



FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

THE NICKERSON FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

William Nickerson
Signature of
William Nickerson

The Year of the Dig

Archaeologists discovered the hearth of William and Anne's c. 1664 homestead last September. We hope this is only the beginning.

Read about the finds on pages 2-4



Holiday Open House!

Join us on Sat., December 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. for our 14th Annual Holiday Open House. This year we will usher in the holidays in conjunction with other inns and historic sites in Chatham. *Hope to see you there!*



Our annual reunion in Chatham this September was a great success. Join us next year as we celebrate in Orleans. *Read about both reunions beginning on page 6*

Great Holiday Ideas!

Give the gift of membership in the NFA, Inc. beginning at \$30 or choose a Gift for Nicks.

Click here: <http://nickersonassoc.com/store/>



"Nickerson House."

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



WE'RE DIGGIN' DEEP!

We were always told that our progenitors, Anne & William¹ Nickerson's c.1664 homestead was somewhere nearby in Chatham.

If only we could find it!

AND FIND IT WE DID!

After traipsing around the woods and digging test pit after test pit over the course of a year, the archaeological crew we hired hit upon something hard – and after digging down trowel by trowel through a foot of peat, topsoil, and sand – there it was: the brick fireplace hearth that kept the Nickersons warm and fed some 350 years ago!

So far, the dig has uncovered clay pipe stems – evidence that William (and Anne?) smoked – c.1670 Staffordshire slipware from Anne's cooking crocks, decorative shards of imported Ballermine transferware, fish bones, shells, and animal bones, iron slag (perhaps from William's blacksmith forge), and lead fragments from their cabin's leaded-glass windows, and even a 2,500-year-old Native American spearhead! To date, over 2,500 artifacts have been unearthed, researched, interpreted and cataloged for us, and for future generations, to hold and enjoy!



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO KEEP DIGGIN' AND HELP US UNCOVER:

- The entire footprint of the c.1664 homestead.
- The barn, well, outhouse, corn crib, outbuildings, pigsties, and animal pens.
- Blacksmith forge and other structures.
- Perimeter fence posts and fencing.

Show your passion for unearthing thousands of more artifacts and information that are slowly telling us how our ancestors – William & Anne and their children – lived in the Chatham wilderness in the mid-1600's by making a generous year-end gift to enable the Nickerson Archaeological Dig to resume in the Spring!



2017 NICKERSON ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG.

In consideration of the gifts made by my Nickerson Cousins to continue the Nickerson Archaeological Dig, I am pleased to make the enclosed gift:

- Grand Benefactor \$5,000. or more
- Benefactor \$2,500. or more
- Grand Patron \$1,000. or more
- Patron \$500. or more
- Conservator \$250. or more
- Preservationist \$100. or more
- I would like to make a gift of securities. Please contact.

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

In memory/honor of: _____ (if applicable)

Address: _____

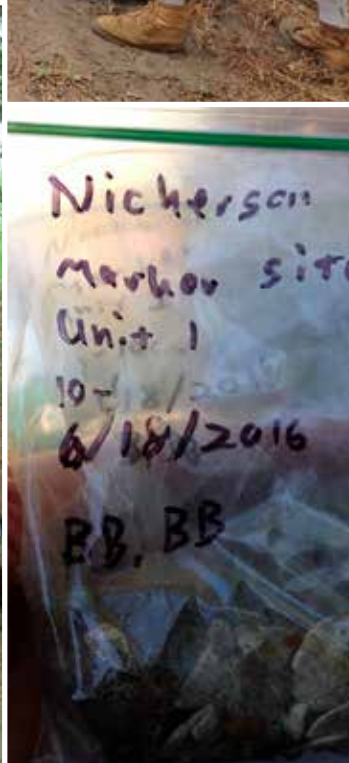
Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Kindly respond before December 31, 2017.

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

2017 NICKERSON ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG



Pottery shards (upper left), the Hearth, WCAI's Brian Morris interviews Craig Chartier and other site photos.

