We’re Fixin’ Up The Houses!

We’ve been busy this summer and fall fixin’ up the NFA’s houses. See the progress we’ve made, what remains to be done, and how you can help on page 2.

Celebrate and Ring in the Holiday Season!

It’s time to celebrate the holidays Nickerson-style. Join us on December 5 for some vintage holiday cheer in the Caleb Nickerson House. Return on Jan. 24 and bake your grandmother’s favorite dishes during our once-a-year beehive oven lighting event. See page 5 for details.

The Cotuit Ghost Rides Again

Are there haunted places in our ancestral villages? Some Nickersons certainly thought so. Read genealogist Gail Shaffer Blankenau’s true ghost story on page 12.

Enjoy a Mayflower II Painting by Lin Webber

Reunion coordinator Lin Webber painted the Mayflower II to celebrate our 2015 Togethering in Plymouth. Now she is offering signed, limited-edition giclées to continue the celebration. Fifty percent of the profits benefit the NFA. See page 7.

Coming in Fall, 2016: NFA’s Reunion Weekend in Historic Falmouth-On-Cape Cod

Next fall our Togethering will be held in Falmouth-on-Cape Cod, the coastal birthplace of Katharine Lee Bates. Learn more about Falmouth on page 9.

…being, in a sense, the printed voice of the Nickerson Family Association
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

A $25,000 “Nickerson Headquarters Repair Capital Campaign!”

Hurricanes, brutal winter snow storms, and that seaside New England weather – Cape Cod’s in particular – is noted for taking a severe toll on the Nickerson Family Association Headquarters at our Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts campus! Both “Nickerson House” and the c.1823 Caleb Nickerson House Museum, require desperately needed repairs! A framed tablet bearing the name of all contributors will be permanently placed in the vestibule at “Nickerson House.”

*Please help us with a generous tax-deductible contribution to enable us to fund these improvements which include:*

- Strip & re-shingle sidewalls of Caleb Nickerson House.
- Strip & re-shingle ell of “Nickerson House” roof.
- Remove and rebuild rotted bulkhead at Caleb Nickerson House.
- Replace/repair/rehabilitate Caleb Nickerson window sash.
- Trim painting at Caleb Nickerson House.
- Repairs to Caleb Nickerson fence.
- Replace 4 disintegrated sets window sash at “Nickerson House.”
- Remove and replace rotted lattice at Nickerson House deck.
- Install blueboard walls in Wm. E. Nickerson Archives Room opening.
- Install handicapped grab bars in handicapped-accessible lavatory.
- Repair front door lantern at Nickerson House.
- Limbing & trimming trees damaged by severe Cape Cod storms.
- Many, many smaller house & grounds maintenance and repairs.

*We can’t do it without your help!*

*Some work in progress!*
Projects for the carpenter in all of us
by Edmond Rhodes Nickerson

It has been a busy fall at the NFA Campus in Chatham-On-Cape Cod. For an organization of our size, we have a large physical plant to maintain with both the Nickerson Genealogical Research Center, more popularly known as “Nick House,” and our living history museum, the c. 1829 Caleb Nickerson House, known as “Caleb House.”

The past several years have taken a toll on the exterior fabrics of our structures, not to mention the grounds, as Cape Cod has been pounded with storm after hurricane after frigid temperatures after blizzards. In an effort to keep our properties in good order, and after a maintenance sabbatical of several years, we engaged the services of Michael W. Lacasse, an award-winning carpenter and versatile craftsman skilled in period carpentry and restoration, to make repairs to two of the four exterior elevations of “Caleb House.”

Funding, in part, came from a grant of The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation of Chicago, Ill. Richard Driehaus was our host last year when the NFA journeyed to Chicago to see Driehaus’s magnificent period restoration of the Samuel Mayo Nickerson mansion in downtown Chicago.

Then, too, the roof of the ell over the library at “Nick House” had begun to fail, so it was stripped and reshingled in that classic Cape Cod fashion: red cedar shingles. The bow-shaped roof is now tight to the weather, and should provide about 30 years of good protection from the elements.

Nothing is simple when it comes to outwitting the elements of New England weather, so once the shingles were stripped, all of the trim and window casings were also painted to afford excellent coverage in those areas which can only be accessed when undertaking projects which occur every 25-to-30 years!

“Cedar breather,” a layer to allow air filtration beneath shingles, was used to prolong roof life, stainless steel fasteners (not galvanized nails) were used to affix the shingles, 18-inch rather than 16-inch shingles were used to add additional protection from the weather, and top grade, #1 perfection shingles were used on the job. Caulking, filling, re-fastening and a myriad of minor but all-important details make the job one of premium quality.

The grounds took a beating as well, as Mother Nature took her toll on trees and bushes on the property. An entire half of the elm tree gracing the entrance to the campus was felled across the driveway and required major emergency tree work to clear the debris left behind. The sun’s ultra-violet rays compromised several windows on our structures resulting in the need to replace top and bottom sash on several windows at “Nick House.” Fortunately, we have a fine group of talented “old school” tradesmen upon whom we can rely to keep your NFA campus “ship shape.”

But we can’t do it without your help! Please take a moment to reflect on your pride in your Nickerson connections, and consider a generous tax-deductible contribution to help preserve our research center headquarters and make our living history museum secure for generations to come!

Contributions may be mailed to:
Nickerson Family Association, Inc.
Attn: Capital Campaign
P.O. Box 296
North Chatham, MA 02650-0296

2015 NICKERSON HEADQUARTERS REPAIR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.

In consideration of the gifts made by my many Nickerson Cousins, and the pride I take in being a member of the Nickerson Family Association, I/We are pleased to enclose our contribution towards the NFA’s “2015 Nickerson Headquarters Repair Capital Campaign.”

