



# Soule Kindred Newsletter

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Fall 2017

*Preserving Soule Heritage  
for Future Generations*

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Anniversary Reunion in  
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## Dedication of Plaque in Duxbury

By Kathleen Kingman



Soule cousins gathered in the gardens of the King Caesar House. Photo courtesy of Dick McCreight, Bluestem Light Photography, LLC, [www.bluestemlight.com](http://www.bluestemlight.com)

*I am honored and pleased to be here today, celebrating with you the dedication of a plaque memorializing the Soule family and their place in Duxbury's history. It was a lucky confluence of events — the need to refurbish these gardens, the Soule family's inquiry about a family monument, and the continued investment of the Community Garden Club of Duxbury in these gardens. Together, all three groups succeeded in funding and implementing a new garden and the installation of this beautiful ornament and plaque.*

**- Erin McGough, Executive Director,  
The Duxbury Rural & Historical Society**

On a perfect autumn day, not too breezy and not too warm, we stepped off our tour bus to gaze upon the stately former home of Ezra (King Caesar) Weston II, built on the land grant given to George Soule in 1627. As our co-president Sara Soule Chapman put it, "To think that we are standing on property once owned and inhabited by our courageous and devoted great grandparents is truly awesome!"

We found our seats between rows of flowers under sunny skies and awaited the unveiling of the plaque. Sara continued, "Though only a small number of their descendants have made the journey to come together for this occasion, we represent the thousands of descendants of George and Mary who now inhabit the earth. I know we all inherited some of George and Mary's strength and sense of adventure! Look at what we had to endure to get to Plymouth: the lines in the airports, going through security, squishing into those seats, or driving in vehicles cross-country which could very well be bigger than the *Mayflower*!"

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## Editor's Comments:

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year is coming to an end, but it's just the beginning of our excitement for what's yet to come. The *2020 Mayflower celebration* in Plymouth is worth planning your life around. It will be huge. New Board members will soon be announced. A new feature column, *Soules in Service*, is sure to bring us together in spirit as we honor our veteran cousins. The Board is updating Soule Kindred's Strategic Plan, which will help guide us into the future, as the *Mayflower Compact* guided George Soule, Mary Beckett and others who came before us.



Sarah and I will continue to smile when we think of the many wonderful moments we shared with cousins at the Reunion. It certainly feels like an exciting time to be a Soule.

There are lots of opportunities for you to join in on the excitement. Volunteer your time in areas like website development and maintenance; write articles for the newsletter; and contribute financially to scholarships for college-bound Soules or to our Research Committee fund for efforts to pinpoint the origins of George Soule.

Join in and be ready for another fabulous 50 years!

**Kathleen Kingman**

[kathleenkingman@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenkingman@yahoo.com)

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#### **Soule Kindred 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion**

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New efforts will follow leads of DNA matches in other countries, while continuing efforts in England.

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John Sims pays tribute to veteran Soules and invites all to share stories for a new column honoring Soule vets.

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## For a nice Thanksgiving chuckle...

**Check out A. J. Jacobs' article "Be a Pilgrim for a Day" in Soule Kindred Newsletter, Vol. XXXIV, No. 4, page 7!**

**[Click here for article](#)**

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## Presidents' Corner

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The past year, and especially the past couple of months, have been busy yet exciting times! Our reunion in Plymouth was well attended; about 70 SKA members and guests convened in Plymouth for a four-day celebration of the 50th year reunion of Soule Kindred in America. For me, this was the first time attending a SKA reunion. I enjoyed myself immensely and discovered the gratification found in being surrounded with others who share my passion for genealogy, history and *Mayflower* stories.

My husband, Rob, and I shared the rental of an historic house for the week with eight other Soule Kindred members. The house is the second oldest house in Plymouth, built in the mid-1600s. Over the years, changes and additions were added, such as modern kitchen equipment and bathrooms, but it has been kept very authentic. It is located next to the historic Grist Mill on the site of the original Plimoth Plantation. Across the street from the house is Burial Hill, behind it is the stream the Pilgrims used for their water supply. It was truly amazing to stay in the house many of our descendants most likely were inside! After a couple of days, I told Rob I would love to live in a house like this. He said he would need higher door frames!

While in Plymouth, the Board members and committee chairs who were in attendance met to review the Strategic Plan written in 2014 and discuss needed updates to that plan. Christine Conley-Sowles facilitated the process and is working to draft an updated Strategic Plan. The new plan will be shared once it has been approved by the Board.

As I reflect on my first year as co-president of SKA, I am awed by the hard work and dedication so many members engage in to support the growth and development of the Soule Kindred. I also have been impressed with the enthusiasm for the continued research of the origins of our Pilgrim ancestors and for providing support to our cousins in their search for their own origins. It truly does take a village, or in our case, a family!

*Sara R. Soule-Chapman*

Sara Soule-Chapman  
SKA Co-President  
[kirbychap@msn.com](mailto:kirbychap@msn.com)



Soule cousins gather around special guests, George Soule and Mary Beckett, at the reception on Friday evening during the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion this Fall. (See full story on [page 14](#))



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## The Banquet: A Splendid Time for All!

By Kathleen Kingman

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Over 70 Soules filled the grand ballroom at Hotel 1620 on the night of our Banquet Dinner, Saturday, September 9. The display of Soule Kindred Reunion banners hung up front, with the newest addition made by Sara Soule-Chapman for this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion. These colorful souvenirs commemorate past reunions in places like Des Moines, IA; Reno, NV; Beverly Hills, CA; Burlington, VT; Montreal, Canada; and several others from Plymouth, MA.



### Warm Welcome by Sara Soule-Chapman



Photo courtesy of Dick McCreight,  
Bluestem Light Photography, LLC,  
[www.bluestemlight.com](http://www.bluestemlight.com)

Sara spoke to all the Soule cousins who gathered in Plymouth to honor our Pilgrim ancestors, George and Mary, and all of those who carried our lines to the present day.

