

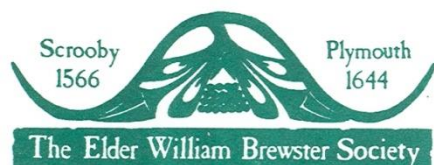
THE ELDER BREWSTER PRESS

A Publication of the Elder William Brewster Society

Volume 15, Number 1, November 2022

Web site- www.brewsterfamily.org - Gregory E. Thompson, webmaster

Gregory Evan Thompson – Newsletter Editor Gthomp5749@aol.com



OFFICERS

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SECRETARY	- GREGORY E. THOMPSON
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ELDER WILLIAM BREWSTER SOCIETY

TREASURER'S REPORT

10/13/21 - 10/22/22

Balance as of last published report, 10/13/21
\$32,458.20

Receipts

Membership Dues	\$ 3030.00
Application Fees	\$ 650.00
Brewster Insignia Pins	\$ 160.00
General Donations	\$ 5245.00
	\$9085.00

\$41,433.20

EXPENSES

Postage, Printing, Supplies	\$1378.83
Web Hosting	\$ 216.70
Domain renewal	\$ 31.16
GSMD – Partnership Renewal	\$ 250.00
Deposit to Hotel 1620 (for Triennial Meeting)	\$ 500.00

- \$2,376.69

Balance as of 10/25/22 \$39,166.51

Respectfully submitted – Jane E. Cobb
Treasurer

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

The Triennial Meeting is coming up soon! I'm looking forward to seeing many of you, as it has been WAY too long! The invitation and reservation form are included in this newsletter. We have been assigned a small

room for our meeting and dinner, so it is important to reserve your place **NOW**. This will be on a first come, first served basis. **All Checks need to be made payable to Elder William Brewster Society.**

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 the newsletters.

Dues: If you see **2022** 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.** Please do this as soon as possible. Postage is at an all-time high, and it costs our society a lot of money to send out all the reminders. Again, just drop me an email, if you are not sure of your membership date.

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

Email address: brewsoc1620@gmail.com

Warmest Wishes....

Sincerely,
Jane

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The historian has approved 27 New Members. Please help me welcome them to our Society.

1. **Monica Frances Harder Gibbons**
Cary, IL
2. **Wayne A. Griffin**
Worcester, MA
3. **Carrie Ann Stevens Briscoe**
Hyde Park, VT
4. **Robert William Gern**
Atlanta, GA
5. **Laura Elizabeth Ballard Franek**
Branchville, NJ
6. **Diane Sue Hagenbuch**
Waynesville, NC
7. **Raina Diane Trice**
Ocala, FL
8. **Fay Nanette Kimble Wright**
Summerville, SC
9. **Robert Cochran Waters**
Russellville, OH
10. **Francis J. O'Brien**
Plymouth, MA
11. **Patricia M O'Leary O'Brien**
Plymouth, MA
12. **Marguerite Ann Bock Mogila**
Newtown, PA
13. **Suzanne Barrows Marigliano**
Surfside Beach, SC
14. **Lois Jean Houghton**
Ponte Verde, FL
15. **Nancy Lucille Ball**
Quakertown, PA
16. **Stephen W. Beverage**
North Haven, ME
17. **Bertine Colombo Mckenna**
Coopertown, NY
18. **Linda L. Doll**
Forestdale, MA
19. **Jacqueline Ann Lamar**
Leland, NC
20. **Randy James Breese**
West Des Moines, IA

- 21. **Sandra Arline Beverage Andrews**
Dixfield, ME
- 22. **Karen M. Knofederak**
Apache Junction
- 23. **Virginia Ellen Ishaq**
Milwaukee, WI
- 24. **Nathan Daniel Chester**
Loveland, OH
- 25. **William Harold Griffin**
Parker, CO
- 26. **Alvin Wayne Farber**
Bellingham, WA

Welcome to these 26 New members.

REINSTATEMENT POLICY CHANGE

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 older 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.

BREWSTER INSIGNIA

We have a good supply of Brewster Insignia pins. This beautifully designed insignia created by our member William Warner of CT, celebrates our pride to be an Elder William Brewster descendant. Wear it with pride to your Mayflower Society meeting.

The pins can only be purchased by current Brewster Society members and eligibility will be checked at time of purchase.

