



REPORT

of the

Association

of

Descendants of Ralph Smith

of

Hingham and Eastham, Mass.

INCORPORATED

1971

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all members of the Ralph Smith Association. Another year of progress, love, and inspiration for us all.

Looking back over the years is great. Pride in our ancestry is what brought us together in the first place, but in this day and age let us now put our knowledge and ingenuity together to strengthen the future generations.

I am looking forward to our next meeting together, first with the Executive Board at my home in Barrington, N.H., in June to formulate plans for the Annual Meeting, and then the Annual Meeting in September.

May God bless you all.

June Colby
President

PRAYER OF THE YEAR

THE PROMISES OF GOD

Thou hast invited me "to ask, to seek, to knock" - assuring me that if I ask, it shall be given unto me; if I seek, I shall find; if I knock, it shall be opened up unto me.

Help me to believe that, O God. Give me the faith to ask, knowing that I shall receive. Give me the faith to seek, believing that I shall surely find. Give me the faith and persistence to knock, knowing that it shall indeed be opened unto me.

Help me to live the Christian life in daring faith and humble trust, that there may be worked out in me, even in me, Thy righteousness and goodness. With a sense of adventure, I make this prayer.

Amen

Geneva Tetlow
Chaplain

TREASURER'S REPORT

Association of Descendants of Ralph Smith, Inc., September 1, 1970, to August 31, 1971.

Income September 1, 1970, to August 31, 1971.

Current Dues	\$ 134.00	
Back Dues	40.00	
Special Collection Ann. Meeting	41.20	
Miscellaneous	4.27	
	<u>\$ 219.47</u>	
	327.81	
Total	\$ 547.28	\$ 547.28

Expenses Same Period.

Sept. 29, 1970 - Postage	\$ 18.06	
Sept. 31, 1970 - Elsie Johnson		
Notices of Meeting	14.30	
Oct. 2, 1970 - S.J. Seker, flowers	6.50	
June 1, 1971 - Postage	8.00	
Nov. 12, 1970 - Postage	1.92	
July 23, 1971 - Service Book		
Bindery (Ruth Smith)	12.00	
Aug. , 1971 - Farmington Press		
Booklets, Envelopes, & Billheads	181.00	
July, 1971 - Nahant Country Club		
Advance Reservations	25.00	
Aguust, 1971 - Check Book	6.35	
August, 1971 - Check Service Chg.	.41	
Total	\$ 280.54	\$ 280.54
		\$ 257.74

Check Book balance, First National		
Bank, Rochester, N. H.	\$ 252.74	
Cash on hand, Aug. 31, 1971	<u>5.00</u>	
Balance Forward	\$ 257.74	\$ 257.74

Distribution:	
General Fund	\$ 118.05
Judith Smith Fund	89.69
Student Fund	<u>50.00</u>
Total	257.74

**BEATRICE HUNT MEMORIAL FUND
Trustees' Report**

Balance Last Report	\$ 126.87
Interest to April 1, 1971	<u>8.51</u>
	\$ 135.38
Expended	<u>000.00</u>
Balance on Hand	\$ 135.38

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth G. Smith, Chairman

BOARD MEETING

June 13, 1971

Meeting opened at 2:30 P.M. at the home of the president, Miss Romaine Kolesnikoff, Holliston, Mass.

Opening prayer led by the Chaplain, Mrs. Geneva Tetlow.

Members present were as follows:

- Miss Romaine Kolesnikoff
- Mrs. Alice Mears
- Miss Barbara Wickens
- Mrs. Mertie Cunningham
- Mrs. Florence Smith
- Mrs. June Colby
- Mr. George K. Smith, Sr.
- Mrs. Doris Warren
- Mr. Lester Warren
- Mr. Clair Ferris
- Mrs. Ella Ferris
- Mrs. Geneva Tetlow
- Mr. Luther Smith
- Mrs. Luther Smith
- Miss Ruth Smith

It was voted to hold the next annual meeting at the Nahant Country Club, Nahant, Mass. The menu will be a choice of roast turkey or baked ham, with a fruit cup, garden salad, and ice cream. If no choice is stated in reservations roast turkey will be the choice.

Gathering time will be 1:00 P.M., and eating time will be 1:30 P.M. During the meeting there will be punch and cookies available, under the direction of Mrs. Warren.

Miss Ruth Smith will see to the getting out of the notices. Geneva Tetlow and Mertie Cunningham will see to the receiving of the reservations.

Reservations have to be in before September 16, 1971.

A motion was made and seconded and so voted that the treasurer be required to send the required deposit in the sum of \$25.00 on the hall reservation.

The recommendations for the officers for the year 1972 are as follows:

Mr. Ralph McGray	President Emeritus
Mrs. June Colby	President
Mrs. Doris Warren	1st Vice President
Mrs. Alice Mears	2nd Vice President
Mr. Eugene Eaton Smith	3rd Vice President

All other board members remaining the same with the exception of Miss Romaine Kolesnikoff who becomes a member of the board.

