



*William Nickerson*  
Signature of  
William<sup>1</sup> Nickerson

## The Excavation of William and Anne's c.1664 Homestead *Where are We Now?*

By Debra Lawless

Archaeologists like to say that one day in the field equals three days in the lab, according to Craig Chartier of the Plymouth Archaeological Rediscovery Project. Chartier directed the excavation of William and Anne's c.1664 homestead between 2016 and 2019.

The dig yielded an astonishing 357,000 artifacts. Some were bits of brick and shell that told subtle stories. Other finds were more dramatic. These include coins, pottery, evidence of a forge and even a human tooth that may have belonged to William or Anne. During the off-seasons, Chartier has worked to process these artifacts. The Nickerson Family Association (NFA) has just been granted \$31,100 in Community Preservation Act funding to conduct specialized laboratory analyses of some of the dig's finds.

In May, Chartier presented a one-hour Zoom talk telling the story of the 2019 dig season through 35 images. The talk was sponsored by the Eldredge Public Library in Chatham. The 2019 dig season, which was the most recent and final season, began on July 29, 2019 and ran until Sept. 23, 2019. During the previous winter, Chartier processed over 10,000 separate artifacts from the 2018 excavation.

In contrast to the 2018 dig, the 2019 dig focused on the yard area outside the house and outside the eight-foot-high palisade or wooden wall constructed on the house's eastern side.

A structure that was perhaps a barn measured 28-by-14.5 feet. Another, smaller building, measured 13-by-8 feet and contained an iron bloomery that Chartier says was "unique on Cape Cod." Chartier surmises that William was trying to make iron out of bog iron, which is a naturally-occurring substance found especially in soil with a high clay content. "I know of no other find like this in the northeast."

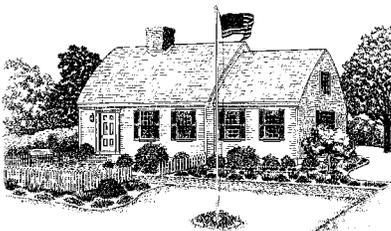
*Continued on page 2*



We invite you to a  
**COOKOUT**  
on Sunday, September 12  
at noon  
at the NFA campus  
1107 Orleans Road  
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Invitations will be mailed  
in the summer.



Please visit our new website - [www.nickersonassoc.com](http://www.nickersonassoc.com)  
We're sure you'll like what you see!



"Nickerson House."

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

In the archaeological world it is a commonplace that significant finds are often found on the last day of a dig, when it's time for the crew to fill in the holes, pack up and go home. So it was with the 2019 season of the dig behind the campus of the NFA in North Chatham. In 2019, the crew excavated 111 one-meter-square units. Yet on Mon., Sept. 23, during the final hours of the dig, two volunteers discovered a four-foot wide, four-foot deep storage pit.

Even while the dig crew was filling in the trenches, Chartier was finding, in the pit, fragments of beautiful native American pottery intermingled with a lot of shells. The pottery was decorated by holding string taut in the wet clay before the pot was fired. The pottery dated to the Contact Period (1000 to 400 years ago).

The everyday objects that an archaeologist finds can show people engaged in a wide variety of activities both commonplace and rare. Archaeology will illuminate aspects of a life that never appears in the documentary record. "There's so, so much we can learn by doing archaeology," Chartier says. "It's like a detective story."

Here are highlights of objects found during the 2019 dig. Chartier's comments illuminate how the objects provide "a window" into the 17th century lives of William and Anne.

- A stone axe from the Late Archaic Period dated 3000-to-6000 years ago. The axe appears to have been reused in constructing the chimney in the area of the industrial forge. It may have been picked up as a curiosity by the Nickersons and "kept around the house."
- An arrowhead with a broken, brass tip. "It's very rare to find."
- A sand bar shark vertebra made into a bead and pierced in the center for a necklace.
- Iron ore. This is a "very significant find." The ore was used by Native Americans for red ocher paint.
- A crucible rim made in Germany. Crucibles are used for melting metals at a very high temperature. Chartier describes William as a "stereotypical retired person trying out things" such as melting brass scrap for casting buttons and buckles. William may also have been testing various stones to determine if they had any potential economic value.
- A tuyere pipe from the bellows that forced air into the bloomery furnace. This pipe "confirmed that this was a place William Nickerson was melting iron."
- A chisel for blacksmithing. This is a "great example of these sorts of activities Nickerson was doing down there," Chartier says. "Again, you're on the edge of the world. When your gun or tool breaks you need somebody locally fixing them." He calls William an "entrepreneur."
- A pewter waistcoat or doublet button for a man's garment.