☐ Grand Benefactor $5,000. or more
☐ Benefactor 2,500.
☐ Grand Patron 1,500.
☐ Patron 1,000.
☐ Conservator 500.
☐ Preservationist 250.
☐ Friend 100.
☐ Supporter 50.

This should be recorded as a gift of: _____________________________________________________________ (name)

In memory/honor of: ________________________________________________________ (if applicable)

Address: ________________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: __________________________________________________________

Please make checks payable to: Nickerson Family Association, Inc., P.O. Box 296, North Chatham, MA 02650-0296

Kindly respond before December 31, 2015.

The Nickerson Family Association, Inc. is a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.
Thank You!

Donors to “The 2015 We’re Fixin’ Up the Houses Capital Campaign.”

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“We’re Fixin’ Up The Houses!”
Join Us for the
Annual Beehive Oven
Baking Event
January 24, 2016

Baked beans, bread, Indian pudding and more—Sunday, January 24 is your chance to bake your grandmother’s favorite recipe in the Caleb House’s beehive oven, one of the few operating beehive ovens on Cape Cod. Enjoy a day in the keeping room as Maureen Leavenworth leads a hands-on baking day from noon to 3 p.m. Come early (at 9 a.m.) to see how Ken Needham heats the oven up to baking temperature. Or come at noon to help prepare food or bring your own dish, ready to be shoveled into the beehive oven and shared with all.

For more information and reservations
call Maureen at 508-255-8821
The cost of this popular event is $15.00

Ring in the Holiday Season!
at the 12th Annual
Holiday Hearthside Open House!

Saturday, December 5th
at the Caleb Nickerson House

Please join us for our 12th annual Holiday Hearthside Open House on Saturday, December 5 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Caleb Nickerson House. This has become one of Chatham’s most-anticipated events. Enjoy refreshments from authentic early Victorian recipes as you meander from room-to-room, each beautifully decorated in the spirit of the season. Maureen Leavenworth will be cooking over the open hearth and the Nickerson Genealogy House will also be open. See you then at our historic property at 1107 Orleans Road!

Books and Holiday Items for sale in our Gift Shop!

Sponsored by The Nickerson Family Association, Inc.
For more information, call 508-945-6086
www.nickersonassoc.com
What a spectacular gathering of Nickerson cousins in Plymouth, Mass.! On Friday and Saturday, we were to be seen on the streets, the waterfront and in Plimoth Plantation, many wearing NFA gear and name tags. In spite of a dismal weather forecast on Friday, the rain stopped in time for the walking tour of Plymouth led by Plimoth Plantation Director of Education Vicki Oman. From the waterfront monument of Plymouth Rock to the Grist Mill and up the hill to the old burial ground, Vicki filled our heads with many facts and anecdotes. We were very lucky to get her to lead this walk.

The welcome party aboard the Pilgrim Belle was nothing short of spectacular. We enjoyed great food, great people, and wonderful views around Plymouth harbor. To top it off, the sun came out and provided us with a sensational sunset as we returned to the dock.

Plimoth Plantation welcomed us with a full day of activities on Saturday. Registration and the Nick Store were set up on the deck of the Accomac Building. Inside, we helped ourselves to coffee and pastries as we greeted friends old and new. The annual meeting included a welcome from Plimoth Plantation and a description of things to see and do at the site. The director of “Plymouth 400” told us about the events leading up to 2020 and the commemoration of the landing of the Mayflower in 1620.

President Bill Grant handed the “staff of authority” to new president Nancy Corey. Nancy looked forward to the challenges that face the NFA in the coming year. For example, our volunteers in Chatham are having difficulty in keeping up with the business of genealogy. They need help. The campus in Chatham continues to need maintenance and repair. Our genealogy project, The Samuel Book, is in its early stages. Our main speaker was Gail Blankenau, the new genealogist for the NFA. She talked about some Nickerson ancestors in Cotuit in the 19th century that she had researched in preparation for The Samuel Book. Gail was presented with a Nickerson hat and declaration that she is an honorary Nickerson.

On Saturday afternoon, many walked through Plimoth Plantation enjoying the beautiful day and talking with pilgrims about the past.

We gathered back at the Accomac at 5 p.m. for cocktails and a Thanksgiving dinner. Stephen Hopkins (Scott Atwood of Plimoth Plantation) spoke to us about his life in England, his previous voyage to Jamestown, and his trip on the Mayflower. Half of the passengers on the Mayflower died the first year. By 1627, things were beginning to look up for the colony. An agreement with the local Wampanoags made their village more secure. Farming and hunting/fishing had supplied them with much needed nutrition and many houses were built to protect them from the elements. Many Nickerson cousins at the gathering can trace their roots to Stephen Hopkins who settled on the Cape and whose offspring married Nickerson sons and daughters.

continued on next page
We honored our oldest attendee: Walter Ramseur, 92; and our youngest, Sophia Nickerson, a babe in arms, and the furthest traveled, Richard White from Hawaii.

