

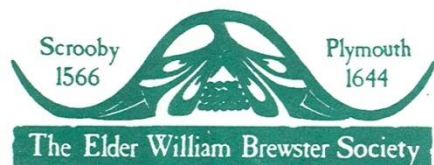
# ***THE ELDER BREWSTER PRESS***

A Publication of the Elder William Brewster Society

Volume 13, ISSUE #1, APRIL 2020

Web site- [www.brewsterfamily.org](http://www.brewsterfamily.org) - Gregory E. Thompson, webmaster

Gregory Evan Thompson – Newsletter Editor [Gthomp5749@aol.com](mailto:Gthomp5749@aol.com)



## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**3/24/20 - 04/01/21**

Balance as of last report, 3/24/20  
\$44,093.40

### **OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT** - JOHN BRADFORD TOWLE  
**VICE PRESIDENT** - STEWART BREWSTER  
**TREASURER** - JANE E. COBB  
**HISTORIAN** - BARBARA LEE- KELLY  
**SECRETARY** - JULIA E POST  
**ELDER** - DR. THOMAS BIRD  
**MEMBERSHIP** - BARBARA LEE-KELLY  
**DIRECTORS** - LAVERDA SUE JOHNSON  
DAVID STRINGFELLOW  
EASAN KATIR

Receipts  
Membership Dues \$3565.00  
Application Fees \$1080.00  
Insignia Sales \$ 550.00  
General Donations \$ 85.00  
Triennial Meeting Dinners \$ 105.00

Subtotal Receipts \$5885.00  
Expenses  
Reimbursements T.Meeting \$ 500.00  
Website Renewal,Security \$ 157.60  
Insignia Purchase \$1000.00  
Postage, Printing, Supplies \$1815.57

Balance as of 04/10/21 \$46505.23

Respectfully submitted  
Jane Cobb, Treasurer

### **MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER**

#### **WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU!!!!**

Besides keeping your dues up to date, it is very important to keep us informed of any **postal or email address changes**. Please let me know of any changes so that you can continue to receive newsletters.

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

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**Dues:** If you see **2020 OR 2021** on your mailing label, or on your membership card, you need to renew. Those of you that receive the newsletter via email, will need to check your membership cards. Please renew, so we don't lose you as a member! **I am the one to contact, if you are unsure of your Membership Renewal Date.**

Members who receive the newsletters via Postal Mail: \$20.00

Members who receive the newsletters via Email: \$15.00

**Checks must be made payable to the Elder William Brewster Society** and sent to:

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

Stay safe, stay healthy, warmest wishes.  
Sincerely, Jane

#### **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

The historian has approved 42 New Members. Please help me welcome them to our Society.

1. **Karen Wolcott**  
Concord, NC
2. **Holly Comstock (Newcomb) Johnson**  
Thousand Oaks, CA
3. **Elizabeth Anne Amacker North**  
Mooresville, NC
4. **Dale Robert Hoogstraat**  
Paxton, IL
5. **Heidi Elizabeth Small**  
Portsmouth, RI
6. **Gary Alan Roberts**  
North Attleboro, MA
7. **Daniel Kenneth Berry**  
Olathe, KS
8. **Sue Randolph Bates**  
Granbury, TX
9. **Debra K LaPage Hovis**  
Kansas City, MO
10. **Kirk David Vallier, Sr.**  
Ada, MI
11. **Richard James Freeman**  
Greenfield, NS, Canada
12. **Kathryn Laura Freeman**  
Greenfield, NS, Canada
13. **Barbara Marie Campbell**  
Mooresville, NC
14. **Darren Paul Holzapfel**  
Cumming, GA
15. **Sara Christine Monro Restrepo**  
Orange, CT
16. **Tracey Larabel**  
Stanton, MI
17. **Helen Frame Peters**  
Needham, MA
18. **Jack Lavery**  
Stanton, MI
19. **Grace Erika Ann Palmer**  
Isle of Wight, England, UK
20. **James Milo Hassett**  
Croghan, NY
21. **Judith Sullivan**  
Lebanon, NH