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



TRIP TO ENGLAND AND HOLLAND BY OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRWOMAN AND HISTORIAN, BARBARA KELLY.

Our historian and membership chairwoman, Barbara Kelly and her husband joined some other Mayflower descendants on the Mayflower Society's trip to Holland and England. One of the stops was to visit the former home of Elder William Brewster, in Scrooby, England. Because the Governor General was also on the trip, they had the privilege of touring some areas of the home that most visitors don't get to see. Here are

some of the photos.



**Barbara and others outside Scrooby Manor
l-r – Bill Frederic, Jackie LaMar, Phil and Barbara
Kelly**



Inside Scrooby Manor



Barbara and Husband at Scrooby

We are looking for Officers

Resignation of the President

Due to health concerns, our President, John Bradford Towle has had to resign his position as president effective immediately

We thank John for his many years of service to the Elder William Brewster Society and hope that his health will be restored soon! With that said, we are looking for members to join our board, and become officers of the Elder William Brewster Society.

Being an officer or taking a position on the board requires very little work, as the Society only meets once every three years during the Mayflower Society's Triennial Meeting in Plymouth, Massachusetts. During the years in between there is very little to do. Jane Cobb the Treasurer, Barbara Kelley our membership chairperson and Historian, and Gregory E Thompson, secretary and newsletter editor keep the society humming during the three years in between the meetings.

PLEASE consider joining the board and getting more active in your society. Jane, Greg and Barbara have been running the society for many years and it's time for some of our other members to integrate and eventually assume the duties that we now occupy.

Anyone one who is interested

Please contact me at:

Gregory Evan Thompson

17 David Drive, East Haven, Ct 06512

Gthomp5749@aol.com

**NEW CHALLENGE COIN
(BENEFITS PILGRIM MEETINGHOUSE)**

For many years, I have been very supportive of the purchase of the Pilgrim Meetinghouse in Plymouth, Massachusetts by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. With that said, I wanted to find a way to raise some money for its upgrade and repair. The children in today's schools, are not learning the truth about history, and quite often know very little, if anything about our wonderful ancestors – the Pilgrims. This coin has been designed and is selling for \$25.00 each. Out of the cost, the entire profit from the sale of this challenge coin is given to the Pilgrim meetinghouse. So far, it has raised over \$1,000. They make nice gifts, especially for those of pilgrim descent. If you wish to purchase one, please make the check payable to: **The Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants**. There is no postage charge. Mail check to:

Gregory Evan Thompson
17 David Drive
East Haven, CT 06512-1125
(Postage is being paid by G.E.T.)



Front

Reverse

Please help me raise money for this very important piece of history and to help educate the public about the Pilgrims.

MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

The following photographs and article was submitted by Rachel Brewster of Waldo, Maine.

“I couldn't make the big hoorah ding 400-year celebration (cancelled anyway) over the summer, but I had a deep desire to commemorate my forefather's arrival to the new world. I planned a trip for Nov 9th, 2020, 400 years to the day that the Mayflower anchored off the coast of Massachusetts for the first time. My husband and I left our home in midcoastal Maine on the morning of the 8th and made our way to the Gyro Co, in Plymouth for a late lunch where we were served the best gyros and dolmades my husband or I have ever had... and I've been to Greece! But I digress... after lunch we visited Plymouth Plantation. Sadly, it seemed a bit neglected and without much signage and because we visited during the covidian era, the place was basically deserted.

The next morning Nov 9th, we struck out early for a look around. We boarded the Mayflower, viewed “the rock” strolled the Brewster Garden (lovely even in late autumn) hike Burial Hill and enjoyed a short ramble around ghost town Plymouth. I feel bad that so many of the family (you all) missed out on this remarkable point in time. How many people can say they know where their forefather was 400 years ago and can be in the same location many generations and 400 years to the day later? Members of the 400 Club!

I was compelled to be there on that day, one Brewster expressing thanks to another

for the courage it took to risk it all and come to America to freely worship. Well, I want to thank him from the bottom of my 21st century heart for making the perilous trip across the pond. It was worth the risk and paid out big.

