

THE ELDER BREWSTER PRESS

A Publication of the Elder William Brewster Society

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of last report, 10/06/14

\$31,471.84

| OFFICERS | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRESIDENT | - JOHN BRADFORD TOWLE |
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| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Receipts | |
| Membership Dues | \$2225.00 |
| Brewster Pins | \$911.00 |
| Donations | <u>\$215.00</u> |
| | \$3351.00 |
| Balance | \$34,822.84 |
| Expenses | |
| Postage, Printing, Supplies | - <u>1097.02</u> |
| Balance as of 5/25/15: | \$33,725.82 |

A Message from the Treasurer

Reminder: if you see 2015 on your mailing label, "It's Time to Renew!!"

Dues, which covers a three-year period, is \$20.00 for members who receive their newsletters via postal mail.

If you provide us with an email address for sending the newsletters, the dues is \$15.00.

If you have an email address, please send it along. This will help cut down on our (always-increasing) postage and printing expenses considerably. We are very pleased with the email responses we have received so far. Please remember: **if your email address changes, be sure to send it to us.** (continued on page2)

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A Message From the Treasurer (continued from page 1)

Send checks payable to **The Elder William Brewster Society** to:

Mrs. Jane Cobb, Treasurer
Elder William Brewster Society
604 Mallow Scrub Way
Sebastian, FL 32958

Most sincerely,

Jane Cobb,
Treasurer

email address: Jane Cobb
bwater1@comcast.net

Be sure to type "Brewster Society" in subject line, so I won't delete the message.

Again...please check your expiration date!! :-)

New Members:

*Kartikeya Easan Katir
Danver, CA*

*Steven Edward Hunt
Bellevue, NE*

*Lisa Ann Harvey
Boiling Spring, PA*

*Eric Clinton Sundius
Sierra Vista, AZ*

*Michael Joseph Brewster
Waterville, OH*

*Gregory Thomas Luyet
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*Forrest Joseph Wade
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*Aaron Hunter Cortell
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*AlexanderLawrence Cortell
Plymouth, MA*

*Summer Rose Hallett
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*Jean Elizabeth Liddie Yokley
Tucson, AZ*

*Jennifer Maye Linn
Methuen, MA*

*Tad Ralph Starr
Draper, UT*

*Carly Bate
Greenwich, CT*

*Louise Anne Beal
Windham, ME*

Members' Stories

BREWSTER FAMILY STORIES

Brewster family articles are accepted for publication on a first come first serve basis. Please send all articles to Bonnie Towle 98-D East Broadway, Milford, Ct 06460

**My Dad, Retired Air Force Master Segeant
Jerry King Weston**

Jerry was born in Plymouth, Massachusetts, from a long line of Mayflower passengers: Isaac Allerton, John Billington, William Brewster, James Chilton, Francis Eaton, Stephen Hopkins, George Soule, Richard Warren, Mary Norris, William Bradford,

Peter brown, Francis Cooke, Samuel Fuller, Thomas Rogers, and John Tilley. All lineages were approved by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

He had, in the past, served as Deputy Governor of the Mother Lode Colony, Sacramento, California.

In February 1952, Jerry enlisted at the Boston naval Station. In September 1981, he retired in Sacramento after thirty years of active duty, over sixteen years of which took place in Japan. He also served in Korea, Guam, the Philippines, and Vietnam for total of twenty-one years out of thirty served overseas. His specialty when he retired was that of Personnel Superintendent at Mather Air Force Base, California.

Three of his many military decorations include: USAF Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and USAF Outstanding Unit Award. Some of his decorations were received multiple times.

Over the years, community involvements have included: President, Tokyo Skeet and Trap Club; Member, National Skeet Shooting Association; Editor, Church Newspaper, Kanto Plains Baptist Church, Tokyo, Japan; Lifetime Membership National Rifle Association, presented by members of the Tokyo Skeet and Trap Club; President, Credit Union Council, Yokota Air Base, Japan; President, Fuchu Air Station Kindergarten Association; President, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, Class 80D; Member, California Chapter Sons of the Revolution; Past Deputy Governor, Mother Lode Colony, Sacramento CA.

