



Soule Kindred Newsletter

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

Winter/Spring 2016

*Preserving Soule Heritage
for Future Generations*

In This Issue:

Meet The Researchers



Marcy Kelly interviews Caleb Johnson and Simon Neal. Read the lively Q and A starting on [page 6](#).



Plymouth Rocks... 395 Years Later



One of our newest SKA Board members, John S. Sims, takes us along on his recent English tour on [page 14](#). Destination: Plymouth!

PILGRIM STORIES GEORGE SOULE & MARY BECKETT

by Marcy Kelly

GEORGE'S STORY

On September 6, 1620, George Soule, a young man in his early twenties, boarded the *Mayflower*, a three-masted wooden ship in Plymouth, England. Exactly where he lived before that day or why he chose to join the pilgrims' voyage to the New World isn't known. Much has been speculated about him but little proven. What he looked like, his accent or education isn't known, but by examining records that exist we can surmise that he was literate, civic-minded, strong, brave and successful.

There were two groups of passengers on the *Mayflower*: the 37 Separatists who wanted to leave England and "separate" from the Church of England; 65 who were motivated by financial interests; about 25 crew members, and two dogs: a mastiff and a spaniel.

The ship, 90 feet long and 26 feet wide, was designed for cargo, not passengers, and was grossly overcrowded. During the first winter, after the *Mayflower* anchored along the coast of what would be known as Plymouth, Massachusetts, the passengers and crew lived onboard, a mile out from the coast, where half of them died of scurvy and pneumonia. In spring, the surviving 53 Pilgrims moved ashore and the *Mayflower* sailed back to England.

Only 4 of the 18 adult women who sailed on the *Mayflower*, survived to celebrate the first Thanksgiving.

George was one of two 'servants' of Edward Winslow and his wife, Elizabeth, which places him among the 65 non-separatists. In those days, servant also meant apprentice.

Nothing is known of Edward and George's prior relationship. It is sometimes theorized that George was brought along as a tutor for the Winslow children, but there is no proof of this. Were they good friends? Did they meet through the church? Might the financial backers of the voyage have introduced them? These questions have yet to be answered.

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Editor's Comments:

Hello everyone!

Hope you have weathered the winter, and join me in welcoming the new opportunities that come with spring! For many of us, new learning opportunities are what we appreciate most! I have been learning more about my family's roots, and I appreciate all the warm thoughts sent by SKA members in response to my article in the last issue entitled "Keith's Bucket List Trip". My Aunt Diane, father, Dick Kingman, and the rest of our family feel your support. My Uncle Keith would be pleased to know you are all enjoying the art of genealogy, continuing your research, and strengthening family ties.

In my very simplistic, "newbie" way of looking at it, genealogy consists of first researching historical documents and sources, and then sharing what you've learned through stories. It is through these stories that history comes alive. I'm sure you will enjoy our SKA Research Chair Marcy Kelly's *Pilgrim Stories*, ([cover](#)), along with her fascinating interview with the amazing research team of Caleb Johnson and Simon Neal ([page 6](#)). We owe these two research pros and our whole Research Committee a great deal of gratitude for their hard work and continued commitment. I encourage all of you to support SKA research by making a donation (form on [page 11](#)) and/or sharing your own research findings by submitting stories to me, your editor, at kathleenkingman@yahoo.com.

Kathleen Kingman

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by Marcy Kelly

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If you think you are ready for Spring...

A reminder of the first Spring in Plymouth



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Soule Kindred Newsletter is a triannual 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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Soule Kindred Newsletter Winter/Spring 2016 Edition

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Soule Kindred celebrates its 50th Anniversary!

We will celebrate at the 2017 Soule Kindred Reunion, which will be held in Duxbury/Plymouth, MA. We look forward to seeing you all there. Please contact Sarah Soule Chapman at Kirbychap@msn.com if you would like to take part in planning this very special event.

Presidents' Corner

Happy 2016! Let us take a moment to thank all of you who have contributed your time, energy and support to Soule Kindred. We continue to grow and be stronger each year, and none of it would be possible without you—our members. Special thanks go to our outgoing 2015 Board members—Julia Holden, Jo Anne Makely and Chuck Soule. Each of you not only served on the Board, but also served in other capacities—Julia as Secretary, Jo Anne as Treasurer and Chuck as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. Another special thank you goes to 2015 SKA Reunion Chair, Virginia Hayes, who, along with her committee, organized a fabulous reunion in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Soule cousins in attendance had wonderful opportunities to meet cousins, learn about the Soules' history in the area, and conduct their own genealogical research at the esteemed Fort Wayne Public Library.

