

**Soule Kindred in America, Inc.**  
**George Soule Project**  
**Status Report - July 22, 2003**

The George Soule Project has been made possible through the generous financial support of the Luke and Merle Soules Family Foundation. Their commitment and effort to perpetuate the memory of Pilgrim George Soule and develop a better understanding of his forefathers is greatly appreciated by the members of the Soule Kindred in America, Inc.. Developing pedigrees on any of our Pilgrim ancestors is difficult because none were land holders and therefore deeds and wills seldom provide useful information on pedigrees. They had no incentive to provide pedigrees for their descendants. The class of servants, class of tradespeople, class of mechanics, etc., although difficult to search, probably offer the best sources of information to establish their history. The Luke and Merle Soules Family Foundation are to be commended for supporting further efforts where past research has not found the successful key.

**Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section**  
**Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EJ**  
**Tel: 020 7332 1863/1862**  
**e-mail: manuscripts.guildhall@corpoflondon.gov.uk**

Members or those Apprenticed to Members of the City of London Livery Companies.

Index of Freedom Merchant Company  
Freeman 1530 to 1928 MS34,037.1

This set of documents identifies when an individual has completed his period of servitude and is considered a full member of the Guild. One major Livery Company in the salt business was Freedom Merchant Company. Salt was used to preserve food supplies during this period and the Salters Guild was one of the largest Guilds. From the middle ages to the nineteenth century, most young men and a few young women, who lived in the city of London, were apprenticed between the ages of 14 and 21 to members (freemen) of a City Livery Company and had their apprenticeships recorded in company records. The completion of an apprenticeship was the usual means by which such persons could themselves become members. Searching for Soule, Winslow and Beckett yielded only two references to Becketts in the Freedom Merchant Company as follows:

Beckett, Jeremiah Servitude to John Wilford  
Freedom 18July 1643  
Beckett, John Sercitude Ely Papworth  
Freedom 18July 1631

Clerk, Salter's Hall  
Fore Street  
London EC2Y 5DE  
(GLFo. Pam 6735) Guildhall Library Catalogue

The family of Mary Beckett, wife of George Soule, have not been identified. It is possible that either of these could be related, but further research would be necessary to establish this relationship. No Soule's (or related spellings) were found in these records,

George Soule joined, probably in London, the Pilgrims on the Mayflower. His status was identified as a "servant" to relatively wealthy Pilgrim Edward Winslow. Additional searching of other Freedom Records might be fruitful since Edward Winslow was baptized in Droitwich, co. Worcester, England where "salting" was a major industry. The Salter's Guild was selected for a preliminary search.

## **Guild Hall Library, Micro Film Section<sup>1</sup>**

In the Main International Genealogical Index 4.02 British Isles (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints-LDS) there are two references to Mary Beckett's baptism at St. Botolph and St. Botolph Aldergate. Micro film on Aldergate is available since 1047, but Aldersgate begins with 1791. Numerous LDS references to both George Soule and Mary Beckett are shown in Table I<sup>2</sup>.

A map of the church locations in London is shown in Figure 1. London, Wall Street is the original pathway of the wall build around London by the Romans. St. Botolph was the patron saint of the traveler. It was dangerous in this period to travel the roads of England and, therefore, a parish church was located at each gate so that travelers could stop to pray for a safe journey and stop again on return to thank God for a safe return. Thus, St. Botolph Aldersgate (meaning without the gate), St. Botolph Aldgate, Legate, Billingsgate, and St. Botolph Bishopsgate were gateways to the city of London. Unfortunately many of these including St. Botolph, Aldersgate burnt in the great fire of London in 1666 and all records were destroyed. Only records of St. Botolph, Aldgate are available before this period (over 140 churches were destroyed in this fire.) Searching the Parish Transcripts and Bishops Transcripts for baptisms, marriages, and burials did not reveal any direct connection to George Soule or Mary Beckett. The original transcripts are difficult to work with on microfilm as illustrated in Figure 2 and it takes considerable time to research them. Records covering 1590 to 1635 were investigated without success.

Contact was established and a visit made to St. Botolph, Aldersgate to determine if there might be an alternate source of documents for those destroyed in the great fire. The Rector assured me that the Guild Hall Library contained any records or information that would be available. A visit to St. Botolph, Aldgate resulted in a similar lack of information. In order to use any original records at St. Botolph, Aldgate an advance appointment would be necessary and a letter of reference.