**22. Kathleen Eldredge Gentile**  
Mashpee, MA

**23. Christina Gentile**  
West Newbury, MA

**24. Raymond E. Wing**  
Augusta, ME

**25. Gayle Michelle Fowler**  
Valley Springs, CA

**26. David W. Ryan**  
Escondido, CA

**27. Peter Grace**  
San Francisco, CA

**28. Frederick Wendell Rogers**  
Rochester, NY

**29. Mickey Ray Stoddard**  
Manhattan, KS

**30. Robert Lloyd Gangwere**  
Uniontown, MO

**31. Robert W. Carter**  
Powder Springs, GA

**32. Jean M. Coleman**  
Ocean Springs, MS

**33. Daniel Arthur Biddle**  
Folsom, CA

**34. Judith Gilliland Knapp**  
Greeley, CO

**35. David Clark Brewster**  
Seattle, WA

**36. Michael Cain Casebeer**  
Bainbridge Island, WA

**37. James R. Pratt**  
Big Ford, MN

**38. Jeffrey Allen Henning**  
Clarksburg, MD

**39. Donald Lester Blasdel**  
Boise, ID

**40. Judith Stearns Gibson**  
Charlestown, NH

**41. Sharon Mary Klomparens**  
Grand Rapids, MI

**42. Elizabeth Lawrence Cooper**  
Fulton, MD.

Great Job to our Historian for approving  
all of these new members!!!

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### **REINSTATEMENT POLICY**

We have been experiencing a lot of members who join for one 3 year period, then don't renew and then come back years later and wish to rejoin. Although we are very pleased to have former members return, it does cause us additional work. With that said we will now require that the new \$25.00 application fee be paid with new renewals that have expired for more than 1 year. A lot of times it is just a matter that you've changed your email address or moved and not let us know, and so we can't find you. So please keep us current on any changes in email or addresses when necessary.

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### **BREWSTER INSIGNIA NEW AND IMPROVED!**

**I ordered a new supply of insignia so I had them make the medal larger and the ribbon of higher quality. They are truly**

**beautiful. If you haven't purchased one yet, now is the time while they last.**

To order, they can be purchased for \$35.00 each plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.

**Mail all requests and checks to:**

Gregory Evan Thompson  
17 David Drive  
East Haven, Ct 06512-1125



**MEMBER DEATHS**

We are sorry to report the death of one of Our members, Mr. **Charles Walston Harrison III**, of Spring, TX. His obituary was published by the funeral home on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

“Charles Walston Harrison III, of Spring, Texas, was born on January 19, 1952, and passed away on May 27, 2019. He was preceded in death by his mother, Marilyn Harrison.

Charles is survived by his loving wife, Jane Harrison; his children, Rachel Lynn Harrison, and Stephan Michael Harrison; his father,

Charles Walston Harrison II; and his brother, Mark Harrison.

His family received friends and loved ones at a gathering at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 followed by a memorial service for Charles at 2 p.m. at the Klein Funeral Home, 16131 Champion Forest Drive, Spring, TX.

The Brewster Society Board of Directors offers its condolences to the family.

The Elder Brewster Society is more than happy to publish obituaries of our members who have passed away. Please provide the name of the member, date of death, and a copy of the obituary for the member and it will be published in “The Elder Brewster Press” as space permits.

Send to:

Gregory Evan Thompson  
17 David Drive  
East Haven, Ct 06512-1125  
[Gthomp5749@aol.com](mailto:Gthomp5749@aol.com)

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

I would like to apologize to our members for not getting the Winter edition of the Elder Brewster Press out to you. Unfortunately, for health reasons I was unable to do so. However, the good news is that I am up and running and raring to go.

With that said, I have been the editor of the press for over 25 years now and wish to retire from this position.

I am looking for someone who has a few computer skills and would be willing to take over the job of Newsletter Editor.

Just so you know, this is a VOLUNTEER position and does not pay an honorarium. You will however, be reimbursed for any expenses that you incur while being the editor.

I will help you get established and help with the first couple of issues. You may use whatever format you like, however just so you know, about half of the membership receives the newsletter via email and the other half by postal mail. So you will need to have the ability to email the newsletter to a large lists of members.