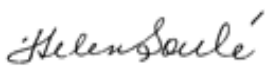
As we welcome in the new year, we also welcome three new Board members—Sarah Soule Chapman, Russ Francis and John S. Sims; and new officers—Co-Presidents Helen Soulé and Darrel Young, Secretary Sarah Soule Chapman and Treasurer Russ Francis. They join continuing Board members Jeanette Taylor, Roberta Wilkinson and Deanna Lucas.

There are many ways to participate in Soule Kindred, especially through our committees—Membership, chaired by Jeannette Taylor; Family Tree, co-chaired by Andrew Turner and Judith Hughes; Communications, chaired by Karen McNally; Research, chaired by Marcy Kelly; and the upcoming 2017 Reunion in Plymouth, MA, chaired by Sarah Soule Chapman. Eager to join a committee? Let the committee chair, or Darrel or me, know!

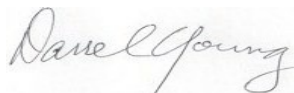
Two committees, Scholarship and the Family Tree Database, are looking for Chairs, as well as members. Contact Darrel or me if you are interested in these important projects!

We are all Soule Kindred, so join in and help make 2016 our best year yet!

Warm Regards,



Helen Soulé
SKA Co-President
helenasoule@gmail.com



Darrel Young
SKA Co-President
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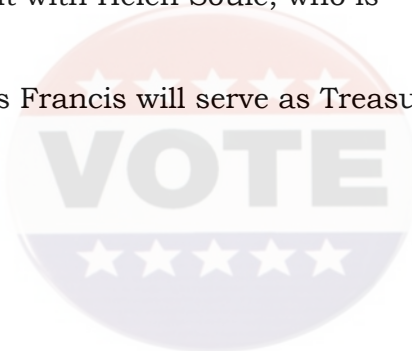
Board of Directors Election Results

Soule Kindred held its membership-wide Board of Directors election in the Fall of 2015, and the members voted for the slate of candidates endorsed by the Board of Directors. Sarah Soule Chapman, Russ Francis and John S. Sims were elected to their first terms as Board members. Darrel Young will serve as Co-President with Helen Soulé, who is beginning her fourth year in that office.

Sarah Soule Chapman will serve as Secretary, and Russ Francis will serve as Treasurer. Thank you to all who voted.

The officers of the 2016 Board are:

Helen A. Soulé and Darrel Young, Co-Presidents
Sarah Soule Chapman, Secretary
Russ Francis, Treasurer



Pilgrim Stories continued

George's place and date of birth are the subject of much conjecture. Some sources identify the name *Soule* as originating in the village of Soles in the county of Kent. Another possibility is that it was brought to England from Normandy in 1066 when the French conquered England. A third less appealing prospect is the pre-7th-century word *sol* that means "muddy".

Because no records have been found, George's age can only be surmised by clues. He signed the *Mayflower Compact*, the first governing document in the New World, so he had to be at least 21. The age for ending an apprenticeship was 25 so he couldn't be older than 24, which would make his date of birth between 1595 and 1599.

The Pilgrims were required by contract to their underwriters to live in a tight community for seven years. Because single men were not given their own homes, George lived in the small house erected for the Winslow family.

In 1623, two important things happened to George. He was given an acre of land because he was an original settler, and Mary Beckett arrived on the second passenger ship sent from England, the *Anne*. Onboard with her were many Pilgrim wives who had been left behind, and the first farm animals to be brought to the New World.

MARY'S STORY

Recent research funded by Soule Kindred in America has uncovered the possible origins of George's wife, Mary. If correct, she was Mary Beckett of Watford, Hertfordshire, England, where she was baptized at St. Mary's Church on February 14, 1605.

Her father, John Beckett, was a cloth merchant or *draper*, as they were called, and the family owned many properties. Mary had four younger brothers.

Beckett is an old Anglo Saxon name that was often written as *Bucket*, *Bocket* and *Bouquet*. Its origins may come from Beckett in Berkshire or Devonshire, or mean a "residence by a stream". It could also be a variation on *Beake*, a nickname for someone with a prominent nose, or "beke".

Mary's mother was Ann Alden (Aldyn, Aldyne) from the parish of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. Her grandfather was Thomas Aldwyn, who owned property, farm animals, and had four servants. How Mary came to sail to Plymouth can only be hypothesized. She was 18 years old at the time, and young single women didn't travel alone, so she must have been in the company of a relation or another family.

