



SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

THE NICKERSON FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

William Nickerson
Signature of
William¹ Nickerson

Join us for Chatham History Weekend, June 22!

Life in Colonial Days: Come visit our excavation of William and Anne Nickerson's c. 1664 homestead and hear our archaeologist update us on progress so far. We will also hear from professional beekeepers about beekeeping in the days of William¹ and Anne.

Stay tuned for Hands-on-History!

Many fun events for gardeners and painters are planned this summer at the Caleb Nickerson Homestead. All with a Colonial twist!

See page 3 for more information.

Visit Our Dig!

Our dig resumes on July 29 and runs for eight weeks. Be sure to stop by this summer and see how history is being rewritten.



Booklovers—Join Us on Saturday, August 3!

Have some used books you no longer want? Maybe genealogical books? Donate them to our first ever summer used book sale. Contact Debra at DebraNFA@outlook.com for drop-off hours.

Reconnect with Cousins September 6 to 9!

Our 122nd reunion this year will be held in Yarmouth from September 6 to 9. Join your Nickerson cousins for many fun events. See page 4 for details.

CAPT.
BANGS HALLET HOUSE
~ circa 1700's - 1847 ~
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF OLD YARMOUTH
508-362-3021

Calling All Samuel Line Descendants!

If you are descended from the Samuel line, we want to hear from you. Do you have genealogical information, photographs, Bible inscriptions? Please let us know.



"Nickerson House."

...being, in a sense, the printed voice of the Nickerson Family Association

DIG RESUMES JULY 29



The archaeological excavation of William and Anne's c. 1664 homestead will resume on July 29 and run for eight weeks. With a commemorative dig t-shirt and mug, you can celebrate the dig no matter where in the world you are! T-shirt available in white and gray.

Visit the store at nickersonassoc.com.



Thank you!

Contributors to the 2018/2019 "We're Diggin' Deep" Campaign

Grand Benefactor - \$5,000 or more

Barbara Nickerson-Estrada
Anne & Scott Nickerson Family Foundation
Roland C. Nickerson
Carole West, *in memory of* Reginald S. Thompson

Benefactor - \$2,500 or more

M.A. McKeever
Bessie M. Nickerson

Grand Patron - \$1,000 or more

Richard E. Anderson, *in memory of* Wallace B. Anderson Jr.
Sharyn M. Duffy, *in memory of* Eleanore Nickerson-Duffy
Jill and Alan MacDonald
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Patron - \$500 or more

Nancy Nickerson Corey
Caleb Crowell
Betsey Langley, *in memory of* Bessie Shaw Eisele
James M. Nickerson
Robert and Barbara Nickerson
Walter F. Ramseur

Conservator - \$250 or more

Anonymous
Timothy Mangham
Mark Nickerson
Todd W. Nickerson
William H. Nickerson
Margaret L. Young

Preservationist - \$100 or more

Herb Brannen, *in memory/honor of* Virginia Nickerson
Robert E. and Sandra L. Brokaw
Gail Fox Cheever, *in memory/honor of* Elizabeth Nickerson Eldredge
Martha Nickerson Cummins, *in memory of* Zalmon Nickerson
Janice Nickerson Davis
Kimberley D. Herber
Connie Jeremiah
Allen King *in memory/honor of* Bertha Nickerson King



Preservationist (continued)

Paul H. Lapham Jr., *in honor of* Diana G. (Nickerson) Lapham
Linda S. Larsen
John and Debra Lawless, *in memory of* Stuart Stearns
Lisa Leonard
Margaret Magowan and James Garland, *in honor of* Gary Nickerson
Andrew & Catherine Nickerson
Clement A. Nickerson
David A. Nickerson, *in memory/honor of* Austin Nickerson
Dwight Nickerson
Gary A. and Karen Nickerson
Kathryn A. Nickerson, *in memory/honor of* Frank, Margaret and Richard Nickerson
Richard L. Nickerson
Rodman E. Nickerson
Ron and Karen Nickerson, *in honor of* Bill and Bonnie Nickerson
Virginia T. Nickerson, *in memory of* Jane & John H. Nickerson
Warren & Sandy Nickerson
Corliss Primavera
Marjorie H. Raleigh
Thomas and Nancy Snow, *in memory of* Carl Whitney Nickerson
Al Swett, *in memory/honor of* Harry Jordan Nickerson