*For most of us that is somewhere between 10 and 13 generations of hardy Soules who persevered through many hard winters, numerous conflicts, hunger, disease and hardships to play a vital role in building a new nation.*

*With each generation, George and Mary's DNA has been enhanced. Immigrants from around the world, Native Americans, and often-times fellow Pilgrim offspring have contributed to the gene pool inherited from George and Mary, and we are the result of this mixture. It's kind of eerie, knowing that most everyone in this room shares some little bit of their biology. I guess that makes us cousins!*

### Looking at SKA through its Newsletter

In looking over the array of newsletters that were published over the past 50 years, Sara said she was struck by the realization that those newsletters clearly document the progression of this organization. We can trace the history through articles and pictures contributed by many past and present SKA members. We can see the development of projects and events that occurred to bring the organization to where we are today.

- The first newsletter, published in 1967, reported on the dedication of the newly built Soule house replica at Plimoth Plantation.
- The 1971 Fall issue reported on the dedication ceremony for the George Soule headstone at the Miles Standish Cemetery in Duxbury.
- The 1978 Fall issue reported on the publishing of the book *Mayflower Families through Five Generations*.
- The 2016 Winter issue reported on the findings of our historians on the origins of Mary Beckett.
- The 2016 Fall issue reported on the DNA project to collect samples from Soules in England in an attempt to find the origins of George Soule.

Continued on [next page](#)

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## The Banquet: A Splendid Time for All! continued

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Sara continued:

*And of course, the changes in the quality of the media is amazing! From the scratchy, black and white print and pictures to the colorful, clear pictures and print in our current newsletter. In addition, we now have a website, Facebook and Twitter sites which makes communicating with other descendants so much easier.*

In addition to honoring our ancestors, we gathered to celebrate the 50th year anniversary of our organization, Soule Kindred in America. Two very dedicated men, Col. John Edward Soule and George Standish Soule, were the founders of our organization in 1967.

### Col. John Edward Soule

Col. John Edward Soule was born in Chicago in 1902. He attended the University of Illinois, where he was a member of the ROTC and received both bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Alabama. Col. Soule served more than 30 years in the Corps of Engineers and later was a director of the American Institute of Steel Construction.

Col. Soule was a descendant of several Pilgrims, including George Soule and William Brewster. He served as historian of the Georgia Mayflower Society and was cofounder and family historian of Soule Kindred in America. He was the author of the Soule family history, which became part of a genealogical book for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

### George Standish Soule

George Standish Soule was a native of Oklahoma City and a 1958 graduate of the University of Oklahoma. He was an electrical engineer. One of our members, who knew him, characterized him as vivacious, social, energetic and kind.

He worked with Col. John Soule to establish the SKA, was a regular contributor to the *Soule Kindred Newsletter* and took on the role of newsletter trustee, preserving back issues. He attended many of the annual reunions. He was also a descendant of Miles Standish.

Together these men started our organization and, working with many other descendants, produced newsletters four times per year, planned reunions in various parts of the country and established records of the Soule genealogy that are still relevant today.

Sara mentioned how her father joined SKA at its inception, and was so excited to become a member. He looked forward to receiving the newsletters and proudly documented the arrival of each of his grandchildren, submitting their names and dates of birth.

Sara joined SKA just three years ago; when she retired, she realized she had time to devote to genealogy research. She joined the Board two years ago. She was very complimentary to the fellow and sister Board members and committee chairs. Sara states that these dedicated people not only have continued the work of the founders, they have also improved access to information about the organization and about George and Mary for Soule Kindred around the world. Most recently, they have worked with historians and made huge gains in discovering the origins of Mary Beckett and George Soule. Perhaps the most important outcome of these efforts is to preserve the organization for the future generations.



Display honoring our Soule Kindred in America founders, along with photo albums from reunions past.

Continued on [next page](#)

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## The Banquet: A Splendid Time for All! continued

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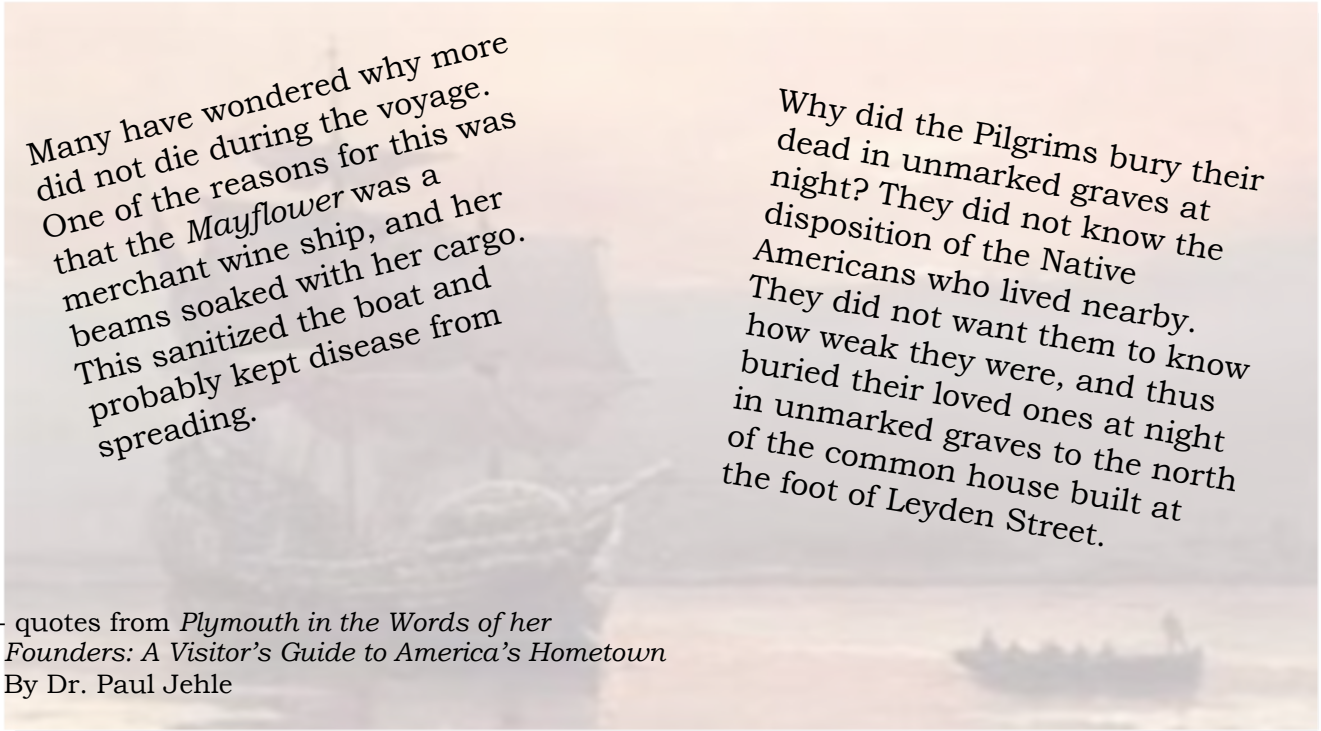
Sara introduced our current Board members, newsletter editor and committee chairs and thanked us for our contributions to the organization. Sara then asked members of the audience to stand up and say the names of any Soule cousins, past or present, who should be acknowledged.