Sunday found a good number of Nickerson families at morning services at the First Congregational Church of Chatham, founded by William Nickerson. By noon, many cousins had gathered at the campus of the Nickerson Research Center and the Caleb Nickerson House. Maureen Leavenworth, well known for her colonial cooking at many Nickerson events, prepared mussels as a pilgrim cook would have: over an open fire with herbs from the garden for seasoning. Soon after our cookout lunch was served and we dined under a tent to protect us from the non-existent rain. Judy Needham, NFA treasurer and current governor of the Massachusetts Mayflower Society, talked to us about joining the society. She encouraged us to consider DNA testing to find the basis of our forbear’s origins. After that, Ron Nickerson presented Ben Nickerson with a certificate of appreciation for his 25 years of volunteering. The raffle painting this year was of the Mayflower II. We collected more than $400 which will go directly to the NFA treasury. Young Davis Stanko drew the winning ticket: Mary and Walter Ramseur were the winners.

Another reunion has come and gone. More than 140 cousins and guests joined us at the various venues in Plymouth and Chatham this year. Now we turn our attention to next year, which will be celebrated in Falmouth over the weekend of September 9, 10, and 11, 2016. Make your plans now to explore a different part of the Cape and to visit with your Nickerson cousins again or for the first time.

Prints of Mayflower II available

Giclee prints of Lin Webber’s painting of the Mayflower II are available on fine art paper, using archival inks suitable for framing. The image size is 14.5 x 11 inches, or 19 x 13 overall. We ship it rolled, in a three-inch square tube. The price is $100, plus $15 for packaging and mailing. Lin donates $50 to the NFA for each print purchased. Prints are in a limited edition of 50, which will be signed and numbered. The first five are already signed and numbered, and available at the Nick House for pick-up (with backing, in shrink-wrap). Number 6 of the series is already sold. Walter and Mary Ramseur won the original painting in the Sunday raffle at the reunion. 

http://nickersonassoc.com/store/#!/Giclee-Print-of-Mayflower-II/p/53012038/category=13492085

Plymouth photos courtesy of Rebecca Arnold
1. Vicki Oman as Mrs. Hopkins
2. President Nancy Nickerson Corey and Gail Blankenau
3. Maureen Leavenworth serves steamed mussels
4. Debbie Sweetman and her son Davis Stanko of Ontario, Canada
5. Ben Nickerson hoists the flag as carpenter Richard Noyes works
6. Bob Webber and the new mailbox he installed
7. Ron Nickerson presents genealogist Gail Blankenau with a Nicks cap
8. Treasurer Judy Needham, the Governor of the Massachusetts Mayflower Society, talks about the Mayflower Society
9. Vicki Oman speaks to the reunion group in Plymouth
10. The Pilgrim Belle, scene of the welcome party
11. Ron Nickerson with the “farthest traveled,” Richard White of Hawaii, and his mother, Alfreda White of Massachusetts
12. Plaque marking Stephen Hopkins’s house in Plymouth
13. The oldest Nick—Walter Ramseur—and the youngest, Sophia, with parents Steve and Becki Nickerson
14. Chatham’s new World War II veterans memorial
15. Stephen Hopkins and Lin Webber
16. Nickerson Sunday at the First Congregational Church of Chatham
**Falmouth is site of 2016 NFA Togetherness!**

**You are going to love the Town of Falmouth,** the site of next year’s NFA Togetherness on September 9-11, 2016.

**What is there not to love?** Falmouth, the birthplace of Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929), who wrote the words to “America the Beautiful,” boasts 68 miles of gorgeous coastline. Of that, over 12 miles is set along nine saltwater beaches. The often-photographed 1828 Nobska Lighthouse rules over the coast where Buzzards Bay and Vineyard Sound meet on the Cape’s southern coast.

Falmouth is the second largest town on Cape Cod, with over 33,000 year-round residents. The Village Green is one of seven National Historic Districts in town. And by the way, a statue of Bates is set in the lawn outside the Falmouth Public Library.

On Friday and Saturday afternoon you will find lots to investigate in the famous village of Woods Hole, once a whaling port. (Why is Woods Hole famous? Everyone who catches a ferry to Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket has to pass through the Port Authority in Woods Hole.) You might visit the Woods Hole Science Aquarium, the oldest aquarium in the country with 140 species of marine animals, an outdoor seal pool and more. It’s free. Check out aquarium.nefsc.noaa.gov.

Or you might tour the Woods Hole Historical Museum. See woodsholemuseum.org.

Or the world-famous Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the premiere research facility “at the frontiers of ocean science.” WHOI (pronounced Hoo-ee by the locals) is the institution from which Bob Ballard set sail in the summer of 1985 when he discovered the wreck of the Titanic on September 1, 1985.

If you care to do a little genealogical work, you could mosey over to the Old Burial Ground off Mill Road. The gravestone of Jonathan Hatch is over 300 years old. While you’re touring around, you might visit Great Hill, the highest point of land on Vineyard Sound, from which you can overlook the ocean. This spot also offers quaint gingerbread 19th century cottages.

If you have time, you might even venture over to Martha’s Vineyard for an afternoon tour of the island. Or ride a bike along Falmouth’s 10.7-mile Shining Sea Bikeway.

All these activities are in addition to the fun plans your reunion committee is hatching for historical talks, delectable meals, and lots of time to get to know your Nickerson cousins. On Sunday we will, as usual, return to the Mecca of all Nickersons, the NFA campus in Chatham where we will enjoy a cookout and time to plug those holes in the family genealogy.

So stay tuned and we’ll bring you an update on our plans in the Spring 2016 newsletter.
Nicks still on the go

Dear Nickerson Cousins:

Wow, we just had a great reunion! My hat is off to Lin Webber, Ron Nickerson and their Reunion Committee! They definitely outdid themselves on this one! It has been a great year for the NFA, and one that has been filled with “new” happenings!