Pilgrims Richard and Elizabeth Warren lived in Hertfordshire and it is possible that in 1619, when Mary's father died, she was apprenticed out to them as was the custom, and that four years later she accompanied Elizabeth Warren and her children on the *Anne*. Richard had sailed on the *Mayflower* three years earlier along with George.

If this is the case, she probably didn't know George in England. But she may have had a connection to Pilgrim John Alden. While no relationship between John Alden and her mother's Alden family has been established, it is plausible and worthy of future research.

Continued on [next page](#)

Pilgrim Stories continued

GEORGE & MARY TOGETHER

Mary and George married in Plymouth about 1626, which qualified them for a home of their own. Their first child, Zachariah, was born by 1627; a few years later, a second son, John, arrived.

In 1637, George volunteered to fight in the war against the Pequot Indians in the Connecticut Valley, where many new settlers had moved. This was the first war with Native Americans and the English won.

That same year Mary gave birth to their third son, Nathaniel, and George was granted land at Powder Point in Ducksborrow (present day Duxbury), across the bay from Plymouth. He farmed it in good weather at first, and in 1642 he and Mary moved there permanently. Later their lands expanded to include Dartmouth, Middleboro, Marshfield and Bridgewater. The remaining six Soule children: George, Susanna, Mary, Elizabeth, Patience and Benjamin, were born in Ducksborrow.

In 1664, tragedy struck the Soule family when Zachariah, 36, died fighting the Mohawks in what was called the Canada Expedition. He left a wife, but no known children. In 1676 Benjamin, the youngest at age 25, was killed in a battle with the Wampanoag Indians, often called King Philip's War. He had not married and left no children.

George was appointed a representative to the Plymouth Colony General Court, a position he held for many years. He served many times as a jurist for the Colony, once as a member of The Grand Inquest in Plymouth, and on various committees, including one "to draw up an order concerning disorderly drinking of tobacco."

In December of 1676, Mary Beckett Soule died at age 71; George followed in 1679. They are buried in the Standish Cemetery in Duxbury. In George's will, he left his home, lands, books and money to his surviving children.

Marcy Kelly is Chair of the Soule Kindred in America Research Committee.

Sources for this article were:

The Pilgrim Hall Museum, The Internet Surname Database, and research publications: "The Search for the English Origins of *Mayflower* Passenger George Soule," by Caleb Johnson, "Research into the Possible English Origins of Mary Buckett, Wife of *Mayflower* Passenger George Soule", and "Continuation of Research into the Origin of Mary Buckett", by Caleb Johnson with English research assistance from Simon Neal. □

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MEET THE RESEARCHERS:
Q & A with Caleb Johnson and Simon Neal
Interviewed by Marcy Kelly
Chair of Soule Kindred in America Research Committee

Caleb Johnson, based in the United States, and Simon Neal, in England, conducted two recent and important research efforts to find the origins of Pilgrim Mary Beckett who married *Mayflower* passenger George Soule about 1626. Former Co-President and current Chair of the SKA Research Committee, Marcy Kelly, interviewed them to learn about their process and to enlist their thoughts about future Kindred research.



Simon Neal and Caleb Johnson

Let's Start at the Beginning...

SKA: First, thank you for identifying Mary Beckett of Watford, England, as the probable passenger on the ship *Anne* in 1623 and wife of Pilgrim George Soule. We've been looking for her for a very long time.

Caleb: You're welcome, and I appreciate the Soule Kindred for sponsoring efforts to continue research in this area.

Simon: I enjoyed the search. The manorial records for Watford were particularly interesting and survive in great number.

SKA: Let's start at the beginning; what brought you into the field of genealogy? Was there something in your childhood that pointed you in this direction?

Caleb: I became interested about the time I entered college after reviewing genealogical materials my parents had assembled. Research of any kind has always been something I enjoy.

Simon: My father and sister started researching our family tree in the early 1990s. To my surprise, I found the process fascinating and became intrigued about where my own ancestors came from.

SKA: What is a good name for what you do, historical genealogy?

Simon: Yes, historical genealogy is a good name. But, I would classify myself more as a historical researcher, as I undertake projects not just for genealogists, but also for local historians and various universities.

Caleb: I do both historical and genealogical research. For example, I did historical research in the High Court of Admiralty records and Customs Books of the Exchequer trying to trace the comings and goings of the *Mayflower*; and genealogical research when seeking *Mayflower* passenger Stephen Hopkins' origins, and the Mary's Beckett and Alden relations. The areas sometimes overlap.

SKA: Is either of you a Soule descendant?

Caleb: I descend from 13 *Mayflower* passengers, including George Soule, through his son John.