Kathleen brought up her late uncle, Keith Kingman, who was instrumental in bringing the Soule Kindred Family Tree Database up to the forefront of SKA members' attention. Louise Walch Throop was thanked for all of her contributions to research and scholarly communication.

Elizabeth (Betty)-Jean (BJ) Haner was recognized for over 25 years of volunteer service to SKA. BJ served as Treasurer beginning in 1981, then added Membership Secretary in 1990, doing both jobs until 2010. Geraldine (Gerry) Schlosser served as Newsletter Editor (1981-1987), Vice President in 1988 and Historian of SKA (1989-1998). Geradine was recognized by her daughter, Chris Schlosser.

Rosemary Peters was thanked for bringing photo albums filled with memories from Soule Kindred reunions between 1967- 2002. These were compiled by her mother, Florence Soulé. Many at the Banquet had attended some of these reunions or had parents, grandparents or cousins who had attended. The albums were set on a table under the ribbon banner display of past reunions, representing places like Montreal (1990), Annapolis, MD (1991), Reno, NV (1992), Plymouth, MA (1993), St. Augustine, FL (1994), Burlington, VT (1995), Madison, IN (1997), Vero Beach, FL (1998), and Lanark, IL (1999). And it was Rosemary's late father, Norman R. Soulé, who served for many years as "Keeper of the Banners", transporting it in his camper to SKA Reunions in the 1990s and 2000s.

### Did you know...



Many have wondered why more did not die during the voyage. One of the reasons for this was that the *Mayflower* was a merchant wine ship, and her beams soaked with her cargo. This sanitized the boat and probably kept disease from spreading.

Why did the Pilgrims bury their dead in unmarked graves at night? They did not know the disposition of the Native Americans who lived nearby. They did not want them to know how weak they were, and thus buried their loved ones at night in unmarked graves to the north of the common house built at the foot of Leyden Street.

- quotes from *Plymouth in the Words of her Founders: A Visitor's Guide to America's Hometown*  
By Dr. Paul Jehle



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## Co-president Darrel Young Delivers an Inspirational Salute to Soules

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Darrel Young, Sara's co-president, took the podium with poise and grace. His speech is included here, as it was delivered Saturday night. We were all inspired by Darrel's message.

*Time to stand tall, folks.*

*We are all Soule cousins, and we come from good stock.*

*So, let's take a moment to be proud of our lineage, and especially of George Soule, our praiseworthy many-times great-grandfather.*

*Arriving here, a young man who could read, write and cypher, he was a vital part of the Mayflower community and all that it contributed to the formation of America.*

*George not only faced the hardships that all Mayflower passengers did, he survived those challenges to become one of only 22 Mayflower Pilgrims to produce offspring. That is certainly worth celebrating, for had he not, we would not exist to gather here this evening.*

*The Pilgrims came to America, in large part, to live a life closer to God, and in so doing, they laid out a path of moral rectitude for subsequent generations to emulate. America today might well be much less if not for our Mayflower foremothers and fathers.*

*Contributions of the Pilgrims, however, go beyond whatever brought them here. Fate, my friends, seems to have had its own hand to play.*

*What if the Mayflower had not been blown off course and had landed at its original destination in the northern part of the territory under the control of the London Virginia Company, with its appointed governor, the one ruling over Jamestown? If that had been the case, we would have no Mayflower Compact, George Soule being one of the signees.*

*Finding themselves beyond the jurisdiction of the Virginia Company, our Mayflower forebears drew up their own rules of governance, predicated on the principle that those who govern do so only with the consent of the governed. This was a first in recorded history and the document later served as the foundation for our Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution — not something Pilgrims had in mind when they set sail for America, but definitely a contribution of great significance.*

*And what about that first Thanksgiving, now so thoroughly embedded in America's consciousness? It was certainly not the first re-encounter between the Old World and the New, between East and West, as America, it seems, was destined to be where the world comes back together again.*

*In the beginning, we humans all started out together. We here may all be Soule cousins, but in some larger sense, we are all cousins with everyone everywhere. At some point, from somewhere in Africa, some of us began venturing farther and farther northward, eventually reaching the Arabian Peninsula. At that juncture, some went left, others, right, acquiring different languages, complexions, and cultures along the way. In the course of time, those that went left bumped up against the Atlantic Ocean; those who went right, after crossing the Bering Strait and settling the Americas, did likewise but on the Atlantic's opposite shore.*

*When that ocean was finally crossed and the world did begin to come together again, initial re-encounters tended to be violent — we're talking conquest, subjugation and domination!*

*Not so, however, with that first Thanksgiving, where the prevailing spirit was one of generosity, acceptance, sharing and learning from one another, all common traits in Pilgrim thought and deed, and all in all, a new approach to bringing people together.*

*Once again, maybe not what Mayflower Pilgrims came to do, but, nonetheless, a valuable contribution and one that bears remembering as America faces present-day problems and predicaments regarding immigration and integration. In these times, let's remember our ancestors' example; let us continue to bring the world together again, with a spirit of generosity and graciousness our touchstone, and in so doing, let us remember George Soule!*



Photo courtesy of Dick McCreight, Bluestem Light Photography, LLC, [www.bluestemlight.com](http://www.bluestemlight.com)

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## Dedication of Plaque in Duxbury continued

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Sara thanked Erin McGough and Lori Rohleder for organizing the renovation of the gardens, overseeing the ordering and installation of the plaque and for planning the celebration for Soules at this reunion. She introduced Erin McGough, Executive Director of the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society (DRHS), who welcomed us to this special place.