Jerry's several-times great-grandfather, William Weston served as a Captain in the Revolutionary War. Another several-times great-grandfather, Harvey Weston, served as a Privateer on the ship Leo, was captured and held for fifty-five days on a prison hulk

off Gibraltar; then returned to Plymouth where he was a ship owner and a master of ships out of Plymouth and Boston, Massachusetts. Jerry's great-grandfather, Martin Herbert Ryder, served as a Naval Officer during the Civil War. His father, Arthur Warren Weston, served as Machinist Third Class during World War One. Jerry's eldest brother, Herbert Warren Weston (deceased), served in the Normandy Invasion during World War Two. His next brother, Ira Chandler Ward Weston (deceased) served with the USAF during the Berlin Airlift. His next brother, Walter Arthur Weston, served with the 82nd Airborne Division, served in Vietnam and retired with twenty years' service in the US Army. Finally, his younger brother Andrew Charles Weston served with the 82nd Airborne Division, with duty in Vietnam, and he is retired after serving twenty years active duty.

Jerry has made it a point, throughout his many years of military service, to cook the family turkey every Thanksgiving.- submitted by Benjamin C. K. Weston, who also said about his father Jerry, "I have the greatest respect for my father for multiple reasons: his service to our country, the military decorations he earned, his religious faith , and his many years of research to provide me and my children with a look into our past."

Editor's note: a great tribute for Father's Day!

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Brewster's Behaving Badly

Elder William Brewster is regarded as a pillar of the Pilgrim Church and rightly so. In the words of Governor William Bradford, "For his personal

abilities, he was qualified above many. He was wise and discreet and well spoken, having a grave and deliberate utterance, of a very cheerful spirit, very sociable and pleasant amongst his friends, of an humble and modest mind, of a peaceable disposition, undervaluing himself and his own abilities and sometime overvaluing others. Inoffensive and innocent in his life and conversation, which gained him the love of those without as well as those within; yet he would tell them plainly of their faults and evils, both publicly and privately, but in such a manner as usually was well taken from him. He was tenderhearted and compassionate of such as were in misery, but especially of such as had been of good estate and rank and were fallen unto want and poverty either for goodness and religion's sake or by the injury and oppression of others; he would say of all men these deserved to be pitied most. And none did more offend and displease him than such as would haughtily and proudly carry and lift up themselves, being risen from nothing and having little else in them to commend them but a few fine clothes or a little riches more than others."

"In teaching, he was very moving and stirring of affections, also very plain and distinct in what he taught; by which means he became the more profitable to the hearers. He had a singular good gift in prayer, both public and private, in ripping up the heart and conscience before God in the humble confession of sin, and begging the mercies of God in Christ for the pardon of the same. He always thought it were better for ministers to pray oftener and divide their prayers, than be long and tedious in the same, except upon solemn and special occasions as in days of humiliation and the like. His reason was that the heart and spirits of all, especially the weak, could hardly continue and stand bent as

it were so long towards God as they ought to do in that duty, without flagging and falling off."

Unfortunately some of his near relatives strayed far from the straight and narrow path. We will look at three other "naughty" Brewster's starting with Elder Brewster's father, also named William Brewster.