- A bone awl made from a pig fibula. This tool may have been used by Anne in sewing, basketry or in the kitchen.
- A 5.2-inch long key. "We had to say this was the key to understanding the site," Chartier says. "It's a beautiful large key that would have been used on a main door." The metal key, which was found in the cellar hole of the possible barn, will be conserved this year.
- A horse bridle bit. It is smaller than for a modern horse but may have been used on a pony. "Imagine being out here at the edge of the world—a horse would have been useful."
- A fishhook used for catching cod or sharks.
- A Roemer glass prunt. A prunt is an applied decoration that came off a drinking glass called a Roemer. The glasses, popular in the Rhine and Holland, were used for drinking wine and beer. "It must have been a pretty fine house."
- A book latch. The pages in books were originally made of vellum, and latching the book shut would prevent warping and rolling. "He was a literate person," Chartier says of William. "He was probably a member of the upper class."
- A glass bead from England. Anne may have used the bead to decorate a bag.
- A burning glass lens. This was used to start camping fires or for lighting pipes. "William Nickerson liked his tobacco, it appeared."
- A drinking glass. The glass had been subjected to high heat and melted. "Maybe he threw it into the fire on a whim."
- A yellow and blue tin-glazed vessel made in London. The shard kept its vibrant colors after hundreds of years in the ground. "It would be something not everyone would have," Chartier says.

*Continued on page 3*



- An iron mouth or jar harp. This was an inexpensive musical instrument. Perhaps William “liked sitting around and twanging the jar harp in the evening.”

- A Dutch porringer, a shallow bowl for porridge.

- Combed slipware, probably from Staffordshire, England. It was common after 1670. Found were a cup and a serving vessel.

- A redware drinking pot from England. “I could just imagine William Nickerson drinking his beer out of this pot.”

- A Sgraffito vessel made in England after 1660. This proved the Nickersons still had access to English ceramics.

- Fragments of Westerwald vessels from Germany.

- Trailed slip-decorated pan fragments. They may have been Dutch or English. Neither style has previously been seen in New England. “It’s another thing that has made this site really special.”

- A tobacco pipe stem with toothmarks and a human tooth worn from holding a pipe. The tooth is of European ancestry and could have come from William or Anne’s mouth. (Chartier does not believe a DNA analysis of the tooth is possible at this point.) People at the time habitually clenched pipes in their mouths, whether or not they were lit. “Eventually it wears a groove in your pipe, and it wears a groove in your teeth,” Chartier says.

- Firearms-related items: a lead bullet, a gun flint and a slate bullet bowl.

- Charles I silver half groat coin. It was minted in London between 1644 and 1645. It “may have fallen from Nickerson’s pocket.”

- A piece of a huntress and crusader pipe. This is only the second known example found in Massachusetts. “I think William Nickerson was a collector of pipes.”

- Several locally-made redware pipe stems with incised decorations. They may have been made by William and are a good example of “how William and Anne’s remaining trash tells us who they were,” Chartier says.

On June 13, voters at Chatham’s Annual Town Meeting approved a CPA grant for \$31,100 for laboratory analyses of materials from the dig site. Funds have been requested for:

- *Radiocarbon dating* to tell us when Native Americans left the site later used for the homestead.

- A *flotation analysis* of the soil to sift out tiny seeds and insect parts that tell us what plants were grown at the site, what plants were growing wild in the area, and even information on changes in the environment as a result of people living at the site.

- A *botanical analysis* of seeds to tell us what crops the settlers grew and what wild plants they collected for consumption in the immediate area of the site.

- A *metallurgical analysis* to offer insight into William Nickerson’s iron smelting operations—the only known such operation on Cape Cod at the time.

- Finally, *conservation* is needed for some of the metal and copper objects found at the dig.

The analyses will bring to light unique historic resources of great significance—the wider environment of the town’s founding family. And once the objects are stabilized, they can go on display. Plans are now being formulated to create a display that will travel to various historic sites.

William and Anne were the parents of nine but their children were grown when they moved from Yarmouth in about 1664 to what became Chatham. William was age 60 and Anne was 55, yet they constructed a house enormous by 17th century standards at 48-by-18 feet.

“It was much, much larger than we thought,” Chartier said. “It turns out they were living in Cape Cod’s first mansion.”

One theory is that the house was used as a meeting house as the nearest place of worship at that time was Eastham, an arduous trek. The outlines of the house were traced during the 2018 season.

The dig site is located on land that belongs to the Chatham Conservation Foundation (CCF) immediately adjacent to land owned by the NFA. The CCF is currently in the midst of a three-year project to restore that land to create a park-like setting with walking paths extending from Orleans Road to the dig site.

The NFA is collaborating with the CCF to interpret the dig site to create an educational experience for both those who descended from the town’s first settlers and those who are interested in Colonial history. The dig site will likely feature interpretive signs and the boundaries of the homestead itself will be marked. Other plans are under discussion.