The Duxbury Rural & Historical Society has been preserving Duxbury's history since 1881, when the organization was founded. Today, it maintains four historic houses, an archival research library and more than 160 acres of land in conservation.

George Soule married Mary Beckett in 1626 and they started their new life together here on this very land. Originally more than 100 acres, we were sitting very near to the western border of the original grant. How did this land change from Soule to Weston? Soule's daughter, Mary, married John Peterson and they were the great-great grandparents of Ezra Weston II. Ezra was dubbed "King Caesar", for having so much influence he could even get a bridge built to Powder Point when he wanted one! Ezra Weston's shipbuilding empire once dominated the landscape; we imagined what the scenic bay must have looked like when it was an industrial area.

Erin said, "Today we dedicate a plaque here, one tangible reminder of the Soule family's huge presence here in Duxbury. But there are others as well:

- There is a street in Duxbury named Soule Ave, named for John Soule, who operated a shipyard and salt works on Kingston Bay in the 19th century.
- Near there, is the oldest house built by a Soule still standing in Duxbury, that of Moses Soule (1790). The house was moved to its current location from Depot Street.
- The family of Joseph Soule, great-grandson of George, purchased the William Brewster farm in 1772 on the peninsula we call the Nook, also called Standish Shore. The Soules lived on the property for over 240 years, tending the Brewster lilacs. A few years ago, the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society conducted an archaeological dig on the Brewster property, discovering evidence of Brewster family occupation, but also artifacts relating to the later Soule family occupants. That branch of the Soule family also built one of the oldest houses in that area of Duxbury, built in 1774.
- Grandsons of George Soule, Josiah Soule and Jonathan Peterson, were two of the first residents in the Ashdod neighborhood, in West Duxbury. Together they purchased 150 acres from the town in 1706. The Josiah Soule house still stands today at 636 Union Street. Lyman Street is the old cart path between Josiah and Jonathan's land.
- Even the Winsor family houses in town, including DRHS headquarters on Washington Street, are related to the Soule family through Olive Soule, who married Nathaniel Winsor, Sr."

Erin ended by saying, "Thank you for being here and sharing your story with us, for supporting the DRHS and the preservation of this property; thank you for helping to rejuvenate the gardens that we all enjoy today. I like to think that just as the 17th century George Soule found his land here on Powder Point, so too, the modern Soule family will find their home at the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society."

Erin and Sara unveiled the plaque by removing the cover.

It reads:

*In memory of George Soule and Mary Beckett, granted land at Powder Point around 1627. They farmed here and raised nine children. George arrived in the New World on the Mayflower in 1620 and Mary arrived three years later on the passenger ship Anne.*

*Plaque dedicated by the Soule Kindred in America, September 2017.*



Newly unveiled plaque.  
Photo courtesy of Dick  
McCreight, Bluestem Light  
Photography, LLC,  
[www.bluestemlight.com](http://www.bluestemlight.com)



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## Banquet Dinner Features Caleb Johnson

### By Marcy Kelly

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Sara Soule-Chapman introduced Marcy Kelly at the Banquet Saturday night, September 9 with these words:

*Marcy Kelly has been a member of Soule Kindred since the 1970s when her mother first brought her to a reunion. She served on the Board of Directors for several years and as President in 2010. In the last few years, she has chaired the SKA Research Committee and frequently written articles about our family history for the newsletter. Tonight, she will bring us up to date on the Committee's latest research efforts.*

Marcy then gave a brief update and introduced Caleb:



Photo courtesy of Dick McCreight, Bluestem Light Photography, LLC, [www.bluestemlight.com](http://www.bluestemlight.com)

"We have been searching for our Soule roots for a long time. But, if you've been reading the *Soule Kindred Newsletters*, you know that we have probably found half of them. In 2015, through a joint venture with the Mayflower Women's Committee, we discovered, with about 75% certainty, the origins of our Pilgrim Mother, Mary Beckett in Watford, England — today a subway's ride from central London.

Thanks to our research team headed by Historical Genealogists Caleb Johnson and Simon Neal, we now have records of Mary's parents' families into the mid-1500s.

Paper research on the origins of George Soule — church, manorial, probate and other sources — have not proved as fruitful, so last year we embarked on an effort to find George's lineage through DNA testing. The plan was to locate English men with the Soule surname, or a variation of the name, willing to donate their DNA to compare with known American descendants of George Soule.

On the website of FamilyTreeDNA.com, the Texas lab where the DNA is tested, you will find the results for 200 men with the Soule name. Of those, 48 with proven lineages to Pilgrim Soule, match and can be said to carry the y-DNA of George and his father, and his father before him.

We are only testing men at this time for a variety of reasons. It is easier to find men as their names stay constant, while women's change every generation and, because we have George's DNA, and we don't have Mary's.

It is commonly accepted that George was English, but it has been hypothesized that he was a Huguenot fleeing France, a Dutch boy who met up with the Pilgrims when they lived in Holland. Or maybe he was just hanging around the port one day and decided to board the *Mayflower* and see the world.

I want to thank the Soule Kindred Board of Directors for their generous support of our research efforts, and Louise Throop, Administrator of the Soule project at FamilyTreeDNA.com, for facilitating our lab submissions.

Now, I'm delighted to introduce to you Caleb Johnson, our lead researcher; descendant of 14 Mayflower passengers, including George Soule; the historian behind MayflowerHistory.com; author and editor of a number of books, including *The Complete Works of the Mayflower Pilgrims* and *The Mayflower and Her Passengers*. He is credited with locating the origins of Mayflower passengers Peter Browne and Stephen Hopkins and, hopefully, he will soon add George Soule to his list of discoveries."