We had our first ever reunion off-Cape at Plymouth and the Plimoth Plantation. It was a huge success with the highest number of attendees at a reunion in many years. We also had a high number of first time/new attendees, and I trust everyone had as great a time as I did.

Thanks to board member Jim Nickerson we have a new, updated website at http://nickersonassoc.com. If you haven’t checked it out, please do and give Jim your feedback. This is a site for all members of the NFA to use, so please let Jim know what you like, and any suggestions you may have for improving the site. As part of the new website the genealogy database has also been brought up to date with the newest software and is in the process of being updated. If you have used this database previously you will find you will need a new username and password to access it. You can either request this through the genealogy section of the website or send me an email and I’ll set you up. A lot of work still needs done on the genealogy database, so if you are interested in volunteering in this area, please contact me and I’ll be happy to discuss this with you.

Speaking of genealogy, those in attendance at the reunion met our new genealogist, Gail Blankenau, and were wowed by her presentation Saturday morning. Gail is very excited to be working with the NFA and is making great strides on the descendants of Samuel Nickerson and working toward our next book. She networked with some descendants of Samuel at the reunion and we recruited some new volunteers to aid us in researching the Samuel book—Charlie Wheeler and Linda Blais. They will join Brian Smith, Bill Grant, Karen Wooley and me in researching birth, marriage and death information, as well as source documentation, photos and more to put the “flesh on the bones” of our ancestors. There is always room for more volunteers, and if you would be interested in volunteering, or if you are a Samuel descendant, we want to hear from you! I would love to visit with you on this and put you to work. Of course, none of this genealogy
work could be completed without the help, past and present, of Edmond Nickerson, Brian Nickerson and Debra Lawless. Edmond keeps us all on track by working tirelessly to motivate us! Brian and his volunteers renamed thousands and thousands of scanned files to make them more accessible and useable to the genealogy volunteers. And, not to be outdone by the guys, Debra has organized us at the Nick House, making it easier to know (and find) what documents and artifacts we have and is also Gail’s “go to” person on the Cape to access those documents she may need for the Samuel research. Staying with the new theme, Jim Nickerson, aided by Pam Bailey and the rest of the Long-Range Planning Task Force, has been hard at work conducting a situational audit of our organization and what we can do to improve our Association. Another questionnaire is currently being assembled, which we hope you will all respond to to help us grow and prosper. Thank you in advance for your input on this important endeavor. We are listening to you and working to improve the Nickerson Family Association. Other new things, partially from your input on the last questionnaire, include our Facebook page and Constant Contact mail blasts to keep you up to date on NFA happenings, including the needed repairs at the Nickerson House and the c. 1829 Caleb Nickerson House. For the first time, the majority of our members will receive this Fall newsletter via email!

In closing, I want to thank current board members for their service, namely: Past President Bill Grant, Ron Nickerson, Judy Needham, Lin Webber, Jinny Devine, Edmond Rhodes Nickerson, Ken Needham, Pam Bailey and Jim Nickerson. Thanks also to Mary Griffin Ramseur and Brian Nickerson for their service. They have both chosen to retire from the board and will be missed! I also thank D. Scott Nickerson, who has joined Edmond in working on our newest capital campaign, “We’re Fixin’ Up the Houses.”

The Nickerson Family Association is run by volunteers. Your contributions keep the progress flowing on our important genealogical work and also the upkeep and maintenance of our buildings and grounds in Chatham. Your tax-deductible gift to the Nickerson Family Association can be earmarked for genealogical research, building and grounds, the Forgotten Arts Academy at the Caleb Nickerson House, endowment, or can be non-designated. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

*We look forward to seeing you in Falmouth at Reunion 2016!*
The Cotuit ghost rides again!
by Gail Shaffer Blankenau

As the weather cools and the leaves fall to the ground with their last hurrah, it’s time for Nickerson thoughts to turn to ancient burial grounds, and All Hallows Eve -- and all those things that may go bump in the proverbial night.

Are there haunted places in our ancestral villages? Some Nickersons certainly thought so.

In the 1880s, Yankee peddler Levi Phinney Nickerson of Cotuit (Leander Wallace, Samuel, Samuel, Samuel, Samuel, Samuel, William) and his horse and cart were a familiar sight along the byways of the Cape. One foggy evening, in the fall of 1884, Levi had been visiting Osterville and was driving back to Cotuit when he stopped to have a smoke in his cart.

“It was kinder misty, an’ it was about 6 o’clock. I’d just come to the woods between Marston’s Mills an’ here on the stage road, when wish! came a large stone out of the bushes, striking my horse...”

Old Levi then saw a movement in the bushes-- maybe a man’s arm-- and another stone whizzed by his head, tore a hole in the cart’s cover and landed in the wagon behind him. At this point, his horse had had enough and ran for his life. After Levi got the rattled steed under control, he went back to investigate, but all he saw were the arm and a dim outline like a “tall man, with a long coat.”

Levi then examined the stone in his cart. The rock weighed almost a pound and Levi thought it could be a chunk from an old grindstone-- certainly not the kind of stone common to the area.

Levi’s account was joined by that of his nephew, Captain Willis Thacher Nickerson (Emily Frances Nickerson, Leander Wallace, Samuel, Samuel, Samuel, Samuel, Samuel, William) of the schooner Nellie C. Paine. Willis was driving into Cotuit one evening at about the same spot, and he, too, saw a tall man dressed all in black. This time the ghost was standing in the road in front of him. His horse was going at a good clip, so Willis yelled out and the black specter stepped to the side just in time to avoid being run over-- if that was ever a possibility.

