

Published by the SOULE KINDRED, P. O. Box 259, S. Duxbury, Mass. 02374

## SOLE, SOOL OR SOO-LAY ?

BY GEORGE ERNEST BOWMAN \*

How did George Soule, the Mayflower Passenger, and his contemporaries, pronounce his name? Was it Sole, to rhyme with coal; or Sool, to rhyme with cool; or Soo-lay', with the accent on the last syllable?

In the fourth volume of this magazine, at page 98, will be found a photographic reproduction of the original will of John Barnes of Plymouth. This will was dated 6 March, 1667/8, and one of the witnesses was George Soule, "Senr". An examination of this reproduction, or of the original autograph signatures of the witnesses, will show that the surname was plainly spelled "Soule", and the addition of "Senr" proves that this witness was George<sup>1</sup> Soule of the Mayflower, not his son George<sup>2</sup>. There is not the slightest indication of any accent, to suggest that the word was French and pronounced Soo-lay', as claimed by a few descendants. The absence of an accent is merely negative evidence, but there is an abundance of positive evidence that the common pronunciation of this name, during the life-time of George<sup>1</sup> Soule of the Mayflower, and for many years after his death, made it rhyme with coal, hole, bowl, etc.

In studying old records we must constantly bear in mind that the recording officers frequently were men of little education, and that their spelling was often an expression of their idea of the sound of a name, rather than of their knowledge of its proper orthography. If, therefore, we find a name spelled in a number of different ways, each one of which can be pronounced to rhyme with coal, hole, bowl, etc., and, further, find that this pronunciation is the only one which can be used for one-third of the forms discovered, there can be no doubt about the common pronunciation of the name.

In sixteen years' study of the original records of Plymouth Colony and the counties and towns into which it was gradually subdivided, I have not found a single instance, prior to 1750, in which the spelling of the name Soule indicated any pronunciation which would not rhyme with coal. The date 1750, seventy years after the death of George<sup>1</sup> Soule of the Mayflower, is mentioned in order to be very conservative. The constantly widening territory in which male descendants of George<sup>1</sup> Soule were found made it impossible to examine every record and determine the date on which the pronunciation "Sool", to rhyme with cool, was adopted by some of the descendants.

An examination of the thousands of pages of original records which have already been literally printed in this magazine, and of a great many original records not to be found in print, has disclosed six ways of spelling this name: Soule, Soull, Soul, Sole, Soal, Sowle, all of which may be pronounced to rhyme with coal.

The earliest contemporary use of the name, in records relating to Plymouth Colony, is in the record of the Division of Cattle in 1623. It is there spelled Soule. [Ante, 1 : 228] Gov. Bradford, in his list of the Mayflower Passengers, written in 1651, uses the form Sowle, but in the same list writes: "about a hundred sows came over in this first ship" [Ante, 1 : 9, 11, 12], showing that he pronounced the surname as if it rhymed with coal; and the frequent occurrence on the original records of the forms Soul, Sole and Soal, with the numerous autograph signatures in the forms Soul and Sole, furnish conclusive evidence that for several generations the name Soule was pronounced to rhyme with coal, hole, etc.

## GIVEN NAMES

by Col. John Soule

One clue always noted by an experienced genealogist is the repetition of unusual given names within a family. A son is often named after his father, a grandson after his grandfather, and so on. Consequently, cousins are inclined to turn up with similar if not identical distinctive names. The same tradition is undoubtedly followed but becomes far less obvious when more common-place names appear.

Your family historian has a card index of members of the Soule-Sowle families filed alphabetically by given names; chronologically by birth date within the same given name. This scheme, with a geographical cross-index (for earlier generations only), facilitates identification and the combining of two or more tid-bits of information concerning the same person. As of 31 December 1966 there were an estimated (by bulk measurement of lineal drawer space used) about 7,500 such cards in our files. Most of these cards cover individuals born in 1850 or earlier as we have heretofore concentrated on straightening out and recording the early history of the family. Sometimes one card represents the entire history of one single individual; more frequently a man and his wife; even occasionally a man with his wife and children. Conversely, multiple cards turn up from time to time on the

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\* Editor's note: George Ernest Bowman was a member of the early New York Society of Mayflower Descendants, the founder and State No. 1 of the Massachusetts Society and a notably accurate and well informed authority on Mayflower family histories. We are inclined to accept anything he says as fully authentic and dependable. The article on this page first appeared in "The Mayflower Descendant," Vol. XIV, No. 3, p 129, 130, July 1912.