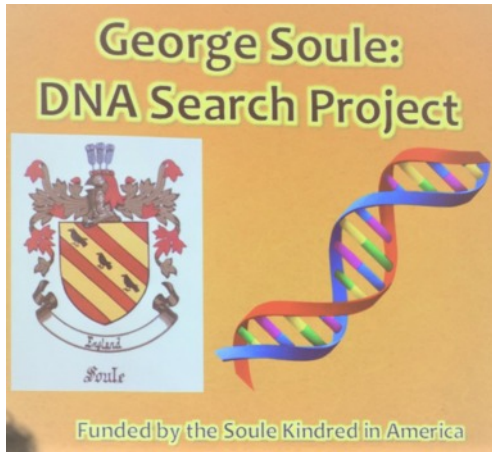
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## Banquet Dinner Features Caleb Johnson continued

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### Caleb Johnson Updates us on George Soule Research Efforts



Using Power Point slides, maps, charts and a bit of humor, Caleb Johnson, the lead researcher on the origins of George Soule, described how he and British genealogist Simon Neal began their search for Soule men in England to find DNA matches with known George Soule descendants in America. The hope was that matching U.S. and U.K DNA, coupled with each volunteer's genealogy, could lead to the town or county where George was born.

Johnson and Neal began by contacting the Soule Society in the United Kingdom and placing an ad in their newsletter offering free DNA testing to male Soules. The response was disappointing, so they next delved into phone books, electoral registers, and the internet to find subjects. After gathering names and addresses, including many with variations on the Soule name — Soal, Sowle, Saul — they sent postal letters of inquiry.

Neal undertook a detailed genealogical study of each volunteer to identify what 17th century Soule family they traced back to, and narrowed the eligible volunteers to 19 (one more was added after the banquet date). DNA sample kits were mailed and tested at the FamilyHistoryDNA lab in Texas.

Johnson explained that DNA is all about statistical probabilities, very little can be considered 100% conclusive. "For example," he explained, "if we test five Soules who trace their ancestry to Bedfordshire and they don't match USA samples, then there is a very strong likelihood that George Soule is not from Bedfordshire. But it is not impossible — there could be two unrelated Soule families in Bedfordshire and our testing never encountered the second family, or the second family doesn't have male descendants in England any longer."

"We have not yet encountered any yDNA in England that could be a near relative of George Soule's," Johnson said. "And that's defining 'near' as within a few thousand years back from George. No Soule we have tested has shared a common ancestor with George since Viking invasions of England and the development of surnames. This could suggest that George Soule's English family may have gone extinct in England, or is at least very rare."

Areas in England where volunteers were tested included Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Sussex, Cambridgeshire, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, London and Kent.

Johnson said that results thus far could support the idea that George was a Huguenot, or French Protestant, who moved to Leiden or London, or that he was a member of the Sol family of printers in Leiden, Holland, as has been hypothesized.

Out of the men whose yDNA has been studied, Johnson explained that most were completely unrelated but a few had the same haplogroup as George Soule, namely I-M253. "But so does 50 percent of all men in Sweden, and 15 percent of all men in England. What this means is that they all descend from a single man who lived about 5,000 years ago, likely in Scandinavia. But within this group of men who descend from this common male ancestor, the Soules we found were not closely related to George."

Johnson explained that the lack of a match is not as discouraging as it may appear to some. "The work Simon Neal and I have done has eliminated a lot of possibilities and that will be useful to our future efforts as well as to other researchers who will come after us." A prime example of this, he explained is that the Soule family centered around Tingrith, Flitwick and Stotford, Bedfordshire, are not the immediate ancestors of George Soule. This is significant, he explained, "because one of the best paper-trail candidates for "our" George Soule, was this family. Now that we know we don't need to fund further research into the records of this family, we can focus our funding elsewhere."

"Every Soule family in England we can eliminate using yDNA, is a Soule family we don't need to research further from a paper-trail perspective." Johnson said he wants to pursue the idea that George came from Holland by finding and testing descendants of Johannes Sol, the Dutch printer who published some of the Pilgrim literature.

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# Exploring Plimoth Plantation Museum

By Kathleen Kingman

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We first met up with our Soule cousins Friday, September 8, at the entrance to the Plimoth Plantation Museum. The museum is self-guided, so Soules set their own pace, and would frequently run into each other at the various sites covering its 130 acres.

The Plimoth Plantation Museum, operates the ship *Mayflower II*; a recreation of the 1627 Plimoth Plantation and a Wampanoag homesite; and a recreation of the 1636 Grist Mill, along Town Brook.

The museum, in its 70th year, is open mid-March to late November. It welcomes over 70,000 school children per year, and according to the Executive Director, Ellie Donovan, Plimoth Plantation is dedicated to teaching the public about the separate and shared history of the native Wampanoag and the English colonists in all its complexity and differing perspectives. Donovan first became involved with Plimoth Plantation in high school, when she taught visitors about the English village of Plimoth, long before it became a “living history” museum where employees act as historic characters, with authentic clothing and dialect. Donovan explains the difference, “What living history does is put all of those facts into an emotional context that really humanizes the story.”

## Wampanoag Homesite

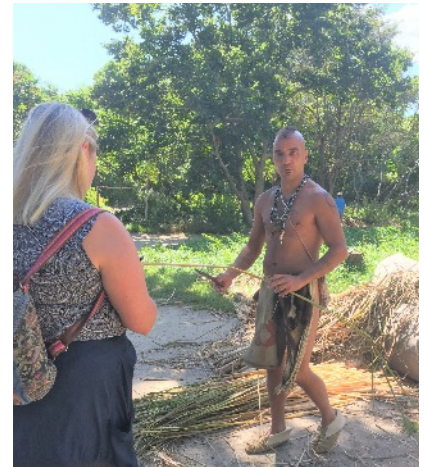
Wampanoag means “Eastern People” or “People of the First Light.” The Wampanoag People have lived in southeastern New England for over 12,000 years. Before 1616, there were approximately 50,000 Wampanoag People in about 67 different villages in the Wampanoag territory. Between 1616-1618, a devastating plague, carried by Europeans, caused the deaths of many thousands of Wampanoag. Thousands more were killed or sold into slavery by the English during King Philip’s War (1675). Today there are about 5,000 Wampanoag who live in the area.