The meeting closed at 4:00 P.M. after which a fine coalescence of sandwiches, pickles, potato chips, coffee, and ice cream and strawberries was very charmingly served by the hostesses, Miss Romaine Kolesnikoff and Mrs. Alice Mears.

Respectfully,
Clair A. Ferris, Secretary

ANNUAL MEETING

Association of Descendants of Ralph Smith, Inc.

September 19, 1971 Nahant Country Club, Nahant, Mass.

The meeting opened at 1:00 P.M. with the dinner at 2:30 P.M., consisting of either roast turkey or baked ham which was enjoyed by the group, with many thanks to our own Ralph N. McGray, who hosted the dinner.

The regular meeting opened at 3:30 P.M., with a few words by the president, Miss Romaine Kolesnikoff, after which she lead in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the singing of America.

The opening prayer was given by our chaplain, Mrs. Geneva Tetlow.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

The list of officers for the year 1972 as presented at the Executive Board Meeting was read, and as there were no further nominations from the floor, the Association voted and approved the list of officers as presented.

The outgoing president had a few words to say in appreciation for the help the Association provided in her term in office.

The incoming president Mrs. June Colby had a few words to say in acceptance of the office of president.

Oldest Lady present — Mrs. Eliza Lipsett

Oldest Gentleman present — Mr. Ralph N. McGray

Youngest person present — Miss Jessica Rowell, age 1 year

Person coming the farthest — Mr. Ralph N. McGray
Santa Maria, California

The Memorial Wreath was presented and the flowers placed in memory of those who have passed on. It was voted to have the wreath placed on the grave of our late member, Mr. Frank Tetlow.

Your secretary asked for any changes in addresses be sent in to him, as a lot of mail has been returned. If for any reason you change your address, please let the secretary know so that he can keep his mailing list up to date.

It was suggested that the next meeting be held either in New Hampshire or Maine, and it was moved that it be left up to the Executive Board as in the past.

Miss Ruth Smith spoke on the Smith Museum of Nova Scotia.

The preservation of a stained glass window from a church in Barrington, Nova Scotia, was discussed. Ralph McGray said that he would look into it and see what could be done about it.

The general collection amounted to \$71.20.

The meeting closed at 4:30 P.M., after which a lot of talking went on to everybody's pleasure; renewing old acquaintances, and so forth.

Respectfully submitted,
Clair A. Ferris, Secretary

HISTORY

William Brewster — "Wise and discreet and well-spoken . . . qualified above many."

Ancestor of many members of the Association of Descendants of Ralph Smith of Hingham and Eastham, Inc., Elder Brewster is becoming known, through exhaustive research, as perhaps a most important member of the leaders of the Pilgrims.

As Captain Miles Standish was the military leader, as Governor William Bradford was the political head and historian, so was Brewster the wise and tolerant counselor whose humor, wit, and broad-based human kindness helped to pull the Pilgrims through their early hardships.

The name "Brewster" is a vocational surname found mostly in the north of England as applied to one who brews ale and beer. In the south of England it appears in the same way that Webber is found in the southern and Webster in the northern counties. From the earliest time when tax lists were available Brewsters are found in the Scrooby region and in the neighboring parishes of Yorkshire, where the earliest generations of Bradfords resided.

The Subsidy of Richard the Second (1379) shows a Robert Brewster taxed in Bawtry which adjoins Scrooby. The will of a William Brewster of Bentley-cum-Arkley was probated in 1521 and another William Brewster was taxed in the same parish in 1524.

This latter William could be the Grandfather of "Elder" William and father of the William who was appointed steward and bailiff of the Manor of Scrooby. These early Brewsters of Ackley and Bentley seem the logical and most hopeful clue to the ancestry of the spiritual guide of the Plymouth Pilgrims. It has long been known that the Rev. Henry Brewster was Vicar of Sutton-cum-Lownd, then the Elder was born, and that James Brewster in 1584 was appointed master of the hospital of St. Mary Magdalene, Bawtry; and that both of these parishes are close to Scrooby. James became Vicar of Sutton in 1596 and Scrooby was in his parochial care.

Elder Brewster's father, as steward of the Archbishop's Manor, gave him a certain social status which was reflected by the son when he matriculated at Cambridge University, and following this, his employment in the diplomatic service of Sir William Davidson, undoubtedly caused the officials of the High Court of Commission, who summoned him for religious contumacy in 1607, to address him as "William Bruster of Scrooby, Gent."

William's wife was Mary. Little is known about her. Walter H. Burgess, in his volume "John Robinson, the Pastor of the Pilgrims," published in London in 1920, suggests that she was Mary Wentworth, daughter of Thomas Wentworth, Esq., of Scrooby Manor. The will of Thomas Wentworth, 27 March, 1574, mentions a daughter, Mary.

Jonathan, first child of William and Mary Brewster, was born in England in 1593. Five other children are known to us: Love, Wrestling, Fear, Patience, and Mary.

