



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

## 17th Century Barn Moved to NFA *Was Built by William's Son William*

As you may have heard, we have acquired a c. 1695 barn built, we believe, by William Nickerson's son William in what is now North Chatham, overlooking Bassing Harbor. The 20-by-30-foot barn is one of the oldest, if not the oldest barn in Chatham. Instead of allowing the barn to be lost to demolition, we are working to rescue, relocate and rehabilitate the barn on the NFA campus, where it will be used to host gatherings, meetings and educational programs.

Experts hired by the NFA dated the barn, which is an outbuilding to what may be the town's oldest extant house. The connection to William Nickerson comes from William C. Smith's *History of Chatham, Mass.* The barn, which is located in its original site in a flood zone, is not wanted by the new property owner, Joe Giacalone, who donated it to the NFA. We are grateful to Mr. Giacalone and to the Nye Family Association for stepping aside from its plans to acquire the barn. The NFA has dismantled the barn, moved its timbers to our campus, and will restore it.

William's son William was very much involved with the early governance of the town, serving as the first Town Clerk and Treasurer. He served as clerk for 15 years, treasurer for six years and selectman for six. William also served as a grand juryman, constable and inspector of whales. William purchased the land at Cotchpicicut Neck (Old Harbor) from three of the sachem Mattaquason's grandsons. When William Nickerson went to the Plymouth Colony Court to secure title to the 4000 acres he had purchased from Mattaquason, he was given the right to purchase additional acres of adjacent land directly from the Monomoyick. William succeeded to those rights. He served in King Philip's War, although the Cape Wampanoag did not join the other tribes in open hostilities.

The lengthy process of dismantling (or flaking) an antique barn board by board and timber by timber, requires time and patience. All boards and timbers were labeled before storage. The careful removal of the siding usually occurs first, with each piece marked for placement during the reconstruction. Also, during the removal, each board's condition was assessed. After the siding, the roof was removed. The shingles were discarded in this case since they are not original material. The decking and roof rafters may be saved for future use but are not original to the structure. As noted above, a "map" of the building is normally made so the location of each piece of material can be documented. Photos will be used in conjunction with the effort. Prior to the timber frame being dismantled, all of the joints were also numbered. As with sheathing material, a "map" of the joints with numbers is created.

*continued on page 2.*



"Nickerson House."

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



The flaking process is labor-intensive with machinery (cranes, scissor trucks and/or manlifts) used only to assist in this effort. Following the flaking, the timbers and sheathing were photographed, assessed and stored for reconstruction on the NFA property.

During the reconstruction of the barn, it is our intent to use only tools, wood and techniques that were available when the barn was originally built. Our goal is for the barn to be “built” in the 21st century as authentically as possible to replicate the original construction methods of the 1690s.

Any missing timbers will be replaced with fresh, hand-hewn timbers, sourced from Massachusetts forests. All new layouts will be done using the (British) scribe-rule method, as was used in late-1600s British carpentry. All repairs made to original timbers will be done by hand, with hand tools, saving as much of the original timber as possible. All repairs will be hidden, as much as can be accomplished, without losing the integrity of the timber.

The barn will then be rebuilt-- raised a second time-- on a new foundation. All the timbers and all the repairs will be visible. The old boards will be reattached to the walls of the timber frame. New boards will be used on the roof with new wood shingles.

Documentation for this project includes: photos and video; architectural drawings of the barn, including elevations, first- and second-floor plans, pre-existing details including beam sizes, carpenters’ marks and joinery details. This will be completed so we have a benchmark of the historic structure before disassembly and reconstruction.

We have applied for a \$300,000 grant in the Community Preservation Act funds and are waiting to hear if the Community Preservation Committee endorses our request. If all goes well, voters at the Town Meeting in May will vote on the funds. Once funding and permitting is in place, we will host a “barn raising” and the antique barn will be rebuilt on a new foundation between the “Nick House” and the Caleb Nickerson Homestead.