When we entered the recreated village, we immediately were transported back in time. Native American staff, representing many nations, including Wampanoag, were busy preparing food, building shelter and weaving.

Tim Turner, from the Cherokee Nation, was splitting cattail reeds, which would be used to make mats. He is passionate about being a part of the Wampanoag Village. As Tim describes it, his mother brought him to Plimoth Plantation when he was seven years old. He fell in love with the place, and never left. As a teenager he admitted to actually sneaking in the back way just to be a part of the Village. Finally, staff counseled him, “If you just become a staff member, you won’t have to sneak in.” Tim joined the staff. Last year, he was honored for 25 years of service to the Wampanoag Village.



Kerri Helme pausing from her cooking duties to answer questions and pose for pictures.



Tim Turner being interviewed by Kathleen

Kerri Helme, from the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, is an archaeology student who is very active in efforts to preserve and communicate her family history. The integrated town where she and her family live, Pocasset, was secured by a 1675 treaty with Benjamin Church, who appreciated the Mashpee converting to Christianity and staying neutral during the King Philip’s War. Pocasset is a village in Bourne County, near Mashpee on Cape Cod. Kerri was personally involved with the repatriation of the remains of Massasoit, the sachem or chief who first met the English. Kerri was very interested to hear about Soule Kindred’s Reunion and believes organizations like ours could collaborate with Native Nations like the Wampanoag in research efforts to benefit all.

Continued on [page 16](#)



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# Interview with Caleb Johnson

By Kathleen Kingman

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*At the 2017 Soule Kindred Reunion in Plymouth, MA, Caleb Johnson, our featured banquet speaker, was interviewed by Kathleen Kingman, Editor of Soule Kindred Newsletter.*

I was one of the lucky ones, along with Research Chair Marcy Kelly and Communications Chair Karen McNally, who got to share a table with Caleb and his parents at the Saturday night Banquet Dinner. I told Caleb that I'd like to interview him, but not about his research per se... more about *him, Caleb Johnson*. I knew our readers would be curious about how this mild-mannered 42-year-old man developed his vocation and became the premier historian of *Mayflower* descendants.

Seated at the table with us were Caleb's parents, Frank and Beverly Johnson, from Paulden, Arizona, who drove their RV to Plymouth for the chance to see their genealogy rock star son speak at not one, not two, but five events during the five days they spent in Plymouth.

One of the first things I did before interviewing Caleb was to check out his website, [www.MayflowerHistory.com](http://www.MayflowerHistory.com), where I learned that he graduated from Texas Tech University and subsequently earned an MBA with an emphasis in IT Management. He has been researching and studying the *Mayflower* passengers for 25 years, and has authored and edited a number of books including *The Complete Works of the Mayflower Pilgrims*; *The Mayflower and Her Passengers*; *William Bradford of Plymouth Plantation*, and his best-selling work — a biography of *Mayflower* passenger Stephen Hopkins entitled *Here Shall I Die Ashore*.

Caleb has been interviewed and quoted by numerous national publications, usually for Thanksgiving-related pieces, including *the New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and National Public Radio. His research has been used and cited by best-selling authors Nathaniel Philbrick (*Mayflower*) and Nick Bunker ( *Making Haste from Babylon*), and he assisted with the Sally Fields episode of PBS's "Finding Your Roots." Caleb edited the scholarly historical and genealogical journal, *the Mayflower Descendant*. He has been on the forefront of *Mayflower* genealogical research on *Mayflower* passengers, discovering the English origins of Stephen Hopkins at Hursley, Hampshire (1998) and Peter Browne at Dorking, Surrey, England (2004).



**KK How did you first discover your passion for genealogy?**

**CJ** *I had an interest in genealogy research since high school, I think a natural outcrop of my interest in research and nonfiction writing in general. When at Texas Tech, I discovered I could get any article I wanted, free of charge, through "interlibrary loan". I started ordering up every genealogical article on my own ancestors, then this spilled over into doing it for every Mayflower passenger.*

**KK You had a big "announcement" planned for one of the Plymouth events. Did it go over well?**

**CJ** *Yes, it was a huge announcement! We (Simon Neal, Sue Allan, and myself — but only I was physically present) announced the discovery of the English origins of Mayflower passengers William White, Susanna (Jackson) White, and Dorothy May. We showed that William White was the uncle of Dorothy May, and that Susanna Jackson was the daughter of Richard Jackson, who leased Scrooby Manor along with William Brewster. We showed William and Susanna White were members of the Amsterdam congregation of Henry Ainsworth, and not the Pilgrims' congregation in Leiden.*

**KK What are some of your other passions, interests and hobbies?**

**CJ** *I am fascinated by paleontology and I love to go fossil-hunting for dinosaur bones and teeth in the Hell Creek Formation of eastern Montana. I love traveling to national parks and I have a goal to see every one ... I'm about 80% there! Immediately after giving a speech to the Myles Standish Colony of the GSMD in Naples, Florida, I headed off to the Everglades National Park. I try to combine my interests! After the Plymouth Congress, I went to Maine with my parents so I could see Acadia National Park. Two more off my bucket list.*

Continued on [next page](#)

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## Interview with Caleb Johnson continued

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**KK** What keeps you motivated when you encounter long hours sorting through often hard-to-read documents or dead-ends?