Simon: I have no *Mayflower* ancestry, although my grandmother used to say that one of her ancestors was on the *Mayflower*. I doubt there is any substance to her claim.

SKA: How does one become a historical researcher and genealogist?

Caleb: For me, it's a hobby. After researching my own *Mayflower* connections, I started writing books on *Mayflower*-related history and passengers. I have a website, mayflowerhistory.com, where a lot of data I've accumulated can be found. As for my formal education, I studied history, archaeology, English, computer science, and have a master's degree in business, with an IT management specialty.

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MEET THE RESEARCHERS: Continued

Simon: I studied history and Latin, and my final degree was in Latin at St Andrews University, Scotland. I then did a post-graduate course at Aberystwyth University, Wales, in archive administration, which included intensive paleographic studies where I learned how to read medieval and early modern documents. I have been working as a historical researcher since about 2000, when I started calendaring the patent rolls dating from the reign of Elizabeth I at The National Archives in England.

Unique Skills of our Researchers

SKA: What unique skills do you bring to your work?

Simon: My specialty is that I can read all types of English records from the 12th century onwards and am also able to translate Latin documents dating from this period. This is especially useful for 16th and 17th century documents, which can be very tricky to read.

Caleb: My greatest skill is probably my ability to focus endlessly on what most people would consider boring facts and figures in parish registers, and to eventually spot an oddity or pattern that others might miss. That, coupled with my talent for cataloguing countless useless facts about *Mayflower* passengers, allows me to quickly identify interconnections between families. In the case of Mary Beckett, the possible link between the Beckett and Warren families led to understanding how she may have traveled to the New World.

SKA: How did you two meet and how long have you been working together?

Simon: Caleb learned of my work online and contacted me.

Caleb: I was trying to interpret records relating to High Court of Admiralty lawsuits involving the *Mayflower*. I needed someone who could read very difficult handwriting and also translate from Latin.

SKA: How does your joint work process work? Is it difficult being based on two continents?

Caleb: Typically, when I'm working on projects, I engage Simon for tasks that are best handled at the local records' offices in England, or for documents that are in Latin or are beyond my skillset to fully transcribe due to difficult period handwriting.

Simon: With about 15 years under our belts, we've got our collaborations down pretty well. I always notify Caleb if I come across any *Mayflower* records during my own private research.

Challenges of Researching George Soule

SKA: Why has it been so hard to discover the origins of George Soule?

Simon: The surname is quite unusual, although I have come across it in several counties in England spelled in various ways. A lot of parish registers do not survive for this period and only a certain percentage of people left probate records. I think it unlikely that his origin will be determined unless clues are found, such as a link to another *Mayflower* passenger or to a later Pilgrim.

Caleb: Since George came on the *Mayflower* as a servant, or apprentice, presumably in his very early 20s, he likely left almost no trace of himself in England, short of his baptism record. And since almost all we know about him is his name and approximate age, this makes it extremely difficult to confirm anything. Even if we had a perfect George Soule of exactly the expected age, how could we ever prove it was the right one? Maybe there was another George Soule up the road, in a parish where church records did not survive.

SKA: What will it take to discover who he was, where he came from, and why he was on the *Mayflower*?

Caleb: I think the only way will be to puzzle out the connection that ties George to Edward Winslow, or to some other *Mayflower* passenger. My research tactic on George Soule has been to identify all known George Soules that fall within the reasonable age timeframe and then research each one of those to exhaustion for any sort of *Mayflower* social or familial connection.

Continued on the [next page](#)

MEET THE RESEARCHERS: Continued

SKA: How many George Soules, or Soule families have you found?

Caleb: I'd say maybe a dozen at least. I have published research on the George Soules found at Berrow, Eckington, Redmarly d'Abitot, and Strensham in Worcester; London; Dymock, Gloucester; Ashperton, Hereford; and Toddington, Tingrith and Flitwick, Bedford, as well as the George Saule in Lincolnshire that was added to the Beckett research project.

SKA: Do you think George was English? Some have speculated that he might have been Dutch or French.

Caleb: I think he was English, but could be convinced otherwise if some compelling evidence were presented. Edward Winslow recorded a number of the Pilgrim congregation that came from the Dutch and French churches in his book, *Hypocrisy Unmasked*, and didn't include George Soule on the list.

Simon: I agree that he was probably English, although Dutch remains a possibility.

New Possibilities from DNA Testing

SKA: The recent prevalence of DNA testing raises new avenues for research, doesn't it? How might we pursue George using DNA?

Simon: DNA matches would change my previous answer to the question about the difficulty in finding George Soule's origins. If the DNA of his descendants in America could be matched to DNA in the UK, this would at least suggest a county of origin where we can focus.