If you missed Chartier’s talk, it is available through the NFA’s website at [nickersonassoc.com](http://nickersonassoc.com).



*The dig crew’s reunion, June 19.*



*During Chatham History Day, June 13, Colonial gardener Sonny Gada planted a "Native American Three Sisters" garden at the NFA. In the center, under the willow poles, he planted corn and beans that he soaked overnight. And at the edges of the garden he planted two types of squash-- acorn and summer. Sunflowers are an optional fourth item. Now we will watch it all grow!*

## Give a Reproduction Coin from Chatham's Founder's Pocket!

**W**hen an archaeological team dug deep down in the dense woods of William & Anne Nickerson's c. 1664 homestead in North Chatham, they literally hit pay dirt with the discovery of a rare colonial silver sixpence, dated 1652. The coin, minted before 1670, must have fallen from old William's pocket! The bent shape and surface appearance reflect the primitive minting process and centuries of burial in the Nickersons' yard.

Now, you can *share in the wealth* with a newly-minted coin reproduction containing 6 grams of silver and struck from the original! This signature limited edition keepsake is now available for \$93 for the coin, or \$135 for the coin in a sterling silver bezel allowing it to be worn as a pendant.

Order through [www.nickersonassoc.com](http://www.nickersonassoc.com) under "store" or send the form below with a check written to the Nickerson Family Association, P.O. Box 296, North Chatham, MA 02650.

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	SHIPPING \$ 8.00	\$ _____
	TOTAL \$	\$ _____



## Caleb Nickerson Homestead 2021 Hands-On-History Programs

**Saturday & Sunday, June 12/13**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Chatham History Weekend, NFA Grounds Open.

**Sunday**, 1 p.m., talk on Planting a Native American Three-Sisters Garden and Colonial Herbs with Sonny Gada.

**Saturday, August 21**, 1 p.m., The Secret Garden Floral Arrangement Treasure Hunt with Sonny.

**Saturday, September 18**, 1 p.m., Endicott Pear Tree Talk. The Endicott Pear tree, planted in Danvers, Mass., between 1632 and 1649, is believed to be the oldest living cultivated fruit tree in North America. Sonny will speak to the meaning of pears in Colonial history.

**Saturday, October 23**, 1 p.m., Make a Halloween Centerpiece. “Once upon a midnight dreary/ while I pondered, weak and weary...” Join us for a spooky reading of Edgar Allan Poe’s 1845 poem “The Raven” and make your own Halloween flower arrangement with Sonny. Cider and cookies will be served. Pre-registration required.

**Saturday, November 20**, 1 p.m., Make a Thanksgiving Centerpiece with Sonny. All materials will be provided. Pre-registration required.

**Saturday, December 4**, 1 to 4 p.m., Caleb Nickerson Homestead 17th Annual Hearthside Open House. Join us for the wonderful start to the holiday season. Bring mittens for our third annual Mitten Tree. All mittens go to the Chatham Children’s Fund.

**Saturday, December 11**, 1 p.m., Make a Holiday Centerpiece with Sonny in the beautifully-decorated Caleb Nickerson Homestead. All materials will be provided. Pre-registration required.

**January 2022**: TBA. Colonial Cooking Club, Beehive Oven Event. Pre-registration required. Email [DebraNFA@outlook.com](mailto:DebraNFA@outlook.com) for details on club membership.



Sonny Gada, who lives in Chatham, has been a floral designer and horticulturist for 50 years. His floral arrangements have been featured in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts annual event “Art in Bloom.” He has also created his own local C3TV show “Sonny’s Floral Show” for many years. A teacher and lecturer, Sonny brings a unique approach to floral arranging, approaching it as an art, and using all of nature as his palette.

The events are a part of the Caleb Nickerson Homestead’s Hands-On-History programming. The NFA grounds are currently open for self-guided tours. Due to the pandemic, we will hold the earlier events outdoors, so please bring a sunhat. In the event of rain, check our website for updates at [nickersonassoc.com](http://nickersonassoc.com).

*Land adjacent to NFA that belongs to the Chatham Conservation Foundation.*



*Summer 2020*



*November 2020*



*Winter 2021*



*May 2021*



*June 2021*

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*Every effort has been made for accuracy.*

*Please let us know if you have been  
inadvertently omitted from this list.*

---

# NICKERSON KIN

By Nancy Nickerson Corey

I hope you are enjoying the profiles in this continuing column. This month I have been documenting a Nickerson line that comes down through Joseph, William and Anne's youngest son. This particular branch changed the spelling of its name to "Nickeson." While researching, I found one gentleman who is particularly intriguing, Guy Harold Nickeson, and have chosen him for the Nickerson "ancestor" for this issue. I chose my dad, who died on April 18, as your "cousin" for this article. As always, feedback is greatly appreciated to this ongoing column at [nancyroots@msn.com](mailto:nancyroots@msn.com).