Friends- Up to \$99

Rebecca F. Arnold
Sandra F. Bartlett
Anne-Marie Burke
Sue-Ellen Nickerson Byram, *in honor of* Sally-Jo Nickerson
Richard R. Chapman
Grace Connolly, *in memory/honor of* Grace Nickerson Andrews
Ralph R. Crowell
Patrice Donnelly, *in memory/honor of* Theresa Nickerson Donnelly
Philip W. Henning, *in memory/honor of* Susan Nickerson
Helen Malzahn
Leah Price McGonigle, *in honor of* Gary Nickerson
Claire E. Miller
Philip & Elizabeth Moseley
Burnley Nickerson
Virginia H. O'Shea
Stephen B. Tuck
Nancy Zickgraf, *in memory of* William Emery Nickerson

Caleb Nickerson Homestead Schedule 2019

Saturday, May 25, 1 PM: Talk on Planting an 1829 Dooryard Garden with **Sonny Gada**. Herbs will be available for sale. Caleb Nickerson Homestead open for tours.

Wednesday, June 5, 10 AM to 1 PM: Caleb Nickerson Homestead open for tours each Wednesday through September 25.

Saturday, June 22, 10 AM to 4 PM: Chatham History Weekend. CNH open for tours. Archaeological dig in progress. Beekeepers **Mark & Kathleen Francis** will speak on "Colonial Beekeeping" at noon; Archaeologist **Craig Chartier** will speak on the "Excavation of the c. 1664 Nickerson Homestead" at 2 PM.

Saturday, June 29, 11 AM: Paint an arrangement of seasonal flowers by **Sonny Gada**. Emphasis will be on plants traditional in our Cape Cod area.

Saturday, August 3, 10 AM to 2 PM: First Annual Used & New Book Sale.

August, TBA: Kids Dig! Children will have a chance to learn archaeological skills while digging in a real test pit under the supervision of archaeologist **Craig Chartier**. Preregistration required. Limit of 15 children.

Sunday, September 8, 9 AM to 2 PM: CNH open to Nickersons during 122nd Annual Togethering.

Friday, September 13, 2 PM: Archaeology Public Event. Archaeologist **Craig Chartier** leads a tour of the dig; cider donuts and cider served in CNH.

Saturday, October 12, time TBA: Create Fall Arrangements with **Sonny Gada**. Sonny will show you how to work with gourds and pumpkins to create stunning fall arrangements.

Saturday, December 7, 1 to 4 PM: Caleb Nickerson Homestead 16th Annual Hearthside Open House.

Sunday, January 26, 2020, Time TBA: Colonial Cooking Club, Beehive Oven Event.

Join us on Chatham History Day, June 22

Craig Chartier and his crew will continue excavating William and Anne's c. 1664 homestead on Saturday, June 22 from 10 AM to 3 PM. At 2 PM Chartier will give a talk describing the 2018 season and what he hopes to find in the 2019 season which begins July 29. Previous findings include the outline of the homestead and over 70,000 artifacts from pottery to a bedwarmer to a Jesuit ring.

The Caleb Nickerson Homestead will be open for tours

At noon beekeepers Mark and Kathleen Francis of Bee Boss Honey Co. in Harwich will give a talk on Colonial beekeeping practices. They will bring a frame of their bees as well as many products such as honey and beeswax lip balm that will be available for sale.

**The Caleb Nickerson Homestead will be open on Wednesdays
from 10 AM to 2 PM through September.**



Join us in Yarmouth, September 6

REUNIONS ARE A TIME TO EXPLORE NEW PLACES and to catch up with our Nickerson cousins, renewing old friendships and making new ones. We will celebrate with our Nickerson cousins at the 122nd Annual Reunion in the historic Town of Yarmouth, a town where William and Anne lived before moving to Chatham in about 1664.



New this year:

Check-in will be open on Friday, September 6 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Nick House, 1107 Orleans Road, North Chatham.

We will kick off reunion weekend on Friday, September 6 at 1 PM on historic Strawberry Lane in Yarmouth. There, we will have a choice of house tours. The Capt. Bangs Hallet House Museum is a 19th century sea captain's house listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the only fully-furnished sea captain's house regularly open to tours. The house features period furnishings, silk and antiques. It is set up as though Capt. Bangs has just returned from one of his 18-month China trips. The Historical Society of Old Yarmouth also maintains extensive nature trails.

Across Strawberry Lane from the Bangs Hallet House is a second early 19th century sea captain's house made famous when author and illustrator Edward Gorey bought the property in 1979. After Gorey's death in 2000, "Elephant House" was opened to the public to celebrate Gorey's life and work. Beginning with *The Unstrung Harp* in 1953, and continuing with the classic *Amphigorey*, Gorey's work was original and fascinating. He is perhaps best known for the opening credits of PBS's "Mystery."

Friday evening we will enjoy our ice-breaker wine party at the beautiful Cultural Center of Cape Cod in one of Yarmouth's most historic neighborhoods. A delectable array of hors d'oeuvres will be provided by caterer Dan Rosenbach, owner of the Red Cottage Restaurant.

