Editor's Introduction

In 2016, the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants and New England Historic Genealogical Society (now American Ancestors) made an agreement to have the latter organization publish *Mayflower Descendant* for ten years. With these ten years coming to an end, so does my editorship of this venerable journal. My final introduction will not only discuss the articles in this last issue but also highlight some notable memories over the years.

The first two articles concern the family of passenger James Chilton. **The 1584 Arbitration Between James Chilton and John Chilton**, by Thad Thomas and Susan R. Thomas, provides an analysis, verbatim, and modern translation of the given document, which concerned a dispute between James Chilton and his brother John over a "synck" (cistern) made for receiving water that fell from both of their houses. **The Puzzle of Isabel Chilton's Name,** by Susan R. Thomas, concerns James's daughter Isabel and corrects her frequent mistaken forename "Isabella," which likely originated with the Chilton Silver Book. The article goes through many records in England and Leiden for Isabel and her husband Roger Chandler. Related to this family, an article in the upcoming fall issue of the *Register* on the English origins of Roger Chandler by *Mayflower* scholars Sue Allan and Caleb Johnson. (Last year, Sue Allan authored *In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim James Chilton*, published by American Ancestors.)

The Chilton family has been the subject of several articles in this journal. While James and his wife were both passengers, the given name of his wife remains unknown. Last year, at the General Board of Assistants (GBOA) meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, I was honored to receive the Pilgrim Academic Research Award from Governor General Lisa Pennington. During my remarks, I noted that while many *Mayflower* families intermarry within the first five generations, the Chilton family are the first known family to intermarry with descendants of Richard More and Moses Fletcher. The More intermarriage was between seventh generation Chilton descendant John Wade and sixth generation More descendant Phebe Leonard in 1789 at Granville, Nova Scotia, a marriage resulting in seven (or eight) children. John Bradley Arthaud and I authored an article on this in *MD* 69 (2021): 163–164, which follows an article by Bonnie Wade Mucia, Director of the Mayflower Families Silver Books Project, in *MD* 69 (2021): 65–70. The Fletcher

intermarriage was between eighth generation Chilton descendant Johanna Maria Ariesdr van Oostenbrug and eighth generation Fletcher descendant Dirk van der Linden in Leiden in 1837, a marriage that produced ten children.[1] Susan R. Thomas, a member of the GSMD Silver Book Project team responsible for updating the James Chilton Silver Book, will include generations of Chilton's Dutch descendants that have not yet appeared in the series.

Also, at the GBOA gathering in Asheville, I presented "Uncovering *Mayflower* Connections through DNA" and attended the report of the DNA Committee of GSMD, and soon thereafter was appointed to the DNA Committee myself by Governor General Pennington. The next article in this issue, **Was John Rickard's Wife Mary Snow the Granddaughter of Peter Brown? DNA Results Offer Additional Evidence**, written by the members of the Mayflower DNA Committee (other than myself), evaluates a claim, first made in the 1930 Eddy genealogy, goes back through the records of Plymouth Colony in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century, and utilizes the mtDNA results of descendants of Mrs. Mary Rickard and her suspected matrilineal kin to present a concise conclusion, adding several fourth and fifth generation descendants to passenger Peter Brown. Most mtDNA articles that have been published in this journal have involved tracing an ancestor backwards, often with a known surname, to then place her in the family where that surname is appropriate with the matrilineage at the correct time and place. This article is an example of tracing a (very small) matrilineage forward with a known forename. Mrs. Mary[1] Brown had only two matrilineal descendants alive in the late seventeenth century whose later histories were unknown–her granddaughters Mary Snow[3] and Lydia Snow[3]–and Mary Snow[3] fits perfectly as Mary, wife of John Rickard. I am grateful to now be on the GSMD DNA Committee and look forward to publishing additional scholarship in this field.

Edward Charles Horton continues **Descendants of Giles[1] Rickard of Plymouth Colony**. This installment is extended to include everything from his genealogy that relates to descendants of John[3] Rickard and his wife Mary Snow[3] (*Rebecca[2] Brown*, *Peter[1]*). John and Mary's daughters and their children were treated in the last installment, with this one covering their son Joseph Rickard (their only known son known to have left issue) and all of his children that had issue.