**Public Record Office  
Ruskin Avenue  
Kew, Richmond, England TW9 4DU  
Tel: 0181 876 3444  
e-mail: enquiry@pro.gov.uk  
<http://www.pro.gov.uk>**

The Public Record Office is a very large complex outside of Kew England. An extensive collection of records worldwide occupies 65 kilometers of shelving. The collection is very complete from 1835 forward, but poor on anything prior to that time. Before 1835 records were kept by the local parish and a transcript created for the parish and for the Bishop's records. The quality of these records varies considerable as they were dependent on the Rector. Sometimes they are in Latin and sometimes in English. In general, they are very difficult to read due to age, fading ink, poor penmanship and limited to church functions - baptism, marriage and burials. They were able to provide me with a complete list of the individual record offices in each shire. There is no access to the record shelves at the Public Record Office. You have to take a training course first. You need an appointment and they recover each document from storage for your use. Once you complete the training course you are allowed to apply for a readers ticket. In general, it is an excellent starting point for working on English documents, but very time consuming. I did take the training course.

Several books on lists of passengers traveling to America were reviewed including the following:

Bibliography of Ship Passengers Lists, 1538 to 1825 by Harold Lancour

Genealogical Gleanings in England by Henry F. Water

The Mayflower Passengers by Algernon Aikin Aspinwall

Mayflower Series of Papers No. 2 & 5

Two Early Passenger Lists, 1635 - 1637 by Eben Putnam

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<sup>1</sup> It is important to understand the limitations on using the Guild Hall Library. All of the microfilm readers are manual operation. There are about 15 readers and one with a copy device on it. A reservation must be made at least 2 days in advance to use these readers. To use manuscripts they must be ordered from storage. A Maximum of three can be ordered ahead, but only one is allowed for use until all previous manuscripts have been checked in.

<sup>2</sup> Many people submit information to this data base with varying levels of research. This must be taken into account when using this information. This study was completed to try to identify geographical locations in England where records might exist.

In general, these books revealed no new information except for the last entry, Two Early Passenger Lists. The two lists were copies from the records of Sandwich, co. Kent, England, Yearbooks C and D, 1608-1642 by J. A. Jacobs, Esq., of Sandwich, Alderman of that town, honorary curator of it archives, and well know as a local antiquary.

Samuel Hinckley of Tenterden, co. Kent, and of Scituate and Barnstable in the Plymouth Colony was a passenger on the *Hercules*. "For his family and ancestry cf. *Register*, Vol. 65, pp. 287-290, 324-319, and vol. 68, pp. 186, 188-189. His wife, whom he married at Hawkhurst, co. Kent, 7 May 1617, was Sarah Soole, baptized at Hawkhurst 8 June 1600, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Iddenden) Soole of Hawkhurst. Their oldest child, Thomas Hinckley, the well-known Governor of the Plymouth Colony, was baptized at Hawkhurst 19 March 1619/20. A son and daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Soole) Hinckley were buried at Tenterden, and another son and daughter who were baptized at Tenterden probably died young in England. It is to be noticed that their son Thomas was not among the children who accompanied them in the *Hercules*, as Savage (*Genealogical Dictionary*) conjectures and Pope (*Pioneers of Massachusetts*) states, but that the four children of the passenger list were their three daughters, Susan, Sarah, and Mary, and a kinswoman, Elzab, i.e., Elizabeth."

This is the same Soole (Soule) family that stimulated my search in Kent for the George Soole (Soule) in Maidstone England and claimed to be Pilgrim George Soule on the Gale Group Genealogy Web Site. Unfortunately I was unaware of this reference and spent considerable time searching records in Hawkhurst England area and did not seek out parish records in Tenterden, England.

**Boston Public Library**  
**Copley Square**  
**Boston, Massachusetts**  
e-mail: [ancestry.subs@galegroup.com](mailto:ancestry.subs@galegroup.com)

In preparation for my visit to England, I investigated the information available at the Boston Public Library. This source recorded the following information:

George Soule, 1593/1600 (Births) Eckington, Worchester England d. 22Jan1679.  
Father was Thomas Soole (Soule) b. 1567 Hawkhurst, Kent England.  
Mother was Mary Iddenden b. 1573 Hawkhurst, Kent England.

Reference: Ann Myers-Slack [ann19\\_19@yahoo.com](mailto:ann19_19@yahoo.com).