### **A Barn is Flaked!**

*The c. 1695 barn was first separated from the rest of the barn structure. Next, a worker removed shingles from the barn to reveal the underlying boards from the 1600s. After the shed was removed, you can see inside the barn. Finally, the boards were removed, leaving only the underlying frame. The barn’s timber will be stored at the NFA campus.*



Thanks to Steve Furlong for photos and drone photos.



**A 2021/2022 \$60,000 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.**

*Exciting news on the 125th Anniversary of  
The Nickerson Family Association!*



**HISTORIC BARN RESCUE  
COMPUTERS and TECHNOLOGY  
DIG SITE and ARTIFACTS INTERPRETATION  
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH and BOOK PUBLISHING**



**2022 \$60,000 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.**

Nickerson Family Association, Inc.  
Post Office Box 296  
North Chatham, MA 02650-0296

In consideration of the gifts made by my Nickerson Cousins, I am pleased to include my 2022 gift to the \$60,000 Capital Campaign.

It should be recorded as a gift in memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |                   |  |              |
|---|-------------------|--|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Benefactor                           | \$10,000. or more | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservationist | 500. or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor                                 | 5,000. or more    | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator     | 250. or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Patron                               | 2,500. or more    | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter       | 100. or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron                                     | 1,000. or more    | <input type="checkbox"/> Booster         | 50. or less  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to make a gift of securities. |                   |  |              |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to **Nickerson Family Association, Inc.**  
The Nickerson Family Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible, not-for-profit corporation.

## We Thank Our \$60,000 Capital Campaign Donors

### Grand Benefactor, \$10,000 or more

Barbara Nickerson-Estrada  
The Nickerson Family Foundation, Anne & D. Scott Nickerson  
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### Grand Patron, \$2500 or more

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### Conservator, \$250 or more

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### Supporter, \$100 or more

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### Booster, Up to \$50

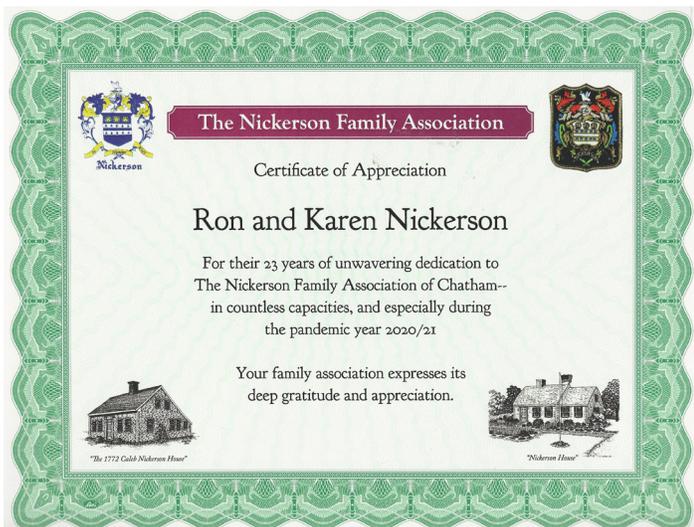
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Rebecca Locklear  
Tom Lister  
Helen Malzahn  
Maxine McDonald  
Philip & Elizabeth Moseley, *in M/H of Frank and Cora (Nickerson) Smith*  
August Nickerson  
Edward & Dorothy Nickerson  
Joan Y. Nickerson  
Maurice & Evelyn Nickerson  
Thomas Nickerson  
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Cynthia Ogren  
Brian Smith  
Joan A. Smith  
Sylvia and John Talmage, *in Memory of John E. Talmage Jr.*  
Ronald Williams  
Nancy Zickgraf

### In Memory of William Nickerson Deer (1945-2021)

Louise D. Caruso  
Alice M. Fritz  
Donna Lumpkin  
Nancy U. Stello

*Every effort has been made for accuracy.*

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



*A Note from...  
Executive Director Debra Lawless*

The NFA's 125th Anniversary Year is turning into an unusually exciting time for the NFA with the 17th century barn project moving along. But that is not all that is happening. We have news of the dig site! You will recall that William and Anne's c. 1664 homestead was excavated during the summers of 2018 and 2019. Right now we are awaiting the results of archaeologist Craig Chartier's lab tests. He has overseen a variety of tests that will yield much more information on the place that William and Anne called home.