From page 125 of Making Haste From Babylon, the Mayflower Pilgrims and Their World: A New History by Nick Bunker (Alfred A. Knopf, New York 2010). "To the west of Scrooby, the largest of its open fields stretched away under a ridge toward the town of Blyth. It is called the Bishop's Field. Somewhere hereabouts a scandalous incident took place one day in the 1580s. Somebody saw a young woman take off her shoes and tights and place them in a bush. Barefoot and barelegged, she crossed the field toward a balk, a strip of soil left unplowed between the corn to allow people and cattle to pass to and fro. Among the wildflowers she found an older man waiting. He was William Brewster, gentleman of Scrooby, the father of the Pilgrim, and the young woman was "Mr. William Brewster's whore." Paraphrasing from the book in 1587 old William Brewster sued a local woman for libel for repeating the story of his "fornication between the furrows". The object of Brewster's affections was a maidservant for a lady in Blyth called Jane Marshall. Mrs. Marshall spread the story around the neighborhood saying that if her maid was pregnant then William Brewster (father of the Pilgrim) must be the father. Bunker footnotes with the citation Brewster v Ward (defamation) (1587), AN/LB 217/2/9/1-2, quotation from fol. 1 Cause Papers, Archdeaconry Records, U Nott. While Brewster filed the libel suit in an effort to defend his good

name, unfortunately the resolution of the case is nowhere in the book.

The second Brewster we will examine is Elizabeth Brewster, granddaughter of Elder William, and daughter of Jonathan Brewster. Elizabeth was born in Plymouth in 1637 and moved to New London CT where she married her first husband, Peter Bradley/Brawley, who unfortunately died nine years later, leaving her a widow about 25 years old with four children. She married second Christopher Christophers sometime between July 1676 and pre June 5 1677. Unfortunately before she married Christophers, Elizabeth had two children. From the MFIP pink pamphlet 1996 (I modernized the spelling): Elizabeth Brawley/Bradley widow being bound over in this court for committing fornication with Christopher Christophers, which she is found guilty of by her examination taken the 21st of July 1673, as also by her own confession in open court which sin of hers is highly aggravated being the second of the nature with the same party who is a married man. This court having seriously considered the heinousness of the offense and also considering her present condition being near the time of her delivery, whereby she is incapable of undergoing such punishment as the heinousness of the transgression may deserve, do adjudging her to pay a five pound fine and to wear a paper on her head on some public day whereon shall be written in Capital Letters, Let the punishment of my whoredom be a warning to others, or else to pay a fifteen pound fine to this County Treasurer giving sufficient security for the same. Court held 16th September 1673. " A bond was place for the fifteen pound fine rather that wear the "whoredom hat" and pay the five pound fine.

The third case features a line of descent featured on the TV show **Who Do You Think You Are?** This show featured a line of descent from Elder William Brewster for actress Ashley Judd. The show featured some detail about Elder Brewster but scant detail on the line. The line is interesting as it features a jump from New England to Virginia under less than ideal circumstances.

Here's the line. In my opinion, it would not pass muster with the Mayflower Society:

- William Brewster
- Jonathan Brewster & Lucretia Oldham
- Benjamin Brewster & Anna Darte
- William Brewster & Patience Unknown [Brother Daniel Brewster & Hannah Gager (Katherine Hepburn line)
- Ebenezer Brewster & Unknown
- Comfort Brewster & Jane Unknown
- Ebenezer Brewster & Elizabeth Peery
- Rebecca Brewster & Martin Dalton
- Thomas Jefferson Dalton & Mary Malinda Crum
- William Dalton & Effie Copley
- Mary Bernadine Dalton & Lawrence Cimenella
- Michael Charles Cimenella & Diana Ellen Naomi Judd
- Ashley Tyler Cimenella Judd

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The interesting part of this line starts with a fifth generation descendant Ebenezer Brewster

(William, Benjamin, Jonathan, William). While this line has the endorsement of **Who Do You Think You Are?**, it is not at present listed in the **William Brewster of the Mayflower and the Fifth Generation Descendants of His Son Jonathan**. According to the pink pamphlet (MFIP), Ebenezer Brewster died, probably in Lebanon CTbefore 22 June when his wife remarried, BUT there is another theory which **WDYTYA?** and I both believe. I hope you will examine all the proofs for this theory at www.angelfire.com/mi/brewsterlist/query16.html . I will summarize them. When viewed in their entirety they are compelling.