## MEET A NICKERSON ANCESTOR:

**Guy Harold Nickeson:** 20 October 1889 – 18 January 1948 may give his vital "stats" but doesn't tell us much about him, the man he was or his accomplishments in life. It's what's in the "dash" that counts! So, the question is: Who was Guy Nickeson? Some descriptions I found of Guy include: disabled in "both eyes," as listed on his WWI draft registration; "deaf and dumb" on his WWII draft registration card; "piano tuner" on the 1920 federal census; "manager of employment agency" on the 1930 federal census; and "Executive Director, Pittsburgh Branch Pennsylvania Association for the Blind," in a 1944 city directory. Intrigued yet? Other descriptions of Guy include: son, brother, student, husband and father. Putting these descriptions to use, as well as other information gathered, we can say that Guy, who lost his sight in childhood from meningitis, overcame adversity to advocate for himself and others with disabilities throughout his life. He met his wife, Marie, while attending the Pittsburgh School for the Blind. They married in 1917, and spent their lives in Greene and Allegheny Counties, Pennsylvania., raising three children: William Frank, Robert Warren and Lois Marie. Guy died in 1948; Marie in 1960 and both are buried in Allison Park, Allegheny. I hope you enjoyed meeting Guy and agree his "dash" was quite a successful one.

Guy's Nickerson line:

Guy<sup>9</sup>,  
Francis Marion<sup>8</sup>,  
Solomon Nickeson<sup>7</sup>,  
William<sup>6</sup>,  
John<sup>5</sup>, Joshua<sup>4</sup>,  
Jeremiah<sup>3</sup>,  
Joseph<sup>2</sup>,  
William<sup>1</sup>.



## MEET YOUR NICKERSON COUSIN:

My dad, **David Roy Nickerson**, was born in Indianola, Red Willow County, Nebraska 8 April 1930 to Roy and Nell (Plourd) Nickerson. He grew up, mostly in Indianola, graduating high school there in 1948. His dad ran a service station, first in Indianola, and then in McCook during this time and his mom was a stay-at-home mom. Dave had one younger brother, Rodney, born in 1936. In 1940, for reasons unknown to me, the family was living in Steamboat Springs, Colorado and was enumerated in the 1940 federal census that year. It appears they were there for a few years, returning back to Indianola prior to 1948. After high school he joined the National Guard, serving for eight years, and also worked at his dad's service station. He met my mom (Evelynn Friehe) on a blind date and they married June 1956. Over the next eight years they became parents to five children: Nancy, Tom, Bob, Judy and Ken. During this time, he started his own business, Midwest Supplies, selling service station supplies to stations throughout western Nebraska and northwest Kansas. He traveled extensively for his work and also with the family. Trips to museums and libraries and the "local flair" were always included in these trips, much to his children's dismay (he never knew a roadway historical sign he didn't like!). Mom and dad retired in 1995, selling most of their worldly goods and purchasing a fifth-wheel, downsizing to a small motorhome around 2005. They wintered in Texas in the same campground for a number of years and in 2005 purchased a home in that campground and settled there as their "permanent" address; still traveling for a good part of each year. After his wife (my mom) passed in 2010 Dave became a nomad of sorts, spending part of each year in Nebraska, traveling between his children and grandchildren's locations, and still returning each winter to Texas. In April of 2020 Dave decided it was "time," as he told his oldest grandson, and sold his place in Texas, returned to Nebraska and settled into an apartment in Kearney, near his youngest son. Experiencing numerous health issues this past year, he entered hospice recently. He looked forward to his 91st birthday, speaking of it to his grandchildren, calling family members, cousins and friends to say goodbye and enjoying visits with those he chose to see and the facility was able to accommodate. Ten days after his birthday, he passed away.

David's line: David<sup>11</sup>, Roy<sup>10</sup>, Jesse<sup>9</sup>, Horace<sup>8</sup>, Bassett<sup>7,6</sup>, Issacher<sup>5</sup>, Nathaniel<sup>4</sup>, Lt. Thomas<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2,1</sup>.



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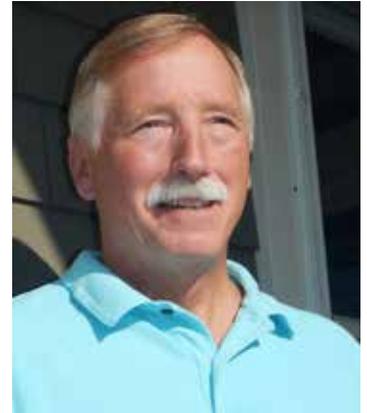


## *A word from President Robert E. Nickerson...*

### **NFA Plans a Busy Summer and Fall**

Dear Nick Cousins:

I hope this finds you and yours well since my fall 2020 President's Letter. There certainly have been lots of changes since then, and I hope we continue in a positive direction as the number of COVID-19 cases decrease as people continue to be vaccinated.