Also, a committee has been formed to work out the signage, paths and more to interpret the dig site. We look forward to our visitors to the site being able to envision how the Nickersons lived.

A second committee will work up a traveling exhibit of significant artifacts from the dig.

And in final dig news, the head of the Chatham Historical Commission is applying for National Register recognition of the dig site. We will let you know much more about these developments in the coming months.

We have plans we think you'll like for the 2022 reunion. We will host a Friday evening wine party under a tent at the NFA campus, a full Saturday in Harwich at the historic South Harwich Meeting House, and a Sunday cookout at the NFA campus. After lunch, archaeologist Craig Chartier will share his new knowledge on the world of William and Anne Nickerson. A highlight of the weekend will be tours of historic Nickerson houses. We'll send out invitations early in the summer so you can plan for that weekend of Fri., Sept. 9 to Sun., Sept. 11. We hope you'll join us!

**CNH Docent Summer 2021**

Sarah Markey, 18, a native of Northampton, Mass., and a lifelong Chatham summer resident, served as docent at the Caleb Nickerson Homestead during the summer of 2021.

Markey, who describes herself as a "passionate American history student," will graduate from high school this spring.



Chatham artist Steve Mairella has donated a giclée print of his Cape Cod Landscape-- *Wild Grapes, Chathamport* to the NFA. Steve painted the beautiful piece on June 29, 2019, when we hosted a plein air painting workshop. Steve painted the view of the Chatham Conservation Foundation's land next door that is currently under restoration.

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

*Show your Nickerson pride by wearing it as a beautiful necklace!*  
Sterling silver chains are now available as well as bezels for the sixpence.

**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

*Makes a Great Gift!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

QUANTITY	ITEM	TOTAL
_____	Silver Sixpence Reproduction @ \$93.	\$ _____
_____	Sterling Silver Bezel @ \$42.	\$ _____
_____	Sterling Silver Chain @ \$20.	\$ _____

SHIPPING \$ 8.00

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## We Are Grateful to Donors for Our New Deck!



Carpenter Mike Lacasse and his son rebuilt the “Nick House” deck in November.

*We thank the following donors to the deck project:*

Mary Griffin Ramseur Memorial  
Jill N. MacDonald      Bessie M. Nickerson  
Edmond R. Nickerson      D. Scott Nickerson

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## NFA Now Has a Tin Kitchen



Thanks to Tish Noyes, a former NFA board member and long-time volunteer who is a member of our Colonial Cooking Club, the Caleb Nickerson Homestead now has its own tin kitchen or reflector oven. Inside the tin kitchen is a skewer for cooking a large piece of meat such as a turkey or roast beef.

Tin kitchens, designed primarily for hearth cooking, were used from the mid-18th century clear through the 19th century. They cook food more efficiently than a simple spit over an open fire. The oven surface reflects heat back from the fire, concentrating it onto the food.

This particular tin kitchen is a circa late 18th century/ early 19th century antique. It is very sturdy and well made. It was previously owned by a board member of the Nye Museum in Sandwich. The previous owner was trained in hearth cooking and taught open hearth cooking classes.

We hope to host our annual Beehive Oven baking event at a date to be determined in January 2023. This club was started to teach historic methods of hearth and beehive cooking that would be shared and kept alive for future generations. Club members cook old recipes and sometimes new ones, using open-hearth cooking methods and the beehive oven baking methods. Preparation of the food, cooking, hearth tending and sharing of the food is only within the club membership.