Mary Iddenden b. 1573 Hawkerst, Kent England d. 8/18.1656 Barnstable MA  
Father: John Iddenden b. 1540 Cranbrook, Kent England

Thomas Soule b. 1540 Hawkhurst, Kent England  
Mother: Maria Whitfield b. 1554 Hawkhurst, Kent England m. 1565

Reference: Slack, Myers, Isley, Schnieder(r)went Family Tree  
[ann19\\_19@yahoo.com](mailto:ann19_19@yahoo.com)

Slack, Meyers Family Tree - Todd Slack [slackerclause@yahoo.com](mailto:slackerclause@yahoo.com)  
Home Page New Slack

George-Thomas-Whitfield Famlies

Joseph Zell [jrzell@uswest.net](mailto:jrzell@uswest.net)

George Soule b. 1595 England d. 3/5/1679-80 Duxbury MA  
m. Mary Becket b. 1602 St. Botol Ph's Aldergate. London England  
children: Susanna Soule b. 1642 Plymouth MA

Reference: Victor Bird [vrbird@rocketmail.com](mailto:vrbird@rocketmail.com)

I have tried to contact these e-mail addresses without success.

Center for Kentish Studies  
Sessions House, County Hall  
Maidstone Kent, England ME14 1XQ  
Tel: 01622 694363  
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/arts/archives/>

The following references to the Soole (Soule) family in Hawkhurst were found through the Parish Transcript and Bishop Transcript.

Sarah Soole, a daughter, was baptised on 8 June 1600 Page 75, Book 2 of Parish Transcripts.

Parish of Hawkhurst

Robert Watson, Curate  
Robert Springgate, Church Warden  
Peter Philpote, Church Warden

Marye Soole a daughter of Thomas Soole was baptized on 29 January 1603 Page 80, Book 1 of Parish Transcripts.

Parish of Hawkhurst

Robert Watson, Curate  
Richard the Ball, Church Warden  
Richard Whylye, Church Warden

Thomas Soole, a son, was baptized on 29 Jan 1604 Page 80, Book 2 of Parish Transcripts.  
Parish of Hawhurst

Aymie Soole, a daughter, was baptized on 30 April 1615 Page 97, Book 1 of Parish Transcripts  
Father was Thomas Soole (John Sooles Thos BT)Anne.

Parish of Hawhurst

Robert Watson, Curate  
Laurens Sumers, Church Warden  
Willyann Bennytt, Church Warden

All of the baptisms covering a period from April 3, 1550 to March 15, 1639 were examined without finding any reference to any other male children or daughters. The register commenced in the "21 of Elizabeth." Hawkhurst is on the Kent border with East Sussex. Etchingham Sussex is the adjacent Parish. Other surrounding Parishes in Kent are Goudhurst, Cranbrook, Benenden and Sandhurst. I found no Soules in these Parish records.

In the Archdeacon Transcripts of Hawkhurst the following was recorded:

Thomas Soole/Mary Iddenden Married 16 Oct 1598.  
Mary Iddenden was buried 13 Feb 1594

Unless there were two Mary Iddendens this does not seem reasonable. In view of the fact that all 12 children of Pilgrim George Soule are identified in "Mayflower Families through Five Generations" as born in America, this Soole family does not appear to be Pilgrim George Soule parents. The children identified by Robert S. Wakefield for Pilgrim George Soule were as follows: Zachariah, John, Nathaniel, George, Susanna, Mary, Elizabeth, Patience, and Benjamin.

The second question raised is why is there no George Soule listed as baptized when the other children are all listed. Is it possible that another Soule family is involved and Pilgrim George Soule did actually live for a period of time in this area. Perhaps while he was serving an apprenticeship. If he was here for a limited period, this might explain why he does not appear in the Parish Records.



**East Sussex Record Office**  
**The Maitings, Castle Precincts**  
**Lewes BN7 1YT**  
**Tel: 01273 4812349**  
<http://www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk/>

In the book, "The Surnames of Sussex (page 145, published 1988) by Richard Mc Kinley (Leopard's Head Press Limited) the incident of some topographical surnames or bye-names in medieval sources for selected counties is reported as follows:

Surname "Sole"	Sussex	11
	Kent	26
	Surrey	2

There were no surnames "Sole" in Dorset, Lancaster, Oxon, Suffex, Worcester, Warwick or Yorkshire. "Sole was widespread in Sussex from an early date and can not have originated within a single family, even within the county's border." (page 183).