Caleb: Yes, I agree. There is value in pursuing Soule Y-DNA.

SKA: This might be something the Soule Kindred would like to explore. Where would you start?

Simon: Telephone directories in counties where we have found the Soule name, and the Internet.

Caleb: If we can find male Soules in England willing to be tested, we can compare their DNA with American DNA that's already been collected. If matches are found, we can then search the lineage of the U.K. Soules. That would pinpoint a geographic area where George Soule likely originated and eliminate others.

SKA: Could the same process be utilized using female mtDNA to confirm that Mary Beckett of Watford was George Soule's wife?

Simon: It would be quite a challenge to find a direct female descendant on the female line, starting from Mary Beckett.

Caleb: Far too many people share the exact same mtDNA so it wouldn't be as useful as Y-DNA. Tracing female-only lineages is very difficult because women leave fewer records and their surnames change every generation. I have yet to meet a single *Mayflower* descendant who claims a female-only descent, though I have met hundreds of male *Mayflower* descendants who still carry their ancestor's surname. Certainly the same number of female-only lineages exists as the male-only lineages; the difficulty lies with tracing such lines.

Next Steps for Mary Beckett Research

SKA: What is the next step in confirming Mary Beckett's connection to George Soule?

Caleb: If we could find a conclusive link between Mary Beckett of Watford, and the Richard Warren family, then I think it is possible we can confirm Mary as George's wife. However, the Warrens and Becketts in the area have now been extensively researched. The more heavily researched they are, the less likely some random record will suddenly turn up that helps link the two families more closely.

SKA: When you were doing the Mary Beckett research, was there a moment when you knew you had found her?

Continued on the [page 11](#)

Soule Kindred Scholarship

The Board of Directors of Soule Kindred will again offer a scholarship to students who are about to enter their first or second year at an accredited institution of higher learning. The scholarship for 2016 will be in the amount of \$1,100 and the award will be based upon the answers to the questions on the following application. Particular attention will be given to the statement of lineage from George Soule (question #2) and the one-page statement addressing question #8 of the application.

All applications with supporting material must be received by the Scholarship Committee by **July 1, 2016**. The announcement of the award will be made by August 15, 2016, and the actual monetary award will be made after the Scholarship Committee has received the academic transcript of the winner's successful completion of his/her first semester.

If no application is considered sufficiently meritorious to justify awarding of the scholarship, then none will be awarded.

Scholarship Application located on [page 10](#)

Did You Know...?

Was their planned destination Plymouth, Massachusetts?

No. In the charter they signed with the Virginia Company in England, the Pilgrims agreed to settle on land south of the 41st parallel located near the Hudson River. They wanted to avoid settling further south near the Virginia colony in Jamestown, fearing that the established church would attempt to influence or control their new church. Although the generally accepted reason for their sailing north of their intended destination was due to stormy weather, there has been some largely unsupported speculation that they may have intended to ignore the provisions of the charter and land north of the 41st parallel.

Did the Pilgrims have ownership of their homes or land?

Not until 1627. According to the provisions of the Virginia Patent, land was to be held by the Colony for seven years with no private ownership or use allowed. However, by 1623, Governor Bradford recognized there was considerable discontent with the practice of rotating the land families were farming and instituted the Land Apportionment of 1623, whereby each resident was assigned an acre of land. However, the land assigned was "only for present use!" with no rights of inheritance. Although the families did not own the land assigned to them, many built homes on their plots in the years that followed and individual ownership of land in the colony did not occur until 1627. The land division is recorded in Volume X of the records of the Colony of New Plymouth.

2016 Soule Kindred Scholarship Application Deadline is July 1

Soule Kindred in America, Inc. 2016 Scholarship Application

Each year Soule Kindred in America, Inc. awards scholarships to George Soule descendants. To apply, complete the application and send it to the address below. All applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee Chair before July 1st of applicant's senior year or year of application.

1. NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL _____
Father's Name _____
Mother's Maiden Name _____
2. Demonstrated lineage to *Mayflower* Pilgrim George Soule (attach pages).
3. What college or training program do you expect to attend?

4. Are you accepted into this college or training program? _____
5. What will be your major field of study? _____

6. In what extra-curricular activities have you been involved? _____

7. Write a short statement of your goals for the future (attach additional pages if necessary).

8. Because you are descended from a *Mayflower* family, you have been asked by a local group to make a presentation on the events in the Plymouth Colony during its first year of existence that led your ancestor and other surviving Pilgrims to celebrate and give thanks at the first Thanksgiving. What is it that you would say to this group?
9. Enclose two (2) letters of recommendation from non-family members. (e.g., teacher, scout leader, advisor, supervisor/boss, etc.)
10. Include an official academic transcript with the application.