William Utermohlen also continues with another installment of descendants of **Francis Curtis of Plymouth 1671 and Three Generations of His Family**. Since I began editorship of this journal, we have introduced three serial genealogies of "non-*Mayflower*" families of Plymouth Colony, whose descendants have frequently intermarried

[1] With this mention of Moses Fletcher, the last ten years of this journal has mentioned descendants of all passengers with known living descendants, including an evaluation on the possible descendants of passenger John Turner in Child, "The Search for Elizabeth[2] Turner, Part One: An Annotated List of the Salem Church Records," *MD* 64 (2016): 151–173.

with *Mayflower* families. In addition to the Rickard and Curtis genealogies, we have also published installments of the Orcutt family of Scituate, last published in *MD* 70 (2022): 25–41. All three of these serial articles have additional content that remains to be published, Rickard has fifteen more sketches (along with three unplaced Rickards), Curtis has twenty-one, and Orcutt has thirty-one.

Eldon Wilson Gay's article **Proposed Parentage of Penelope White, Wife of John Trask of Rochester, Massachusetts** argues for Penelope's placement into the family of fifth generation descendants of William and Susanna (Jackson) White through their passenger son Resolved, eliminating the other contemporary White families of Rochester and building upon earlier research of George Ernest Bowman, founder and first editor of this journal.

The next two articles, **Missing Children of *Mayflower* Descendants: The Family of Hannah Delano and Samson Wetherell** by Tricia Dingwall Thompson and Diane Preston Baker and **Deborah Soule, Wife of Isaac Savage: Daughter of Ezekiel Soule and Hannah Delano** by Raymond T. Wing, both follow the "traditional" mtDNA study of following a female ancestor with a known surname and matching it to matrilineal descendants with the surname at the precise time and place that this surname enters the matrilineage, combined with additional contemporary research. Thompson and Baker's article follows the Wetherell family of New Braintree, Massachusetts, leading to descents from the Alden, Doty, and Mullins families. Hannah (Delano) Wetherell of Rochester and New Braintree, Massachusetts, was the younger sister of Elizabeth (Delano) (Penny) Ayres of Rochester, New Braintree, and Warwick, Massachusetts; Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York; and Guilford and Plymouth, Vermont, who I identified in 2009 as the great-great-great-grandmother of US President Calvin Coolidge, leading to the latter's first (and only) *Mayflower* descents, likewise back to the same families.[2]

Wing's article follows the Soule family of Woolwich, Maine, in the mid-1700s. While the matrilineal descents to Wybra (Hanson) Pontus of Leiden and Plymouth, who arrived by 1632, the husbands along the lineages of the four tested matrilineal descendants include lines to the Alden, Billington, Cooke, Doty, Hopkins, Howland, Mullins, Soule, and White families. Wing also identifies the parents of Elizabeth, wife of Joshua Morse of Rochester, in the same matrilineage, and involved mtDNA testing of the matrilineal descendant, Kenneth Martin Weinig (father of Gregory J. Weinig, author of articles in this journal on these related families). As this article also related to Raymond Wing's father's matrilineal ancestry, Wing had his first cousin tested (given that Wing's father is deceased), the fathers of both *Mayflower* authors Wing and Weinig had the same mtDNA from Wybra (Hanson) Pontus of

[2] Christopher Challender Child, "Identifying Jonathan Pinney (ca. 1754–1812) of Guilford and Plymouth, Vermont," *Register* 163 (2009): 100–101; Gary Boyd Roberts, *Ancestors of American Presidents, 2009 Edition* (NEHGS, 2009), 104–05, 107, 110, 256, 608.

Plymouth. This reminded me of our first mtDNA article by Michael Sean Dunn, whose "The Parents of Esther (Dyer) Flanders (1790–1876) of Braintree, Vermont, and Livingston County, New York: A Matrilineal Priscilla Mullins Desccent," *MD* 66 (2018): 23–48, 178,"[3] involved the mtDNA results of Priscilla's matrilineal descendant, Leonard Maurice Bartley (1930–2023), father of past *Mayflower Descendant* editor Scott Andrew Bartley. I found it fascinating that all three of these *Mayflower* authors, while not having matrilineal ancestry back to Plymouth Colony themselves, have fathers who did. As a postscript to Wing's article, Weinig discussed this upcoming article with his father Kenneth, who sadly died a few days later.