If you are interested, please let me know by contacting me at:

Gregory Evan Thompson  
17 David Drive  
East Haven, Ct 06512  
[Gthomp5749@aol.com](mailto:Gthomp5749@aol.com)

## **Cancellation of 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festivities.**

It was quite sad that mostly all of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 fiasco. We also had to cancel our Triennial meeting as well. We have organized a zoom online meeting for our members as we cannot go six years without a meeting. There are also items on the agenda that need to be approved by the membership.

## **Researching your Mayflower Ancestors – Tips for Success**

For those of you who belong to the New England Historical Society, probably already know this, but for those who don't here is a good resource for finding other Mayflower ancestors.

A database created from the Applications of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants is now available online. With the help of the New England Historical Society and Family Search of Salt Lake City, UT. All of the GSMD up to about 1920 have been scanned and put online for your use. This is a fantastic resource in helping you find lines that have already been approved by the GSMD.

Also, the NEHGS in Boston, has also compiled an index with the fifth generation of Mayflower Descendants from the Silver books, which is the premier source for Mayflower researchers.

Check them both out, you never know, you may have another Mayflower ancestor lurking about.

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## **Upcoming Meetings**

Since our last Triennial meeting was cancelled last September due to the Covid-19 issue, and it's continuation into this year, we have decided not to have a live meeting in September of 2021. We are however, going to have online meeting, via zoom for our members on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at 10 a.m. the meeting will be by invitation only, and if you would like to join

us, please email me at [Gthomp5749@aol.com](mailto:Gthomp5749@aol.com)

If you have not used zoom before, you will need to download the Zoom app onto your computer or cell phone in order to attend the meeting. We will be talking about the GSMD meeting house, electing officers and any other items that the membership would like to discuss.

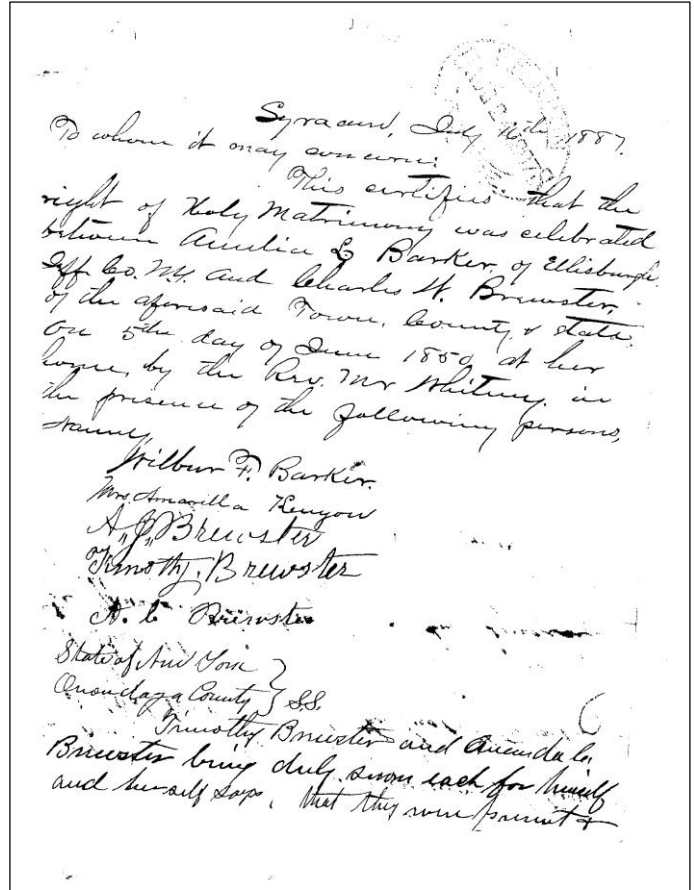
### BREWSTER FAMILY STORIES

Most of the information and all of the pictures in this article were submitted for publication by our member, Mrs. Bonnie Vokits of Fruitport, MI. Thank you Bonnie.

Charles William Brewster, was the son of William Brewster and Sarah Todd. He was born at Ellisburg, NY and died in Michigan. He married Amelia Barker, daughter of Thurston and Fannie Fish Barker of Ellisburg, on 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1850, she died in Michigan as well.