Saturday morning we will convene down the street in Nelson Hall at St. David's Episcopal Church at 9 AM for coffee and a continental breakfast. After our annual business meeting, we will hear from historian Duncan Oliver who will

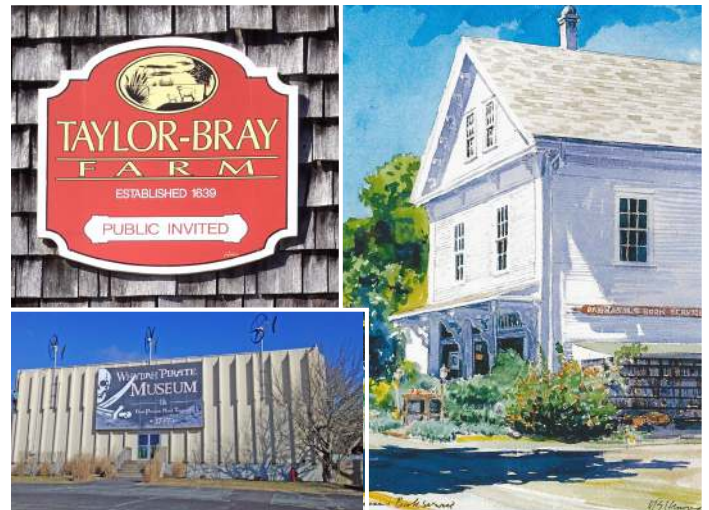
tell us about Cape Cod as William and Anne found it in the mid-17th century. A delectable box lunch will be provided by the Red Cottage.

Saturday afternoon is free for shopping and exploring Yarmouth's many sites. Taylor-Bray Farm is on the edge of a picturesque salt marsh. The farm was settled in 1639 and remained in three families until 1987, when the town bought it. The farm, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has sheep, goats, cattle and chickens. Archaeologist Craig Chartier has excavated there, proving habitation back to 10,000 B.C.

Antiques and art can be found along historic Route 6A (the Old King's Highway), a beautifully-preserved stretch of meandering road that is home to many captain's houses. Parnassus Book Service is a used book shop established in 1959 and now run by a third generation of the family. Drive south to Route 28 and visit the Whydah Pirate Museum, home to the artifacts recovered from the wreck of the Whydah, which sank off Cape Cod in 1717. Yarmouth is also home to 11 saltwater beaches you may want to explore.

Saturday evening we will dine at the Riverway Lobster House and hear speaker Chris Macort, an underwater archaeologist and director of exhibits at the Whydah Museum.

On Sunday, those who wish to do so can attend 10 AM Nickerson Sunday services at the First Congregational Church of Chatham. The Caleb Nickerson Homestead and Nickerson Genealogical Center will be open all morning. Archaeologist Craig Chartier and his crew will be digging at the homestead behind the NFA campus. We will enjoy a cookout provided by Bakeside Bakes at noon and then hear from Craig about the 2019 season's findings.



Those who wish to stay through Monday can dig into the NFA's genealogical records.

For more information on local sites, visit www.yarmouth-capecod.com. Also available through the Yarmouth Chamber is a full list of area hotels, motels, resorts, guest houses and inns.

We are expanding our reunion auction schedule. If you have an item you'd like to auction, please contact Executive Director Debra Lawless at DebraNFA@outlook.com.

Reunion registration forms will be mailed in June.

122nd Reunion Schedule

Friday, September 6

10 AM to 2 PM: Check-in open at Nick House, 1107 Orleans Road, North Chatham.

1 PM: Tour of Edward Gorey House or Capt. Bangs Hallet House Museum, Strawberry Lane.

5 to 7 PM: Welcome Party at the Cultural Center of Cape Cod, 307 Old Main Street, South Yarmouth; wine, soft drinks and sumptuous hors d'oeuvres from the Red Cottage Restaurant.

Saturday, September 7

9 AM to 10 AM: Registration and coffee hour at Nelson Hall, St. David's Episcopal Church, 205 Old Main Street, South Yarmouth.

10 AM to noon: Annual Meeting featuring a talk by historian Duncan Oliver on "Cape Cod in the days of William and Anne Nickerson."

Noon to 1 PM: Luncheon served by the Red Cottage.

Afternoon: Free time to visit sites of interest in Yarmouth.

5 PM to 6 PM: Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at Riverway Restaurant, 1338 Route 28, South Yarmouth.

6 PM to 8 PM: Dinner followed by speaker Chris Macort of the Whydah Museum.

Sunday, September 8

10 AM: Nickerson Sunday at the First Congregational Church of Chatham, 650 Main Street, Chatham.

Noon: Picnic/Cookout at the Nickerson Family Association followed by Archaeologist Craig Chartier discussing his latest finds on the 1664 Nickerson Homestead site.