Raymond Wing has written several articles in this journal, and I want to highlight his major Big Y DNA study involving the Fuller family that he co-wrote with Pamela R. Paschke, "The Fuller Family of Redenhall, Norfolk, England: Initial Report on the Fuller Big Y DNA Project," *MD* 70 (2022): 101–120, which showed that Matthew Fuller of Plymouth, while a patrilineal Fuller kinsman, was not a son of passenger Edward Fuller. While some Matthew Fuller descendants may not enjoy seeing his *Mayflower* line closed, it reminds us that genealogical conclusions are based on the evidence to which we have access, and new evidence may lead to new conclusions. My own early Y-DNA study on the Sprague family of Plymouth, "Lt. John Sprague (ca. 1655–1727/8), of Duxbury, Mass., and Lebanon, Conn., an Illegitimate Son of Samuel[2] Fuller (*Samuel*[1])?," *MD* 70 (2019): 117, led to John Sprague descendants being accepted as *Mayflower* Fuller descendants for just three years, only to have the line closed based on the more comprehensive Big Y DNA study by Paschke and Wing, showing that Lt. John Sprague also descended from Matthew Fuller. The idea of reducing the number of potential fathers of someone born in the 1650s from five to two in such a short time (as noted in *MD* 70 [2022]: 125–126]) speaks to the value of this genetic science in future scholarship.

Richard Hall's article, **Descendants of Rufus Kinney of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia: A Standish, Doty, Soule, and Hopkins Descendant**, varies from the usual Notable *Mayflower* Descendants articles and follows three generations within his own ancestry in Atlantic Canada, with various descendants migrating to the United States.

The John and Henrietta (Casey) Croucher Family of Newport County, Rhode Island, and Bristol County, Massachusetts: A Billington Line, by Sally Wood and John Bradley Arthaud, adds three generations of this family in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries from where the last Silver Book ended. As the Billingtons are my only direct *Mayflower* ancestors as I co-wrote with J. Kelsey Jones in *MD* 60 (2011): 158–178, Arthaud and I have

[3] Dunn continued utilizing mtDNA testing in *Mayflower* genealogy in "The Parents and Siblings of Sarah Church, Wife of Nathaniel Crandall, of Little Compton and Tiverton, Rhode Island: A Richard Warren Line," *MD* 68 (2020): 157–186.

enjoyed discussing various Billington problems as he wrote the last Billington Silver Book, adding to children of the third generation in *MD* 62 (2013): 42–51, with general interest of other *Mayflower* "firsts" (see later), such as the Chilton More intermarriage discussed earlier.

Andrew P. Langlois continues his transcription series with the last installment of the volume of **Wellfleet Vital Records, 1763–1844**, and Peter Burgess, likewise, with another installment of **Eastham and Truro [Mass.] Town Records, 1671–1783**. This journal began with many series of record transcriptions, including "The Diary of Jabez Fitch, Jr." which was published under the editorships of George Ernest Bowman, Alicia Crane Williams, and Scott Andrew Bartley, and continued afterwards in *Vermont Genealogy*. We concluded "Easton Vital Records," in our first issue, *MD* 64 (2016): 51–74, which began in *MD* 44 (1993): 131–136, with portions transcribed by James W. Lucas, David Allen Lambert, and Scott Andrew Bartley. Like the Curtis, Orcutt, and Rickard genealogies, there are many pages remaining of Burgess's transcription of Eastham and Truro records, which will hopefully have continued publication.

Scott Andrew Bartley continues his **Seen Elsewhere** series in this issue, and I am grateful for his friendship and guidance in *Mayflower* scholarship over the last twenty-one years, to my first article published in this journal back when he was the editor in 2004.