SEND APPLICATION TO:
Helen A. Soulé
Soule Kindred in America, Inc.
339 River Route
Magnolia Springs, AL 36555

MEET THE RESEARCHERS: Continued

Caleb: Not a single moment, but there were several “hmm, that’s interesting” moments. The first was learning that Mary Beckett’s mother’s maiden name was Alden; the second was proximity to the Warren family and surmising that she likely came into the care of the Warrens after her father’s death. The third was the appearance of the name “Nathaniel” in the Beckett and Warren families, a fairly distinctive name that is present in George Soule’s children. I am always looking for unusual names being passed down in families as a clue.

SKA: How confident are you that Mary Beckett of Watford is our Mary?

Caleb: I would put it between 7 and 8 on a scale of 10. But I am always the strongest skeptic and I want more evidence.

SKA: Where is Watford and what is it like today?

Simon: Watford is now a large town, about 19 miles from London at the end of the Underground’s Metropolitan line. Many people commute from there into London. The main church, where Mary Beckett was baptized, is St Mary’s, which dates to the 12th century. It has a museum with a collection of fine art and sculpture, and there are many historical buildings still standing. Further research would have to be carried out to locate any Beckett or Alden properties in the town.

Final Thoughts...

SKA: What advice do you have for the amateur genealogist looking for family ancestors?

Simon: Check documentation, and check it again. Never make assumptions or leave any stone unturned.

Caleb: Always question. And when there is any doubt whatsoever, assemble the primary sources and form your own opinion.

SKA: Your research has been enormously helpful to Soule Kindred’s quest to learn about our first American ancestors. Thank you for sharing details about your impressive work and giving us insights to possible research projects in the future.

* * * * *

Support Soule Kindred with your tax-deductible contribution.

To help fund the 2016 scholarship and/or the research into George and Mary (Beckett) Soule’s origins, and/or the general operations of Soule Kindred, please return this form with your check.

Yes, I would like to support scholarships with a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

Yes, I would like to support research with a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

Yes, I would like to support general operations with a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

City State ZIP _____

Phone _____

Make check payable to

Soule Kindred in America
c/o Russ Francis
13450 SW Lancewood St.,

Thank you for your support!

Soule Kindred in America, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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 helenasoule@gmail.com

New **Renewal** **Gift**

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES—SELECT ONE

- Life Membership \$1,000
- Sustaining \$100 per year Regular \$35 per year
- Patron \$36.00-\$99.00 per year Youth (up to age 22) \$15 per year
- 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"/> Biennial Reunion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

...AND YOUR TALENTS:

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

- | | | | |
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SEND FORM & CHECK TO:

Soule Kindred in America, Inc. Treasurer Russ Francis, 13450 SW Lancewood St., Beaverton, OR 97008 or sign up online at www.soulekindred.org.

A Remarkable Yacht Called *Mayflower*

By John S. Sims



Mayflower yacht 1909
LOC (Library of Congress)

In the course of American history, three vessels have been named “Mayflower” by the US Navy: a screw tug built in 1866 at Chelsea, Massachusetts; a private yacht built in 1896 at Clydebank, Scotland; and a lighthouse tender built in 1897 at Bath, Maine (aka, USS *Suwanee* and later USCG *Hydrangea*).

Although the 1866 *Mayflower* would become a training ship for the naval academy, and the 1897 vessel would, likewise, become a “Maritime Training Service” for the Coast Guard after extensive use in war, it is *the 1896 yacht* which has a truly fascinating history as the first among 32 numbered yachts and 16 other yachts to be commissioned by the US Navy for military use. The USS *Mayflower* (PY-1 and later WPG-183 by the Coast Guard) was originally built for millionaire Ogden Goelet. He was a New York real estate magnet who owned the Knickerbocker Theatre and the Imperial Hotel, among many other parcels. He was a globe-trotting socialite and a lover of yachting. Goelet died

on his ship in August 1897. The elaborately appointed *Mayflower* remained in his unsettled estate for over half a year.

When the USS *Maine* was sunk in Havana, Cuba, on 15 Feb. 1898, and war was subsequently declared with Spain, the US Navy was desperate to quickly build up a fleet. The *Mayflower* was acquired and commissioned for military service at the New York Navy Yard on 24 March 1898. It joined the US fleet of Admiral William T. Sampson at Key West, Florida, on 20 April 1898. While most of its duties during the war concentrated on being a part of the blockade of the Santiago and Cienfuegos ports, a curious event occurred on 11 May when the crew of USS *Mayflower* boarded and seized a large British merchant steamer that had attempted to run the blockade. It too was named the *Mayflower*! A prize crew took the ship back to the States.