SQUANTO DEDICATION

Nick House Lawn, Oct. 28, 2017



The audience



Ron Nickerson & Jill James



Bill Burke & daughter Abby



Squanto Plaque & Stone



Michelle Pecoraro & Alice L. Mohnkern



Autumn refreshments



Mayflower descendants

Thank you – Ron Nickerson, the catalyst behind the new plaque honoring Tisquantum, or Squanto, thanks the following:
 Richard Pickering, Deputy Director of Plimoth Plantation, for guidance and direction
 Tom Begley of Plimoth Plantation • Debra Lawless and Karen Nickerson for the text • Shareen Davis for designing the plaque
 Ginny Nickerson for her background painting • Linda Peters of Fossil Industries for making the plaque
 John Roy of Rick Roy Construction for installing the plaque
 And The Nickerson Family Association, Inc. for its generous financial contribution

120th Reunion Nickersons Celebrate Headquarters' 20-year Anniversary

by Debra Lawless

About 80 Nickersons flocked to Chatham recently to celebrate three milestone anniversaries during the 120th annual reunion of the Nickerson Family Association, Inc.

At the same time, the Nickerson clan sent an archaeologist and crew into the tangled honeysuckle and grapevine behind the association's North Chatham property to continue searching for the location of the c. 1664 homestead of ancestors William and Anne (Busby) Nickerson.

"There are lots of tantalizing clues," archaeologist Craig Chartier of the Plymouth Archaeological Rediscovered Project said on Sunday. That afternoon he made four additional significant finds: the heel of a 17th century pipe bowl, a fragment of English pottery dating to the 1670s, a metal fork dating to the 1740s and a 3,000-year-old Native American spearhead.

It is now 380 years since the Nickerson family sailed from England to Salem. William and Anne were the parents of nine children, and are now the ancestors of hundreds of thousands. William and Anne relocated to what is now the town of Chatham in about 1664. In 1897, 120 years ago, their descendants gathered in Chatham to celebrate their common forebears for the first time. Boston businessman William Emery Nickerson arranged that first reunion, and in so doing also launched the genealogical work that has occupied the NFA ever since.

Despite its enthusiastic group of "cousins," the NFA didn't always have a place to call home. In 1994 the group acquired its campus at 1107 Orleans Rd. in North Chatham and, in 1997, opened "the Nick House," which serves as the group's Genealogical Research Center.

On hand on Sunday afternoon to celebrate the 20th anniversary of "the Nick House" were six key people who helped make the house a reality: Ben Nickerson of Chatham, Phyllis Nickerson Power of Chatham, Jan Nickerson of Brewster, Edmond R. Nickerson of South Dennis, Barbara Nickerson of Chatham and Ruth Derick of South Dennis, representing her late husband Burton Derick and her late mother-in-law Pauline Derick, long-time NFA genealogists.

Now, here's the big wow: by coincidence, when the NFA was looking to buy land in Chatham, a parking lot for the now-defunct Christopher Ryder House Restaurant was for sale. It just so happened that this property and the contiguous land owned by the Chatham Conservation

Foundation Inc. was the site of William and Anne Nickerson's 1664 homestead.

"I can't believe that we found this land that belonged to William and Anne Busby," said Power, who brokered the land sale. She was addressing the assembled Nickersons who had just finished a picnic lunch under a tent on the NFA lawn. "It's quite a story—we're very proud of it."

Ben Nickerson cut the ribbon 20 years ago. "I had the biggest pair of scissors that there ever was," he said. "They were six feet."

Jan Nickerson said his grandfather opened a lumber company in 1895 in Chatham. In 1958 the company, which had moved to Orleans, began building houses under the name Nickerson Homes. Eventually Nickerson donated the bow-roofed demo house to the NFA. The house was floated from Orleans to Ryder's Cove and flat-bedded down the street. "It was a great pleasure to give the building," he said.