Others from Cotuit also reported apparitions along the same road, always dressed in black, sometimes thought to be a tallish woman with a black veil. The newspaper reported that Cotuit was a strict temperance town, and thus, strong drink was ruled out as an explanation.

Levi P. Nickerson’s account appeared in the Barnstable Patriot, 30 December 1884, p. 2, col. 3, online. Levi called the road a stage road, but from studying the contemporary maps, his route was probably the old Post Road.
Nickersons enjoy fun weekend in New Hampshire!

by Brian Nickerson

In July, about fifty Nickerson descendants and family members came together for a fun-packed, week-long reunion in the mountains and lakes of New Hampshire. Activities centered on Lake Winnipesaukee and the town of Gilford on the western shores of the lake. All the Nickerson descendants share the lineage down from William and Anne (Busby) Nickerson’s next-to-last son, William, to John Nickerson Jr.⁹. (John⁸, Major⁷, Archelaus⁶, Uriah⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Thomas³, William², William¹), born 1882 in St. Louis Missouri. John Nickerson Jr. was the grandfather of the oldest Nickersons attending, with the younger ones another generation or two later.

Clarke Case “Casey” Nickerson instigated and coordinated the week of fun, although many of the others shouldered the load for individual activities. Activities were mountain climbing, zip lining, water skiing (at 6 a.m.), boating, a trip on the historic Mount Washington ship around Lake Winnipesaukee, swimming, dancing, eating, hiking, ice cream, and more. Casey’s dad, also named Clarke, was the son of John Nickerson Jr.

John Nickerson Sr. was born in 1837 in New York State. He became involved in banking and ended his career in senior banking positions in St. Louis, where his son John was born. John Jr. also took on banking as a career starting in St. Louis with AG Edwards. His banking work progressed to investment banking and he took his company, John Nickerson Jr., Investment Bankers, to New York City to be, we suppose, close to Wall Street.

Casey moved to New Hampshire and started his own company, originally with the Nickerson name, but now called Spinnaker Contract Manufacturing, headquartered in Tilton. While Casey remains chairman of the board, his son Guy Nickerson runs the company-- and Casey-- as CEO. Casey’s other son, Warner Nickerson, is a championship professional skier, now semi-retired and a ski instructor in Austria. Both Guy and Warner were present for the festivities.

Casey is a member of the NFA and contacted Nancy Nickerson Corey to see if a member of the NFA would be available to make a presentation to the reunion about the history of the NFA and to offer any information about their line of descent. After I looked at my calendar, my wife Mary and I decided that a three-day trek to Northern New England sounded pretty good.

Mary and I received the warmest welcome one could imagine and immediately became part of their family-- which we were to some distant extent. Casey and the others had only a sketchy understanding of their line of descent. With the resources of NFA at hand, I was able to detail the family’s ancestry and told Casey I had a few surprises for his group.

Wednesday evening was planned for the presentation and I was given an hour, along with an abundance of pizza and beer. We gathered lakeside under a tent, and most of the family wore in bathing suits damp from swimming. Regardless, they were eager.

The first part of the presentation involved conditions in England leading up to the “great migration” to North America in the 1600s. I played the video about the first Nickersons’ experience on Cape Cod used for the Chatham 300 in 2012, and then went into the specifics about their side of the family.

The surprises? First, they did not know any connections to the Mayflower, and I was able to show how they were descended from Stephen Hopkins and, most likely, from William Brewster. Second, Uriah Nickerson fought in the Revolutionary War, making them eligible for the DAR and the SAR. Lastly, I showed them how they share part of their lineage with Thomas Nickerson, the cabin boy on the fateful voyage of the whaling ship Essex. This last revelation brought a lot of jokes and laughter. I told them, “Stay tuned for the movie.”

NFA reunions are terrific. However, if we ever really want to have fun, we need to call Casey Nickerson. He really knows how to throw a party.
A big shout-out to our wonderful volunteers!

“THANK YOU” NEVER SEEMS TO BE ENOUGH to say when recognizing volunteers. However, those two words are often not said enough in the everyday workplace, in the community, and even at home. So that is the first reason for providing this public recognition of the volunteers who helped us out in many different ways during the past year. We hope we have not forgotten anyone! The list is alphabetical, as every contribution of time and effort is appreciated.

The second reason for writing this article is to make all our members aware of the types of volunteer projects that are currently underway. Some projects are near completion, while others are ongoing and need more volunteers to complete. If your talents could be utilized, please contact us via email or snail mail. Include your thoughts on what you are able to do. Local folks who are acquainted with computer technology for genealogy research and storage would find great satisfaction in helping at the Nick House in Chatham. The best description for the work needing to be done is “backlog.” Many members “volunteer” to send in their information, but it takes additional volunteers to scan, process, digitize, and upload all of that into the database. We need lots more help in this area! The various tasks have been separated into two basic categories: local and long distance. With all the advances in digital networks, there is much that can be done from almost anywhere.

Local (Cape Cod) volunteer opportunities include: tour guide in the Caleb Nickerson House, Colonial cooking, woodworking, textile arts, gardening, landscaping, cleaning, answering phones, teaching living arts, local events and marketing, genealogical research, scanning, filing and data entry. Long distance volunteer opportunities include: Genealogical research, digitizing files, writing newsletter articles on related research-- everyone has interesting family stories to tell!-- helping with the next publication (The Samuel Book) and website contributions.