The couple had 5 children:

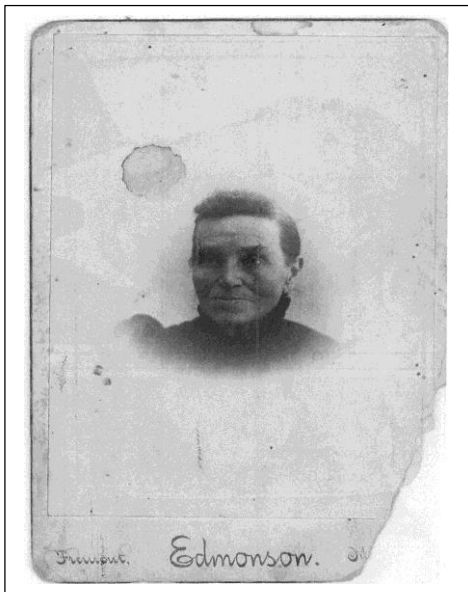
1. Alice Brewster b. 1854
2. Henry Brewster b. 1857
3. Charles William Brewster, Jr. b. 1866
4. George Brewster b. 1869
5. Addison Brewster. B. 1872



Marriage record of Charles W. Brewster



Charles William Brewster



**Amelia Barker Brewster**

Charles William Brewster served in the Civil War as his pension record shows.

War Department  
Adjutant General's Office  
20 Feb 1888

Respectfully returned to the Commissioner of Pensions, Charles W. Brewster an officer of Company B Regiment 1, Michigan E. M Volunteers was enrolled on the 31 day of Dec 1863 at Grand Rapids, 3 years and is reported: On roll for Jan-Feb 64, present, joined company as a recruit Feb 2, 1864. Reported present to April 30, 1865 May and June, 65, sergeant absent on furlough to Grand Rapids for 30 days since June 8, 1865. Our roll of F and S Michigan, E.M. Vols for July and Aug 65. He is reported Sergeant Major present, He was mustered out with the Field and Staff at Nashville, TN Sept 22, 1865. The records of this office furnish no additional information in the case cause of furlough not stated. **Cont, pg 9**

## **EWBS Member named Director of the Silver Books Project.**

From an article published in the "Mayflower Quarterly Magazine" Volume 87, No. 1, Spring 2021, pg. 6 says the following:

### **The Silver Books Collection is the gold-standard of lineage books for tracing Mayflower Descendancy.**

Forensic genealogist and Chair of the Mayflower DNA Project, Bonnie Wad Mucia has been appointed Director of the Silver Books Project by General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Governor General Jane Hurt.

"We are fortunate to have the vast expertise and talent that Bonnie offers us," said Governor General Jane Hurt, GSMD. "With her knowledge of DNA, it allows the society to unite the Mayflower DNA project with the Silver Books project, both of which she will lead."

The most prestigious genealogy organization in the world, the Mayflower Society maintains a lineage database that goes back to the 1620's and earlier. Its research is well respected and cited as proof for genealogical organizations the world over.

Born and raised in Rhode Island and later Massachusetts, Mucia now resides in South Carolina where her forensic genealogy focuses on New England research. Through forensic research and DNA analysis she aids adoptees with biological origins as well as assists in cold case investigative research. She works for the US Army's Defense POW/MIA Account Agency (DPAA)

Past conflicts Repatriations Branch (PCRB) to locate and establish contact with living members of MIA/KIA soldiers from WWII and other conflicts.

She is a contributing researcher for shows such as "Finding your Roots" with Dr. Henry Louis Gates as well as other projects for PBS including documentaries and movies. An experienced speaker and lecturer, Bonnie is published in the Nova Scotia Genealogist (Summer 2019) for her work on a family lineage: The Descendants of George Wade & Freelove Condon of Granville, Nova Scotia.

"I'm honored to offer my experience to GSMD," Mucia said. "It is a natural extension of my body of work and making sure the Mayflower story is preserved as part of the American story is an important part of our mission."

Her education includes genealogy institutes such as SLIG and IGHR and she is a graduate of Boston University's Genealogical Certificate program. Bonnie is an alumnus of the ProGen Study Group and currently in the ICAPgen Study group working toward accreditation. She is a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), and the United States Daughters of the 1812.