Rachel Brewster, Waldo, ME



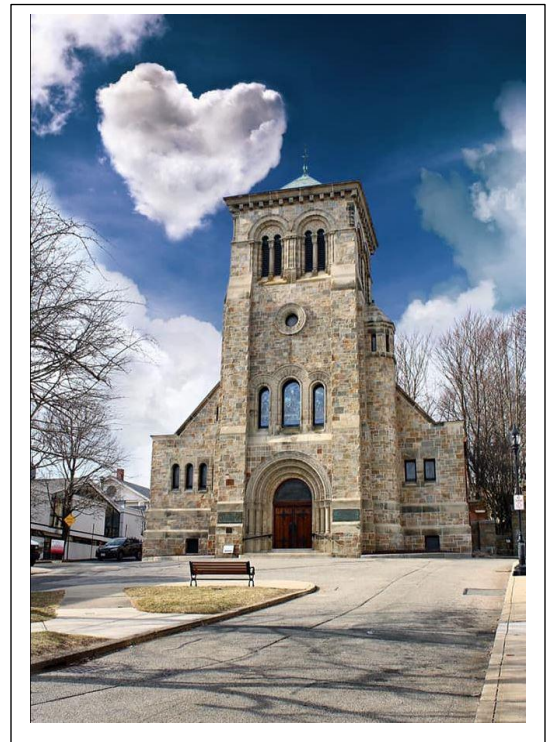
Sitting in front of Brewster Stone



One the Mayflower



Standing in Front of Mayflower II



The Mayflower Meetinghouse

A Little Brewster History

I received an email from Mr. Richard Prario who owns a beautiful home in Hampton, Ct that once belonged to a descendant of William Brewster. He was kind enough to send me some pictures and I found the following article from the *Hampton Gazette* that tells the story about the house. The article was written by Jean Wierzbinski and was titled:

“Our Rural Heritage: Historic Barns: The Little Red Brewster Barn:

Published on 30 September 2019



A classically New England home sits on Main Street in Hampton, as it has for nearly two centuries. Jonathan Clark built the house for a young couple, Betsey Avery Brewster and her husband, attorney Joseph Prentis, in 1821-1822. With its simple elegance, the house was suitable for a young woman with Betsey’s impressive family tree. Born in Hampton in 1798, she was a descendant of William Brewster, the minister who came to America on the Mayflower with the Pilgrims. She was the daughter of Hampton’s first doctor, John Brewster and half-sister of John Brewster, Jr, a deaf itinerant portrait painter whose primitive paintings are highly valued today.

The Brewster’s solid social standing and relative affluence meant the couple was well situated for success; their prospects bright. The new house reflected the optimism for their future together.

A small red barn nestles under the trees behind the home, genteel but plainly dressed, like a less well-to-do relation. Unlike the house with its classic ornamentation, the barn is devoid of decorative touches. Also, unlike the home with its well-documented history, there is no record of when the barn was built or by whom. There are no reminiscences, no children to share memories of climbing the ladder to play in the hay loft, of mucking stalls, of playing hide-and-seek among the carriage or of riding the horse. The little red barn holds its secrets close. According to the current owner, Richard Prario, this is an “English Barn”, common in agricultural CT, although this one is smaller than usual. Its small size indicated it was not a farming barn, but an “in-town” building for keeping carriages and horse close to the house, another sign of the relative affluence of the young Prentises at the time of construction. Typical of the English style, it has gable ends, is windowless and has centrally located doors on the eave sides of the building to allow easy access for carriage or wagons. The beams are hand-hewn, and the siding is vertical, simple choices. An unadorned cupola sits on the roof, serving the practical purpose of providing lights and ventilation.

Inside the barn, has three bays, as is typical of English barns. A center aisle runs from one side to the other. Traces of stalls remain in the bay on the south side, which would have provided relative warmth for the animals in the winter. On the north side

of the center aisle a third bay provided space for storage and other uses. A hand-made built-in-ladder composed of thick dowels leads to a hay loft.

The simplicity of the barn in comparison to the Prentis' house may reflect the changing circumstances of the young couple. Two years to the day after the completion of their new home, Joseph and Betsey were in serious financial straits, turning to her brother, Dr. William Brewster for help. For \$1000 Joseph leased all lands and buildings his wife had inherited from her father to William, including the new house. He also borrowed an additional \$500 then another \$500, then \$200 and lastly, an amount to cover money owed to his clients totaling \$330.46. A list of personal property Joseph provided as collateral included "1 chaise, 1 one-horse sleigh and 1 ox-cart". The barn probably existed at that point, sheltering the chaise, sleigh and at least one horse.