If you are interested in joining the Colonial Open-Hearth Cooking Club, please contact Debra at [DebraNFA@outlook.com](mailto:DebraNFA@outlook.com).





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

### **Welcome to the NFA's 125th Anniversary Year!**

Dear Nick Cousins:

Welcome to the 125th Anniversary year of the Nickerson Family Association!

Back in 1897, William Emery Nickerson of Boston invited "the Nickerson clan" to a first-ever reunion on June 19. Nickersons from as far away as Chicago stepped off the trains in Chatham while Cape Cod Nickersons poured into Chatham "by teams and barges."

*The Boston Globe*, which covered the gala event, dubbed the reunion a "Nickerson day in this Nickerson town." The reunion also coincided, almost to the day, with the 260th anniversary of the Nickerson family's arrival from England on *The John and Dorothy* or *The Rose*. This year also marks the 385th anniversary of the Nickerson and Busby families' arrival.

I can't help but reflect on how proud those Nickersons of 125 years ago would be in looking at the NFA's accomplishments today. For two seasons we oversaw the excavation of William and Anne's c. 1664 homestead right behind the NFA campus. We are thrilled to announce that the chair of the Chatham Historical Commission is working to place the site on the National Register of Historic Places.

And now we are on the brink of rebuilding William and Anne's son William's barn on the campus. The c. 1695 barn has been dismantled in preparation for our barn raising, as early as this summer. We have applied for Community Preservation Act funds to help finance the next phase in this exciting project.

This is shaping up to be an anniversary year unlike any other, and we're glad you'll be sharing the journey with us. Please enjoy the privileges of accessing our exclusive Nickerson databases, participating in our events, attending our Annual "Togetherring" Reunion weekend in September, and taking advantage of a 20% discount on all NFA publications and Gifts for Nicks.

We couldn't possibly do it without you!



*The precious timbers of the c. 1695 barn arrived at the NFA campus in February. They will be stored until our barn raising.*



The NFA is grateful to the Nye Family of America Association for the time and resources it invested in plans to move and restore the c. 1695 barn.

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

Please visit our website at:

<https://nickersonassoc.com>

Let us know what you think by leaving comments when visiting Facebook, or watch videos on our YouTube channel (accessed from the website)

and contact us via email at [wmnick1107@gmail.com](mailto:wmnick1107@gmail.com), by phone at 508-945-6086 or by U.S. mail at P.O. Box 296, North Chatham, MA 02650



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*Harwich, MA*



**DEBRA LAWLESS**  
NFA Executive Director  
[DebraNFA@outlook.com](mailto:DebraNFA@outlook.com)



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**GIFTS FOR NICKS**

# Consequential Decisions: Stephen Hopkins and His Descendants

By Brian Nickerson, former NFA President

I was helping a Rotary Club member who shares my last name to trace his ancestry. I had the benefit of experience and a comprehensive data base of the name's lineage.

Many Maine Nickersons trace their lineage to the Canadian Maritime provinces. In this case, my friend's ancestry didn't cross the border. The Canadian Maritime Nickersons emigrated from Cape Cod in the 1750's. In addition to success in tracing my friend back, we found that both of us are also descended from Stephen Hopkins of the *Mayflower*. I had already known my connection and enjoyed his surprise.

That event encouraged me to pick up a book about Hopkins that I had purchased about a decade ago in Plymouth, where the *Mayflower* had landed. It also got me thinking of incidental events in history that had significant impacts on the future.

Hopkins holds the singular distinction of having been both a Jamestown settler and *Mayflower* passenger. Also, because he brought his family with him to Plymouth, including a son born on the *Mayflower*, he has the one of largest group of Mayflower descendants in North America.

Hopkins's voyage to Jamestown in 1609 was truly an adventure. He left on the flagship of a group of ships bound for Jamestown. That ship, the *Sea Venture*, encountered an enormous hurricane. They were the captives of the hurricane for a number of days and finally marooned on the island of Bermuda. They stayed there a number of months before building a new ship from the *Sea Venture's*

wreckage to take them to Jamestown. The *Sea Venture's* experience was the inspiration of Shakespeare's play *The Tempest* and scholars believe that the character of Stephano in the play was based on Hopkins.