Being personally acquainted with Bonnie through the Mayflower Society, I am excited and pleased that someone with such talent was appointed to take over this very important position. She had big shoes to fill after taking over for the previous director, Judith Haddock Swan who held the position for many years and has published many volumes of the Silver Books.

Our congratulations to Bonnie and I'm looking forward to viewing your first Silver Book.

## **Getting to know your EWBS Board of Directors:**

Beginning with this issue, we will be talking about those of us who work behind the scenes to keep the Elder William Brewster Society running. I will begin with myself and in future issues we will be interviewing our Treasurer, Jane Cobb, our President, John Bradford Towle, Our historian and Membership Chair, Barbara Lee-Kelly, our VP and our Board of Directors.

### **GREGORY EVAN THOMPSON**

#### **Historian/Membership Chair/Editor of the newsletter.**

I have been a member of the Elder William Brewster Society for well over 25 years. I began my career with the Brewster Society taking over as the Historian. It was my job to review and approve all applications for the society and to issue certificates of membership and keep the genealogical records in order. I worked hand in hand with our Treasurer, Mrs. Jane Cobb to keep the membership records in perfect order.

Afterwards, with the resignation of the Membership Chair, Ms. Ina Mish, I was appointed to be the Membership Chair as well as the Historian since both positions worked together for the same goal, and that was increasing our membership.



After the resignation of Phillip Bradway, I took on the position as newsletter editor of the Elder William Brewster Press. I have held that position for over 20 years.

In 2019, I decided to turn over the position of Historian and Membership Chairperson to Barbara Lee-Kelly who has done such a wonderful job taking over without even missing a beat. She will be voted in officially for the position at our Zoom meeting in September 2021.

My experience in genealogy is the following:

I currently hold the position of Governor for the CT Society of Mayflower Descendants. I am also the current Registrar for the SAR (I am turning that over at the end of April to another person) I also were the Archivist for the CT Mayflower Society and scanned over 5500 applications into an electronic database.

I am a speaker and lecturer for genealogy and taught genealogy classes for over 25 years at the Milford, Ct Public Library. (Covid 19 ended that for now)

I am the Genealogist for the Daughters of the Cincinnati, former treasurer and board member of the Ct Society of Genealogists, The founders of Ancient Windsor, the Avery Memorial Society and are a member of numerous genealogical organizations such as, Ct Society of Mayflower Descendants, The Sons of the American Revolution, The Charlemagne Society of America, the Jamestown Society, the Ct Society of Genealogists, the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, the Avery Memorial Society, the New London

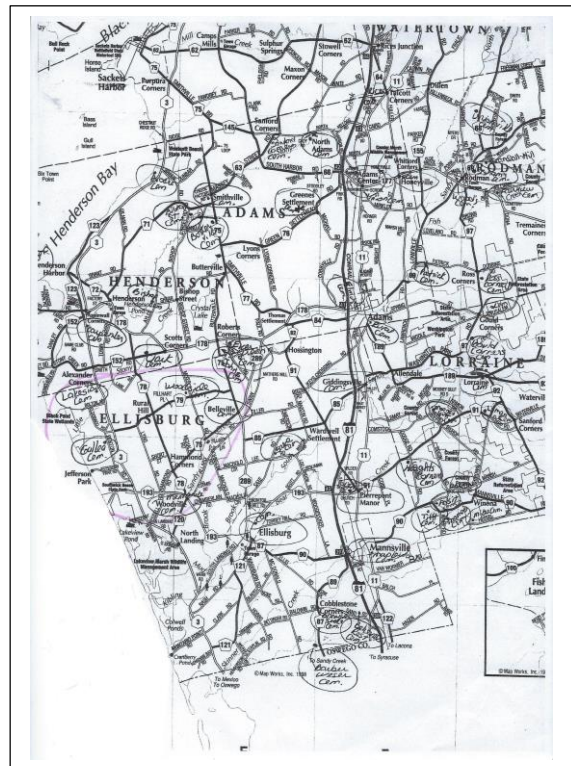
Historical Society, the John Howland Society, the Fuller Society, the Hoover Historical society, a member of the Professional Genealogist Council of Ct, and many other societies too numerous to mention.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and love to work in my yard and have my own greenhouse where I grow plants for myself and my neighbors. So, as you can see, I am NEVER bored!!!