After the Spanish American War was quickly concluded, the USS *Mayflower* was returned to New York where she was decommissioned and subsequently outfitted for extended service at Puerto Rico beginning 15 June 1900. The new governor, Charles H. Allen, used the ship for his headquarters. Additionally, she served twice as the flagship of Admiral George S. Dewey, but underwent yet another radical transformation in 1904, when the USS *Mayflower* became a presidential yacht. Beginning with President Theodore Roosevelt, she served until 1929 as the host site of many diplomatic affairs, and was boarded by royalty and top government leaders from all over the world. This included being President Woodrow Wilson’s favorite courtship site of Mrs. Edith B. Galt, who would become his second wife in December 1915. Presidents Taft, Harding and Coolidge also used the yacht.

To save maintenance costs, President Herbert Hoover had the USS *Mayflower* decommissioned in March 1929 and the ship was put up at auction for public sale. There were no bidders. So it became yet another time for refitting the ship. It was directed to be overhauled in January of 1931, but in the process of squelching an on-board fire, she sank. The *Mayflower* was raised and sold to a wealthy Chicago financier who began her “celebrity makeover,” but he quickly sold it and fled the country to avoid the difficulties of massive debt. The *Mayflower* then embarked on an inglorious journey with a variety of owners until World War II.

On 31 July 1942, the ship was repurchased by War Shipping Administration and her name was changed to the USS *Butte*. Two months later it was transferred to the US Coast Guard and given back the *Mayflower* name. She patrolled the Atlantic coast line and served as a training ship until decommissioned in July 1946 and sold in 1947. Then another period of transition eventually saw her named *Mala* and operated in the Mediterranean as a “secret” transport for Jews migrating to Israel... *finally*, a purpose comparable to her original namesake! Israel purchased the ship in 1950 and renamed it *Moaz*. She served as a patrol ship and training craft until purposely destroyed in 1955.

Continued on [next page](#)

Plymouth Rocks 395 Years Later

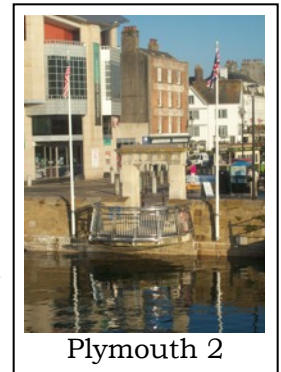
by John S. Sims

For any Soule Kindred member who hasn't been to Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, it's no doubt a site to see at the top of the bucket list. It's most certainly on my list and I look forward to the 2017 Reunion in Duxbury/Plymouth when we will celebrate our SKA 50th anniversary!

Have you ever thought about the beginning of George Soule's journey? Until an October 2015 visit to Plymouth, England, appeared on a tour schedule for myself and my wife, Phyllis, the Pilgrims' final port of debarkation had never crossed my mind. In addition, I had never considered what a difficult beginning the Pilgrims had experienced just getting under way with the voyage.

Plymouth was not their first point of debarkation nor was the *Mayflower* the only original vessel of choice. When the decision was made to leave Leiden in the Netherlands for the new world under contract with the Merchant Adventurers, two ships were purchased. One was the *Speedwell* which carried 30 passengers and the other was a much larger *Mayflower*, accommodating 90 passengers and a heavier share of their supplies.

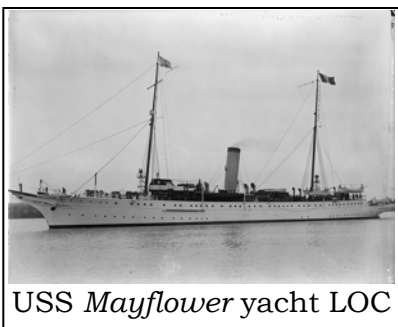
The two ships departed Southampton, England, together on August 5, 1620, but the *Speedwell* experienced serious leakage problems. They were forced to make port in Dartmouth for repairs. Both ships left next on August 23rd. They made it about 200 miles past Land's End before serious leaks again threatened the *Speedwell* and forced a return to port. This time it was to Plymouth. This time the *Speedwell* was judged to be un-seaworthy even though there were suspicions that the leaks were purposely caused by crew members not wanting to face the poor prospects of life in a new unsettled land. Some of the passengers abandoned the voyage and others climbed aboard a now very crowded *Mayflower*. A total of 102 passengers and a crew of about 25 finally departed on September 6. It was a 66-day journey of about 2,800 miles, filled with many difficulties. When they landed at Cape Cod, over 600 miles northeast of their intended destination, on November 9, 1620, the challenge of survival was just beginning for them!