Ebenezer Brewster had a child, Elizabeth b. 7 March 1729, with his second wife Elizabeth De Wolf . Elizabeth (De Wolfe) Brewster petitioned for divorce from Ebenezer Brewster on the grounds of abandonment in 1749 in Windham County CT. Divorce records are on file (please see the above web link). Through land transactions, Ebenezer Brewster and his brother are traced to Dutchess county, where Ebenezer had a child named Comfort ca. 1730. Ebenezer is taxed in the South Precinct in Oblong, Dutch County NY in 1747. His brother William moves to Virginia per the diary of Jabez Fitch, Jr. In 1761, Ebenezer borrows money from Josiah Hulse to purchase land in Virginia. There are many land transactions associated with Ebenezer in Virginia. Ebenezer Brewster received a land grant from Lord Fairfax of 118 acres in Hampshire County VA in 1765. Okay, by now this may be sounding farfetched, and nearly impossible to prove, but the clincher is a DNA project where the VA Brewsters' Y DNA is matched to known Brewster Y DNA. Sometime prior to 1774 Ebenezer Brewster dies. This is shown from a land entry "Ebenezer Brewster, heir to Ebenezer Brewster, deceased." Please check out the link above and make up your own

mind. Perhaps a future Brewster Silver book of Jonathan's fifth generation will include this line. It looks good to me.

So what do these examples of "Brewster's Behaving Badly" mean? To me it enforces the idea that Brewster's are passionate, determined people. This passion, channeled through Elder Brewster, helped found New England. In some other Brewster's, this passion found different outlets. Our Pilgrims and their descendants were flesh and blood: very human individuals struggling to establish themselves in a new world. Without their passions, they would not have survived. I find the human side of our ancestors more interesting than an endless list of dates and places. I hope our readers feel the same.

John Bradford Towle

johntowle@aol.com

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JOHN BREWSTER, JR. 1766-1854

Isn't it strange that when we least expect it, we stumble onto information that compels us to research for more information? That is what happened to me when i was taking a class: **History of Deaf in America** at Lansing (Michigan) Community College. Since I am hard of hearing and was working with Deaf clients, I had decided to take some classes to improve my skills in working with the Deaf population.



Our class started with the history of deafness during pre-Biblical times, led to reports of Jesus healing a Deaf man, and then continued throughout history up to the times of early French and British involvement, including social perspectives of Deaf people; and finally emerging hand signs, leading to the language of the Deaf, stemming primarily from Europe and France.



One Shoe Off, 1807
John Brewster, Jr.

As the history of how the first school for the Deaf began here in America, the name John Brewster, Jr. popped up in our book and during our lecture. I was shocked to hear and read of a Brewster in this class, because I am a descendant of Elder William Brewster. I was also surprised to learn how John Brewster was very much involved with Thomas Gallaudet, Alice Cogswell, the deaf child of Rev. Cogswell's son, Mason Cogswell (a friend of John Brewster, Jr.), and all those involved with starting the first school for Deaf in America.

In 1817, after Thomas Gallaudet brought Laurent Clerc, a Deaf teacher, from France to America, they opened the doors of the Connecticut Asylum for the Education and

Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb in Hartford, Connecticut. John Brewster, already an accomplished and famous artist of his time, left his work and was one of the first students at this school. He was fifty-one years old.

John Brewster was the fifth generation grandson of Elder William Brewster (John Brewster, Jr., John Brewster, Peleg Brewster, Jonathon Brewster, Wrestling Brewster, Love Brewster, and Elder William Brewster).