Sadly, the loans did not solve whatever problems the Prentises had, and their monetary difficulties continued. In Oct 1825, the court judged Joseph an insolvent debtor. The Prentises left Hampton for a fresh start in Douglas, MA and Betsey's brother, Dr. William Brewster became the new owner of their home and its furnishings.

Misfortune followed the Prentises to MA. Joseph's legal practice in Douglas failed to thrive, and he and Betsey returned to Hampton to live in their former home with her brother's family in 1835. The Brewster/Prentis residence was crowded, with nine adults and one child in residence.

Betsey Prentis died in Hampton on Oct 16, 1838, at the age of 40. She was

predeceased by a one-year-old son who passed away on May 8, 1838. The site of her burial is a mystery. There is no headstone for her with the other Brewster's in Hampton's South Cemetery, although it's possible that it may have been lost over the years. There is no trace of her in Douglas, either, although the Prentis's daughter, Eliza married into the Dudley family of Douglas. A branch of that family remains in the town to this day.



Records show that Joseph and their son, John, subsequently moved to Rock County, WI in 1840. Two years later, John "sold his interest in two parcels of land in Hampton". At the age of 60, Joseph left WI for CA, writing to his family about his move. The 1850 census in Placerville, El Dorado Co, CA includes a Joseph Prentis among those living in a boarding house. His occupation was "miner" his claim valued at \$1000. Shortly after, he disappeared. His family never heard from him again.

The financial humiliation of the Brewster family started with Joseph, but it was not the end with him. By the 1830's Hampton was losing population as people moved to more fertile land or to cities to work in the burgeoning mill industries. With fewer patients, Dr. Brewster's income suffered.

His economic decline was exacerbated by the inability of many of those who remained in town to pay him. He had depleted his savings to rescue Joseph from his debts and now found himself unable to pay his own. By 1839, he realized his only option was to place all of his property in the hands of a trustee. The probate court ultimately found him an insolvent debtor, just like his brother-in-law. A public notice, posted at his residence and published in the newspaper, notified anyone interested in the estate to contact the trustee. It must have been painful and humiliating time for the Brewster's.



The inventory compiled by the trustee lists Brewster's home lot and building. About 16 acres but does not specify the nature of the buildings. It also lists items that might have been stored in a carriage barn close to the house. "1 chaise and harness; 1 gig and harness; 1 sleigh, 1 side saddle, 1 side saddle best; 1 bridle; 1 man's saddle; 1 bridle and martingale; 1 horse" In addition there are many farm wagons, carts, sleds, implements and livestock listed, so somewhere on the Brewster property there was at least one more barn for farming purposes. After settling all his debts, Brewster was able to retain the residential

property and some other land holdings. He owned a drug store near the house and supplemented his income selling patent medicines. He appears to have fortified the income sufficiently to avoid further monetary problems.

When Dr Brewster began to suffer from health issues the family left the Hampton home to live in Danielson where Brewster's son, Francis also and doctor and druggist could care for him. In 1854, Francis sold the Brewster house to William and Hannah Clark. Since then, it has served as a private residence, an inn and tavern, and a private residence again.

OBITUARIES OF MEMBERS

We are sad to report the death of a member, **Patricia Bochinski**. Longtime resident Weston, Ct. she died peacefully at Norwalk Hospital in CT on 21 Aug 2022.

She was the daughter of Homer and Ruth Morrison. Pam grew up in Darien, Ct. While at Darien High School, she played varsity basketball and field hockey, and cello in the high school all-state orchestra. Pam kept in touch with her high school friends for the rest of her life, helping to organize a class of 1959 reunions for many years.

She graduated from Bucknell University in 1963, majoring in English and spending her junior year abroad at Edinburgh University, it was at Bucknell that she met her future husband and lifelong partner, Richard Bochinski. In 1972 the couple and their two children moved to Weston, CT

Pam attended the University of CT School of Law graduating cum laude in 1977. She had a distinguished career as an attorney, specializing in trust, estates, and taxes.

Among other professional activities she served on the Executive Committee of the Probate Section of the Connecticut Bar Association. During the span of her forty-year career, Pam worked at several esteemed law firms in the area, including Tate, Capasse, and Johnson in Westport, and Whitman and Ransom in Greenwich before opening her own practice.