A big 2015 “Thank You” goes out to all members for renewing membership, keeping in touch, and just being part of our wonderful Nickerson Family!

A list of specific task volunteers who have been active over the past year:
- Dela, Ralph and Sandy Abel-- digitization; Rebecca Arnold-- birthday cards, Nick House, photography;
- Pam Bailey-- board member, writing, survey analysis; Malcolm Chase-- digitization;
- President Nancy Nickerson Corey-- Genealogy, The Samuel Book, digitization; Linda Dais-- The Samuel Book;
- Jonny Devine-- board member, genealogy, reunion registration; Anne Firth-- gardens and landscaping;
- Past President Bill Grant-- genealogy; Ray Laurie-- digitization; Tom Hamburg-- digitization; Linda Hart-- digitization;
- Susan Kelley-- wool carding and spinning; Maureen and Steven Leavenworth-- open hearth cooking;
- Donald Lewis-- digitization; Jill Lillie-- digitization; Patrick Luuck-- digitization; Marcia McIntire-- genealogy;
- Brian Mencer-- digitization; Judy Neeham-- board member/financial management, genealogy;
- Ken Needham-- board member, museum docent, education, reunion picnic, catering; Ben Nickerson-- genealogy;
- Brian Nickerson-- board member, digitization, genealogy; Dr. D. Scott Nickerson-- board member/endowment fund, digitization;
- DeDe Nickerson-- The Samuel Book; Don Nickerson-- digitization;
- Edmond Rhodes Nickerson-- board member, building and grounds maintenance, genealogy;
- Edward Nickerson-- The Samuel Book; Galen Nickerson-- digitization; Jeanne Nickerson-- newsletter editor;
- Jim Nickerson-- board member, webmaster; Karen Nickerson-- merchandizing, Nick House; Kurt Nickerson-- digitization;
- Lorraine Nickerson-- digitization; Vice President Ron Nickerson-- membership, community/newsletter liaison, Nick House;
- Richard Noyes-- woodworking, outside hearth demonstrations; Tish Noyes-- open hearth cooking; Tim Patton-- digitization;
- Mary Griffin Ramsey-- board member, Sigrid Smith-- digitization; Karen Sims-- digitization;
- Brian Smith-- genealogy, The Samuel Book; Fred and Marjorie Snell-- digitization; Susan Sherman-- digitization;
- Beth Walters-- digitization; Louise Washburn-- genealogy; Bob Webber-- digitization, photography, reunion;
- Lin Webber-- board member, digitization, reunion coordination, artist;
...volunteers!

A bit about our dedicated Wednesday morning volunteers

Ray Laurie poses with a volunteer award and the Wednesday volunteers

Ben Nickerson has been volunteering for 25 years, and worked closely with the late genealogist Burt Derick. Ben does things like make two copies of all our paper records, one of which is stored in the attic at the Nick House. He processes obits, has scanned all 18 or more of the three-inch thick three-ring binders holding manuscripts, and helps with whatever needs doing around the grounds or house as it occurs.

Rebecca Arnold is one of our talented photographers, taking lots of photos at every event. She readily shares them with us at the Nick House. She also sends some to Bob Webber who puts together notebooks of photographs. She helps research inquiries that come to the Nick house and is getting to be very good at locating information on the computers, using our database and other sources that Brian Nickerson installed. She also helps Karen with processing the birthday cards each month. She has a talent for mirror writing, which she recently put on a birthday card we all signed for Bill Grant.

Louise Washburn, Marcia McIntire, Rebecca and Ben all help with processing material that arrives in the mail, email and Facebook. They also help visitors find what they are looking for in our records, making up lineage pages for all visitors. (We do not want people to leave without getting all of their family information to complete their lineage, and we add information we are missing about them to our files.)

Gail Nickerson has helped to replace all the old manila folders with new hanging files and a protected tab with the name clearly printed for all our upstairs and downstairs files. That project took about two years to finish. The old manila folder tabs would bend, curl over, get lost or slump down in the files. It makes a great different to us when we go to a file to find someone. She comes in as needed to help with mailings.

CALLING ALL DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL NICKERSON!

Do you trace your Nickerson line back through William and Anne’s son Samuel Nickerson? If so, do you have any photographs, Bible apocrypha, mementoes, signatures, letters, diaries or anything else pertaining to this line? Please let us know. We are hard at work on the book tracing the Samuel Nickerson genealogy.

BRINGING OUR MEDIA INTO THE 21ST CENTURY AND BEYOND

The Task Force has developed a new web presence in both a new website plus social media sites on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/NickersonFamilyAssociationUSA), YouTube, Twitter and Google+. All of these means of communication will give you the ability to connect with your association in better and different ways.

In the spring “Communications Connections,” the objectives of the Task Force were spelled out. They include bringing a new web and social media presence to better connect and communicate with you, our members, the new events and functions that the NFA will be hosting. We also hope to appeal to more Nickersons and relations. We have achieved a good start towards those objectives, but we are not done!

We have begun regular blogging of NFA items of interest, brought new products into the Store, and started a gallery of photos associated with the Cape and NFA among other things. Our Facebook presence has made a solid connection with other Nick cousins and their Facebook pages, an important step in widening our communication base while reaching out to Nickerson families in Nova Scotia and beyond.

This is just the beginning. Visit these various platforms to see firsthand the new and improved NFA web presence! Watch this space in the future as we bring the NFA's Internet communications into 2015 and beyond!

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

From Debbie Sweetman of Ontario, Canada:

From Mary Jepson:
A 1932 Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary that belonged to Oscar Nickerson.