Harlan Lane, who was writing a book: **Deaf Culture in Early America During the Revolutionary War**, became interested in the art and life of John Brewster, Jr. He then wrote a very comprehensive book on the life and times of John Brewster, Jr.: **A Deaf Artist in In Early America, The Worlds of John Brewster, Jr.** According to Mr. Lane, Brewster was part of four different worlds: "First, he came from a Puritan Family. Secondly, he was the seventh generation descendant from Elder William Brewster. He was also a member of the Federalist Elite- the privileged post-Revolutionary class of merchants, clergy, and professionals. Lastly, he was part of the Deaf minority that eventually structured and shaped our current Deaf culture." Lane stated, "Brewster never let his disability stop him from being who he was." He was reported to be a well-known and wealthy artist in New England, who made more money than either his father or uncle, who were both doctors at the time. His paintings still hang in the now-renamed American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Conn, and Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.
---submitted by Bonnie Vokits

BREWSTER INSIGNIA AVAILABLE:



NEW BREWSTER INSIGNIA PIN

We have Brewster Insignia available. They are \$35.00 each plus \$5.00 shipping and handling. Please mail all requests to Gregory E. Thompson 17 David Drive, East Haven, Ct 06512. WE HAVE A LIMITED QUANTITY AVAILABLE.....

A Little Brewster Story

The Brugmanns and the Towles lived next door to each other for four or five years in the 1960s. The Towles had three sons: Alfred, John (Bradford), and David, who was my age and in my grade at Bunker Hill School in Waterbury CT. I was at that age where girls start to notice boys and very soon was totally smitten by David. My mother noticed me noticing David and that I was spending more and more time with him at the Towle's house, and was not happy. Perhaps realizing that it was high time for "the talk," but too

squeamish to actually have it with me, she bought me one book about how baby chicks came to be, and another one entitled Oh Ye Jigs and Juleps! which had entertaining anecdotes by a grownup Southern girl with embarrassing questions like: why do we need a bull? And why is Aunt Sally getting so fat? My curiosity now piqued and questions and imaginings unanswered, somehow I knew where to find the real answers: my dad's top drawer, under the socks.

Well anyway, one day the Towles and I were standing in their kitchen. Reverend Towle may have been cooking some fudge at the time. Somehow it came up in the conversation that he and the boys were all Mayflower descendants, and I remembered that my mother had said something about herself being one, too. And I said to Reverend Towle, "Hey! Well, I think we might be cousins, then."

He just raised his eyebrows, pronouncing that it was possible, but his expression told me another story: that it was just slightly more possible than pigs flying. But I was so happy to have this possible new connection to the Towles, because at the time I really liked their family much more than my own.

In 1969, my mother died, and in 1970, my father remarried. He put our house on the market, and we

moved to West Hartford. Also in 1970, the Towles moved to Litchfield. David and I were longer the girl and boy next door, although occasionally my parents would drive over for a visit.

Many years passed. Reverend Towle, my dad, and finally Mrs. Towle left this life for Whatever Comes Next. The good thing that came out of all that is that finally, John (Bradford) Towle and I got together, in 2003. He was already a member Mayflower Society in Connecticut and the Sons of the American Revolution, very active in historical reenacting. Soon I joined his group as a camp follower, and we had lots of fun. One day my sister gave me an ancestral chart that my great aunt had drawn up for my mother as an engagement gift. It was a fan chart, with the oldest generations on the outer edge. One name interested John: Marsy Hopkins, way out on the edge. He did a little research and let me know that she was the real deal, a direct descendant of Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins. It wasn't long before he found John Howland, Elizabeth Tilley, and finally William Brewster: John tenth great-grandfather and my eleventh. So we were Mayflower cousins after all! In my mind, I could see Reverend Towle, eyebrows raised, while celestial pigs with little golden wings encircled him, smiling.--submitted by Benita (Brugmann) Towle.