Beyond scholarship in other genealogical periodicals, our *Vita Brevis* blog at AmericanAncestors.org has served as a medium to provide teasers or expand upon articles in this journal. Jeffery Allen Record, author of several articles in this journal, frequently expanded upon his own genealogical research on the blog. We first collaborated on an article in the second issue of my editorship, "William and Lydia (Swift) Young of Windham, Connecticut: A John Howland and Richard Warren line," *MD* 64 (2016): 115–129, which concerned the ancestry of the birth mother of his paternal grandmother who was adopted. Our research came full circle two years later when we were able to identify his paternal grandmother's biological father in a series of *Vita Brevis* blog posts. Jeff had a few remaining articles in the pipeline for this journal, which we will hopefully include in another publication.

Finally, in **An Addition to *The Mayflower 500***, Gary Boyd Roberts adds an item concerning an Alden, Mullins, and Warren descendant who also descends from the royally descended Governor Thomas Dudley of Massachusetts Bay Colony. The assistance Gary has provided to this journal is immeasurable. We have known each other since 1993 and have shared a passion for both presidential and *Mayflower* genealogy, among other things. Under the editorship of Caleb Johnson in this journal, Gary and I began the Notable *Mayflower* Descendants series, starting in *MD* 60 (2011): 61–70, with William Jennings Bryan and John B. Stetson. The series continued throughout Johnson's editorship, with contributions by Julie Helen Otto, and we have continued under my editorship, along with many contributions by Richard Hall of

the website FamousKin.com and MayflowerKin.com. Beyond what we have published in this journal, and Richard Hall's website, more material on this *Mayflower* topic has been published on *Vita Brevis* and of course in Gary's 2020 publication *The Mayflower 500*. Gary has been enormously generous with his time in editing articles in this journal, as well as other publications of American Ancestors.

I would also like to highlight some *Mayflower* "firsts" published in this journal over the last ten years–Julia Coldren-Walker and Child, "The Hicks Family of Mashpee, Massachusetts: Wampanoag Descendants of Pilgrim Richard Warren," *MD* 68 (2020): 5–21, covered three generations of a Mashpee family involving the first known intermarriages between *Mayflower* descendants and the Wampanoag people; Jari C. Honora, "A Vermont Engineer and a Free Woman of Color in Louisiana Sugar Country – The Paternity of Laura (Brown) Doley (1846–1928): A George Soule Line," *MD* 68 (2020): 196–210, was a fascinating article covering the first known African-American family in Louisiana with *Mayflower* ancestry, with a very specific utilization of autosomal DNA for a family of otherwise African and French ancestry in the South; and covering an even earlier Catholic family, Child and Michael J. Leclerc, "The Family of Louis and Lydia (Fosdick) Lambert Ma(s)cillier of Boston, Virginia, and Guadeloupe: The First Known Catholic *Mayflower* Descendants in Massachusetts," *MD* 71 (2023): 164–180, beyond its Catholic first, researched a family living in nine states, three territories, six countries, and involved records in five languages.

Beyond the invaluable aid of Gary Boyd Roberts as already discussed, this journal is what it is because of the many people who helped in its production. I am grateful to all of the editorial board, so many already mentioned, and remember past members Helen Schatvet Ullmann (1937–2021) and Robert Charles Anderson (1944–2025). Early on Penelope Stratton and Sharon Inglis provided valuable editorial guidance, and Scott C. Steward reviewed the journal for seven years, followed by Robert Charles Anderson until his death. Jason Harrison, VIP Hosting & Research Services Manager at the FamilySearch Library, has been invaluable with lookups of records unavailable to us (and even records we did have, but were inaccessible during the renovation and construction of our buildings on Newbury Street). Finally, Cécile Engeln, Ellen Maxwell, and Matt Macy have assisted so much on the production end. Matt communicated with our many authors. Ellen managed the design, production, and printing of each issue, including designing the charts I often created in a much cruder format. Cécile and I reviewed every article, with several rounds of edits, and amazingly had an enormous amount of fun while doing so.

As I have been Associate Editor of the *Register* for the last year with Editor Robert Battle, I continue to edit articles of a broader New England scope. I am infinitely grateful for the ten years I spent editing *Mayflower Descendant*.

—Christopher Challender Child