GIVEN NAMES - continued -

same individual - perhaps one on his birth, another on his marriage and possibly a third on his death - possibly one or more regarding military service or civic achievement if he was a man of prominence in the history of his community.

§ For those interested in the given name favored by our ancestors, we have made a rough estimate of the most frequently found cards of like names. To provide a basis for comparison, we have also counted the number of entries under the same given names found in the recently compiled index to Ridlon's "SOULE GENEALOGY." This tabulation purports to establish only the frequency of use of common given names and highlights the problems involved in identifying individuals with these most common names:

Given Names	Our Cards	Ridlon Index
John or Jack	380	369
Will, William or Willie	350	403
George	265	443
Charles	180	260
James	175	210
Maria, Marie, Mary or Polly	175	705
Joseph	150	169
Henry	148	147
Benjamin	145	150
Nathan or Nathaniel	120	142
Thomas or Tom	120	132
David	115	109
Sara, Sarah or Sally	115	491
Eliza, Elizabeth, Lizzie, Bess, Betty or Betsey	110	469
Isaac	105	77
Samuel	95	139
Jonathan	85	67
Abigail, Abbie or Abby	70	159
Frank, Franklin or Francis	70	149
Eben and Ebenezer	65	83
Robert	60	93
Lydia	60	89
Daniel	55	106
Jacob	55	56
Joshua or Josiah	50	106
Hiram	48	35

SOULES IN THE NEWS

ELIZABETH SOULE, Cambridge Scholar, is joining the English faculty of Fordham Univ. She will be with "a separate experimental college in which about 30 students a year will live and study for 3 years with a dozen faculty members and devise their own curriculum." TIME 1/20/67

Editor's note: We need YOUR help to make this column a success. If YOU know or read of any Soules (even those who have married into other names) in the News, please send us the article. Especially welcome is news of Graduations, Weddings, Births, etc.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

by Col. John Soule

- Q. What luck have you had in proving that WILLIAM SOULES (1766-1820) of Vigo County, Indiana, was in fact BILDAD<sup>6</sup> SOULE or SOULES who was born 17 Sept. 1766 in Massachusetts & served in the American Revolution?
- A. We think that the circumstantial evidence available has considerable weight and there is a strong possibility that this is really a valid line. Unfortunately, however, proof which would be acceptable to any of the patriotic-hereditary societies has not yet been found. We are still trying as opportunity presents.
- Q. We've been trying without success to trace a SOULE Revolutionary War soldier in my husband's Mayflower Society lineage. Do you have any data that might help?
- A. Yes, this is an easy one. JAMES<sup>6</sup> SOULE or SOWLE (1761-1821) enlisted 1 Sep 1779 and was discharged 21 Nov 1779; total service 2 months and 21 days. (See Massachusetts Soldiers & Sailors in the Revolution 14:647 and DAR no. 471,341).

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 Historian & Genealogist . . . .  
 Colonel John Edward Soule  
 Printer . . James D. Soule

THE SEARCH FOR SOULES

by Adelia Rosasco Soule

§ The warning bell sounded: five minutes to closing time. Where was John? Would he come for me? Should I try to find the exit alone? The lights blinked: two minutes to go. Patience straining, I waited. Then darkness. Genealogy be hanged---- I wanted OUT!

§ My memory guided me through two basement rooms to the stairs. The lights in the main part of the courthouse were still on. As I headed for the front door, John appeared breathless. "The old documents were so interesting that I stayed to the dark last."

§ My husband started this genealogical research thirty years ago when our son received a baby book with pages for ancestral notes, names and dates. An engineer, John never left a subject half done: he plumbed it in depth; his training taught him that. With the name of SOULE he had research within his grasp: in libraries, courthouses, census records, pension files, the National Archives and New England--- from Freeport, Maine via Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island to Dutchess County in New York where I just missed being locked in the basement for the night.

§ We've been "at it" these 30 years together. I could have chosen to be a "genealogical widow" and stayed home and done my own writing. That way I would have foregone the travel, the New England lobsters and the bits, here and there that have added spice, hilarity and human interest to some of my own material. Besides, we have made some wonderful friends and garnered a heap of kin. The name SOULE (however you spell it according to the many variants) is open sesame in New England as PILGRIM FATHERS is in England and Holland.