Edmond Nickerson oversaw finishing the interior of the two-story building and the construction of an additional room. Barbara Nickerson headed up the gala 1997 reunion and celebration.

The circa 1829 Caleb Nickerson house was later added, brought across town from its original site at Nickerson Neck.

Meanwhile, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday archaeologist Chartier and his crew dug multiple 15-inch deep test pits in the undeveloped area behind the property. Chartier began digging test pits in June 2016, and by noon Sunday he and his crew had examined the contents of the 13th test pit. So far they have found fragments of 17th century pottery from England and Germany, clay pipe stems, the remains of fish, chicken and animal bones, bricks from the hearth, hand-wrought nails and more. It is possible that William Nickerson ran a blacksmith shop repairing tools and pots for both his family and Native Americans. The NFA is financing a formal week-long dig later this month.

"We're sort of zeroing in on where the house could be," Chartier told the group. "It's just like a detective story, finding all the bits and pieces to solve the story." By the



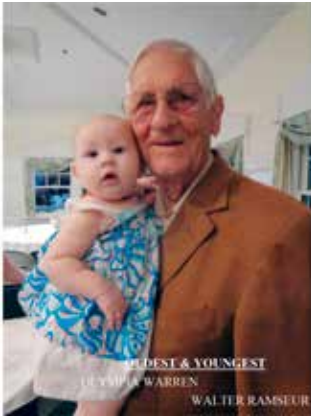
Ben Nickerson, Phyllis Nickerson Power, Jan Nickerson, Edmond R. Nickerson, Barbara Nickerson and Ruth Derick gather 20 years after the Nickerson Family Association established its headquarters along Route 28 in Chathamport. DEBRA LAWLESS PHOTO

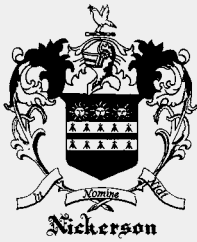
end of the dig, Chartier hopes to determine what type of house the Nickersons built when they arrived as the first English settlers living among the Monomoyicks.

Earlier in the weekend the Nickersons pursued a full itinerary. Reunion-goers traveled from as far as Australia and as near as Chatham, and ranged in age from 94 years to six months. Friday afternoon they learned about the history of downtown Chatham on a tour with Chronicle editor and Chatham Walks guide Tim Wood, and in the evening the group enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres at the Atwood House Museum where they toured the Nickerson Camp, a dune shack built in 1947 on North Beach. Saturday morning the group assembled for its annual meeting at the community center and heard NFA genealogist Gail Blankenau of Lincoln, Neb., speak on dating and identifying 19th century family photographs. After free time Saturday afternoon the group reassembled at the Captain's Golf Course in Brewster for a buffet dinner followed by a talk "Close Encounters of the Ocean King" by John King II of Chatham, a co-founder of the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy. King is known for the spectacular photographs he takes while "swimming with the sharks" in specially-designed cages.

The Cape Cod Chronicle - 09/21/2017







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A word from President Nancy Nickerson Corey...

Nicks Continue to Wow!

Dear Nickerson Cousins:

WOW! Great things are happening with the Nickerson Family Association!

In this issue you will see that news of the dig at the Nick House has been making headlines. We have been front page news in the Cape Cod Times and the Cape Cod Chronicle as well as been featured in the Boston Globe and on WCAI radio.



The hearth and the approximate dimensions of **William and Anne (Busby) Nickerson's** c. 1664 homestead were discovered in September. Check out the articles and photos within this newsletter and you will be as bowled over as I am!

The 2017 reunion, held in Chatham last September, was awesome as we celebrated numerous milestones: the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the Nickerson House, the 120th anniversary of the first reunion hosted by **William Emery Nickerson**, and the 380th anniversary of our emigrant ancestors, **William and Anne (Busby) Nickerson**, landing on our soil. You can read more about the reunion in the pages of this newsletter as well as see photos of the newbies (first timers) and a photo of the oldest and youngest Nicks in attendance, **Walter Ramseur** and **Olympia Warren**. Once again, **Lin and Bob Webber** and the reunion committee exceeded expectations as they organized all the weekend events.