First and foremost, we have just completed a major upgrade of our website. We will be adding to it and updating it frequently. Please visit our website at: <https://nickersonassoc.com>

In my last letter, I noted that Joe Giacalone, the new owner of 68 Shell Drive, is now working to keep William Nickerson Jr.'s c. 1700 home- stead on site. Since then, we have been pursuing a possible opportunity in moving the original early 1700s barn to the NFA property. We have a number of hurdles to make this happen. First, we need to determine if the structure will fit on the property with required setbacks from adjacent conservation land, wetlands and zoning. Second, the Nye Family Association has also expressed an interest in moving the barn to its Sandwich campus. We are working closely with that association's executive director in an effort to finalize the location by mutual agree- ment. Third, we need to be prepared to disassemble (or flake, as Cape Codders call it) the barn as soon as the demolition permit is issued. The next step would be to complete dendrochronology to confirm the approximate age of the structure by examining its timbers. We would then need to store the "flaked barn" until all permits with the Town of Chatham are in place. And the last step would be to reassemble the structure on the NFA campus. So, we have lofty goals for this possible project and as noted, the key first step is being able to site the structure on our campus. We will keep you posted and ask for your support as we move forward with this exciting project.

The postponement of our annual gathering was a difficult decision by the board that had to be made early so all could revise their fall plans. We will have a virtual annual meeting this year on Sat., Sept. 11 and we will present some NFA updates. More later on how to attend the program. On Sunday, we plan a noon cookout at the campus and you are most welcome to attend. Again, details will be forthcoming.



With the cancellation of the last two annual gatherings, we are working to make the fall 2022 event very special. We plan a tour of original Nickerson homes on Saturday afternoon, with three homes thus far confirmed. We are also working on other activities for Friday afternoon such as cemetery tours that focus on significant Nickerson burials.

In other news, I am pleased to announce that **Eileen Nickerson Furlong** has joined the NFA Board. Eileen grew up in Chatham and now lives in Harwich. Eileen and I have been friends since 1974, when we met in college. So please join me in welcoming Eileen, another “cousin,” to the board.

Thanks again for being a part of the Nickerson Family Association and for your interest in your Nickerson heritage.

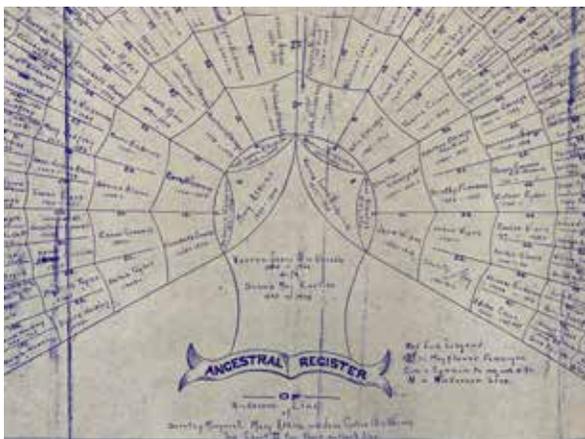
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# FALLEN BRANCHES

**Virginia Lois (Schenkelberger) Devine**, 87, of Dennis, Mass., died on February 15. Jinny was a long-time volunteer at the NFA, specializing in teasing out the often-complex genealogical lines of the descendants of William and Anne Nickerson. She served the NFA in many capacities including president of the board, treasurer and long-time board member.

Jinny was a daughter of Harlow and Annie Muriel "Kit" (Grant) Schenkelberger of Cape Cod. She excelled in school, and graduated from Tufts University to become a physical therapist in Boston.

Jinny loved to travel and spent many summers camping in the White Mountains and Acadia with her family. She enjoyed cross-country road trips to explore national parks in the American West, as well as several trips to the Caribbean, Canada and Europe. In addition to her volunteer work at the NFA, she spent decades volunteering and serving on the boards of the First Parish Church in Milton, the League of Women Voters and the Dennis Historical Society. She valued her civic role as a poll worker in Dennis.

She is survived by her siblings Fred Schenkelberger and Lin Webber; children Jeff, Chris and Peter Devine and daughter Patricia Herold; and grandchildren Geordie, Elsie and Jake. Her husband, Donald T. Devine M.D., predeceased her in 1991 as did her brother Joel.