From Faith Twombly:
Songs of Summerland and Other Poems by M.H. Nickerson.
Commemorative stamps look forward to 400th anniversary of Pilgrims’ landing!

The year 2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Cape Cod and Plymouth. This landing, successful settlement and its associated history have created a significant national story.

Planning has begun for this commemoration through the formation of committees, design of various traveling exhibits, and organization of “lead-up” events and programs. One “lead-up” program is a campaign to solicit the United States Postal Service to issue postage stamps commemorating the event as they have done in the past. To support this endeavor you can visit www.plymouth400inc.org and click the Events and Programs tab.

In conjunction with the postage stamp initiative, the Plymouth 400th Committee is working with the Plymouth Rock Stamp Club to produce a series of Souvenir Cachet Envelopes over a period of years culminating in 2020. Each year during the “lead-up” event of Family Fun Day at the Plymouth Forefathers Monument, on the first Saturday in August, the postal service sets up a postal station at the site and cancels a series of envelopes designed to highlight the history of the Pilgrims, the Wampanoag, the Forefathers Monument and an associated theme representing the nation’s embracing various freedoms.

This year’s cachets show the Pilgrim and Wampanoag people as they existed in 1615, an explanation of the statue atop the Forefathers monument and the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. These envelopes are available for purchase from the Plymouth 400 or through the Plymouth Rock Stamp Club. Inserted in each envelope is a write-up of explanation of the commemoration. Contact George McKay at gmkay8677@aol.com if you have an interest in purchasing a set at $10. All proceeds go to the Plymouth 400th Committee. Sets from last year without the date stamp are available at the same price. The series is planned for at least through 2020 and maybe as far as 2021, the commemoration of the “first thanksgiving.”

The Mayflower passed by Chatham-- twice!

A group of separatists from the Church of England, later named Pilgrims, left England for Holland in 1608 and settled in Leiden in 1609. After staying there for 11 years, the group sailed back to England on the ship Speedwell, where they were joined by more emigrants along with a larger ship, the Mayflower. Although both ships set out together, the Speedwell was unable to continue, while the Mayflower left from Plymouth, England for America on Sept. 6, 1620, with 102 passengers. After a voyage of 66 days, they sighted the coast of Cape Cod on Nov. 9, turned south and sailed past what later became Chatham in an attempt to reach their original destination on the Hudson River. About nine miles southeast of Chatham, at the tip of South Monomoy, the shoals of Pollack Rip forced the Mayflower to turn back and head north, passing Chatham again. The ship continued north in search of a safe harbor and on Nov. 11 came around the tip of Cape Cod and anchored in what is now Provincetown Harbor.

Because the Pilgrims decided to settle outside the limits of their charter, they believed a written document was needed for self-government of the new colony. Thus, the Mayflower Compact was written. After staying in Provincetown Harbor for five weeks, the Pilgrims sailed across Cape Cod Bay and made a permanent settlement in Plymouth in December 1620.

The dangerous off-shore waters of Chatham profoundly shaped Pilgrim history. Had the Mayflower been able to continue to the Hudson River area, there would be no story of the Pilgrims on Cape Cod, Plymouth or even in New England. Nor would there have been a Mayflower Compact, the first self-governing document written in the New World.

Today a plaque on Main Street at the Chatham Lighthouse overlook marks the Mayflower’s two trips past Chatham.
NEW TWIG

Meet Everleigh Elizabeth Grace Warren, the youngest granddaughter of Tom and Nancy Corey. Everleigh was born 12 April 2015 in North Platte, Nebraska to Alyssa and Brett Warren. She has two sisters, Bryanna and Natalya and one brother, Payton, who absolutely adore her! Everleigh’s Nickerson line is: (Allysae13, Nancy12, David11, Roy10, Jesse9, Horace8, Bassett7, Bassett6, Issacher5, Nathaniel4, Thomas3, William2, William1).

FALLEN BRANCHES

Marilyn R. (Strutzel) Nickerson, 79, of Chatham passed away on September 26. She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Elsie (Carlson) Strutzel. She was the beloved wife of Benjamin T. Nickerson (Ben10, William9, George8, Zephaniah7, Zephaniah6, Bassett5, John4, William3, Joseph2, William1). Alice Dexter, 85, daughter of Williard Hammond Nickerson (Rufus8, Rufus7, Zenas6, Silas5, Silas4, Silas3, William2, Joseph1, William1) and Nina Doane, passed away September 26 in Germantown, Tennessee. Alice attended Chatham High School and lived in Chatham until 1964 when she moved to Barnstable Village. She moved to Tennessee in 2005 to live with her daughter, Pauline Edmundson. Alice divided her time between Tennessee and Naples, Florida, where she lived with her sister Joanne Hughes. She was predeceased by husbands Paul Giuliana and Russell Dexter, both of Barnstable; brother Willard Nickerson of Chatham; and sisters Mabel Reddish and Ellen Farris, both of Chatham. She leaves daughters Beth Garza of Houston, Texas, Pauline Edmundson of Germantown, and sons Peter Phillips of London, New Hampshire and Paul Giuliana of Petosky, Michigan and their spouses; 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She also leaves sister Joanne Hughes and sister-in-law Frances Nickerson of Chatham and many loving nieces and nephews. Alice spent her life as a music lover and searching for spiritual truth. She was a member of the Naples Community Church.