§ So questing we have been on the trail of this 35th signer of the Mayflower Compact and his many descendants. This search is at long last bearing fruit because after 30 years one ought to publish something! Granted the fact that John had gotten endless "sweet old ladies" in The D. A. R.; helped Americans from Iowa to Abingdon, Va. establish lines to "old George," and never taken a cent for research, time, travel, photographs, copies and so on, never-the-less, one has to accept the idea that research is NEVER DONE. A writer, historian or genealogist must start writing--- and later, adds on or corrects.

§ Where do I fit in this pursuit of SOULES? In many ways and more places. I've read tombstones in England, Ohio and Michigan. In the latter, I rubbed inscriptions to take back to our records when John was elsewhere. I've edited copy; deciphered old handwriting; helped interview gentle ladies (and entertained them in our home), curmudgeons and courthouse clerks. Rhode Island has the distinction of having a civil servant, gallussed and tobacco chewing, with the most gifted and extended sense of profanity encountered in our travel of two hemispheres.

§ For me personally, the most rewarding experience along the lines of John's forebearers occurred in Leyden, Holland in Old St. Peter's Kirk. My native curiosity led me to a pile of stacked wooden boxes--- all alike with holes in the top. Investigation showed the stack not to be boxes since one side was open. A few of these three-sided squares contained small earthen pots.

§ "What in Tunket are these?" I asked our tracer of ancestors. "Never saw such a thing before. You're glib of tongue; go ask the man in that office. He looks like a verger or some such."

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THE SEARCH FOR SOULES - continued from page 3

§ No verger, but the pastor, from whom I learned that the mound of open ended squares was a pile of charcoal foot-warmers.

§ "Since we are trying to install modern heating equipment. I am asking all parishoners to buy back one of the old warmers in use before the time of the Pilgrims when they spent a year with the Dutch and worshipped with us, before sailing from Delft Haven for England and eventually to New England in the Mayflower. "

§ The word Pilgrims brought John. "Have you a roster of the old church records, Sir?"

§ "Unfortunately, no. But, these warmers are authentic: of that I am sure."

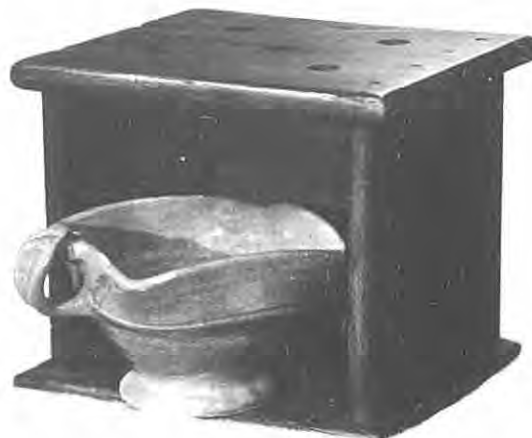
§ More interested in antiques than in ancestors, I spoke up: "Could we buy an old warmer? My husband is a descendant of one of the original Mayflower passengers. Has he the right to ownership?"

§ "I should think so. Let's find a good one--- with the earthen brazier still intact. The charcoal used to be divided into fourths. If the sermon lasted more than the hour, feet got cold, moved, made noise and told the preacher that he had outrun his time. "

§ With this briefing from the dominie, the transfer of three American dollars and John's name on the register, the warmer was ours. Well over the 100 year mark for the importation of antiques, I had only to figure out how to make room for the new acquisition in our streamlined air luggage. The gift of a pair of shoes and a bulky sweater to our hotel maid solved the problem.

§ Learning about the dedication of the SOULE house in Plymouth on September 12, 1966 by Horace Homer Soule, made me suggest to my genealogist mate that we should donate the warmer to the replica of the ancient home. The answer was a firm NO. The best I can do therefore, is to make available a picture of this venerable piece of pre-Americana via this newsletter and to offer to show it to

any SOULE who happens to be in the nation's capital on a visit. An extra cordial welcome will be extended to the subscribers of the quarterly, SOULE KINDRED. A telephone call to FEderal 3-3721, or a postcard to 1709 - 34th St. N. W. Washington, D. C. 20007 would be wise --- to insure our being in residence.



The old foot warmer with the terra-cotta brazier pulled slightly to the front to show the four corners. The oaken top of the stool literally "worn by the steps of time." Notice pegged construction.