2018 Membership Report

by Ron Nickerson

Hello cousins! We are pleased to report that the NFA continues to attract many new members each year. In addition, long-standing members who faithfully renew their memberships often include generous monetary gifts which are gratefully received. Life Memberships remain an attractive option for those who have chosen to make a long-term commitment to our family. Finally, gift memberships for children and grandchildren ensure that our Nickerson legacy is carried forward into the future. Thanks to all of you who continue to make the NFA healthy and strong by your loyal and steadfast support. As we go forward together, our future looks especially bright. If you haven't already paid your 2019 dues, now would be a great time to do so. Go to www.nickersonassoc.com. Under "Membership" print and mail the form with a check to the NFA. Easier still, go into the store and renew through PayPal.

We Welcome Nick Cousins!

Karlene A. Arnold, Kittery, ME
Cynthia Bedell, Palm Coast, FL
Constance Campana, Attleboro, MA
M.D. and Jill Hepburn, Cedarburg, WI
John E. Lapham, Gettysburg, PA
Lisa Leonard, Overland Park, KS
Tana Lilienthal, South Newfane, VT
Susan H. Lloyd, Chester, NH
Pamela Newton, Pine City, NY
Catherine R. Nickerson, Decatur, GA
Dana B. Nickerson, Staunton, VA
Jack R. Nickerson, Reno, NV

Kevin D. Nickerson, Peoria, IL
Scott R. Nickerson, Hanover, MA
Steve C. Nickerson, Marshfield, MA
Teresa C. Nickerson, Hope, ME
Chris Nordon, Richmond, RI
Patricia V. Noyes, Orleans, MA
Dorothy L. Prescott, Rockland, ME
Melissa N. Rodriguez, Cibolo, TX
Janine M. Smith, Oceanside, CA
Julie B. Smith, Hoffman Estates, IL
Mary Weilbaeher, Landing, NJ

1st Annual Mitten Tree a Great Success

Mittens, mittens everywhere! And hats!

We love hand-knit mittens and we love the wonderful people who donated 43 pairs of mittens and 39 hand-knit hats for our first-ever Caleb Nickerson Homestead Mitten Tree! Thank you all for giving the gift of warmth. And thank you to **A Great Yarn**, Chatham's yarn shop, for partnering with us on this project. The mittens and hats were given to the Chatham Children's Fund. "They will be a necessary help in keeping kids warm this winter," says **Pat Vreeland**, who oversees the fund.

Holiday Open House a Popular Hit

The stockings were hung and all three fireplaces were blazing at our 15th Annual Hearthside Holiday Open House, attended by an estimated 175 people. The house was beautifully decorated by **Sonny Gada**; festive holiday refreshments, with many made from authentic 19th century recipes, were provided by the Red Cottage Restaurant. **LeeAnn McKenna** on flute provided our live music. **Phyllis Nickerson Power** served holiday punch and hot cider while **Anne Firth** tended the chicken-on-a-string.



Colonial Cooking Club Fires Up Beehive Oven

Our new Colonial Open Hearth Cooking Club fired up the beehive oven in late January. **Bob Nickerson** heated the oven early in the morning while Colonial cook **Maureen Leavenworth** prepared foods to bake. The group of 10 prepared a sumptuous feast of onion soup, rosemary chicken, salmon pie, pork roast, spiced sausage, popovers, Indian pudding, vermicelli pudding, rice fritters, coriander cake and apple pudding.

Nickerson the Screech Owl

Nickerson, an Eastern Screech Owl, became a Wild Care Animal Ambassador a couple of years ago. When Nickerson's nesting tree was cut down in Nickerson State Park, Nickerson suffered an injury. She and her siblings were reunited at **Wild Care**; while Nickerson's siblings were released Nickerson, being blind in one eye, could not be released and instead became an educational animal who helps teach Cape Codders about the importance of owls to our ecosystems. Shown here is Nickerson with **Stephanie Ellis** of Wild Care in Eastham.