**CJ** *The thrill of new discovery has always more than compensated for the hours of drudgery. And, to be honest, the long hours of reading documents can sometimes be relaxing, akin to long drives. Some people get stressed by that, for me those things are relaxing and meditative in a way.*

**KK** What are you most proud of when it comes to your genealogical discoveries and contributions?

**CJ** *The discovery of Stephen Hopkins' origins in Hursley, Hampshire, and proving he was the same man who went to Jamestown, and was shipwrecked on Bermuda, remains my favorite discovery ... so much so I wrote a book about it, "Here Shall I Die Ashore". My discovery of the origins of Peter Browne and his probable association with William Mullins was pretty big. And this new discovery of the origins of William and Susanna (Jackson) White is another major one, this time with a team of my fellow researchers (Simon Neal, Sue Allan) which made it fun to "share" in the discovery together. I think a book will come out of this discovery as well.*

**KK** What most excites you in your current and future research activities?

**CJ** *Part II and III of the William and Susanna (Jackson) White articles for "The American Genealogist" are still in the drafting and editing stage and that has been my focus. Using DNA evidence is another fascinating route of research, not only for George Soule, but for other passengers in a similar state (Edward Doty, Isaac Allerton, for example).*

**KK** How did you meet Simon Neal?

**CJ** *In 1998 when I was working on Stephen Hopkins' origins, I wanted a researcher in England to look through some then non-traditional records to see if anything else could be turned up. Things like tax records, manorial records, militia muster lists, etc. My Alta Vista searches (Google wasn't a thing yet...) turned up Simon Neal as someone who could read the handwriting of this period and knew Latin, so I engaged him. We hit it off, and have been working as a team now for 20 years, both of us learning as we go and helping each other.*

**KK** Are there any other thoughts you'd like to leave us with? What are your hopes for the future?

**CJ** *I hope we discover all the remaining undiscovered origins, including George Soule, Edward Doty, Isaac and Mary (Norris) Allerton, Myles Standish, Mrs. Mary Brewster, Mrs. Alice Mullins, John Alden, and all the others who haven't yet been found. And I hope we continue to extract English records to learn more about who these people were.*



Calab Johnson along with his parents, Frank and Beverly Johnson, at the reception on Friday evening.



Caleb Johnson and Marcy Kelly after Caleb's presentation at Saturday evening's banquet.

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## Introducing George Soule and Mary Beckett!

### By Kathleen Kingman

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The first evening we gathered together to kick off the reunion with anticipation and warm embraces of cousins who hadn't seen each other in a long time or were meeting for the first time. Marcy Kelly, our research chair, introduced the special guests... in full period costumes and with convincing period dialect... *George Soule and Mary Beckett!*

George Soule looked out over the audience and remarked, "You rather look like family!" We all chuckled, then the room became quiet as he spoke of the harsh realities of that first winter. George described how he helped care for the farm when Master Winslow was away. Goodwife Soule described how she came later, on the ship *Anne*, as a nanny with the Warren family. She explained how "Time passes clearly on a ship, faintly sleeping: not a civilized way to live."



George captivated the audience as he described his pursuit of Mary: "When a woman is milking a cow, she can't get away!" Mary noted there were many single men, and few eligible women, so she had her pick. George commented that "After the arrival of the women, things began to get better."

Mary repeatedly referred to George as a "good man" and she seemed content in her role as wife and mother. She explained how the children would serve dinner to the parents, but George would have his pick, before the others would eat.

George would confide in Master Brewster of matters pertaining to God. "You have to follow your master. He tried to make sure my government was tender and light."

George described how early on, before the women came, there were fights in the streets among the single men. "I think they were Irish," commented George and the room erupted in laughter.

Rather abruptly and dramatically, the actors came out of character to speak to us as Richard Pickering, Deputy Director at Plimoth Plantation, and Vicki Oman, Director of Education at Plimoth Plantation. Accents gone, expressions changed. Richard explained that to do a reenactment, you do your research first but then you rely on conjecture. Richard stated that his colleagues at Plimoth Plantation have greatly helped with his ability to use conjecture to play the "live" characters from the period.



Richard remembers that in the 1980s/1990s, he performed a younger George Soule for at least three Soule Kindred reunions. He also was invited to do a reenactment at the UN to teach members about our first Thanksgiving. He had his period clothing hidden under his street clothes and transformed before their eyes, on the floor of the United Nations! He said after his southern mother first saw Richard do a reenactment, she responded, "I can't believe my child does this for a living!"

Richard later commented that the Soule House at Plimoth Plantation is considered to be the "coolest house at the plantation." It is the "Children's Discovery House", with interactive areas for cooking and living like a Pilgrim. He said he once overheard a boy say it's "better than Disney!"

In his final words, Richard pointed out the significance of the *Mayflower Compact* and its great example of "excellence in diplomacy." He said we as a nation should "look backward if we're going to look forward" and consider the example of the Pilgrims when we create policies and agreements with others.



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## Soule Kindred Donation Form

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

## Exploring Plimoth Plantation Museum continued

### Plimoth Plantation

After surveying the fort, we walked into the English Village, a full-scale replica of Plimoth as it would have appeared during the seven years they lived in the walled community. We immediately joined a small group inside the recreated home of Edward Winslow.

Master Winslow patiently answered questions and even offered to show us his copy of the *Mayflower Compact*!



The view of the village from just outside of the fort.

While strolling the dirt road, we happened onto Buddy Tripp, who reenacts Myles Standish, Edward Winslow, John Billington, John Carver, Issac Allerton and Stephen Hopkins. We caught Buddy in regular clothing, performing his other role as Guest Experience Manager. Buddy shared with us some Old English expressions, such as "laughing up your sleeve", which meant hiding the fact that you're laughing at someone. A "sleeveless errand" is a pointless task. Here is a link that teaches how to Talk Like a Pilgrim: <https://www.plimoth.org/learn/just-kids/talk-pilgrim>

While talking to Buddy, we were entertained watching museum visitors recruited to train in a "militia", including small boys who could barely hoist up the large pikes they were being asked to handle.



Visitors have been recruited for the militia!



We explored backyard gardens filled with authentic foods the Pilgrims would have grown, along with seeing rare breeds of livestock such as a Devon cow and Red Dorking poultry. And the last house we visited was that of our very own George Soule. (Now the home of the Children's Discovery House.)

One of the bigger gardens in the village — clearly thriving now that they have made it past those first rough years.

Photo courtesy of Dick McCreight, Bluestem Light Photography, LLC, [www.bluestemlight.com](http://www.bluestemlight.com)



Cousins Kathleen Kingman, Karen McNally, Marjorie Julian, Marcy Kelly and Elizabeth Soule Kelly gathered in front of the George Soule House.



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## Exploring Plimoth Plantation Museum continued

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At the Plimoth Grist Mill, we ate lunch next to an operational water wheel, then entered the wheel house where a miller demonstrated a 200-year-old millstone used to grind corn. The mill was built and operated by John Jenny in 1636. The original structure burned in 1837 and was rebuilt in 1970.