Gail Blankenau, NFA genealogist, presented our Saturday morning program and fascinated us with her analysis and dating of photos of Nickerson ancestors submitted by NFA members. In the evening we learned about Chatham's newest attraction, white sharks, from **John J. King II** of the Atlantic White Shark Conservatory. Yikes!

During the picnic on Sunday attendees were treated to viewing the dig led by **Craig Chartier** and his able assistants. Craig shared artifacts he has found and details about the homestead and lives of our ancestors, **William and Anne**. This was a high point of the weekend for me! Just imagine holding a pipe that William may have smoked or a piece of china that Anne may have served food on!



As always, the business of the NFA continues. **Edmond Nickerson** continues his excellent management of the NFA grounds and buildings. **Tish Noyes** keeps things running smoothly at the Caleb Homestead with tours and programs. Stay tuned for details for the upcoming holiday open house. **Jinny Devine** and **Judy Needham** keep the genealogy center hopping, ably assisted by **Rebecca Arnold, Debra Lawless**, and **Ron and Karen Nickerson**. **Jim Nickerson** and **Debra Lawless** keep the NFA website running smoothly and other social media to keep you up to date with Nickerson information. **Gail Blankeneau** and the genealogy volunteers continue to plug away on the Samuel Nickerson genealogy project and yours truly updates the genealogy section of the website as time and energy allows. Volunteers on any of these projects are ALWAYS needed and appreciated. If any of these projects interest you please contact any board member or me at: nancyroots@msn.com.

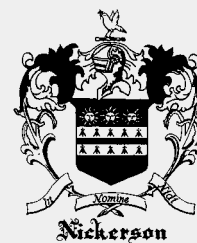
I thank our retiring board members for their years of dedicated service. I will greatly miss their expertise and experience going forward. Thank you **Ron Nickerson, Jinny Devine, Lin Webber, Jim Nickerson** and **Bill Grant** for all the assistance and advice you have given me over the years! We welcome new board members **David Dillman, Patricia Noyes** and **Loren Smith**.

On behalf of myself and current board members-- **Debbie Sweetman, Vice-President; Judy Needham, Secretary/Treasurer; and Edmond Nickerson**-- I thank you for your continued membership and support of your family organization. Your contributions are always welcome and appreciated. They enable us to continue the work of the Nickerson Family Association. I hope you will consider gifting us with your tax deductible contributions to benefit your family, the Nickerson family.

You can contact us any time through our website at:

<http://nickersonassoc.com>

From there you can visit us on Facebook, check out our YouTube channel and contact us via phone, email and snail mail.



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A Nickerson May Have Influenced Hemingway's *Old Man and the Sea*

By Gail Blankenau

Ernest Hemingway is famous for writing about “old salts.” One of his most famous books is the Pulitzer Prize-winning classic *The Old Man and the Sea*—a tale of man vs. nature set in the Bahamas. Many fiction writers explain that their characters, while fictional, are often composites of people they knew. The story of Ernest Hemingway’s visit to Nantucket may just hold the key to one of the personages Hemingway used for his famous composite captain, Santiago.

Hemingway’s mother Grace Hall Hemingway was the granddaughter of a British sea captain and wanted her children to appreciate the ocean. She had each of her children accompany her to Nantucket during the summer of his or her eleventh year. Ernest Hemingway’s turn came in 1910. He spent the entire summer there, enthralled with all the experiences that Nantucket and the Cape had to offer an adventurous 11-year-old boy, according to Carlos Baker’s *Ernest Hemingway: A Life Story*.

