA  
Gail Lord, GA  
Deanna Lucas, OR  
Elizabeth Radley, NY  
Sarah Robertson, AR  
Mary Rose, OR  
Cynthia Sorel, GA  
Allen Soule, VT  
Garrett Soule, FL  
Janis Swanson, FL  
Harriet Vaughan, RI



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# Finding George

by Elizabeth Radley

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**F**elicia was barely two months old when her father George died of typhoid. He had been visiting his brother, Lorenzo Ray Soule, in Kansas in August and after returning home to Nebraska had fallen ill.

George was one day shy of 21 when he died in 1898 and Felicia was his only child from his marriage the previous year to Josephine White. His death is how Felicia and her mother came to live with her grandparents. A little more than a year later Josephine remarried and set up housekeeping with her new husband and the six children that would follow. Felicia continued to live with her grandparents, or at least that is what the 1910 and 1920 US Census records say. Maybe there's another story, but there is no one left to ask, and no one left to answer.

Felicia grew into a young woman and at the age of 18 married a local boy. They had two children, Richard and Patricia. Tragically, Richard died at the age of four in a car accident. Patricia, my mother, took up the family's history long before the genealogy craze. She died in 2008, but left behind her notes on the family and a story that the family was related to someone who came over on the Mayflower.

Once the family information mom left was entered into Ancestry.com, the tree populated directly back to Mary Beckett and George Soule the Pilgrim. However, there were no birth or death certificates and no family bible.

That's when I began to have my doubts. I had, in the past, adopted another family entirely only to discover we weren't related. How was I going to prove any of this? All I had were the names of George's siblings, and civil records were unavailable.

And then a small miracle happened. The husband of my third cousin – one of those “new” family members we all acquire – took a trip to Hebron, NE, and sent me an obituary for George. The obituary told of his illness, that he left a wife and child, and that he was buried beside the graves of his parents. And in another miracle, he found a second obituary that read that George was born in Kane County, Illinois, and left behind a wife, daughter, five sisters and two brothers. Everything seemed to add up. In a bit of creative thinking, it occurred to me that Josephine's marriage to her second husband would list her married name. A call to the Clerk in Hebron confirmed that to be true and it was as good as it was going to get.



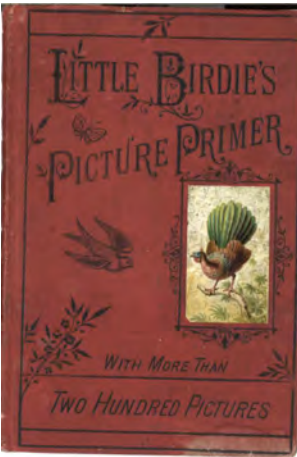
**Felicia and Patricia, ca. 1928**

I gathered up all the documents and submitted my application to the Mayflower Society and waited. Eventually, I received an e-mail confirmation from the Mayflower Historian that we were descendants of George Soule. Excitement was mixed with sadness as I wished my mom and particularly my grandmother, Felicia, were here to know.

I now lived in dog years as I waited for the letter from the Mayflower Society. I continued to have doubts and read the e-mail from the historian several times. Maybe we're not related. But if we

*continued on next page*

didn't belong to this family, whose family did we belong to? Finally, the letter and certificate from the Mayflower Society arrived and made it official. I went for a walk and wondered if I felt different knowing I was a descendant of a Mayflower Pilgrim, and I did. Without this immigrant from my mother's side, my 10 times great-grandfather, and my immigrant grandfather from my father's side, our family would not be. We live in such privilege because two men wanted a better life for themselves and for their descendants.



All we have of George Soule (b. 1877) is a little book called, "The Little Birdie's Picture Primer." On the first page is written, "Master George Soule. Batavia, Illinois." Felicia wrote, "My father must have got this book in 1883 when he probably was 6 years old. I don't know who wrote his name in this book. He died of Typhoid Fever. He really had got over it and he got up on his quavery legs and went out to see about his live-stock. He didn't think his Brother Bill was taking good care of them. And when he got back to the house, he had to return to bed -- and died."

George's obituary says he is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery, south of the blue.