***The Mayflower II***, Plimoth Plantation's full-scale reproduction of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to Plymouth in 1620, is currently at Mystic Seaport receiving a full restoration ahead of Plymouth's 400<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Pilgrims' arrival on New England's shores.

For more information, visit the Plantation's web page [www.plimoth.org](http://www.plimoth.org)



Plimoth Grist Mill

Photo courtesy of Dick McCreight, Bluestem Light Photography, LLC, [www.bluestemlight.com](http://www.bluestemlight.com)



200-year-old millstone used at the Plimoth Grist Mill.

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## Board Approves Second DNA Research Project By Marcy Kelly

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Soule Kindred Board of Directors, at their October 28 meeting, unanimously approved a budget of \$15,000 to undertake a second DNA study to identify the origins of *Mayflower* passenger George Soule. This new project, which will begin in January 2018, has three components: continue ongoing research in England to find DNA matches to American descendants of George Soule; pursue the possibility that George was Dutch; and follow leads of DNA matches in other countries, notably Scotland and Australia.

Holland is where the Pilgrims resided for seven years before leaving for the New Land. Here they interacted with Johannes Sol (possibly George's father), who printed some of the Pilgrim literature. A Dutch genealogist will investigate the Sol family, endeavor to shed light on what happened to them, and try to locate living descendants for DNA testing.

Three men with the last name Forrest, now living in Scotland and Australia, have been discovered to have DNA that matches the DNA of American Soule descendants. It is hypothesized that these men may descend from a nephew of George's. Further genetic tests are needed, as well as extensive study of their lineage.

Marcy Kelly, Chair of the Kindred's Research Committee, will head the study's team. Caleb H. Johnson will serve as lead researcher as he did for the two investigations into the origins of Mary Beckett and the first search in England for a DNA match to George Soule.

Simon Neal, a historian and genealogist, will continue to direct the search for Soule volunteers in England and verify that any who are included in the study descend from an all-male Soule line stretching back to the 17th century. Louise W. Troop, who serves as Administrator of the Soule family project at FamilyTreeDNA, will coordinate testing at the laboratory.

Researchers for Scotland and Holland portions of the study have not been confirmed at this time.



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## Honoring Soules in Service

### by John Sims

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Whenever we approach the annual celebration of Thanksgiving, the media inevitably flashes back to scenes of our Pilgrim forefathers holding an early 1620s festival giving thanks for a plentiful harvest. It is often depicted in art with Native Americans in attendance. The beautiful 1914 painting by Jennie Augusta Brownscombe in the Plymouth Hall Museum is a perfect example.



Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, Massachusetts. "The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth" painted in 1914.

American history shows us that a peaceful coexistence with Native Americans did not last very long. Between July 1636 and September 1638, the colonists of Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth and Saybrook went to war with the Pequot tribe. The causes were complicated, but George enlisted to serve in 1637. There is no record of his fighting in any of the armed conflicts, but he did step up when the colony and his own growing family was threatened.

Over the next three centuries Soule family members have continued to "step up" and serve honorably when our nation has called. SKA would like to recognize both our Soule family who have served in the past and those who are currently serving in the military. In the 2018 editions of *Soule Kindred Newsletter*, we would like to create a regular column lifting up these veterans, called *Soules in Service*.

*If you have Soule family who are serving today and would like to honor them, please send a brief bio including their lineage, a record of their service, and a photo for our consideration. If you know of other members in your line who have served with honor and distinction in the past, and you have stories to tell, please submit them to our Editor, Kathleen Kingman*

[kathleenkingman@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenkingman@yahoo.com)



19th Century drawing of the Pequot War. Image provided by the Library of Congress.

*For every American who loves this country, every veteran is family; every woman is a sister, every man is a brother. How much more do our hearts swell when they are Soules!*

## This and That

### ***Give the Gift of Membership!***

If you're looking for something unique for friends and family this holiday season, consider a Soule Kindred gift membership. It's a gift that keeps giving all year, supporting our work while informing your loved ones about their family history.

To purchase a membership as a gift for someone, or to renew your own, simply click [here](#) to find membership options and forms.

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



### ***Gift a Donation!***

Support the preservation of Soule heritage for future generations. Click [here](#) to make a donation in someone's name as a gift, or to donate yourself.

You may choose the Colonel John Soule Research and Publication Fund, the Soule Kindred Memorial Scholarship Fund or the General Support Fund.

(Paper form can be found on [page 15](#))



### ***Call for Submissions***

Have you come across some interesting stories in your genealogical research?

Do you have a story and photos to share with your larger Soule Kindred family?

Send ideas to:  
[kathleenkingman@yahoo.com](mailto:kathleenkingman@yahoo.com)

### ***Soule Kindred Research Committee is Seeking Your Help!***

Women who believe they descend from an all-female line that is from mother-to-daughter all they way back to one of George's daughters, we'd like to know who you are. The exploration of female Mt-DNA is on the Mayflower Society's horizon and with a qualified Soule daughter we could participate.

Contact [marcykelly1@gmail.com](mailto:marcykelly1@gmail.com)

## Meet the Soule Kindred

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The following is an excerpt from Marcy Kelly's article ***HERSTORY: Women of the Mayflower***, which appeared in the Fall 2010 issue of *Soule Kindred Newsletter*, Vol. XXXXIV, No. 4, page 4. Click [here](#) to see full issue.

By the time of the first Thanksgiving, half of those who began the journey in England were dead — parents, spouses, children and friends. Only four women, Elizabeth Hopkins, Susanna White Winslow, Mary Brewster and Eleanor Billington, were still alive. The situation was dire: medical treatment was barbaric, domiciles primitive, diets limited, and Indian attacks always imminent. The four women were now responsible for cooking and caring for the colony's remaining 48 men and children, many now widowers and orphans.

It would be three long, arduous years before the ship *Anne* arrived with farm animals and some of the wives and children left behind in England. Among the passengers was young Mary Beckett, who would marry *Mayflower* passenger George Soule.