Ernest Hemingway was already passionate about natural history and had been made an “assistant curator” of the Agassiz Club, an organization for boys that his father founded to foster interest in the natural world. One of his goals was to find a specimen worthy of donating to the collection when he and his mother returned home to Chicago. In September 1910, young Ernest purchased his specimen—the bill of a large swordfish—and the seller was an old sea captain called “Judas,” who was almost certainly Captain Judah Nickerson.¹ In addition to the similarity in names, Judah was a well-known seaman on Nantucket.² Moreover, the Nantucket newspaper of 16 July 1887 reported that Judah Nickerson had caught a “noble swordfish.” It cannot be known whether Judah Nickerson’s swordfish bill sold in 1910 was that from that particular swordfish, but it must have been a large specimen to merit inclusion into the Agassiz Club collection.



Photo Judah Nickerson (at left) courtesy Nantucket Historical Assoc.

Captain Judah E. Nickerson married twice. He first married Lydia N. Snow (#1206) of Harwich, but she died a year later in childbirth. His second wife was Mary Elizabeth Burgess, daughter of Captain Watson Burgess and Mary NAME. Captain Watson Burgess was a well-known whale-man and seaman. In addition, he owned a yacht called the *Naiad Queen*. The *Harper's Weekly* of 1860 featured Captain Watson Burgess, the ex-whaleman, and his beautiful rig. Indeed, The *Detroit Free Press* reported in 1866 that Judah’s father-in-law, Watson Burgess, built the craft “with his own hands.”³ The *Naiad Queen* out of Nantucket was mentioned in “The Rudder” Volume 27, 1912, as an example of a pilot rig or Block Island boat, consisting of two sails, a squareheaded lug foresail and a high narrow mainsail, with neither mast having any shrouds. “Twenty-five years ago at Nantucket there were two such boats, and I knew them both intimately and well. They used to call them pilot boats. One was called *Naiad Queen* and above water she was the replica of the boat described by Mrs. Thompson (lap-streak planking and all), except that she had a much heavier flare at the bow than the boat shown.”⁴


On his own account, Judah Nickerson was a seaman and fisherman of some local repute. Indeed, Judah was busy bringing in various fish, having brought in “two swordfish” in 1879, and having the first “scup” of the season the next year.⁵ He still shipped out with others, serving as mate of the Schooner *Onward* in 1881.⁶ The same year, Captain Nickerson and W. J. Burgess went out on the *Naiad Queen* to pilot a schooner that had struck the outer bar, an incident that made the newspaper because the captain of the schooner denied Judah’s claim for pilotage the next day.⁷ He eventually owned his father-in-law’s yacht, the *Naiad Queen*, not only for his own use, but also he took people out on pleasure tours. In 1882, he received a gift from several people from Cincinnati who had sailed aboard his yacht, the *Naiad Queen*. They wrote about “last summer’s party” and how the ladies still refused to believe a shark was ever caught at Nantucket, the article related that, “They are unanimous in their vote of thanks for the vivid manner in which we showed them how it ought to be done.”⁸ He also received a Colt six-shooter as one of his thank-you gifts.⁹

He also served as a crew member to the Muskeget Lifesaving Station that year.

[Life-saving stations] are established in localities remote from settlements, and are furnished with every approved appliance for rescuing the ship-wrecked from stranded vessels, and with the means for ministering to the immediate necessities and comfort of the rescued, and for the convenience of the crews regularly employed at such stations during the inclement portions of the year. To this class belongs the one on Nantucket. It has a keeper and seven men, who go on duty at sundown and are relieved every four hours. Many a life has been saved by these men, who patrol, night after night, miles upon miles of sandy beach in the most inclement weather. Theirs is no easy task, and the pay is hardly adequate for the hardships which they undergo.¹⁰