During the months on Bermuda, there was a lot of unrest and dissent. Ironically, the conditions for survival on Bermuda were vastly better than those of Jamestown where starvation and dangers from the native tribes were rampant. Regardless, Hopkins was sentenced to death on Bermuda for mutiny. His death sentence was reversed.

If Hopkins had died on Bermuda, there wouldn't be any story about him. Just a log entry postscript maybe. And I wouldn't be here. And neither would a large group of over 35 million Americans who trace their ancestry to Hopkins. Hopkins would not have arrived at Jamestown. He wouldn't have traveled back to England to be with his family. He and his family would not have gone to Plymouth on the *Mayflower* and I would not be here to write this.

How different would the world be now if Stephen Hopkins was buried on Bermuda? Impossible to know.

Human beings and society are the result of billions or trillions of small decisions and minor events. Every little thing we do might have a consequential impact on history, our future and our world. As Yogi Berra said, "If you come to a fork in the road, take it." It may not matter whether you go right or left, but it might matter if you get hit by a truck.



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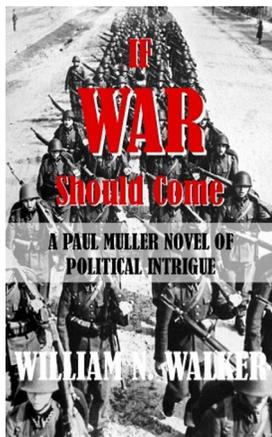
# FALLEN BRANCHES

**Betsey Eisele Langley**, 96, died peacefully at Crane’s Mill in West Caldwell on September 25, 2021 at the age of 96, surrounded by her loving family. She was born to Will and Bess (Shaw) Eisele in Peekskill, N.Y. on June 13, 1925. She graduated from Peekskill High School in 1943 and subsequently worked full time for a shipping company in New York City while simultaneously attending Pratt Institute in the evenings. She later attended Cornell University and graduated in 1949 with a BS from the Cornell College of Human Ecology. While attending Cornell, she met fellow student and returning WWII veteran, Joseph Langley. They were married on campus in Ithaca, NY in 1950. The young family moved to Cedar Grove in 1957 where Betsey lived for the next 58 years. While raising four children, she returned to college in the evenings and received a Master of Education degree from Montclair State University. Betsey became a teacher and program director for Hoboken Public Schools and served her students for 24 years. Her passion was helping at-risk students to identify their career path and to believe in themselves. After retirement, Betsey embraced her second career by becoming an active volunteer. Betsey was at her happiest when she was doing for others. She was a devoted caretaker to her husband Joe during the last two years of his life until he died in 2003. She leaves behind her four children Judy Schmidt, Dennis Langley, Kathy Langley and Jim Langley, eight grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. Genealogy: William<sup>1,2,3</sup> Caleb<sup>4</sup> Moses<sup>5,6</sup> William Shaw<sup>7</sup> Albert Shaw<sup>8</sup> William Eisele<sup>9</sup> Betsey Eisele Langley<sup>10</sup>



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## NOTABLE NICKS

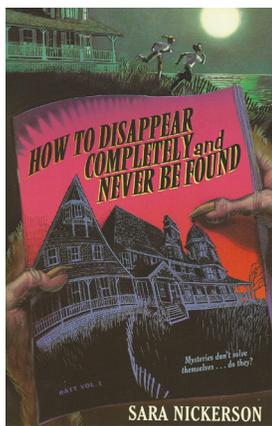


### **NFA Board Member William N. Walker Releases Fourth Spy Novel**

*If War Should Come* is a historical novel inspired by actual events. It’s the autumn of 1939 and Europe lurches uncertainly into war; Paul Muller is catapulted into a diplomatic cauldron of treachery and betrayal as both Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union threaten war on new fronts.