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Brewster Line of Benita Towle

Elder William Brewster

|

Patience Brewster Prence

|

Hannah Prence Mayo

|

Samuel Mayo

|

Hannah Mayo Hopkins

|

Marsy Hopkins Lewis

|

Mehitabel Lewis Slader

|

Thomas Slader

|

Zenas Slader

|

Ann Eliza Slader Nourse

|

Martin William Nourse

|

Dorothy Ailsah Nourse

|

Nancy Brainard Brugmann

|

*Benita Stuart Brugmann Towle:
your editor ;-)*

*Brewster Line of John Bradford
Towle*

Elder William Brewster

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Love Brewster

|
Sarah Brewster Bartlett
(continued from page 9)

|
Benjamin Bartlett

|
Sarah Bartlett Bradford

|
Joshua Bradford

|
Joseph Sr. Bradford

|
Elisha Bradford

|
Paulina Bradford Towle

|
Benjamin H. Towle

|
Alfred Bradford Towle

|
Rev. Walter Raymond Towle

|
John Bradford Towle:
your president ;-)

Little Brewster Island

In Boston's Outer harbor, about 10 miles out from shore are four islands: Little Brewster, Middle Brewster, Greater Brewster, and Outer Brewster. All are named after Elder William Brewster, spiritual leader of the Mayflower Pilgrims. On the rocky ledge of Little Brewster Island sits Boston Light, Originally constructed in 1716, the Boston Light has kept sailors and boaters safe more or less continuously since then. **It is now the only manned**

lighthouse in the united States. This was guaranteed by an Act of Congress in 1989. My sister Candy and I took a boat out there several years ago, and ascended the spiral stairs to the chamber where the 2nd-degree Fresnel lens still shines, visible from twenty-seven miles out, though it has been automated since 1998. It was the last lighthouse in the United States to be automated. The current structure was built in 1783, and that makes it the second oldest lighthouse in the country. Had it not been destroyed during the Revolutionary War, it would be the oldest.

Here is the story of how it came to be destroyed :in July of 1775, when the British had control of Boston, revolutionaries burned it, but did not destroy it totally. The British began repairs .Then on the 31st, three hundred revolutionaries, commanded by Major Tupper (who was under orders from General Washington), overwhelmed the lighthouse and burned it, irreparably. Finally, on June 13, 1776, the departing British bombed it, destroying it completely. In the fog ,a siren will sound every thirty seconds. At first, a the sound of cannon fire would warn those on the water. In 1719, the first foghorn was installed, and it was the first foghorn in the country. After that, a fog bell was installed, sometime around 1870. After that, a compressed air trumpet was employed.

*The lighthouse is currently managed by the United States Coast Guard. Specially trained auxiliary personnel called **Watchstanders** have been caring for the lighthouse and guiding tourists since 2000. They stay on the island for four to seven days at a time. During World War two, the light was darkened to prevent revealing boats to enemy submarines. In 1945, the light was turned back on.*

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The First Keeper

His name was John Worthylake, and he served at the lighthouse from September 1716 to November 1718. he was the first lighthouse keeper in America. His salary was fifty pounds a year. In November of 1718, he traveled to Boston to ask for a raise, which he was granted, up to seventy pounds per year. But he never got to enjoy his raise, because on the way back to the island, his boat capsized. John, his wife, his daughter Ruth, his friend John Egdewell, and his slave Shadwell all drowned, while his other children looked on helplessly from shore. John, his wife, and his daughter Ruth are buried in Copp's Hill Burying Ground in the North End of Boston.

I wish I had known all this several years ago, when my husband and I were given a tour of the burying ground. I would have stopped to pay them special respect.

Here a few more tidbits of information about Little Brewster Island.

The second keeper, former sloop captain Robert Saunders, drowned days after assuming his lighthouse duties.

The third keeper, John Hayes, who served from November 1718 to November 1733, had a gallery installed around the lantern room so he could clear ice and snow from the glass. He also requested and received the first foghorn.

The fourth keeper, Robert Ball, served for forty years: the longest tenure of any keeper.

The tenth keeper, Tobias Cook (December 1844-October 1849), set up a cigar factory there and brought girl out to manufacture "Spanish cigars" under poor conditions until he was discovered.

Mysterious Happenings

One keeper named Dennis Dever said that his radio would change stations by itself, switching to classical stations from rock. Dever also reported seeing a mysterious figure in the lantern room, dressed in an old-fashioned keeper's uniform. When he raced to the tower, the room was empty.



The Elder William Brewster Press