Judah E. Nickerson also captained a yacht, or catboat, *Millie*, as in October of 1897, D. C. Brayton presented a set of colors, who enjoyed many trips in the yacht and gave them to the Captain as a gift of remembrance.¹¹ His obituary said that Judah would be “recalled by the summer visitors to Nantucket as the owner and captain... of catboat *Millie*, which he sailed both summer and winter, until failing health compelled him to give up an active life a couple of years ago.”¹² As experienced as Judah Nickerson was, the fickle Nantucket weather could still catch him. In August 1901, he and a party were trapped in a dense fog while out on the catboat *Millie*. The lifesaving crew of the Muskeget station took some of the passengers off her to lighten the load and an hour later she was “afloat.”¹³ Apparently Judah and his wife Mary also operated a boarding house at 68 Union Street, being listed in 1881, with mentions in newspapers through the 1890s. At least one advertisement mentioned that jaunts on the *Naiad Queen* would be connected with their visitors’ stay.¹⁴

J. E. Nickerson,
Private Boarding.
No. 68 Union Street,

 **TERMS reasonable. All communication by letter promptly answered. Open after June 10th.**
Yacht *Naiad Queen* will run in conjunction with the house. m19-3m

Ad for boarding house

In addition to these pleasant times, life on the sea also presented constant dangers. In 1879, Judah nearly collided with Heman Eldredge’s boat in the fog. In 1893, the newspaper reported a squall so violent and sudden it resembled a “western cyclone,” filling Capt. Judah Nickerson’s boat with water, which “narrowly escaped foundering.”¹⁵

The 1900 US Federal Census for Nantucket, Mass. lists Judah E. Nickerson, a boatmen, age 53 with wife and one child.¹⁶ Judah apparently met 11-year-old Ernest Hemingway when he spent the season at Nantucket in 1910. Hemingway bought a swordfish bill from Judah, the “old sea captain,” which was later added to the Agassiz Association’s natural history collection.¹⁷ Historians suggest that the large swordfish bill may have been from a “noble swordfish” that may have weighed about 1000 pounds that Judah caught in 1887.¹⁸ Judah E. Nickerson’s 1912 death record lists his occupation as boatman.¹⁹

Judah’s wife Mary E. (Burgess) Nickerson operated the “Old Homestead” gardens on Union street, Nantucket.²⁰ She earned a mention in the newspaper in 1898 by providing pansies to the Nantucket newspaper editor.²¹ Her uncle, Capt. Nathaniel Burgess, happened to die at their house on a visit to Nantucket.²² She died “while calling at the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Minshall at Beachside,” of heart disease.²³ There is still a house at 68 Union St., Nantucket, a Greek Revival that is available to rent.

CHILD by second wife, Mary Elizabeth Burgess, born Nantucket, MA:

WATSON IRVING, b. Nantucket, Nantucket Co., MA, 11 April 1889;²⁴ m. Nantucket, Nantucket Co., MA, 23 June 1913, Alice Bennett Gifford, daughter of George W. Gifford & Lizzy M. Bennett;²⁵ d. 15 May 1966, last residence, Wareham, Plymouth, Co., MA;²⁶ buried New North Cemetery, Nantucket, Nantucket Co., MA.²⁷

¹ Susan F. Beegel, Nantucket Historical Association, *Historic Nantucket*, Vol. 32, No. 3 (January 1985), citing the author’s interview with local historian J. Clinton Andrews, 30 July 1983.

² **3093. JUDAH ELDRIDGE NICKERSON**⁸ (*Judah*⁷, *Lindsay*⁶, *Benjamin*⁵, *Benjamin*⁴, *Samuel*³, *Samuel*², *William*¹) was born Dennis Port, Barnstable Co., MA, 11 Oct. 1844², son of Judah and Sylvia (Joy) Nickerson. He died Nantucket, Nantucket Co., MA, 24 Dec. 1912, of edema of lungs, age 68 years, 2 months 13 days;² buried New North Cemetery, Nantucket, Nantucket Co., MA.²

³ *Detroit Free Press* (Michigan), 21 Oct 1866, p. 2, Col. 2, “A Quaint Old Island.”

⁴ Thomas Fleming Day, editor, *The Rudder*, Vol. 27, 1912, p. 375, “An Ocean Going Cruiser,” by C. Andrade, Jr., online at www.books.google.com.