*Elizabeth Radley is a member of Soule Kindred and was accepted into the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in 2013.*

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### **\*\*Wanted: A Few Good Soules\*\***

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*Are you interested in preserving Soule heritage for your children, grandchildren, and all future generations? Do you have talents and skills that are currently not being used to their fullest? If your answer to both questions is yes, why not combine the two and consider becoming a member of the Soule Kindred Board of Directors?*

This continues to be an exciting time for Soule Kindred as it carries on the mission of its founders in a new world of digital resources and instant communication. Soule Kindred has made great strides over the past four years turning itself into a 21st century organization. The Soule Kindred website attracts both guests and members. The Soule Kindred Facebook group now has over 400 members and the new Soule Kindred organizational Facebook page counts 120 Likes. Soule Kindred is developing a collaborative online Soule Family Tree Database and is currently researching Mary Buckett's/Becket's origins. The potential for Soule Kindred to become *the* go-to resource for all things related to George Soule and his descendants is unlimited.

But that vision can become a reality only through the help of dedicated individuals who volunteer their time and expertise. Volunteers such as Judy Hughes who chairs the Soule Family Tree Committee which is developing the Soule Family Tree Database; or Andy Turner who very ably carries out the duties of Treasurer; or Helen Soulé, the current President and also host of the 2013 Soule Kindred Reunion.

As Soule Kindred looks toward its 50th anniversary in 2017, wouldn't you like to be a part of the continuing effort to create a bigger, better, "go-to" organization? Although all talents and skills are welcome, the Board is in particular need of expertise in **fundraising, journalism, marketing and public relations, social media and networking**, and **web development**. Members may nominate themselves or other members.

Board directors must be willing to participate in quarterly phone-conference meetings and actively participate in the administration of the organization. Attendance at biennial reunions is encouraged. To nominate yourself or another Soule Kindred member, just complete the nomination form on page 6 and mail it to the address shown on the form. Alternatively, you may go to the Soule Kindred website at [www.soulekindred.org](http://www.soulekindred.org) and click on **Wanted: A Few Good Soules**. Nominations must be received by **September 14**.

If you have any questions, please contact Jo Anne Makely at [jamakely@gmail.com](mailto:jamakely@gmail.com) or 843-412-2103.

***The new three-year term of office begins on January 1, 2014.***

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## 2013 Soule Kindred Nomination Deadline is September 14

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### Board of Directors Nomination Form

*Please note: Board directors must be Soule Kindred members in good standing and are expected to attend conference call quarterly meetings and annual meetings during their term of office. Board members must also be familiar with the Internet and use e-mail. Feel free to nominate yourself as well as someone else.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional experience: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other experience (personal, volunteer, or non-professional): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which of the following skills/experience/expertise the nominee/you possess. (check all that apply)

☐ Accounting and Finance

☐ Business/Business Administration

☐ Computer expertise/Web Development

☐ Fundraising

☐ Genealogy expertise/familiarity

☐ Legal

☐ Marketing and public relations

☐ Volunteer coordination

What area of Board work might the nominee/you be most interested in? (check all that apply)

☐ Board Policy and Governance, Board Development

☐ Finance

☐ Fund Development

☐ Genealogy/History

☐ Marketing

☐ Membership

☐ Reunions

☐ Scholarship

Why are you nominating this person/yourself to serve on the Soule Kindred in America Board of Directors?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's/Nominee's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

**Send completed form to:**

**Jo Anne Makely  
2944 Baywood Drive  
Seabrook Island, SC 29455**

**or**

**go online to**

**[www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q3QKSNM](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q3QKSNM)**



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## Immerse Yourself in Southern Soule History at the 2013 Soule Kindred Reunion

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Join us for the 2013 Soule Kindred Reunion in Meridian, MS, on **Friday, November 1**, and **Saturday, November 2**, to learn about how Soule descendants lived and worked in the South.