In two reference books at Guild Hall Library it was reported that Edward Winslow was involved in salt boiling. "In 1617 young Edward Winslow 'left his salt-boiling' and went to Leyden, attracted possibly by the fame of the university there. He soon joined the Pilgrim Church." East Sussex was a major area of salt-boiling with over 140 salt pans. George Soule may have been an apprentice (servant) to Edward Winslow learning the salt-boiling trade. He was certainly listed as a servant to Edward Winslow on the *Mayflower* voyage. Figure 3 illustrates the location of many of these salt pans on the Sussex coast. Since Hawkhurst, Kent is on the border with East Sussex, it was felt possible that other Soule (Soole) families might be found in this area of East Sussex and time was not available to search the much larger group of Parish Records in the coastal area.

Of the 178 Parishes in East Sussex, the ten which border on Kent and Brighton Parish were selected for an initial survey. Results were as follows:

Etchingham (parts missing in earlier pages)	1561 to 1635	No Soule/Becket (one Thomas Fowles)
Bodiam	1614 to 1635	No Soule/Becket (ref. to Hawkhurst)
Salehurst	1575 to 1635	No Soule/Becket
Ewhurst		No Soule/Becket
Ticehurst		No Soule/Becket
Wadhurst	1604 to 1635	No Soule/Becket
Northiam	1558 to 1635	No Soule/Becket
Beckley	1597 to 1635	No Soule/Becket
Peasmarch	1569 to 1635	No Soule/Becket
Iden	1559 to 1635	No Soule/Becket
Brighton	1558 to 1635	No Soule/Becket

Since the surname study indicated a high frequency of "Sole," they must be located in other areas. Perhaps in the Parish along the sea coast. In all of the searches various spelling of Soule were included.

### Future Opportunities

1. A study is being sponsored by The Mayflower Society at Oxford University titled "Mayflower-Oxford DNA Project." This is under the direction of Caroline Lewis Kardell, Historian General. The goal is to develop a geographic picture of Soule descendants in England which can be used as a guide for further records research. We would like to work together to develop this new information base.
2. Attempts to contact the Reference Office in Worcester were not successful due to the limited days that they were open and the required advanced information and request for reservations. This is a known location of Soule families

and offers a possibility of developing valuable information. Even though previous information has not proved correct, additional family members may have existed in the area that would open new opportunities.

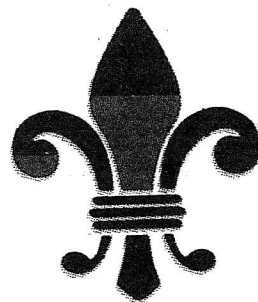
3. Focused research on the Freedom Records at Guild Hall in London might reveal information on both Edward Winslow and George Soule during their period of apprenticeships. Since the Salters Guild no longer exists, this will take some effort to locate the actual files. Also more effort to identify the Livery Companies involved in Salting might better identify if these individuals were involved in the same companies. Also it might provide a better geographic description of where to search for records. Another source of information could be the Rolls Office, Chancery Lane, London which contains passenger lists for some of the early groups to come to America.

4. It is know that Edward Winslow was married his second wife (4 November 1594) at St. Brides church in London. He did not join the Pilgrim Church until he was in Holland (after 1617.) Winslow would have been 22 years old at this time and, probably, about the same age as George Soule. On 16 May 1618, he married Elizabeth Barker. Perhaps George Soule's parents were also associated with this English church. Since he was young when he left for America, baptism would probably be the only record on George Soule, but his parents might have a longer church record. Edward Winslow was born in Droitwich another salting area.

5. Although other reports indicate a baptism of Mary Beckett in St. Bolopth Aldersgate, verfyng this information has proved to be elusive. Also verfyng a Mary Beckett as the wife of the George Soule in Kent was not successful and may merely indicate an assumption on the part of others. Also, George Soule was not married until arrival in America. If the focus of his apprenticeship (servitude) could be identified it would help in identifying areas of his youth.

6. No effort was made to contact any Scottish sources. This would require an entirely new effort starting at the records center in Edinburgh, Scotland. The focus to date has been on working back from Pilgrim George Soule, and, hopefully, establishing a relationship to Scotland.

7. One goal of this trip was to establish a geographic area with some encouraging information. Once this was established it might be possible to employ a local genealogist to study the records in greater depth. This was not accomplished, but is still important and will be pursued.