Ginny's line: Virginia Devine<sup>11</sup>, Annie Grant<sup>10</sup>, Lois Nickerson<sup>9</sup>, Isaac<sup>8</sup>, Knowles<sup>7</sup>, Smith<sup>6</sup>, John<sup>5,4</sup>, William<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>

**Alice Faith (Freeman) Twombly**, 96, of Chatham, died on January 3 at home. Faith was born in Lexington, Mass., but spent childhood summers in Chatham and considered it her home. She graduated from Middlebury College in 1945 and accepted a teaching position in a two-room schoolhouse in the small town of Madison, N.H. where she met her husband, Howard, who predeceased her in 1986. After the birth of her first child, her yearning for the sea became so strong that the family moved to Chatham to raise their family.

Faith was active in the community and spent many years as director of the Chatham Drop-In Center, where she was fondly known as "Mother."

Faith is survived by her children Steve and Peter Twombly and Susan Noakes. She was predeceased by her son John. She leaves grandchildren Lauren, Hunter and Haley Twombly; Greta Feldman; and Emma and Carly Noakes.

Faith's line: Faith Twombly<sup>11</sup>, Mildred Snow<sup>10</sup>, Mabel Robbins<sup>9</sup>, Silas Robbins<sup>8</sup>, Nathan Robbins<sup>7</sup>, Bathsheba Nickerson<sup>6</sup>, Seth<sup>5</sup>, Samuel<sup>4,3,2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>

**Hugh N. Hatch**, 95, died on February 21 in East Greenwich, R.I. Hugh was born in 1925 in Belfast, Maine, the second son of Everett and Annie (Nickerson) Hatch. He leaves his wife of 72 years, Toma Decrow Hatch, and their children Karen Bloom and Roger and Brian Hatch. He also leaves grandchildren Laurie, Rachel, Nicole, Lydia, Aaron and Alexandra as well as three great-grandchildren. Hugh served as a second lieutenant B-17 bombardier in the Army Air Corps. He graduated from the University of Maine in 1949, after which he joined the W.T. Grant Co. and became a store

manager. In 1968 Hugh formed the Hatch Dental Supply Co. He was a member of the Mayflower Society with several lines to passengers.

Hugh's line: Hugh Hatch<sup>11</sup>, Annie Nickerson<sup>10</sup>, Winfield<sup>9</sup>, George<sup>8</sup>, Tully<sup>7</sup>, Eleazer<sup>6</sup>, Rueben<sup>5</sup>, Joshua<sup>4</sup>, Samuel<sup>3,2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>

**Kim Wells Nickerson**, 72, of Concord, N.C., died on May 22, 2020. Kim was born in 1947, a 13th generation Nickerson. He was the brother of NFA secretary and board member Jill Nickerson MacDonald.

Kim's line: Kim<sup>13</sup>, Ralph<sup>12</sup>, Harold<sup>11</sup>, William<sup>10</sup>, Nehemiah<sup>9,8,7</sup>, Enos<sup>6,5</sup>, William<sup>4</sup>, Thomas<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2,1</sup>.

**David Roy Nickerson**, 91, of Indianola, Nebraska, died on April 18. David was born in 1930 to parents Roy Leslie and Nell Emily (Plourd) Nickerson. He and his brother grew up in Indianola, where he graduated from the Indianola High School in 1948. Following that, he served in the National Guard and was a member of the McCook Unit for eight years. In 1956 he married Evelyn Marie (Friehe) Nickerson. The couple raised five children. For over 30 years, David owned Midwest Sales where he traveled as a sales representative to area service stations and tire repair shops. He retired in 1994. David was a history buff who enjoyed exploring libraries and museums, reading and watching "Gun-smoke" on television. He and Evelyn enjoyed traveling through every U.S. state as well as Canada, Mexico, China, Greece, Brazil, New Zealand and Europe.

David is survived by his children Thomas, Robert, Kenneth and Judy Nickerson and Nancy Corey, an NFA past president and current board member. He also leaves 14 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. A great-great grandson, Rhett Mockry was born a month after David's death.

David's line: David<sup>11</sup>, Roy<sup>10</sup>, Jesse<sup>9</sup>, Horace<sup>8</sup>, Bassett<sup>7,6</sup>, Issacher<sup>5</sup>, Nathaniel<sup>4</sup>, Lt. Thomas<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2,1</sup>.

## NEW ROOT

**Rhett Alvin Eugene Mockry** was born on May 17 in McCook, Nebraska, a son of Bryanna Warren and Aaron Mockry.

He weighed in at six pounds, nine ounces with a full head of dark, curly hair.