NEEDED- A Soule in the Duxbury, Mass. area to help with the mailing. You can be a valuable asset to the Newsletter, even if you can only help part time.

NOTICE-- Copies of Vol. No. 1 are presently in very short supply. For this reason, we are now only sending them to Kindred who specifically request them.

CALENDAR REVISIONS - "Old Style" and "New Style"

§ The ancient Church Calendar was founded on certain erroneous assumptions concerning the length of solar and lunar cycles. This resulted in a steadily increasing displacement between the calendar and the seasons. Pope Gregory XIII issued a brief in March 1582 abolishing the use of the ancient calendar and substituting the "Gregorian Calendar" or "New Style" which is now the standard of the western world. Due perhaps to resistance to acceptance of anything instituted by a Roman Pope, England and her American Colonies did not adopt the "new style" calendar until 1752. In that year, the day following the 2nd of September was to be recorded as the 14th. There was widespread opposition even at that late date, the principal hue and cry being that people were "being robbed unfairly of eleven days of their lives." Under the "Old Style," the year began on 25 March making March the first month, April the second, and so on to December the tenth month and February the twelfth. Early American records, perhaps in grudging acknowledgement of impending changes, usually give both the old and new year for dates between 1 January and 25 March, i. e. 15 February 1725/26. To convert old style into new style, the month (if given in numbers) should first be adjusted as indicated above, then add ten days to all dates in 1582 to 1599 inclusive, eleven days to dates in the year 1600, ten days in 1601 to 1699, then eleven days again from 1700 to 2 Sep 1752 inclusive. Of course, since 14 September 1752 all dates are supposed to be "new style." Official records shortly before the change-over are frequently annotated O. S. or o. s. and for a brief period afterwards as N. S. or n. s.

§ Many, but by no means all, genealogical writers have meticulously (sometimes erroneously) converted any old style dates coming to their attention to new style without annotation their works to indicate what has been done. Our policy is not to struggle but to record dates as we find them knowing that any date in the last half of September 1752 or later is automatically "new style"; prior dates may be either, and we rarely know when a death recorded at age so many years, months and days takes into consideration the ten or eleven days "stolen by Pope Gregory". Incidentally, those days are usually claimed!

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THE SECOND MAYFLOWER PILGRIMAGE

by George Soule

§ Members of the Mayflower Society made a trip together to Europe on June 21st, 1965. This was the second time such a group was organized. Besides places of pilgrim history, the group visited Rome, Vienna, Munich, Luzerne, and Paris. Retraveling the pilgrim trail, we went to Amsterdam and Leyden. At Leyden, we visited John Robinson's Church, Old St. Peter's (see "THE SEARCH FOR SOULES" on pages 9 & 10, this newsletter) and the courtyard of the house where he lived! Mr. Raymound Hughes conducted a very nice service before the John Robinson plaque, which is on the outside of the church wall.

§ Next, we experienced one of the highlights of the trip. Her Majesty, Juliana, Queen of the Netherlands, invited us to her palace, Soestdijk, for an informal garden party and tea. Her Majesty was most kind, taking a few minutes to chat and shake hands with each member of the group.

§ In England, we first toured London, then went up to "Pilgrim Country" and Boston. In Boston, England, we were lavishly entertained by the Lord Mayor, Mayoress and Town Counsel at a wonderful buffet luncheon. All the city officials were dressed for the occasion in their formal robes, wigs, decorations, etc. The Mayoress had as many golden chains and jewels of office as the Mayor! The Lord Mayor addressed us with a short talk on our common ancestors.

