Editor’s Introduction

In Experience Mitchell and Jane Cooke’s Son Thomas, Jeffrey Howe evaluates the existing evidence for the several Thomas Mitchells of New England proposed as the son of Experience and Jane, and presents new evidence from deeds that further corroborates his identification as Thomas Mitchell of Block Island.

In Extending the Hurst Ancestry of Mayflower Passenger Joan (Hurst) (Rogers) Tilley, Randy A. West confirms Joan’s paternal grandfather, Henry Hurst, with an abstraction of his will matching what was known of his son William’s family.

In William Brewster’s Subterfuge, Louise Walsh Throop explores William Brewster’s trouble with printing separatist literature while in Holland, his use of his Dutch patronymic in the early years of Plymouth Colony, and various possibilities of how this trouble affected the publishing of the Mayflower Compact. Also discussed are Brewster’s other printing partners, including Johannes Sol, brother of George Soule.

In The Parents of Esther (Dyer) Flanders (1790-1876) of Braintree, Vermont, and Livingston County, New York: A Matrilineal Priscilla Mullins Descent, Michael Sean Dunn identifies the parents of his ancestor Esther, and further corroborates the theory with use of mitochondrial DNA, since the mother of Esther is a matrilineal descendant of Priscilla Mullins.

In Notable Mayflower Descendants: Benedict Cumberbatch, Richard Hall documents the surprising Alden descent of the well-known British actor through American ancestors who later lived in Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Mary Blauss Edwards concludes her transcription of The Day Journal of Rev. Daniel Lewis of Pembroke, Massachusetts (1747–1749) which began in the previous issue, and David Allen Lambert concludes
his Stoughton [Mass.] Marriages, 1727–1851, material found since his publication of Vital Records of Stoughton, Massachusetts, to the end of the year 1850.


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—Christopher Challender Child