Rhett's line:

Rhett<sup>15</sup>, Bryanna Warren<sup>14</sup>, Alyssa Warren<sup>13</sup>, Nancy Corey<sup>12</sup>, David<sup>11</sup>, Roy<sup>10</sup>, Jesse<sup>9</sup>, Horace<sup>8</sup>, Bassett<sup>7,6</sup>, Issacher<sup>5</sup>, Nathaniel<sup>4</sup>, Lt. Thomas<sup>13</sup>, William<sup>2,1</sup>.



## Meet Jane Nickerson

An article about Jane Nickerson appeared under the New York Times headline “The Unsung Influences of a Pioneering Food Journalist” on April 11, 2021. Following are excerpts of the article.

*In 1954, Jane Nickerson wrote an article about Craig Clairborne who, three years later, became the food editor of the New York Times. Nickerson preceded Claiborne in the food editor’s chair and deserves a great deal more recognition than she has been given for the work she did to help readers understand the business and culture of mid-20th-century food. Nickerson ran the food desk of The Times from 1942 to 1957 and shepherded Times readers through the austerity of wartime rationing and into the prosperous economy that followed, with hundreds and hundreds of news articles, restaurants reviews and recipes that continue to resonate today.*

*In 1947, Nickerson broke news of an innovation in the world of hamburgers: the cheeseburger. “At first, the combination of beef with cheese and tomatoes, which sometimes are used, may seem bizarre,” she wrote in The Times. “If you reflect a bit, you’ll understand the combination is sound gastronomically.” Two years later, she introduced Times readers to the concept of “food writers” in an article about a press luncheon aboard the ocean liner Ile de France. She brought green-goddess dressing to The Times, and steak Diane.*

Nickerson remained food editor at The Times until 1957, when she moved to Lakeland, Fla. with her family.

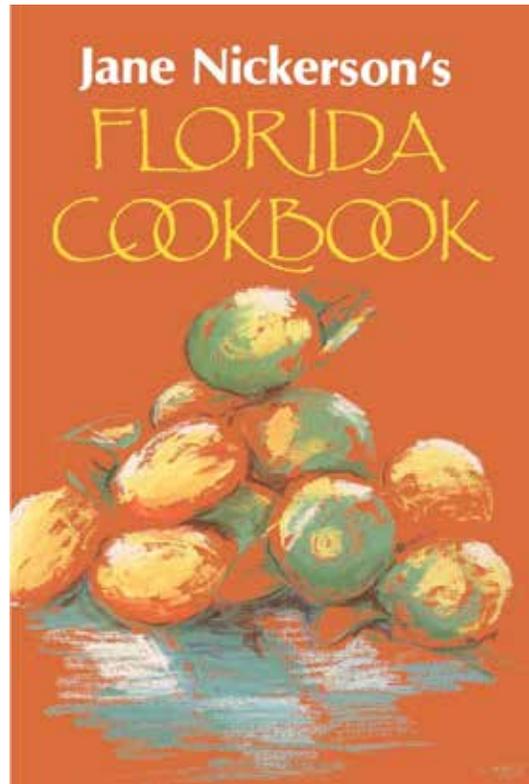
In 1973 she published *Jane Nickerson’s Florida Cookbook*, which is still in print and is available through *Amazon.com*. “At long last, we have a Florida cookbook that is really good! *Jane Nickerson’s Florida Cookbook* is the work of a good cook who can write, a rare combination for some reason. Even better, Mrs. Nickerson is possessed of wit and culinary judgment—qualities often lacking in the work of so many other authors who have turned out books containing Florida recipes.” So said a review in *The Daytona Beach Sunday News-Journal*.

Jane Nickerson was born to Ralph and Eunice (Fogg) Nickerson on May 19, 1916 in Manhattan and grew up mainly in Medford Mass., where her father managed an athletic store. By the time she was 23, and a graduate of Radcliffe College, she was lodging on Locust Street, in Philadelphia, and working as a secretary for a publisher, according to the 1940 census. Two years later, at the age of 25, she had ascended to the job of food editor at The New York Times.

One of the points of the Time’s tribute article to Nickerson was that her successor, Craig Clairborne, became far more famous than she, although many of Nickerson’s recipes appeared uncredited in his 1961 *The New York Times Cookbook*.

Her husband was Alexander F. Steinberg, and they were the parents of four: John, Josiah, Marc and Alexandra. Nickerson died on Feb. 27, 2000 in White Sulphur Spring, Montana, at age 83.

Jane’s line: Jane<sup>10</sup>, Ralph<sup>9</sup>, Sullivan<sup>8</sup>, Franklin<sup>7</sup>, Ebenezer<sup>6</sup>, Stephen<sup>5</sup>, William<sup>4,3,2,1</sup>.





Ron and Karen Nickerson (front row) with the late Ben Nickerson and Phyllis Nickerson Power.