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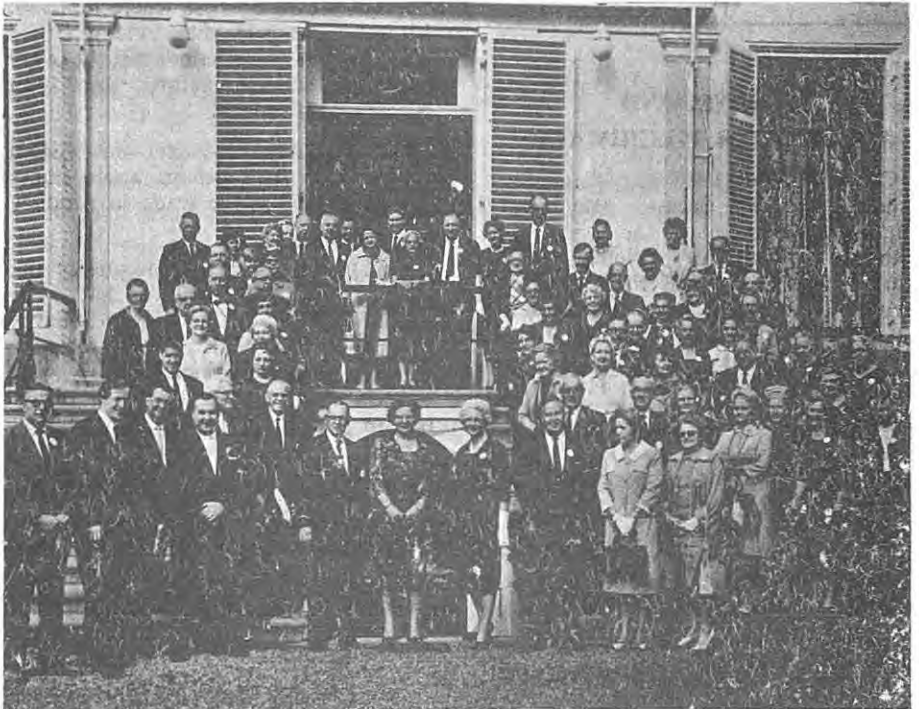
THE SECOND MAYFLOWER PILGRIMAGE - continued from page 11

§ After luncheon, we visited the jail where several members of the Pilgrim group were imprisoned. The same cells still exist today, although they are no longer used for prisoners. I remember several ladies of the group were overthrilled to go and sit where (they thought) their Mayflower ancestor had been, even if it was just a brick bench in a jail cell! (I did wonder if George had ever been there, but that is a topic for some future article.) We also visited the memorial just outside Boston, dedicated by Former Mayflower Gov. General Allen, where the Pilgrims had been stopped in their first attempt to leave for Holland.

§ From here, we went to Babworth where we were met by the Reverend Edmund Jessup. He showed us his church, told us of the extensive records going back almost 360 years. We also saw a Silver Chalice dating back to 1593.

§ At Scrooby, we were met by the Reverend Billie James who took us through his church and the Brewster Cottage.

§ At Austerfield, the Rev. N. F. H. White showed us his church. We also visited the Bradford Manor House where William Bradford was born. It is still a private residence and the family living there was most kind to show our entire group through their home. Although some modern improvements had been made to the house to keep up with the times (ie: plumbing and a kitchen) the old details and construction still were there to see.



1965 PILGRIMAGE in AMSTERDAM  
at Reception given by Queen Juliana

She is at the center with Gov. Gen. Gray at left  
and Mrs. Gray at right.

THE THIRD MAYFLOWER PILGRIMAGE/TOUR is planned for July 20th, 1967. It is scheduled to leave from New York and will last 21 days. First landing will probably be Prestwick, Scotland and from there to Edinburgh. Thence on to the Pilgrim country for a glimpse of places where our ancestors were. Also slated for this tour is a cruise to the Land of the Midnight Sun & Norway with a trip up the Sognefjord. From Oslo, the group will go to Stockholm, Sweden, and then København ("Wonderful Copenhagen") Denmark. A rhine Steamer has also been chartered for a trip on that scenic river, and stops are scheduled at Weisbaden, Heidelberg and the Black Forest. The cost of this tour is 995. dollars. We are not sure how many spaces are still available, but any Kindred interested should contact immediately by phone or airmail:

Mr. Tilbee Drummond Gray II  
901 N.W. 14th Court  
Miami, Florida 33125

## SOULE REUNIONS

§ Reunions have always been interesting affairs, and this is especially true of one branch of our family. Descendants of George<sup>7</sup> Nelson Soule and Sarah Elizabeth (Brewer) Soule have had four reunions. (See pictures, pages 14, 15 ) In 1949, there were 164 living blood relatives of George & Sarah Soule. By now there are probably over 200. The following is a report of the 1949 Reunion by William Ellsworth Soule:\*

GEORGE NELSON SOULE (*Seventh Generation*)

George Nelson, the youngest child of Benjamin and Eunice (Frost) Soule, was born in Freeport, Maine, March 12, 1820. In his early maturity he followed the sea, as did many others in various branches of our family, sailing from Freeport. Married Sarah Elizabeth Brewer (born May 28, 1819). After retiring from sea-faring life, he moved to Yarmouth where he worked for some years in the shipyards on the Royall River.