Our visit coincides with one of the most popular and anticipated events of the year in Meridian, the **Whistle Stop Weekend**, which is the combination of the *Meridian Railfest* and *Soulé Live Steam Festival*. Located on the site of Soulé Steam Feed Works, a manufacturing company which began operation in 1896, the Festival features live demonstrations of vintage steam engines as well as an operating machine shop from the early 1900s. There are other live demonstrations including a potter's wheel, broom making, spinning wheel and weaving loom. As part of the reunion program, we will be treated to a special tour of the



**Soulé Steam Feed Works**

original offices of Soulé Steam Feed Works and will hear some first-hand accounts of the history of Soulé family members in the South. The Railfest features visiting railroad rolling stock as well as model railroad exhibits.



**Meridian Railfest**

We have planned other optional activities for reunion attendees. Options include a visit to the *Dentzel Carousel*, built in 1896 and the only one of its kind in the South, and a visit to the *Jimmie Rogers* (father of country music) *Museum*. For those with southern roots,



**Dentzel Carousel**

the *Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History* is a fully-certified archives and record center for research which holds records of more than 100 families in its research rooms and offers more than 90 publications including church histories, marriage records, indexes and abstracted newspaper articles. Additionally, *The Way We Worked*, a Smithsonian Museum exhibit which explores how work became such a central element in American culture by tracing the many changes that affected the workforce and work environments over the past 150 years, will be in Meridian at the time of our reunion.

A block of rooms is available for reunion attendees at the **Hilton Garden Inn**, Meridian, MS. The rate is \$99.00/per night. Here is a link to the hotel and reservation information: <http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/M/MEIMEGI-SFR-20131031/index.jhtml>. You can also contact the hotel by phone at (601) 485-3506.

Transportation options are many. Meridian is easily accessible by auto, being located at the intersection of Interstates 20 and 59; 11 miles from the Alabama border; 93 miles from Jackson, MS; and 134 miles from Birmingham, AL. The city has an airport that is served by Silver Airways (also called Island Air), a Delta partner. One could also fly into Jackson or Birmingham and rent a car to drive to Meridian. Meridian also has train service provided by the Amtrak rail system at the newly restored train depot.

Contact reunion hosts Helen and Bob Soulé at [reunion@soulekindred.org](mailto:reunion@soulekindred.org) or (703) 473-6944 if you have any questions.

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# Immerse Yourself in Southern Soule History at the 2013 Soule Kindred Reunion

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## Soule Kindred Reunion November 1-2, 2013 Meridian, MS

### Thursday, October 31, 2013

- 4:00 PM Registration opens for attendees
- 4:30 PM Welcome meeting/orientation/  
hospitality room
- Group dinner
- 7:00 PM Board meeting



Meridian Opera House

### Friday, November 1, 2013

- 9:00 AM Meet at hotel to review schedule
- 9:15 AM Getting to Know SKA - round-robin conversations regarding SKA activities
- 10:30 AM Transportation from hotel to Festival/tour
- 11:00 AM Tour of Meridian Opera House and Riley Education and Performing Arts Center  
(transportation to Festival from tour)
- 12:30 PM Lunch at the Festival (possible panel presentation on Soule business and life in  
the south)
- 1:00 PM Guided tour of Festival and free time at Festival
- 3:45 PM Transportation return to hotel
- 4:00 PM Workshop on Soule Family Tree Database
- 6:30 PM Reunion Banquet at Merrehope  
(includes tour of Merrehope and Frank Williams home)

### Saturday, November 2, 2013

- 9:00 AM Meet in hotel to review schedule
- 9:15 AM Transportation to AM activities
- Options:
  - a. Return to Festival
  - b. Tour of Denzel Carousel and Jimmy Rogers Museum
  - c. Free time
- 12:00 PM Lunch on your own - informal gathering
- PM Travel home



Merrehope



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# Immerse Yourself in Southern Soule History at the Soule Kindred 2013 Reunion

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**Soule Kindred Reunion**  
**November 1 & 2, 2013**  
**Meridian, MS**  
**Registration Form**

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State and Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Number/ Person(s)</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Total</b>
Registration Fee: (\$35 per person) Covers transportation to events, hospitality room, reunion materials, etc.	_____	X \$35.00	_____