---

## Brewster Stories Continued from pg 7.

Below is a map of Ellisburg, NY where the family was living.



War Department,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, Feb 20, 1888.

Widow's  
359622

Respectfully returned to the Commissioner of Pensions.

Charles W. Brewster, a Artificer of Company D,  
1 Regiment Mich. E. M. Volunteers, was enrolled on the  
31 days of Dec., 1863, at Grand Rapids, Iowa,  
and is reported: On roll for Jan. & Feb. 64, pres-  
ent, joined company as a recruit  
Feb. 2, 1864. Reported present to  
April 30/65. May & June, 65, sergeant,  
absent on furlough to Grand Rapids  
for 30 days since June 8/65. On roll  
of 4 & 5, 1 Mich. E. M. Vols., for  
July & Aug. 65, he is reported Sergeant  
Major, present. He was mustered  
out with the Field & Staff at Wash-  
ville, Tenn., Sept. 22, 1865.

The records of this office furnish no  
additional information in the case.  
Cause of furlough not stated.

R. C. DRUM,  
Adjutant General.


By

h- [Signature]

(2)

Civil War Pension Record of Charles W. Brewster

**VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT.**



STATE OF MICHIGAN,

Town of Nallesh County of Ottawa

I, Charles W. Brewster born in Edinburgh  
in the State of Massachusetts aged thirty years,  
and by occupation a Merchant Do HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to have  
volunteered this thirty first day of December 1867  
to serve as a SOLDIER IN THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA for the  
period of THREE YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority. Do also agree to  
accept such bounty, pay, rations and clothing, as are, or may be, established by law for volun-  
teers. And I, Charles W. Brewster do solemnly swear, that I will bear  
true faith and allegiance to the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and that I will serve  
them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will  
observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the  
officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at Grand Rapids  
this 3d day of Dec 1867

BEFORE Wm. A. D. Wiley } Charles W. Brewster  
Capt. 8 Prov't Mass't }

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above named volunteer, agreeably  
to the General Regulations of the Army, and that in my opinion he is free from all bodily defects and  
mental infirmity, which would, in any way, disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier:

Oliver H. Wain  
Examining Surgeon

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer, Charles W. Brewster  
previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when  
enlisted; that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as  
duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which  
govern the recruiting service. This soldier has blue eyes, Brown hair,  
light complexion, is 5 feet 8 inches high.

Wm. A. D. Wiley  
1st Reg't of Michigan Volunteers, 4th Div., E. District  
RECRUITING OFFICER.

NOTE—The Gold bands recited and be taken before a Justice of the Peace, Notary Public, or other official, in testimony of the  
validity of the enlistment, and the signature of the Justice, Notary, or other official, in testimony of the validity of the enlistment, and the signature of the  
Surgeon, at the regimental rendezvous, when the recruit goes into camp.

Enlistment record of Charles W. Brewster

On the next page, you will see a picture of the Old Plymouth Church which the GSMD now has ownership. The building is on the original location of the First meetinghouse that the Pilgrims constructed when they first arrived. It had deteriorated and needed someone to take it over and save it from crumbling. The GSMD took on that challenge and millions of dollars have been raised and millions of more dollars are needed to complete the project. I would like to propose at our Zoom meeting in September that the Elder William Brewster Society donate a sizable gift to the meetinghouse for its renovations. The Brewster Society has a healthy treasury which is not used for anything other than newsletters, etc. Wouldn't it be nice for our society who is named after the Brewster's who came over in 1620 on the Mayflower to help with this project? I have spoken to Lea Filson, who is in charge of this project and she says that she can create a project where our money would be useful and where our members for generations can see that we donated to such a wonderful cause.

Sincerely, Gregory Evan Thompson, Newsletter Editor.

The Elder William Brewster Press  
17 David Drive  
East Haven, Ct 06512-1125

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2021