At that time he lived in the old Soule homestead on the so-called "Old North Road." Later he acquired a sizeable farm in "District Number Nine," the house now having an 83 Main Street address. He evinced an intense interest in the affairs of the town and was prominent in the administration of its laws. Worthy of note is the fact that he was especially devoted to his family; highly respected as an industrious citizen and a man of sterling integrity. His family comprised 11 children, as follows: George, Alfred, Nelson, William, Allura, Harriet, Eunice, Sanford, Wallace, Phoebe and Edwin. He died December 21, 1883. His wife, Sarah, died May 2, 1896.

## THE SOULE REUNION

Our Fourth Reunion was held at East Bridgewater, Mass., in the building and on the grounds of the A. R. Parker Co. on Saturday, September 10, 1949. This was the scene of our Third Reunion on August 15, 1936, our first and second being held in Yarmouth, Maine, in 1902 and 1916 respectively.

In all 117 members of our family attended. And what a distinct success it was! Perfect weather, a joyous meeting all around, many of whom we had not seen since the last Reunion. Others were welcomed who had annexed themselves to the Soule family through marriage while the "kids", (God bless them) were in abundance, shall I say in accordance with tradition? A panoramic group picture of the Soule clan was another highlight of the affair.

After luncheon the boys formed two scrub teams and played baseball. After the melee had ended, your inquiring reporter learned that the Hardscrabbles had won over the Pawtucket Tigers by a score of 29 to 21. It was a pitcher's duel all the way!

Then everybody went inside the hall and a general meeting was held with Henry M. Soule, Chairman of the Reunion Committee, presiding. There was some speaking; an outline of the plans for the Soule genealogy by William E. Soule and group singing, led by Rev. Jerome J. Hevey, Jr., at the piano and Larry Soule, Sr., performing on the mouth organ. [Loud applause.] Then followed a special rendition of popular airs by the original quintet of 1902, in bowler hats and moustaches, as shown in the picture on the opposite page. Harmony? After 47 years it was not only remarkable but terrific.

The final number was by C. Livingston Peck of Providence (not one of the Soules) whose songs and imitations were excellent and very enthusiastically received. Dinner at the restaurant, including one of Mr. Parker's lobster stews (*par excellence*) was enjoyed by many of the group, after which the members headed for home. It is the consensus of opinion of those who attended that it was the best Reunion that we ever have had.

COUSIN BILL.