**Thursday:**

Dinner on your own

**Friday:**

A. Tour of Meridian Opera House/Riley Education and Performing Arts Center and Temple Theater (\$10.00 per person)	_____	X \$10.00	_____
B. Lunch at festival (seated together but paid on your own)	_____	X \$ 0.00	_____
C. Reunion Banquet, includes tour of Merrehope and Frank W. Williams home (\$45.00 per person)	_____	X \$45.00	_____

**Saturday:**

A. Optional tour of Denzel Carousel and Jimmy Rogers Museum (\$8.00 per person)	_____	X \$ 8.00	_____
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**GRAND TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment:** Please make check payable to Soule Kindred in America and send it with a copy of the registration form to Treasurer Andrew Turner, 7331 E. Rocky Creek Pl., Tucson, AZ 85750. Please write "2013 Reunion" on check.

**Hotel reservations:** A hotel block in the name of Soule Family Reunion has been set aside at the Hilton Garden Inn, Meridian, MS. The rate is \$99.00. Please visit the link below to make your hotel reservation.

<http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/M/MEIMEGI-SFR-20131031/index.jhtml>

# CHARLES CARROLL SOULE

## Civil War Officer, Businessman and Author

*In a previous issue of the Soule Kindred Newsletter, Vol. XIII, No. 2, April 1979, a speech given in June 1865 to former slaves by Union Captain Charles Carroll Soule was reproduced. The following article, which includes a portion of that speech along with segments from correspondence between Captain Soule and Major General O. O. Howard, was jointly researched and written by Charles E. Soule and Karen L. McNally.*

One hundred fifty years ago the United States was two years into the Civil War which had begun at Fort Sumter, SC, on April 12, 1861. Two hundred eighty soldiers with the surname Soule fought for the Union. Charles Carroll Soule (1842-1913) was one of them.

Charles C. Soule's father, Richard (1812-1877) was the first member of the Soule family to attend Harvard College (Class of 1832). He was the author of *Soule's Dictionary of English Synonyms*, copyrighted in 1871.

Charles studied at Boston Latin School and the Brookline High School before following in his father's footsteps and attending Harvard College, graduating in the Class of 1862. During his college years, again following his father's lead, Charles was a collaborator on *Worcester's Dictionary*.

A newly minted Harvard graduate, Charles C. Soule enlisted as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in Company S, Massachusetts 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry on May 27, 1862. He was mustered out on May 31, 1862, and subsequently enlisted in Co. F, Massachusetts 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment on October 6, 1862. He was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on October 27. He was mustered out on June 18, 1863. On June 26, 1863, he joined Co. K, Massachusetts 55<sup>th</sup>

American descent to be raised in Massachusetts (the more famous 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment was the first). Captain Soule mustered out of the 55<sup>th</sup> on August 29, 1865, at Charleston, SC.

The 55<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts performed mostly "fatigue duty", the digging of trenches, wells, pulling and mounting cannon, erecting batteries, etc.

However, the soldiers of the 55<sup>th</sup> were involved in two battles, "River Causeway" and "Honey Hill" in South Carolina. Captain Soule was slightly wounded at Honey Hill as he led a successful charge to capture enemy guns and turn them on the retreating rebels.

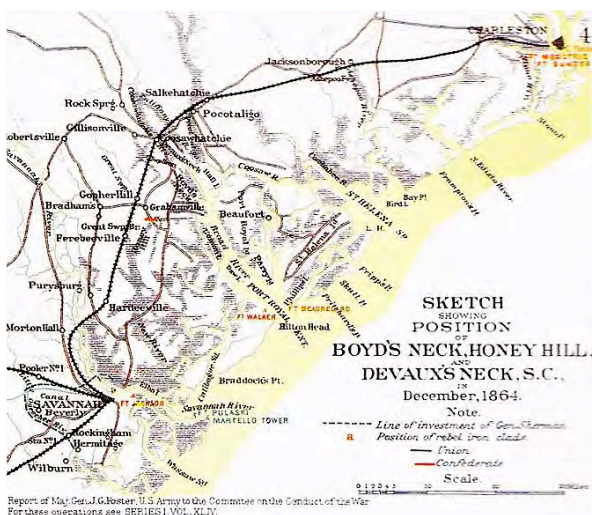
After the end of the war in April 1865, Captain Soule was appointed a provost judge and superintendent of freedmen in South Carolina, serving in that position from May until August, 1865. The correspondence and speech to freedmen mentioned above were written during this time in Orangeburg, S.C.