It is from their daughter Patience many of the members of our family stem. It came about in this wise:

Patience married Thomas Prence.

Their daughter Mercy Prence married John Freeman.

Then came the following generations: Edmund Freeman m. Ruth Merrick, Ruth Freeman m. Israel Doane, Edmund Doane m. Elizabeth Osborne Merrick Paine, Abigail Doane m. Hezekiah Smith, William Smith m. Mary Nickerson, Prince Doane Smith m. Sarah Smith, Isaac Smith m. Nancy Jane Crowell, Mehitabel Smith m. Bradford Freeman Smith, Nancy Isabel Smith (Luther Rutherford Smith's youngest sister) m. Delbert Nickerson whose youngest children to date are Peter and Paul.

Thomas Prence, who married Elder William Brewster's daughter, was three times governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1634, 1638, and 1657 to 1673), was called "a terrour to evildoers." To him is attributed the founding of the public schools in New England. He was born in Lechdale, Gloucestershire, England, about 1600 and died in Plymouth, Massachusetts,

29 March, 1673. He was one of the Leyden brand of Pilgrims which arrived on the ship Fortune, 9 November, 1621.

Mercy Prence, a daughter of Thomas Prence and Patience Brewster, married John Freeman. This Freeman was an Assistant Governor, 1666 to 1686, and again in 1689 to 1692.

With the blood of Brewster, Wentworth, Prence, Freeman, Merrick, Osborne, Doane, Smith, Crowell, and Nickerson flowing through their veins are thousands of men and women who are leaders in public and private affairs in Canada and the United States. The down-to-earth philosophy of hard work, dedication, and faith still lives.

The first president of our organization, the late Captain Arthur Nehemiah McGray, was linked with Brewster as follows: a British officer serving in a Highland Regiment in America was Captain William McGray. He moved from Harpswell to North Yarmouth to Durham; the latter move taking place about 1780.

Captain William married Susannah Turner, daughter of Jonathan Turner and wife Abigail (Stockbridge); grand-daughter of Isaac and Ruth Turner; great-granddaughter of Martha (Bisbee) Turner; great-great-granddaughter of John and Mary (Brewster) Turner. Mary Brewster was a sister to Patience and was born at Plymouth, Massachusetts, 16 April, 1627. From the line Mary comes the Honorable Clarence Edwin Turner, Jr., current for many years the Historian of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Maine.

Applications for eligible membership in Maine may be addressed to Historian Turner at his address, Apartment 4, 366 Cottage Road, South Portland, Maine 04106.

Thomas Edison Smith (Uncle Eddie), our second president is a tenth generation descendant of Elder William Brewster, All descendants of Hezekiah, eldest son of Squire Archelaus Smith, may lay claim to this distinction.

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References: Mayflower Descendants Magazine, New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Bradford's history "Of Plimouth Plantation."

NOTES

William Brewster died 16 April, 1643. A memorial plaque on the front wall of a farm house in Scrooby, England, marks the spot where this revered ancestor of ours lived. It says:

WILLIAM BREWSTER

Where lived from 1588 to 1608, and where he organized the Pilgrim Church, of which he became the ruling elder, and with which, in 1608, he removed to Amsterdam, in 1609 to Leyden, and in 1620 to Plymouth, where he died April 16, 1644.

Notice that 1643 is the correct date. Nathaniel Morton, three centuries ago, made a mistake in copying from Bradford's History into Plymouth town records.

At the State Pier in Plymouth is berthed a full-scale replica of the ship which brought 102 Pilgrims on a 66-day voyage in 1620. Mayflower II incorporates in her design everything known about the original Mayflower. She was designed by William A. Baker, built in Brixham, England, sailed across the Atlantic in 1957 with a crew of 33 men under the command of Captain Allan Villiers. This crossing took 53 days.

Submitted by,
Eugene E. Smith

BIRTHS

Sept. 1, through August 31, 1971

None reported.

MARRIAGES

Sept. 1, through August 31, 1971

None Reported.

DEATHS

Sept. 1, through August 31, 1971

Mr. William H. Smith, Baccaro, Nova Scotia — November 6, 1970.

Mrs. Fred Masterson, Center Conway, N. H. — July 25, 1971.

Mrs. Joseph Smith, Age 73, West Head, Nova Scotia —
May 17, 1971.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Captain Arthur McGray	1937 – 1946
Thomas Edison Smith	1947 – 1948
Angela B. Bemis	1949 – 1950
Milford Smith	1951 – 1954
Captain Delbert Wickens	1955 – 1957
Ruth G. Smith	1958 – 1960
Luther R. Smith	1961 – 1963
Ella T. Ferris	1963 – 1965
Russell L. Smith, Sr.	1965 – 1967
Madelyn C. Liberti	1967 – 1969
Romaine E. Kolesnikoff	1969 – 1971
June V. Colby	1972 –

President Emeritus

Ralph Nehemiah McGray 1970