With this compelling narrative of political intrigue and violence, readers will relish being exposed to little-known events that Muller encounters, vividly illustrating the perils of a confused and fearful time.

The book is available through Amazon.com.



### *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found*

By Sara Nickerson  
HarperTrophy, 2002

This debut novel by Sara Nickerson of Seattle is for ages 10 and up. It tells the story of Margaret and her little sister Sophie, whose father died in a mysterious drowning accident. Four years later, the girls’ mother still won’t talk about the accident. It seems that an abandoned mansion in a remote area holds the key to the mystery of the family, and Margaret is determined to find what it is using a swimming medal, a key, and a handwritten comic book.

Nickerson has gone on to write two more novels—*Last Meeting of the Gorilla Club* (2019) and *The Secrets of Blueberries, Brothers, Moose & Me* (2015). She studied journalism and creative writing at Washington State University. After graduating she moved from to Seattle to begin her writing career working in television and film.

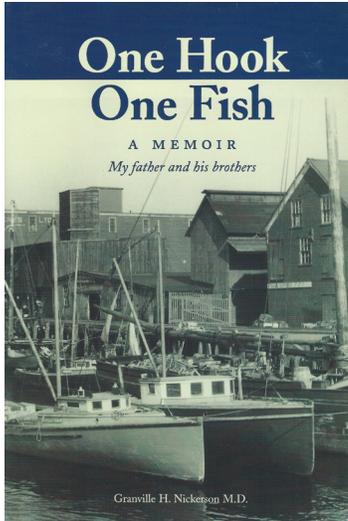
## Our Prolific Nickerson Authors

### *Books in Our Own Gift Shop*

#### *One Hook One Fish: My Father and his Brothers, a Memoir, 2002*

By Granville H. Nickerson, M.D.

This handsome illustrated memoir tells the story of author Granville Nickerson's fathers and brothers—eleventh generation Nickerson descendants named Israel, Harold, Jeremiah, Hubert and Roswell-- who all worked in the fishing industry at the historic waterfront of Liverpool, Nova Scotia. They were the sons of Raymond (1854-1899) and Mary (1861-1924) Smith Nickerson. When Raymond died in 1899, he left seven children, ages 19 to one. Six months later Israel, the eldest, also succumbed to tuberculosis.



It would be an understatement to say that life was tough for the large family. Still, the widowed Mary worked and when the boys were old enough they, too, worked. Later on, the remaining four Nickerson brothers ran a prosperous fishing enterprise called “Nickerson Bros.” By 1927 Nickerson Bros. was prospering enough to buy the large North American Fisheries and Cold Storage Ltd. On the waterfront. The company was eventually sold to National Sea Products.

The author was born on Cape Sable Island in September 1922, a son of Hubert and Freda Nickerson and grew up on Liverpool, where he described his childhood as “idyllic.” He recalled that one Christmas a business associate of his father's sent a case of 300 fresh oysters to the family home. “I loved them and have since eaten oysters all over the world,” he recalled. “My conclusive judgment: New Brunswick oysters are the most succulent and delicious oysters on earth.”

Granville later went on to study at Acadia and McGill Universities and had a distinguished career in pediatrics and teaching. Granville Nickerson died in November 2020 at the age of 98. He was survived by four of his six children, ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

This branch of the Nickerson family began in Chatham and traveled to Barrington, Nova Scotia before the Revolutionary War.

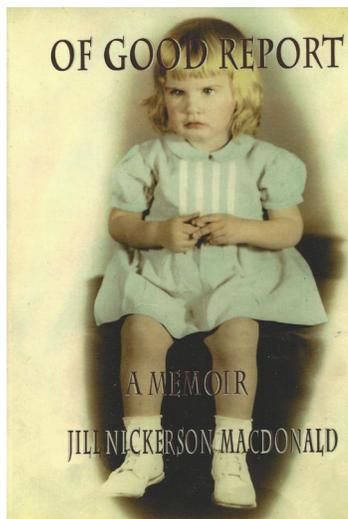
Genealogy: William<sup>1,2,3</sup> Caleb<sup>4</sup> Joshua<sup>5,6</sup> Levi<sup>7</sup> Thomas<sup>8</sup> Raymond<sup>9,10</sup> Hubert<sup>11</sup> Granville<sup>12</sup>.