These documents from the records of the Freedmen & Southern Society Project provide interesting details as to the environment and conditions for the freedmen and the plantation owners at the end of the Civil War. The letter from Captain Soule to Major General Howard was in response to a circular letter, dated May 15, 1865, requesting "all Commissioners however appointed who have charge of Freedmen" to report "the character and extent of their work." Charles C. Soule's letter, segments of which are reproduced below, was in response to General Howard's request.

*continued on next page*



Charles Carroll Soule



Map of Battle  
Honey Hill, SC

Infantry Regiment as Captain. The 55<sup>th</sup> was the second military unit composed of men of African

*"Orangeburg, S.C., June 12, 1865"*

*"General: In accordance with the request embodied in your "Circular Letter" of the 16<sup>th</sup> ..., I have the honor to tender the following report of the organization and operations of the Special Commission on Contracts with Freedmen, at Orangeburg, S.C."*

*"Upon the occupation of the District by U.S. troops, affairs were found to be in a very unsettled state. The 'scouts' who had latterly enforced local order and preserved discipline upon the plantations, were disbanded; no civil magistrates had power to act; the planters, uncertain as to the wishes of United States authorities, were afraid even to defend themselves against aggression and robbery;--while the negro laborers, who in this neighborhood outnumber the whites five to one, already excited by the prospect of freedom, were urged to lawlessness and acts of violence by the advice of many of the colored soldiers. Not only was there every prospect that the crops would be neglected, but it also seemed probable that the negroes would revenge themselves, by theft, insults, and violence, upon their former owners. To avert disorder and starvation, officers detailed for the purpose were sent into the country to explain to white and black alike their condition under the new state of affairs, and to induce the laborers, if possible, to resume work upon the crops,--which are now in the most critical stage. It was soon found, however, that uniformity was needed in these operations; and during the last week in May, Brevet Brigadier General Hartwell, Commanding the Brigade, appointed a Special Commission to have charge over all the relations between proprietor and laborers; to supervise contracts, made under Brig. Gen'l Hatch's orders, and to act also as Provost Judges in cases of disorder or crime upon the plantations. The commission originally consisted of four members; afterwards of five; and this number is at present reduced to two by the establishment of an auxiliary board in Columbia, S.C. The limits of jurisdiction are indefinite, and cases are frequently brought to our notice from remote districts of the State."*

*"..... It is found very difficult to disabuse the negroes of the false and exaggerated ideas of freedom they have received, in a great measure, from our own colored troops. They have been led to expect that all the property of their former masters was to be divided out to them; and the most reasonable fancy which prevails, is that besides receiving their food, clothes, the free rent of houses and gardens, and the privilege of keeping their hogs and poultry, they are to take for themselves all day Saturday and Sunday, and to receive half of the crops. Their long experience of slavery has made them so distrustful of whites, that on many plantations they persist still in giving credit only to the rumors set afloat by people of their own color,*

*and believe that the officers who have addressed them are rebels in disguise. Even where they are satisfied that the idea of freedom comprehends law, order, and hard labor, there are many whom the absence of the usual restraint and fear of punishment renders idle, insolent, vagrant and thievish. Owing to the entire want of cavalry in this Department, it has been found possible to investigate a few only of the cases brought before the board in its judicial capacity; and the members view with solicitude the alarming increase of vagrancy throughout the country, and the idleness, half-way-work, and turbulence of a large portion of the negro population,--which they are powerless to check, except in the immediate vicinity of a military force."*

*"..... Some well digested code of laws and punishments, adapted to the peculiar position of affairs, should be applied throughout the entire South. The impossibility of attaching, in future, money value to the former slaves, will break up, in practice, as the Emancipation proclamation has done in theory the system of slavery; and the interests of the capitalist and landowners of the South will lead them to make the best possible use of freed labor: but it will be more difficult to convince the freedmen themselves of their true position and prospects."*