⁵ *Nantucket Journal*, 2 July 1879, p. 2; *Ibid.*, 18 May 1880, p. 2.

⁶ *The Inquirer and Mirror* (Nantucket), 22 January 1881, p. 3.

⁷ *The Nantucket Journal*, 14 April 1881, p. 2.

⁸ *The Inquirer and Mirror*, 23 Dec 1882, p. , Cols. 5 & 6.

⁹ *Nantucket Journal*, 6 Sep 1883, p. 2, Col. 3.

¹⁰ Godfrey, Edward K. compiler, *The Island of Nantucket, what it was and what it is, being a complete index and guide to this noted resort*, (1882, Boston, Lee And Shepard), p. 359.

¹¹ *Inquirer and Mirror* (Nantucket), 30 Oct 1897, p. 1, Col. 5.

¹² *Ibid.*, 28 Dec 1912, p. 4, Col. 4., Obituary.

¹³ Annual Report of the United States Life-Saving Service, p. 67 and p. 272.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 15 Aug 1931, p. 6, Col. 6, “Nantucket Hotels of Fifty Years Ago;” *Ibid.*, 15 Sep 1881, p. 2, Col. 7, advertisement for J. E. Nickerson, Private Boarding.

¹⁵ *Nantucket Journal*, 12 Feb 1879, p. 3, Col. 2; *Ibid.*, 27 Jul 1893, p. 1, Col. 2.

¹⁶ 1900 United State Federal Census, Nantucket, Nantucket Co., MA; digital image, *Ancestry.com*, p. 1, ED 1009, dwelling, family 15, Judah E. Nickerson, a boatman, age: 53, with wife Mary E. Nickerson age 52 & son Watson I. Nickerson was born April 1889, age 11; citing FHL Film 1240668.

¹⁷ 3 January 2008, pgs. 1B, Col. 3, continued on p. 8B, Col. 1.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Massachusetts Deaths, 1841-1915*, database, *Ancestry.com*

²⁰ *Inquirer and Mirror* (Nantucket), 7 Sep 1907, p. 4, Col. 2.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 19 Nov 1898, p. 4, Col. 7.

²² *Ibid.*, 7 Nov 1891, p. 1, Col. 5.

²³ *Ibid.*, 7 Sep 1907, p. 4, Col. 2.

²⁴ *Massachusetts, Birth Records, 1840-1915*, digital image, *Ancestry.com*; Watson Irving Nickerson, was born 11 April 1889, Nantucket, Nantucket Co., MA, son of Judah E. & Mary E. Nickerson.

²⁵ “*Massachusetts, Marriage Records, 1840-1915*,” digital image, *Ancestry.com*; Watson Irving Nickerson married Alice Bennett Gifford, 23 June 1913, Nantucket, Nantucket Co., MA; daughter of George W. Gifford & Lizzy married Bennett.

²⁶ “*U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014*”, database, *Ancestry.com*; Original data: Social Security Administration. *Social Security Death Index, Master File*. Social Security Administration; Watson I. Nickerson was born 11 April 1889, died 15 May 1966, last residence, Wareham, Plymouth Co., MA.

²⁷ “*Find A Grave.com*” database and images, memorial page for Watson Irving Nickerson, born 11 April 1889, died 15 May 1966, Plymouth, Co., MA , Find A Grave Memorial # 160232835, buried New North Cemetery, Nantucket, Nantucket Co., MA.

ROOTS AND BRANCHES

FALLEN BRANCHES

Audrey Holmes Nickerson, 94, died on 6 July 2017 in Orleans. Audrey was born in 1923 to the late Byron F. Holmes and Ruella F. Crowell. After graduating from Orleans High School, she married **Richard Charles Nickerson**. Together they owned and operated Nickerson Funeral Homes after purchasing the business from Richard's father and expanding to additional locations.