#### *Of Good Report: A Memoir, 2010*

By Jill Nickerson MacDonald

The author, who is a current NFA board member, was born in May 1944, a month and three days before D-Day. MacDonald's father, Ralph Erwin Nickerson, was at the time in the Marine Corps, stationed in California, and her mother, Elizabeth Carroll Wells, was living in Wheaton, Ill. with her in-laws.



In her charming memoir, which goes through the first thirteen years of her life in Wheaton, MacDonald waxes nostalgic for the summers of her childhood, when the children would catch lightning bugs in old mayonnaise jars and watch lightning storms roll in from the west. But those 1950s summers were also marked by polio outbreaks. “I frequently did self-examinations for polio. One of the symptoms of the disease is stiffness in the neck. Whenever my neck felt stiff, I worried and would test myself by making sure that I could touch my chin to my chest.” She also recalls having her tonsils removed when she was age three. While she had been promised ice cream, she was instead given cream of wheat at the hospital.

The book also provides information on older generations of Nickersons, including a chapter on William and Anne

She recalls her great-grandfather, William Baker Nickerson, born in 1865, who worked for the railroads but whose vocation was archaeology. He excavated the “ceremonial and burial mounds of the Hopewell peoples in Illinois.” He participated in his first dig at age 17, just out of high school. Because he lacked academic training, he was considered as an amateur, but “one of the great amateurs.” By 1909 he was devoting three months a year to archaeology.

In the late 1950s Jill and her family moved to Monterrey, Mexico for the sake of her mother's health, and Jill was the only American in her class at school.

MacDonald later went on to earn a law degree at Loyola University of Chicago. After working in the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., she joined the legal staff of Ford Motor Company, retiring in 1998. She divides her time between Palm City, Fl. and Chatham.

Genealogy: William<sup>1,2</sup> Thomas<sup>3</sup> William<sup>4</sup> Enos<sup>5,6</sup> Nehemia<sup>7,8,9</sup> William<sup>10</sup> Harold<sup>11</sup> Ralph<sup>12</sup> Jill<sup>13</sup>.

### *Chatham Sea Captains In the Age of Sail*

By Joseph A. Nickerson Jr. and Geraldine D. Nickerson

The History Press, 2008.

Autographed copies available.

*Chatham Sea Captains in the Age of Sail* is a landmark study of the lives and adventures of 25 Chatham sea captains from Colonial days through the 20th century. It was co-authored by the late Chatham historian Joseph A. Nickerson Jr. (1918-2007) and his wife Geraldine, (1920-2017).

The book also “honors the memory of A. Louise Wentworth Nickerson for her untiring dedication in documenting the lives of Chatham’s sea captains.” Louise was Joe’s first wife who died in 1984 and who, alongside Joe, researched the sea captains for more than 35 years during research trips. Through the years they amassed an amazing collection of historical letters, diaries, logbooks, newspaper articles and photographs.

Joe Nickerson, a descendent of Chatham’s founder William Nickerson, was known as a preeminent authority on Chatham’s history.

The late Spencer Gray of the Chatham Historical Society said the book is “highly significant because it incorporates a wealth of material that Joe collected over many years, and no one else has had access to all those sources.” He added “I am pretty sure that most of the material in this book has not been read widely before, if at all. In other words, it contains largely original sources that will seen by the general public for the first time.” Grey also wrote the book’s foreword.