## Notable Nicks

*Bravo to Ron & Karen!*

**Hats off to Ron and Karen Nickerson** who singlehandedly kept our store running and our membership humming during the pandemic.

Since they were recruited as volunteers during a holiday party in 1998, shortly after they retired to Chatham, Ron and Karen have been the backbone of the NFA's Chatham operations. They have run reunions and Ron served several terms as vice-president on the NFA board. We salute the hardworking couple for their 23 years of service.

*Kudos to Genealogist Gail*

**Genealogist Gail Blankenau** published an article "It's All in the Family: Benefits of Family Associations" in the April-June National Genealogical Society magazine. The NFA was one of several family associations that Blankenau brought to the attention of the magazine's national audience. The NFA appreciates being in the spotlight!

## Collectible Books Added to NFA Collection

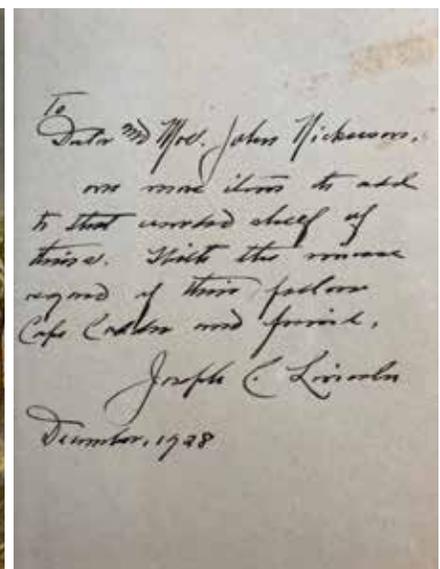
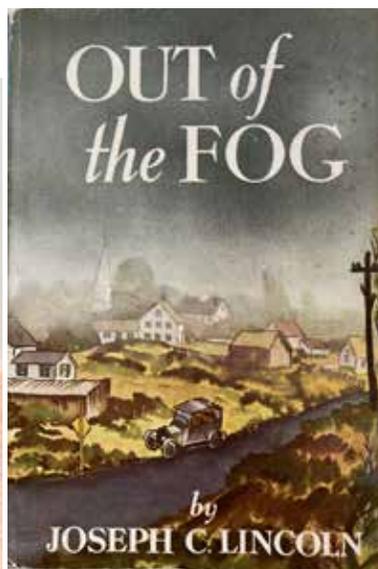
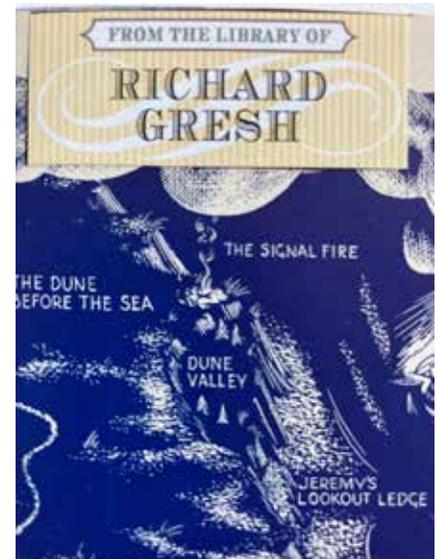
We thank the expert book collector **Richard Gresh** of Connecticut for his generous donation of six fine books from his own collection. Gresh's family has roots in Chatham going back to summers in the 1930s, and he has specialized in collecting books by Chatham's author Joseph C. Lincoln.

Four of the books that Gresh sent the NFA are novels by Lincoln, and what makes them special to the NFA is that all four of the books are presentation copies dedicated in Lincoln's hand to his friends Dr. John P. and Ruth Nickerson of Harwich. The Nickersons were bibliophiles who are credited with co-founding the Chase Library in West Harwich in the early 20th century. The "neighborhood library" that bills itself as "the little library that could" is still open at 7 Route 28, West Harwich.

Lincoln wrote in ink on the flyleaf to *Silas Bradford's Boy*: "To Doctor and Mrs. John Nickerson. One more item to add to that crowded shelf of theirs. With the sincere regard of their fellow Cape Codder and friend, Joseph C. Lincoln, December 1928."

In addition to the Lincoln books, Gresh donated copies of the late Chatham resident Elizabeth Reynard's *The Mutinous Wind* and Sarah P. McLean Greene's *Cape Cod Folks*. With the exception of the reprint of Greene's 1881 work, the books are first editions.

The NFA is most appreciative of Gresh's generosity.





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<b>THE NICKERSON FAMILY, PART V, NICHOLAS</b>				\$80.00+	



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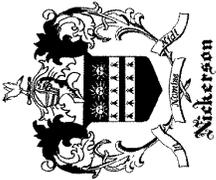
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