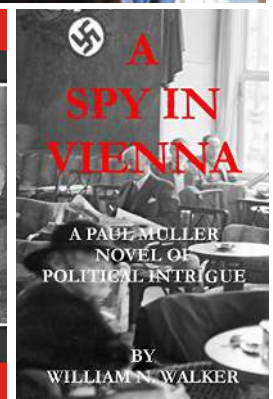
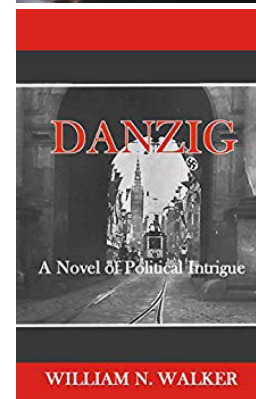
NOTABLE NICKS

William N. Walker Publishes Two Spy Novels

We have noted before that the Nickersons are a prolific group, and it turns out we did not know just how prolific. In the past three years, William N. Walker of Yarmouth has published two acclaimed political intrigue novels: *Danzig* and *A Spy in Vienna*. Walker is currently writing his third novel again featuring Paul Muller. We first meet Muller in *Danzig*, set in Central Europe between the wars as Hitler rises to power. In 1933 the Nazi party took control of Danzig and attempted to overthrow the League of Nations' high commissioner. Muller, a recent university graduate, serves as secretary to the League's high commissioner. Muller engages in high stakes diplomacy as Hitler rises to power.

Muller returns in *A Spy in Vienna*, which is again inspired by actual events. This time Muller becomes a spy who seeks to prevent Hitler's rise.

Walker brings first-hand diplomatic knowledge to the story as he served as an ambassador and chief trade negotiator for the U.S. He lived in Geneva for over two years. Prior to that, he was a member of the Nixon Administration. He also served as director of the Presidential Personnel Office under President Ford. He and his wife Janet are the parents of three grown children—Gilbert, Helen and Joanna.



OUR NICKERSON LIBRARY is growing thanks to book donations by members Debra Sweetman (a wonderful box of books); Ron and Karen Nickerson (*The Evolution of the Cape Cod House: An Architectural History*); and David Dillman (*The Boy Who Fell off the Mayflower*).



Four generations of the Clifford Nickerson family of New Hampshire: (left to right) Kim¹², James¹³, Erica¹⁴ with mother Riny, and Clement¹¹.



Three generations of the Walters family of Illinois visited the campus on March 26.



2018-19 OFFICERS

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Cromwell, IN

Vice President:
DAVID E. DILLMAN
Chester Springs, PA

Secretary:
JILL N. MACDONALD
Palm City, FL and Chatham, MA



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JIM NICKERSON

Genealogy:
NANCY COREY

Membership:
RON NICKERSON

Building and Grounds:
EDMOND NICKERSON

Nominating:
JIM NICKERSON

Activities/Reunion:
JILL NICKERSON MACDONALD

Computer:
DAVID DILLMAN



A word from President James Nickerson...

Dear Nick Cousins:

Our path forward is clear.

We are gaining momentum as we seek to comprehend and share the knowledge being uncovered in the archaeological excavation of our ancestors' homestead. Funding for the 2019 season of the dig was approved by Chatham's Community Preservation Committee. Now we are awaiting the affirmative vote of the Town Annual Meeting in May. Provided that vote is positive, archaeologist **Craig Chartier** and his crew will again be digging in the dirt to recover untold artifacts/treasures and perhaps more buildings that made up William and Anne's little acre of paradise. Stay tuned!

By the end of this month Craig should have completed his latest report based on the artifacts recovered during last season's dig. This should make for an interesting read. The more outstanding findings that are included in his report will be shared with you through the web sites nickersonassoc.com and cnh.nickersonassoc.com and our Facebook pages.

We'd like to announce something new called **NFA Connects**. We invite you to follow your passion and engage with the NFA on your terms. Do you live in San Francisco or Kalamazoo and wish you could meet your Nickerson cousins in settings both formal and informal, outside of reunion time? Perhaps you'd like to act as an ambassador for the NFA and host an event in your hometown.

Are you an avid genealogist whose idea of the best Saturday night is spending three hours working on your Nickerson roots? Maybe you'd like to help complete the "Samuel Book." Or aid others in finding their roots through email consultations.

Live near the Nick House? If there's a craft you adore, we'd love you to introduce it in our **Forgotten Arts Academy**. Enjoy meeting people? No better way to meet out-of-town Nicks than by working at the annual reunion. The point is, we'd love to hear about your passions and go from there. Think about it and let Debra Lawless, our Executive Director, know of your interest at DebraNFA@outlook.com or 508-945-6086.





Want to help push the NFA ahead at full steam? Consider volunteering to do some genealogical research. Genealogist **Gail Blankeneau**, board member **Nancy Corey** and several volunteers continue to add to the Samuel Nickerson Genealogy Project. Volunteers on this project are needed and are very much appreciated. If this project is of interest to you, please contact Nancy at nancyroots@msn.com.