*Chatham Sea Captains* contains 141 pages of text as well as photographs-- some from the Nickersons’ private collection-- and drawings by the marine artist Jeff Eldredge. For the book Eldredge did many line drawings of ships such as the eight which illustrate the differences among sloops, schooners, brigs and barks. Following the text are notes and an index. The book covers three types of captains: deep sea captains who fished, coastal skippers who carried goods up and down the coast, and masters of the seven seas.

The book’s cover is from a painting which Joe commissioned Eldredge to paint. When Joe, age 14, was fishing with his father off Pollack Rip Lightship, a three-masted schooner sailed in from the fog, tacked and went south, Nickerson says. Eldredge captured that moment.

Genealogy: William<sup>1</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> William<sup>3</sup> Silas<sup>4,5,6</sup> Zenas<sup>7</sup> Rufus<sup>8</sup> Joseph<sup>9,10,11</sup>



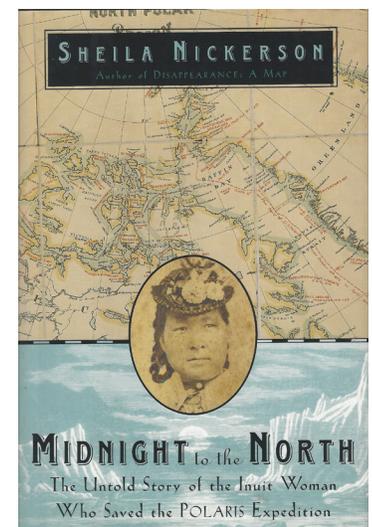
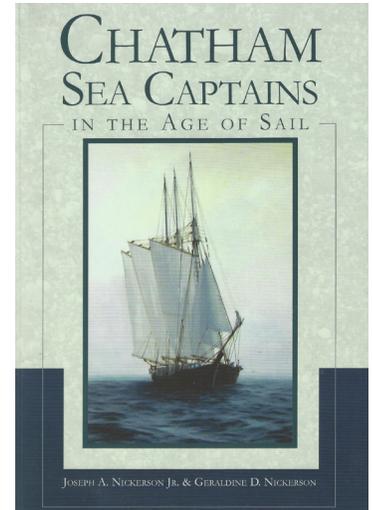
### *Midnight to the North: The Untold Story of the Inuit Woman Who Saved the Polaris Expedition*

By Sheila Nickerson

Penguin Putnam Inc., 2002

The Polaris expedition of 1871 to 1873 set out to explore the Arctic. Yet within with five months of setting out, the expedition’s leader, Captain Charles Francis Hall, was dead— probably murdered by his crew. Just as bad, the Polaris was locked in ice. Yet nineteen of its passengers and crew survived due to the skills of one woman, Tookoolito, a 34-year-old Inuit translator.

Sheila Nickerson is a two-time winner of the Pushcart Prize and was poet laureate of Alaska from 1977 to 1981. Much of her writing centers on Alaska, nature and Arctic exploration. She was born in New York City in 1942 and went on to graduate from Bryn Mawr College. She later earned a Ph.D. in Creative Writing from the Union Institute and University. She and her husband Martin raised their three children in Juneau, Alaska. Today she lives in Bellingham, Wash.





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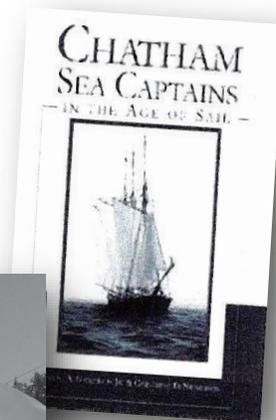
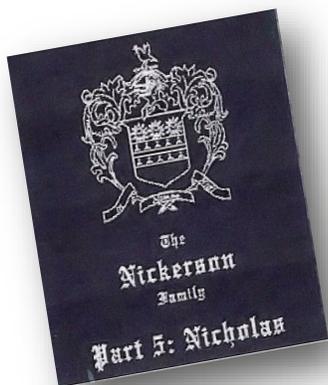
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