*"..... For the present year, a better condition of affairs than that now prevailing can hardly be looked for. An influx of immigrants from Europe and from the Northern States, increasing the proportion of the white inhabitants to the blacks, dividing into smaller farms the arable lands of the South, and introducing a system of money payments for labor, together with the gradual education of the negroes themselves, will, it is hoped, bring order out of this chaos."*



Andrew Jackson Smith,  
Color Sergeant,  
55th Massachusetts  
Volunteer Infantry



## Charles Carroll Soule

*"..... In addition to the form of contracts, is enclosed an address to the colored people of the District, which embodies all the visiting officers include in their speeches."*

*"..... Awaiting instructions for the future, I have the honor, General, to remain Your obedient servant,*

*Charles C. Soule"*

Following are excerpts from the "address to colored people" that is mentioned above and explains the hard realities of their new-found freedom:

*"Orangeburg, S.C., June 1865"*

*"To the Freed People of Orangeburg District"*

*"You have heard many stories about your condition as freemen. You do not know what to believe: you are talking too much; waiting too much; asking too much. If you can find out the truth about this matter, you will settle down quietly to your work. Listen, then, and try to understand just how you are situated."*

*"You are now free, but you must know that the only difference you can feel yet, between slavery and freedom, is that neither you nor your children can be bought or sold. You may have a harder time this year than you have ever had before; it will be the price you pay for your freedom. You will have to work hard, and get very little to eat, and very few clothes to wear. If you get through this year alive and well, you should be thankful. Do not expect to save anything, or to have much corn or provisions ahead at the end of the year. You must not ask for more pay than free people get at the North. There, a field hand is paid in money, but has to spend all his pay every week, in buying food and clothes for his family, and in paying rent for his house. You cannot be paid in money,—for there is no good money in this*

*District,—nothing but Confederate paper. Then, what can you be paid with? Why, with food, with clothes, with the free use of your little houses and lots. You do not own a cent's worth except yourselves. The plantation you live on is not yours, nor the houses, nor the cattle, mules and horses; the seed you planted with was not yours, and the plows and hoes do not belong to you. Now you must get something to eat and something to wear, and houses to live in. How can you get these things? By hard work—and nothing else, and it will be a good thing for you get them until next year, for yourselves and your families. You must remember that your children, your old people, and the cripples, belong to you to support now, and all that is given to them is do much pay to you for your work. If you ask for anything more; if you ask for half of the crop, or even a third, you ask too much; you wish to get more than you could get if you had been free all your lives."*

*"..... Do not think of leaving the plantation where you belong. If you try to go to Charleston, or any other city, you will find no work to do, and nothing to eat. You will starve, or fall sick and die. Stay where you are, in your own homes, even if you are suffering. There is no better place for you anywhere else."*

*"..... Do not grumble if you cannot get as much pay on your place as someone else, for on one place they have more children than on others, on one place the land is poor, on another it is rich; on one place, Sherman took everything, on another, perhaps, almost everything was left safe. One man can afford to pay more than another. Do not grumble either, because, the meat is gone or the salt hard to get. Make the best of everything, and if there is anything which you think is wrong, or hard to bear, try to reason it out: if you cannot, ask leave to send one man to town to see an officer. Never stop work on any account, for the whole crop must be raised and got in, or we shall starve. The old men, and the men who mean to do right, must agree to keep order on every planation."*

*"..... In short, do just about as the good men among you have always done. Remember that even if you are badly off, no one can buy or sell you: remember that if you help yourselves, God will help you, and trust hopefully that next year and the year after will bring some new blessing to you."*

Following is the reply from General O. O. Howard to Charles C. Carroll's letter and the address:

*"Washington, D.C. June 21, 1865"*

*"Captain: Your report has been received and carefully read. I doubt not the Commission is to do all you can to secure harmony and good will in society, and that you must meet many difficulties."*



Only known photo of an African American Union soldier with his family.

