



SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

THE NICKERSON FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC.

William Nickerson
Signature of
William Nickerson

2025 Reunion in Chatham and Sandwich



The NFA's Annual Reunion will be held from **Friday, September 5 to Monday, September 8** in Chatham and in Sandwich on Cape Cod.

Friday will begin in Chatham with a tour of the 1752 Atwood House Museum at the Chatham Historical Society. The tour includes the Nickerson North Beach Camp. That evening we will host an informal icebreaker party at the NFA campus with special guest "Nickerson," an Eastern screech owl.

Saturday we will meet for our annual meeting at the Sandwich Glass Museum.

Our guest will be author and historian Christie Lowrance, speaking on *"The History of Cape Cod's Oldest Town: Sandwich."* After a box lunch and group photo, we have the option of touring the Glass Museum to view glass blowing or taking a walking tour of the old village with Gary Nickerson. That evening dinner is at Amari Bar and Ristorante followed by *"Dessert with a Cape Cod Storyteller,"* Jim Coogan.

Sunday begins with Nickerson Sunday at the First Congregational Church of Chatham, founded by William Nickerson in his home. This is followed by a scrumptious cookout at the NFA campus with remarks by Gary Nickerson on the new expanded display of artifacts.

On Monday, appointments are available for one-on-one meetings with one of our genealogists.



"Nickerson House."

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

We Thank Our Generous 2024 \$100,000 Capital Campaign Donors!

(As of June 2025)

Grand Benefactors

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Additions to Dues

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Leigh W. Tompros; Josephine Wildi; Glenn Williams;
Charles C. Wyand Jr.

Every effort has been made for accuracy.

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

NFA Receives \$1 Million Bequest from Joshua A. and Louise Nickerson



On an overcast day in February the NFA hosted a very special event—a reception for William Atkins Nickerson¹⁴ of Portland, Oregon, Agnes Wong Nickerson of San Diego and Doug Bohannon of Brewster. The occasion was the presentation to the NFA of \$1 million from the estates of Joshua A. “Jan” Nickerson Jr.¹² (1935-2023) and his wife Louise “Weezie” Nickerson (1934 -2005). This represents the largest donation given to the NFA’s endowment.

William is Jan’s grandson; Agnes is William’s mother; and Doug served as Jan’s trustee. After a toast to Jan and Weezie, the three were feted with champagne, hot quiche, hors d’oeuvres and desserts in the “Nick House.”

Jan was always a good friend to the NFA. The venue for the party was appropriate as Jan had donated the bow-roofed house to the NFA. The house was a model home for his business Nickerson Lumber Company in Orleans—a company founded by his grandfather Oscar¹⁰ in Chatham in 1895. In 1994 the house traveled over land and water to the NFA campus.

Unable to attend the event was Jan’s son Peter Samuel Nickerson¹³ of North Carolina.

The gift will ensure the NFA’s operation into the future, says NFA President Robert E. Nickerson. In addition to the gift to the NFA, Jan left \$1 million gifts to the Chatham Historical Society and the Kelley Foundation of Yarmouth.



NFA Hosts an Old-Fashioned Barn Raising June 14, 15

Photos by Steve Furlong. The NFA is grateful to Steve for documenting the entire project.



Two Days of Intensive Work Pay Off

Photos by Debra Lawless.

Over the course of two days about 20 volunteers took part in the landmark barn raising event under the direction of timber framer Ian Ellison. Two frames of the historic 20-by-20 barn were erected. The barn, believed to have been built on property in North Chatham once belonging to William and Anne's son William, was disassembled in 2022 and moved to the NFA. In May Chatham's voters approved a Community Preservation Act grant for \$275,000 to complete the project. This is in addition to a 2022 CPA grant for \$300,000 and generous donations from NFA members.





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A word from President Robert E. Nickerson...

The Barn Reconstuction: Where are we now?

Dear Cousin:

I wish the best to all our Nickerson cousins.

The big event since my last President's letter was the "Barn Raising" on June 14 and 15. About ten volunteers came each day to help raise the "barn." Fortunately, during the two eight-hour days of work the rain mainly held off. We also greeted lots of people who dropped in to witness the work on both days.



In addition to raising the barn, volunteers made the wooden oak pins needed to secure the timber joints. These are made using a draw knife to "shave" them into shape while they are secured in a "shaving horse." To get to this "raising milestone," timber framer Ian Ellison made a significant effort to restore many of the original posts and beams. And of course, as anticipated, new timber members were required in some locations as well as all roof rafters. The steps in this process are (a) debarking the logs, (b) measuring and marking the logs, (c) cutting notches on the log (scoring), (d) removing the wood (joggling), and (e) hewing the log, resulting in a square wood beam or post.

We expect to move on to the next major step for the barn—putting on the roof—in October. This will require that rafters and purlins (horizontal beams along the length of the roof that support the rafters) be installed, followed by decking and shingles. We will, of course, share many more photos as we move along with this exciting project.

As always, we appreciate your interest in your Nickerson genealogy and hope you are familiar with the Nickerson TNG database. Please contact us if you have any questions on how to access it. As you know, you must be a current member to access the site. And just as a reminder, we do not list names of living descendants. If you are interested in a free elementary search, please contact us. If you want more detailed research the charge is \$60/hour.



Many thanks to all who were able to provide additional support to the Nickerson Family Association in 2024. We received contributions totaling nearly \$78,000 in our 2024 Capital Campaign. These funds are critical to support the NFA's campus activities. We also encourage you to consider a membership for the young Nicks in your family, so they are aware of their "roots."

The Caleb Nickerson Homestead is open for the season on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through October 8. This year we have extended hours in July and August to Thursday afternoons from noon to 4 p.m. and to Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our exhibit of artifacts from the excavation of William and Anne's ca. 1664 homestead has been expanded to three cases of artifacts, a separate exhibit with selected Monomoyick artifacts and informative posters providing further details about the dig. In the fall we will host our Hands-On-History classes in floral arranging and felting.

**Are you interested in joining the NFA board
or joining a board committee?**

**Please let us know by emailing me at
wmnick1107@gmail.com.**



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>

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