Phyllis Armanilla Pike Hall (Benjamin9, Benjamin8, Zenas7, Joshua6, Caleb5, William4, William3, William2, William1) died in Sarasota, Florida on March 21, 2015. She was born in Boston on April 27, 1917, a daughter of Benjamin and Bertha (Williams) Nickerson. She lived in Lexington until the family moved to Libertyville, Illinois in 1957. She was employed by the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church for eight years and by the Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary for nine years. She moved to Sarasota in 1979. Her hobbies were travel, needlecrafts and reading. Phyllis was predeceased by her husband of 54 years, Arthur Pike, and her husband of nine years, Donald Hall; her son Joseph W. Pike, her son-in-law Donald E. Reed, and a step-son-in-law Jim Eadens. She is survived by daughters Meredith Dornemann of Germantown, Wisconsin, Dorothy Reed and Ruth Bieber, step-daughter Donna Eadens of Sarasota, step-son Rick Hall of Richmond Hill, Georgia, nine children, eight grandchildren, five step-grandchildren and one step-great-grandchild.

Douglas Goddard Nickerson died on August 2, 2015. He was born in Worcester to Clifton E. and Bernice Marion (Goddard) Nickerson on August 13, 1942. The family moved to Huntington Park, California, when Doug was a young child. He attended Huntington Park High School, graduating in 1960. He supported himself through college working as a barber. He received a B.A. in History from Long Beach State and an M.A. in education from San Diego State. Doug worked for Oceanside Unified School District for 37 years, mainly at the elementary level. He also continued to work as a licensed barber. After he retired, he worked as a barber one day a week at Roger’s Barber Shop in Fallbrook “just for the fun of it.”

His lifetime hobby was the restoration of antique cars from Ford Model T’s to Plymouth “Woodies” to a 1964 Ford Falcon convertible and even a Powell truck. He was active in the Fallbrook Vintage Car Club, the California Retired Teachers Association and the NFA. Survivors include his sons Russell Alan and Robert Andrew and four grandchildren, Kyle, Megan, Joshua and Carter. Kenneth Wesley “Pete” Nickerson (Kenneth9, Levi8, Levi7, Levi6, Silas5, Silas4, William3, Joseph2, William1) died on April 29, 2015, at the age of 95. A member of the NFA, he attended a Togethering in Chatham many years ago. He boasted four Nickerson family lines and also descended from nine men aboard the Mayflower.

Pete was born in San Antonio, Texas on January 18, 1920. The family soon moved to Wareham to be near Pete’s Nickerson grandparents. Pete’s father opened a garage on the old Cranberry Highway. The family returned to Texas in 1935 before moving to Los Angeles. Pete died in Port Charlotte, Florida, and a special Masonic ceremony was held in Gaylord, Michigan in May. He is survived by his wife Leah, brother Bob, sister-in-laws Beverly Nickerson and Ina Jean Fox, brother-in-law Walter Campbell, step-granddaughter Lisa, and numerous nieces and nephews.
## Gifts for Nicks Order Form

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<th>Color</th>
<th>Size</th>
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<tr>
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<td>XL 44-46</td>
<td></td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navy blue w/white Nickerson Crest</td>
<td>(Circle one)</td>
<td>LG 40-42</td>
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<td>$25.00</td>
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<td>SM 34-36</td>
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<td><strong>Nickerson Polo:</strong> Blue or white, w/embossed crest in color, w/ or w/o pocket, cotton. Specify POCKET or NOT (circle one)</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>XXL</td>
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<td>Blue</td>
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<td>Small</td>
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<td><strong>Coffee Mug:</strong> Large, deep navy blue with gold Nickerson crest</td>
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<td><strong>Baseball Cap:</strong> Navy w/Nickerson crest</td>
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<td><strong>Plush Teddy Bears:</strong> Sporting Nickerson T-shirt, printed “Teddy Nick” on back w/Nickerson logo on front</td>
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<td><strong>Cape Cod Lapel Pin:</strong> With “Nickerson” across Cape, bright gold, red star shows Chatham</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Christmas Ornaments:</strong> Engraved in simulated scrimshaw, in color</td>
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<td><strong>Nickerson Crest Key Ring</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Chatham Sea Captains in the Age of Sail. By Joseph Nickerson and Geraldine Nickerson</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Days to Remember. A Chatham native recalls 20th Century life on Cape Cod by Joshua A. Nickerson, 2nd.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Tarnished Saber. The life and times of Maj. Azor Nickerson.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The Nickerson Family, Part 5, Nicholas</strong></td>
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<td>$60.00+</td>
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GIFTS FOR NICKS ORDER FORM

Keep the Nick Gift Store in mind when shopping for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Christmas, and any time there’s an occasion to give a Nick you love something special!

Additional Charges (from previous page):
*Includes $6.25 Massachusetts Tax
**Includes $15.00 Shipping & Handling
***Includes $5.00 Shipping & Handling

+Canada and Overseas book orders, please add $25.00 per book.

Subtotal from previous page: ______________
Add 15% Shipping: ______________
Additional charges (see chart at left): ______________
Total Order Amount Enclosed: ______________

PLEASE NOTE: All money and payments must be submitted in US DOLLARS (Banks now charge us $25 per check for foreign currency!)

SHIP ORDER TO:

Name: _______________________________________________________
Street: _______________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: _______________________________________________

Please submit your order to:
The Nickerson Family Association, P.O. Box 296, North Chatham, MA 02650-0296

To make it as convenient as possible to buy your loved ones gifts about the Nickersons, click on this hyperlink http://nickersonassoc.com/store to go directly to the NFA’s web-based store and order directly from it!
Nickerson Family Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 296
North Chatham, MA 02650-0296

Address Service Requested