**Table I**  
**References to George Soule and Mary Beckett**  
**Main International Genealogical Index 4.02 British Isles**  
**Ancestral File 4.19**  
**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Parent/spouse, Rel.</b>
<b><u>Part A - Individual Search - George Soule</u></b>				
George Soule	Baptism	1593	Worcester	Fa: Robert Soule
George Soule	Baptism	1594	Bedford	Re: Edwad Walker SEW
George Soule	Christing	1595	Bedford	Fa: Wm. Sowle
George Soule	S	abt. 1595	England	Sp. Mary Bucket
George Soule	Baptism	1595	Worcester	Fa: John Soule
George Soule	Baptism	abt. 1597	Worcester	Fa: Robert Soule
George Soule	Baptism	abt. 1597	Worcester	Fa: Robert Soule
George Soule	Baptism	abt. 1597	Worcester	Fa: Robert Soule
George Soule	Baptism	abt. 1598	Kent	Re: Henry Goodsell
Mrs. George Soule	Baptism	1598	London	
George Soule	S	abt. 1600	England	Sp: Mary Becket
George Soule	Baptism	abt. 1600	England	Robert Soule
George Soule	Christing	1600	Worcester	Fa: John
George Soule	Baptism	abt. 1604	Worcester	Re: John Haskellwood
George Soule	Christing	1605	Sussex	Fa: Robert Sole
George Soule	S	1609	Cambridge	Sp: Pionissse Batt
George Soule	Christing	1615	Bedford	Fa: George Soule
George Soule	S	abt. 1615	England	Sp: Mary Beckett
<b><u>Marriage Search</u></b>				
George Soule	Baptism	abt. 1604	Worcester	Re: John Haskellwood
George Soule	Christing	1605	Sussex	Fa: Robert Sole
George Soule	S	1609	Cambridge	Sp. Donisse Batt
George Soule	Christing	1615	Bedford	Fa: George Soule
George Soule	S	abt. 1615	England	Sp: Mary Buckett
<b><u>Part B - Individual Search - Mary Becket</u></b>				
Becket, Mary	Baptism	1603	St. Botolph, London	
Becket, Mary	Baptism	1602	St. Botolph Aldergate, London	
Becket, Mary	Baptism	1604	Worcester	Re: John Haskell Woodbury

Beckett, Mary	Christing	15Feb1605	St. Andrews, Plymouth Devon England	Fa: George Beckett
Beckett, Mary	Christing	24Feb1605	St. Mary, Watford, Hartford England	Fa: John Beckett
Becket, Mary	Birth	1605	Eckington, Worcester England	
Becket, Mary	Christing	31Aug1606	Saint Mary, Bedford, Bedford England	Fa: Simon Becket
Becket, Mary	Christing	8May1608	Burton by Lincoln, Lincoln England	Fa. Robert Becket

### Part C - Soule Children

Parent's Name	Child	Year	Place
Robert Soule/Elizabeth	George Soule	1558	Worcester
	Mary Soule	1548	Worcester
	Jane Soule	1550	Worcester
	Walter Soule	1555	Worcester
	Robert Soule	abt. 1586	Worcester
	Thomas Soule	abt. 1588	Worcester
	Mary Soule	abt. 1594	Worcester
	Jane Soule	abt. 1596	Worcester
George Soule	Anne Soule	1559	Hereford
	Alice Soule	1587	Worcester
	John Soule	1592	Warwick
	Mary Soule	1593	Worcester
	Josiah Soule	1594	Warwick
	Abisha Soule	1596	Warwick
	Nathaniel Soule	1598	Warwick
	George Soule	1615	Bedford
Mary Becket/George Soule	John Soule	abt. 1626	England
	Nathaniel Soule	abt. 1629	England
	George Soule	abt. 1632	England
	Elizabeth Soule	abt. 1635	England
	Susannah Soule	abt. 1638	England
George Soule/Becket George Soule George Soule/ Deborah Thomas George Soule/ Deborah Thomas George Soule George Soule	Susannah Soule	<1625>	Duxbury, Massachusetts
	George Soule, Jr.	1625	Massachusetts
	George Soule, Jr.	1644	Massachusetts
	George Soule	<1660>	Massachusetts
	George Soule	1665	Massachusetts
	George Soule	1682	Massachusetts