Audrey's late husband Richard, b. 1920, was a member of the NFA and involved in fundraising to move the Nick House to the NFA campus in 1997. Richard's line: Richard¹⁰, Herbert⁹, Herbert⁸, Reuben⁷, Reuben⁶, Seth⁵, Jonathan⁴, Thomas³, William², William¹. Audrey loved reading, playing bridge, traveling and golf. She was a member of the Orleans Finance Committee and the Eastern Star and a deaconess in the Orleans Federated Church. She is survived by her children Nancy, Phyllis and Byron; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Phyllis W. Nickerson, 95, of Cotuit, died in Mashpee on 4 Aug. 2017. She was born in Cotuit on 27 May 1922, a daughter of Garry Pierce and Esther Hammond. After graduating from Barnstable schools, she married **Alfred Luther Nickerson** in 1940. They became parents of three boys. Later on, Phyllis went to work at Buttner's in Hyannis. Later still she worked as children's librarian at the Hyannis Public Library. She loved to take trips both short and long, traveling to Alaska for a month with her son Howard. Phyllis is survived by her sons Stephen, Harry and Howard. Alfred's line: Luther⁹, Luther⁸, Joseph⁷, Joseph⁶, Samuel⁵, Samuel⁴, Samuel³, Samuel², William¹.

Jean Nickerson Wardwell died on 6 Aug. 2017. She was born in Chatham on 19 July 1921, the only child of Elizabeth and Ernest S. Nickerson. While studying in the Chatham schools, she played the violin, took ballet lessons and spent the summer of 1931 driving and camping cross-country. In 1943 she graduated from Jackson College/Tufts University, and later married David S. Wardwell. The couple settled in Winchester, Mass., to raise their family but spent summers in Harwich. Eventually the pair retired to Harwich. Jean is survived by her children Stephen, Pam and Peter; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Jean's line: Ernest¹⁰, Ernest⁹, Valentine⁸, Percy⁷, Stephen⁶, Stephen⁵, William⁴, William³, William², William¹.

Robert B. Nickerson, 85, died on 4 Oct. 2017. Born in Quincy, he grew up in Weymouth and lived his later years in Bourne, Mass. After he graduated from Boston University, Bob joined the Navy and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Airborne Early Warning Squadron. He had a career in the banking industry, serving as president of several cooperative banks. After he retired from banking, he started a successful venture, Nickerson Financial Corporation, with his two sons. Bob was a mason and a member of the Falmouth Congregational Church. He is left by his wife Judith (Chamberlain), children Cheryl, Douglas and Richard, 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



Plans are taking shape for next year's NFA reunion on September 7 to 10 in the beautiful town of Orleans.

We will begin Friday afternoon with a talk on Orleans's architecture. That evening we will enjoy an icebreaker cocktail party in the Orleans Historical Society. Saturday morning we will meet at the Church of the Holy Spirit Parish Hall for our annual meeting followed by a talk on Orleans' fascinating history. Did you know that Orleans was the only site in the mainland U.S. bombed by the Germans during WWI? It was also targeted by the British during the War of 1812.

For cocktails and dinner we will meet in the Riverway Restaurant in Yarmouth, and hear a talk by John Whelan on the music of the World Wars. On Sunday, after the traditional Nickerson Sunday Service at the First Congregational Church of Chatham, we will meet at the NFA campus for a picnic. Monday is the time for you to work in the Nick House on your genealogical research.

All in all, we are planning a wonderful weekend retreat for you to greet old Nick friends and meet new cousins.





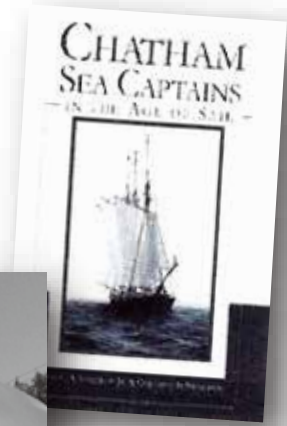
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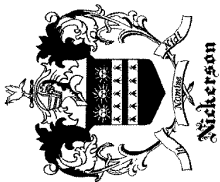
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