Skipping ahead almost 395 years later, we found ourselves THERE in the Plymouth, England, harbor—boarding a boat called the *Pilgrim Princess* near the *Mayflower Steps* for what would be an hour's tour around the sound and up the Tamar River. *The DNA of George Soule had returned!* As good luck would have it, there was also a descendent of John Alden aboard, Beverly Johnson. We enjoyed getting to know her and sharing in our genealogical passion. The whole experience was exhilarating beyond what I had ever imagined, and ended up being one of the top highlights of our entire English tour.

A commemorative memorial site is at dockside where both the British and American flags are hoisted together beside Doric columns and a sightseeing platform. The Captain of the *Pilgrim Princess*, however, very proudly announced to us that the so-called original "Pilgrim Steps" were now beneath a woman's toilet at the nearby Admiral MacBride public house. In actuality, the steps no longer exist and their specific whereabouts cannot be conclusively determined. Nevertheless, I recommend it to all who might have the opportunity to visit the Barbican area of Plymouth. Cruises from the harbor are easy to charter if you are not already part of an organized tour. There is a three-story museum with a balcony overlooking Sutton Harbor, and plenty of beautiful sightseeing to be had. We toured with Trafalgar, and recommend it if you're looking for a regional tour aboard a bus. You may also wish to start exploring possibilities at <http://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/>.

A Remarkable Yacht Called *Mayflower* continued



The *Mayflower* yacht of 1896 certainly had a remarkable history. It stands uniquely as a vessel used by the USA in three wars. It is also a rare ship attached, in the end, to the Israeli navy.

To those of us in the SKA who only think of the *Mayflower* as our ancestor's conveyance to the New World, we need be reminded that many have honored the ship as a namesake. The US Navy is just one. There is also the *Mayflower II* at Plymouth, Massachusetts; a flower class ship in the Royal Canadian Navy; numerous British merchant ships with one HMS gunboat; an American moving company; and even a Triumph automobile.... May they all remind us of our heritage and the "the little ship that built a nation."

This and That

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 use the form on [page 12](#) or visit soulekindred.org.

Memberships are essential to our present and future as we honor the past.



New Members July-December

William Carey, IN
Charlene Christian, NH
Chandra Clark, TX
Donald Emblers, NJ
Andrea Etmanskie, Canada
Richard Fuhrman, NY
Jane Gannon, FL
Lauren Gaudlitz, TX
Andrew Groharing, IL
Naomi Henderson, NY
Connie Henson, GA
Brenda Hoard, OR
Julie Miguel, KS
Josephine Perrine, FL
Nancy Saul, NC
Richard Shaw, Australia
Kathie Smith, MN
Jennifer Soule, NC
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Carol Sowle, IN
Diane Tarbox, UT
Louise Wagner, CT
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Give a Donation



And support the preservation of Soule heritage for future generations.

To donate online, visit soulekindred.org, click on DONATE TODAY!, and choose a fund:

Colonel John Soule Research and Publication Fund

Continues the research and publication of Pilgrim history.

Soule Kindred Scholarship Fund

Supports college scholarships for Soule descendants.

General Administration Fund

Supports the general operations of Soule Kindred.

You can donate online or use the form on [page 11](#) and mail it along with a check.

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.

Submit articles or milestones to the Editor.

Be an active participant on our Facebook group page at www.facebook.com/groups/31193675886/.

Offer your suggestions for future research topics.

Contribute information to the Soule Kindred website.



Like our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/SouleKindred.



Follow us at www.Twitter.com/SouleKindred.

To help fulfill Soule Kindred's mission or to find out more, contact us at: helenasoule@gmail.com or barb7801@hctc.net

REMINDER!

If you haven't already done so and your membership renewal date was January 1, 2016, now is the time to renew your membership in Soule Kindred.

Members receive the triannual 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 and the Soule Kindred Family Tree Database, 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, Jeanette Taylor at jeanettetaylor092@gmail.com. You will also find a membership form on [page 12](#) of this newsletter.

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Can't wait for Spring to arrive already?

If you think you are ready for Spring to arrive, think of how the Pilgrims must have felt about that first Spring of 1621! Not only did the weather improve, but they met Samoset who introduced them to Squanto. And thanks to his tutelage, they began in earnest to build their town. Our relief at the pending end of winter in 2016 must pale in comparison.