Nancy added to the momentum this winter by uploading many more files to TNG to help in your research. If you are a member, then log onto TNG and check it out. If you are not a member but do want to perform genealogical research, then join the NFA and dive into TNG. To access the site, you need to be a member and also need log-in credentials. Nancy will be delighted to give them to you. Contact her at the above email address.

Debra Lawless, our Executive Director, has been hard at work moving us forward on some truly unique and wonderful programs at the Caleb Nickerson Homestead. The specifics of these are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. She has also planned our reunion, which will be held in Yarmouth from Sept. 6 to 9. You should plan to attend this fun annual event which provides a wonderful time to catch up with your Nickerson cousins!

We have reprinted the popular, sold-out *The Nickerson Family, Part V: Nicholas*. It will be on sale for \$60 until May 31, at which time the price goes to \$80. You may want to sponsor the book with a gift as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

I will conclude with offering my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your continued membership and support. Your contributions are the lifeblood that enables the ongoing work of your Nickerson Family Association, Inc. Remember that your gift to the NFA is tax-deductible and benefits your Nickerson family.

Please visit our websites at:

<https://nickersonassoc.com> or cnh.nickersonassoc.com

Let us know what you think by leaving comments when visiting Facebook, watch videos on our YouTube channel (accessed from the website) and contact us via email at wmnick1107@gmail.com, by phone at 508-945-6086 or by U.S. mail at P.O. Box 296, North Chatham, MA 02650.



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FALLEN BRANCHES

Diana Glenn (Nickerson) Lapham, 87, died on Feb. 13 in Chatham. Diana was born at Cape Cod Hospital, the daughter of Theodore and Lillian Nickerson. Diana's best friend growing up was Irene M. Cahoon, the late wife of the NFA's Past President Ralph R. Crowell. Diana and Irene shared a love of horses. After Diana's husband Paul Lapham Sr. retired from his military career, Diana and Paul rebuilt the Bearse-Nickerson homestead in South Chatham. And after living in Florida for many years, she returned to Chatham a year ago. Diana is survived by her four children—Paul, Glenn, John and Mary-- nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Diana's lineage: Diana¹¹, Theodore¹⁰, Joseph⁹, Watson⁸, Amos⁷, John⁶, Phineas⁵, John⁴, William³, Joseph², William¹.

Benjamin T. Nickerson of Chatham, 84, died on Jan. 24. Ben was a 28-year volunteer of the NFA, always willing to lend a hand whenever necessary, and a mainstay at the annual reunion. In 2012, during the town's tercentennial, Ben donned a period costume and played William Nickerson in the annual Fourth of July parade. A native of Chatham, Ben had a role in the rescue of crewmen from the SS Pendleton which broke up off Chatham in 1952. Ben met his future wife, the late Marilyn Strutzel, while stationed in Alaska. Later on, Ben and Marilyn founded a rubbish removal service bearing his name. He was a Freemason for 27 years, a long-time member of the First Congregational Church of Chatham and a FISH volunteer driver. "He always looked on the positive side," Past President Ralph Crowell said of Ben. "He made the best of every situation that came along." Past Vice President Ron Nickerson noted that Ben had "incredible institutional knowledge about the family and the town." He is survived by four children—Linda, Pamela, Kim and Benjamin—11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Ben's line: Benjamin¹¹, Benjamin¹⁰, William⁹, George⁸, Zephaniah⁷, Zephaniah⁶, Bassett⁵, John⁴, William³, Joseph², William¹.



Ziera Nickerson, 18, of Kearney, Neb., died in a motor vehicle accident on Oct. 16, 2018. She was the niece of Past President Nancy Nickerson Corey. Ziera was enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, where she was majoring in biology/pre-nursing. She is survived by her parents Ken and Deanna Nickerson of Kearney, sister Alicia Hixon, brother Zeth Nickerson, grandfather Dave Nickerson of Edcouch, Tx., and many more relatives and friends. Ziera's lineage: Ziera¹³, Kenneth¹², David¹¹, Roy¹⁰, Jesse⁹, Horace⁸, Bassett⁷, Bassett⁶, Issocher⁵, Nathaniel⁴, Thomas³, William², William¹.

Irvin Wellington Nickerson, 94, of Dover, N.H., died on March 14. Irvin was a past president of the NFA from 1992-1997. A son of Irvin and Margaret Nickerson, Irvin served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. After that he first pursued the ministry before eventually owning Nickerson Commercial Realty on the seacoast of New Hampshire. As president of the NFA, Irvin was instrumental in the acquisition of the NFA campus and the finishing of the "Nick House." He spent countless hours spearheading the effort to locate a piece of property in Chatham—either a house or land—to accommodate a headquarters for the NFA. (Until then the NFA's office was in the home of Pauline Derick of South Dennis.) Irvin formed an exploratory committee, then a capital campaign committee, once a piece of vacant land on Orleans Road (Route 28) had been identified. He leased a small condo in Chatham where he and Priscilla spent weekends away from their New Hampshire home, coordinating the headquarters project. Irvin is survived by his wife Priscilla; his children Bruce, Paula, Judy, Trudy and Todd; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Irvin's line: Irvin¹¹, Irvin¹⁰, Elijah⁹, Joseph⁸, Thomas⁷, James⁶, Gideon⁵, William⁴, William³, William², William¹.