*continued on next page*

A copy of the “contract” referenced in the above documents was not included in the available documents; however, it was apparently a prototype agreement between the plantation owner and his former slaves specifying how the new freedmen were to be compensated; i.e., food, clothing, shelter, etc. The 55<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts was mustered out at Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, on August 29 and returned home to Boston to be discharged on September 20, 1865.

After his service in the Union Army, Charles C. Soule returned to Boston and became a clerk with Little, Brown & Co. Then in 1869 he moved west to St. Louis and became a partner in the booksellers firm of Soule, Thomas & Winsor, specializing in law books. He returned to Boston in 1878 and became a partner in the firm of Little, Brown & Co. In 1881

An accomplished businessman, author and Civil War officer, Charles Carroll Soule (George, John, Joshua, Joseph, James, Richard, Richard) died in Brookline, MA, on January 7, 1913. And, thus ended the very productive life of one of our more “Memorable Soules”.



### 54th Massachusetts attacking Ft. Wagner

~Brigham, Wm. T., *Second Report of the Secretary of the Class of 1862 of Harvard University, June 1872* (Google Books)

~Charles Carroll Soule Photograph - Original in Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library

~Freedmen & Southern Society Project (<http://www.freedmen.umd.edu/Soule.htm>)

~List of Charles C. Soule's publications (<http://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Soule%2C+Charles+C.%28Charles+Carroll%29%2C+1842-1913%22>)

~MacDonald, PhD, Sharon S. and W. Robert Beckman, BS, MS "*The Men of 55<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry*" ([www.usctlha.net/rollcall/55th\\_pt1.htm](http://www.usctlha.net/rollcall/55th_pt1.htm))

~New England Historic Genealogical Society ([www.americanancestors.org/home.html](http://www.americanancestors.org/home.html))

~Records of the Soule Family Historian

~Records of the Town of Brookline, MA

## Lions, Tigers, and Gremlins... Oh, My!

As many of you are aware, "gremlins" took up residence in the Soule Kindred website ([www.soulekindred.org](http://www.soulekindred.org)) and caused access problems and numerous error messages. After attempting several fixes, we realized that both the nature and the extent of the problems were so great that a total rebuild of the site was required. Fortunately, that process was nearing completion as this newsletter was being edited. The new, improved, and "gremlin-free" website should be up and running by the time you read this. We are very sorry for any inconvenience you may have experienced and thank you so much for your patience.

Although beta testing and protocol development are underway, the website problems have, unfortunately, halted work on the Soule Family Tree Database (see Vol. XXXXVI, No. 4, p. 7, "Soule Kindred's Exciting New Online Venture"). The goal now is to have this new project up and running by the end of the year.

Our Social Media presence continues to grow. Our Facebook posting on Mother's Day was viewed by 283 people and the two postings on Memorial Day garnered a combined 324 views. The postings are also going "viral", meaning that a number of people are viewing them and then are passing them on to family and friends. This is a very positive development as it increases Soule Kindred's reach and allows more people to find and learn about our organization. If you haven't done so yet, please "Like" Soule Kindred on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (you can find the links on page 2 of this newsletter).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Last year, for the first time, Soule Kindred held an **Annual Meeting** via conference call. All SKA members were able to join the call, listen to Board members give their reports, and ask questions. A recording of the meeting was also available afterwards through the website for those who could not participate live.

This year's **Annual Meeting** call is scheduled for **Saturday, October 19**. Further information on the call time and the toll-free number will be sent closer to the date.

**Ethel J. Lawson** died June 16, 2013. She was 84 years old. Ethel studied geology and geography, earning a baccalaureate degree from Flora Stone Mather College in Cleveland, Ohio, and a masters degree in library science from the University of North Carolina.

As a dedicated volunteer, Ethel worked with the American Cancer Society's Reach to Recovery and helped to start a hospice in Cincinnati, one of the first in the nation. She is survived by 3 sons, 1 daughter, 11 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

Ethel J. Lawson (George, George, William, Benjamin, Ebenezer, Margaret (Soule) Richmond, Deborah (Richmond) Griswold, Crawford, Grace Deborah (Griswold) Johnson) had been a member of Soule Kindred since 1998.