Pam was an active member of the Weston community, serving on the Conservation Commission, Panel of Moderators, and for 30 years as a Justice of the Peace. She was a founding member of the Devil's Den Chapter of the daughters of the American Revolution, serving as registrar and Regent. She was also a member of the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants. An avid genealogist, Pam spent years researching in libraries and town offices in New England to successfully build her family tree. She would also spend free time gardening, caring for the many plants she had carefully chosen. But perhaps her greatest joy was traveling worldwide with her husband visiting many different countries and cultures across the globe. Pam was the kind of person who could turn her hand to almost any craft or project, and this included knitting. Later in life, she used this skill to win several awards, as well as making hundreds of hats for needy children and for fellow cancer treatment patients.

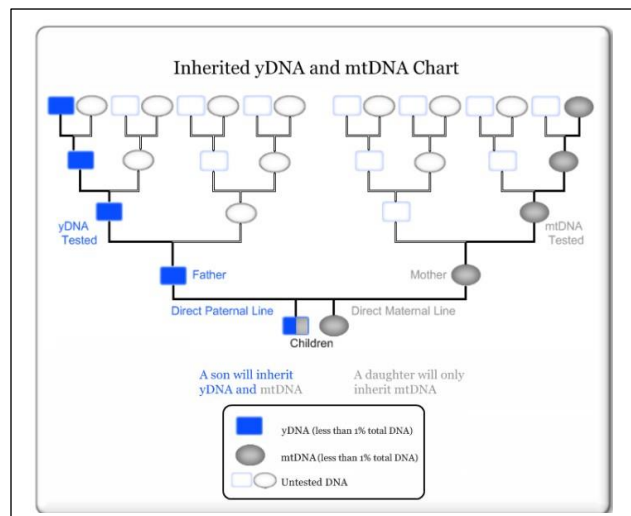
Pam is survived by her husband of 58 years, Richard A. Bochinski, her daughter Elise Drowne Bochinski of Weston, her son Jason R. Bochinski of Raleigh, North Carolina, a granddaughter Liberty Drowne Bochinski of Raleigh, and a sister, Marjorie Hofer and her husband William of Fort Myers, FL

A Memorial service was held on Saturday 17, at 11 a.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 285 Lyons Plains Road, in Weston, CT

DNA PROJECT -VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

I was contacted a while ago by Raymond T. Wing who is working on a fantastic program where he is tracing the matrilineal DNA of Mary Brewster (wife of the Elder Brewster) and is also doing the patrilineal DNA lines for William Brewster himself. They are looking for those who have direct matrilineal lines back to Mary Brewster (meaning, the female line from you all the way back to Mary) and the patrilineal descendants of William Brewster (meaning Brewster surname from you all the way back to the Elder) As you all know, DNA is the newest and greatest way to do your genealogy and many surprises have been found using it. If you are interested in this project, please contact the Mayflower DNA group at:

www.MayflowerDNA1620@gmail.com



*You are cordially invited to attend the
2023 Triennial Meeting
of
The Elder William Brewster Society*

Saturday, September 9, 2023

*Hotel 1620 at Plymouth Harbor
180 Water Street
Plymouth, Massachusetts*

*Meeting (Members Only) Standish Room
3:00 P.M.
Dinner / 6:00 P.M. / \$35.00 per person Standish Room
Featuring "The Pilgrim Buffet"*

*Please use the form below when placing your reservations. Reservations must be **received no later than September 1, 2023**. Space is limited, so be sure to **reserve early!**
We have been assigned a small room. This will be on a first come/first served basis.*

*Checks should be made payable to **The Elder William Brewster Society** and sent to:
Jane Cobb, 604 Mallow Scrub Way, Sebastian, FL 32958 (\$35.00 pp)
brewsoc1620@gmail.com*

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*Elder William Brewster Triennial Meeting
September 9, 2023*

*Name(s) attending dinner: Member: _____
(please print)*

Guest(s): _____

Number attending meeting (Members Only) _____

*Your **email address** would be helpful, incase of any changes: _____*

A phone number would be greatly appreciated: _____

*****ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2023*****

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

We received a wonderful gift of \$5,000 from the estate of Nancy B. Hall. It is through the generosity of our members like Nancy, that keep our society strong, healthful and flourishing.

The Elder William Brewster is a 501C-3 organization, and all gifts are tax-deductible. Consider adding the Brewster Society to your estate plans. And we thank ALL of you who have been generous over the years and contributed to the Elder William Brewster Society.

\$5,000 Gift Made