John Paul Nickerson of Hyannis, 83, died on Feb. 15. John was born in Needham to Paul U. and Marion (Murchison) Nickerson. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, where a classmate was U.S. Sen. John McCain, John served aboard several ships before being honorably discharged and taking up teaching. Later, he became CEO of a family firm in Boston, manufacturing and distributing fluid control devices. Following this, he became an actor, appearing on Broadway, in TV commercials and in daytime dramas. He also co-founded Pathways to Freedom, a charitable institute for public education about addiction. His creed was "Don't give up the ship." John's line: John¹¹, Paul¹⁰, Urban⁹, Flavius⁸, Varanus⁷, Phillip⁶, Thomas⁵, Edward⁴, Thomas³, William², William¹.

Walter Forney Ramseur, 95, of Morganton, N.C., died on Jan. 17. Walter served in WWII in the Army Air Corps as a navigator on a B-24. After the war, he completed his education and then joined the U.S. Air Force to train as a pilot. He had a long career with United Airlines and for much of his career flew out of San Francisco to Hawaii. He owned and flew a private plane until he was 92. He was a recipient of the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. He was predeceased by his second wife Mary Griffin Ramseur, a past president of the NFA. He is survived by his son, Steven and daughter, Shari Ramseur, as well as stepchildren John Griffin, Mary Griffin Eid and Zack Griffin. Mary's lineage: Mary¹⁰, Mary⁹, Benjamin⁸, Benjamin⁷, Elisha⁶, Daniel⁵, Elisha⁴, John³, John², William¹.



Chatham, The Turning Point: The Mayflower and the Nickersons



For centuries, descendants of William and Anne Nickerson who are also descendants of *Mayflower* passengers, have traced and celebrated their genealogies.

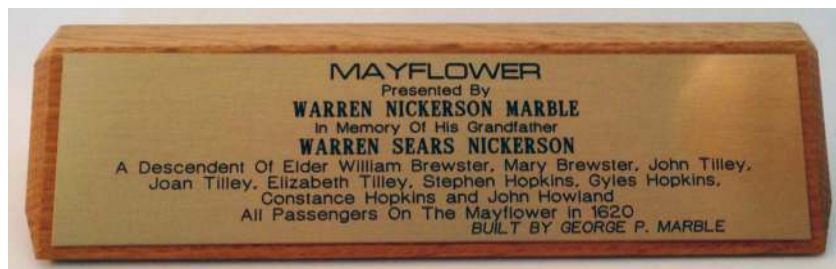
Warren Sears Nickerson (1880-1966) of East Harwich was a ninth-generation descendant of William Nickerson. No less than nine of Sears Nickerson's ancestors sailed aboard the *Mayflower*. In 1931 Nickerson published a book called *Land Ho! 1620: A Seaman's Story of the Mayflower--Her Construction, Her Navigation and her First Landfall*. Nickerson wrote his meticulously-researched account of the ship's 1620 journey around the 50-mile "Back Side" of Cape Cod from Monomoy to Provincetown from the perspective of a seaman.

On the afternoon of Nov. 9, 1620, the *Mayflower* came to a turning point in the dangerous Pollack Rip off Chatham. There, Capt. Christopher Jones steered the ship north, effectively ending its voyage to the Hudson River. Two days later the ship anchored in Provincetown where it remained for roughly five weeks before sailing west to Plymouth. Seventeen years later, in 1637, William and Anne Nickerson landed in Salem. In 1664 the Nickersons were the first English pioneers to settle in Monomoy, later the Town of Chatham. In between the fateful turning of the *Mayflower* and the Nickersons' arrival in Chatham, Chatham added one more quirky footnote to 17th century history. Less than a mile of the Nickersons' future home-stand, the Native American Squanto, who taught the Pilgrims to plant crops, died under mysterious circumstances near Jackknife Cove. The year was 1622. A plaque at the Nickerson Family Association (NFA) commemorates Squanto's life, as does a stone that proclaims that Squanto died "within gunshot" of the stone.