**Ralph L. Soule** died February 28, 2013. He was a World War II veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor C. (Loughney) Soule, daughter Rosemary, and sister Cora Penney.

Ralph (George, George, William, George, George, Joseph, Gilbert Randell, Freeman Gilbert, Ralph Lionel) joined Soule Kindred in 1969.



**Margaret "Peggy" (Meyer) Bloomfield**  
7/12/1922-5/1/2013

Peggy and her husband Bill owned a successful apartment laundry service company for 61 years. Peggy and Bill were also very active in their community.

Peggy was Chair of the UCLA Chancellors Cabinet of the Chancellors Associates, board member of UCLA's Women and Philanthropy, honoree of the Concern Foundation, and member of the Westwood Village Rotary Club and the Brentwood Bel-Air Women's Club. She was an active supporter of the Jonsson Cancer Center, KCET, the Music Center and Los Angeles Children's Hospital. She was a member of the Mayflower Society and Daughters of the American Revolution. In 2006, Peggy established the Bloomfield Family Foundation with emphasis on education, health and the arts.

Margaret "Peggy" Bloomfield (George, John, Josiah, Abishai, Nathaniel, John, Carrie Owen (Soule) Penney, Florence (Penney) Meyer) joined Soule Kindred in 1986 and became a Life Member in 1988.



## More This and That

### Mary Buckett/Becket Research Commences

In April, Soule Kindred was awarded a \$500.00 grant from the Women of the Mayflower Female Surname Research Project, an initiative of the Committee of the Women of the Mayflower, General Society of Mayflower Descendants, to conduct research on the origins of our foremother, Mary Buckett/Becket. Soule Kindred has contributed an additional \$500.00 for a total of \$1000.00 designated for this research.

Soule Kindred has retained the services of Caleb Johnson, a widely published, experienced, and recognized researcher, genealogist and historian, who has focused on the *Mayflower* passengers and Plymouth County for many years. Caleb has conducted research on George Soule's origins for Soule Kindred in the past.

His research will "thoroughly investigate all clues that can be ascertained about Mary (Buckett) Soule from Plymouth records, and use those details to search for her possible English origins. This project will attempt to ascertain if she has English origins, and focus on the English families from whence she may have originated. Records to be utilized will focus initially on parish registers and probate records, but will zero in on more esoteric local records once a few higher-priority target families are located. Techniques will include chronological and statistical eliminations, naming patterns, and geographic proximity and family associations with other known passengers on the ships *Mayflower*, *Fortune*, and especially the *Anne*."

This is an exciting opportunity because Mary is often overlooked in discussions about our common Soule lineage. And it goes without saying, of course, that none of us would be here without Mary. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Caleb discovers who her parents are and where she is from -- where our roots are?

### Board Notes...

from the April 2013 Meeting.

The Board received and filed the Treasurer's report which showed a first quarter **net revenue of \$4,521.09** and **total assets of \$95,798.57**.

The Board **approved**, via e-mail prior to the meeting, a **proposal to research Mary Buckett's/Becket's origins**. See article above to read more about this exciting research.

The Board **approved** a motion that the **2013 Soule Kindred Directory be mailed only to those who request a paper copy**.

A **new membership category** was proposed and **approved by the Board**. The **fee** for the new **Patron** category is **\$35.01-\$99.99**.

### 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**. 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.

## Meet the Soule Kindred

## Board of Directors

### Officers

Helen A. Soulé  
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Karen L. McNally  
*Vice President*

Peggy C. Jared  
*Secretary*

Andrew B. Turner  
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Andrew B. Turner  
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Peggy C. Jared  
Karen L. McNally  
Julia S. Holden  
Jo Anne Makely  
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## Celebrate Southern Soule History at the 2013 Soule Kindred Reunion.

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You Are Invited!



**Machinery on display at the former  
Soulé Steam Feed Works, 2010.**

**Who:** All Soule Kindred Members and their families

**What:** 2013 Soule Kindred Biennial Reunion

**When:** November 1-2, 2013

**Where:** Meridian, MS