For centuries, descendants of William and Anne and descendants of the *Mayflower* Pilgrims have intermarried, especially in the small towns of Cape Cod. The intermixing of Mayflower and Nickerson heritages is well-illustrated by the Sears Nickerson family. The NFA owns a model of the Mayflower made by Nickerson's late son-in-law George Pearson Marble (1922-2008). The ship was presented by Nickerson's grandson Warren Nickerson Marble to the NFA in memory of his grandfather.

So it is appropriate that in 2020, the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower's* landing, that Nickersons, an estimated 50 percent of whom are also *Mayflower* descendants, celebrate their *Mayflower* heritage. In the fall of 2018 Ron Nickerson, past vice-president of the NFA, co-founded, a Chatham *Mayflower* group. The descendants are planning a luncheon at Chatham Bars Inn on Nov. 19, 2020, 400 years to the day after the *Mayflower* turned around just off-shore there. The group plans field trips and other commemorations in the months leading up to the November 2020 landing of the *Mayflower*.

If you are a Mayflower descendant, 2020 is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to celebrate your dual Nickerson and Mayflower heritage. Please check out TheMayflowerSociety.org. If you have a Mayflower/Nickerson connection with a Nova Scotia line, Brian Smith may be able to help you. Contact him at Brian.Smith@ptd.net. After the Nickerson reunion (Sept. 6 to 9), follow the Pilgrim Trail driving tour from Chatham to Provincetown.





The Nickerson Family Association

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Judy Needham

for her twelve years of unwavering dedication
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Legacy Family Tree

Brian Smith, a past president of the NFA who has been working on genealogy for over 25 years, recently migrated his work to an application called Legacy Family Tree. "This robust program does just about everything a genealogist could want, from creating multiple charts to a complete indexed book," Smith says. Legacy also "contains a relationship chart feature which allows you to enter two individuals, and shows how many times those individuals are related."

If, Smith says, you entered yourself and William Nickerson¹, the program will indicate if you have multiple lines going back to William¹, and chart each line. Most programs will simply tell you that William¹ is your tenth great-grandfather.

"This is important because so many of our members have multiple lines back to William," Smith says. The world was a much smaller place in Colonial times, and intermarriage among cousins was fairly common. It is not unusual to see members with five or more individual lines.

"I first used this feature after the NFA reunion this past September," Smith says. Smith knew he had 16 separate Nickerson lines, but when he entered his name and William¹'s, "I was amazed at the result. It found 20 additional lines, bringing my total to 36. This might raise a few eyebrows, but just about all of the marriages which brought my total up so high occurred well over 100 years ago."

Smith tested the feature on three Nick cousins. In one case the program found no additional lines; in the second it found one additional line; and in the third, 17 additional lines.

"Clearly, the relationship chart feature offers a great deal, even to those of us with years of experience studying the Nickerson line," Smith says. "I hope that my experience can help other members discover new connections, since, in the end, that's what genealogy is all about."

Visit Legacy Family Tree at legacyfamilytree.com.



William N. Walker of West Yarmouth donated to the NFA eight beautiful serving bowls, gravy boats and molds that had been handed down from his grandmother Clara Nickerson Walker (1862-1951).

The items are now on display in the Caleb Nickerson Homestead's buttery.



Cousins held a jam session in the Nick House to reminisce about days of yore:

(left to right) Barbara Nickerson, Phyllis Nickerson Power, Steve Nickerson, Kenny Nickerson, Joe Nickerson, Nick Nickerson, Ginny Nickerson and Donna Drown.



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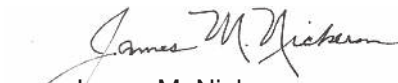
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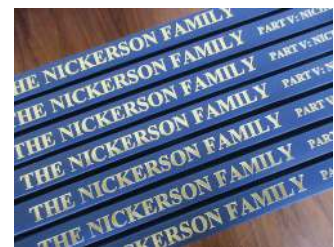
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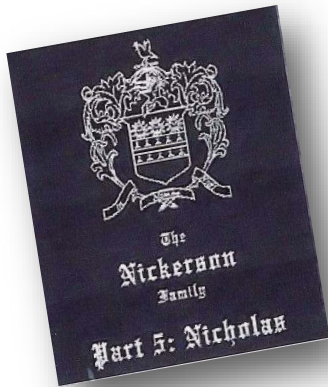


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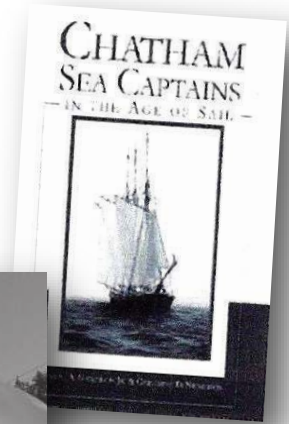
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