GEORGE NELSON SOULE  
1820-1883

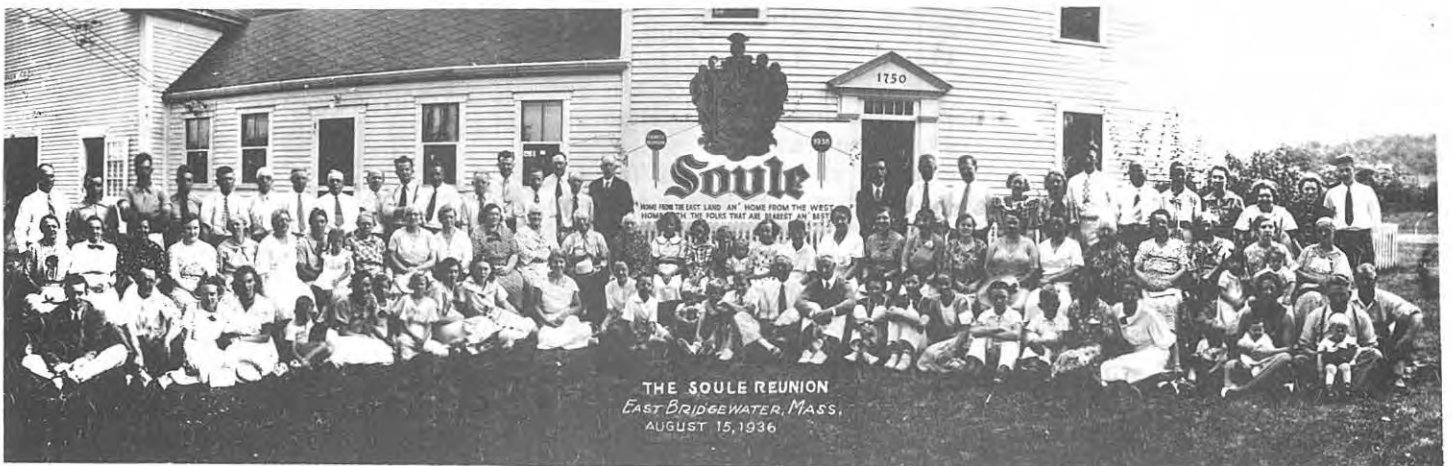


SARAH ELIZABETH (BREWER) SOULE  
1819-1896

\* William E. Soule died in 1953, age 77. Mr. Soule was born in Yarmouth, Maine and went to school in Newton. He was elected in 1923 to worshipful master of Aberdour Masonic Lodge, A. F. & A. M. He was also a member of the St. Bernard Commandery, the Aleppo Temple, Society of Colonial Wars, the Hour Glass Club of Boston and the Globe Quarter Century Club.



1916 SOULE REUNION, Yarmouth, Maine

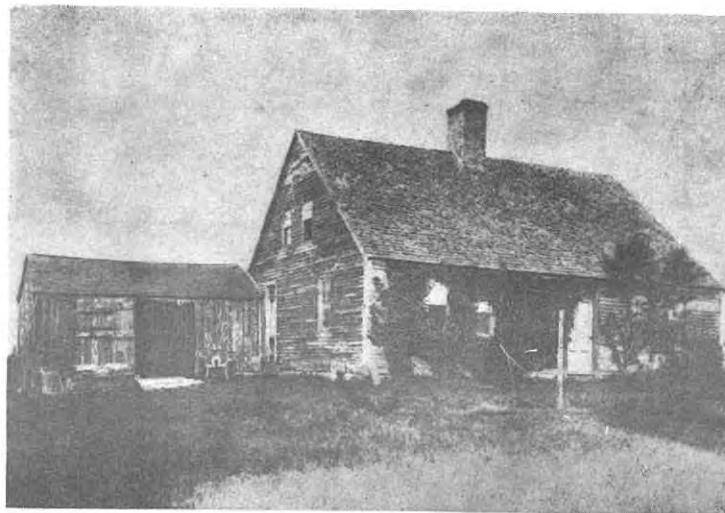




CHILDREN OF GEORGE NELSON AND SARAH ELIZABETH SOULE



Reading from left to right: Back row — WALLACE, SANFORD, WILLIAM, NELSON, SCOTT AND GEORGE. Seated — PHOEBE, EUNICE AND HARRIETT.



THE OLD HOMESTEAD  
YARMOUTH, MAINE

ORIGINAL QUINTET OF 1902 SINGS AGAIN  
AT REUNION IN 1949!

THIS IS THE ORIGINAL QUINTET OF 1902



1902 SOULE REUNION QUINTET + 1  
1902 REUNION QUINTET + 1



Reading from left to right: WILLIAM E. SOULE; FORREST R. MITCHELL; ERNEST H. SOULE; LAWRENCE C. SOULE AND HENRY M. SOULE.



1902 SOULE REUNION  
Yarmouth, Maine



1902 SOULE REUNION  
Yarmouth, Maine

LETTERS FROM THE KINDRED by George Soule

§ First, I must appologize that we have not been able to answer every one of the many letters sent in, personally. The response to the first Newsletter has been very good, and we hope that information and new members keep comming in.

§ Papers for the Mayflower Society will be gotten out as time permits, and perhaps in a future issue, we can tell you where to send your local application in each state. A special thanks to those of you who have helped financially. A full account of Kindred funds will be in the 4th Newsletter. A few comments from the many letters we have received I include below:

"brother Frank Soule was collector of Customs and Internal Revenue in San Francisco, California in the 1860 s. I have two letters written by him & sent to Maine in 1871; he attempted to collect 36.00 dollars income tax from Samual Clemons "Mark Twain." In the Book "Mark Twain's San Francisco" Twain refers to this episode, and of course makes fun of it."..... Charles H. Soule

"Although I have reservations (from the historian's point of view) about "ancestor worship," I should like to know more about the Soule family and its history... William H. Soule. Note: Do not worry about "ancestor worship", for this Newsletter is a hobby, and unlike professional genealogists that cover up or "forget" some facts, we let the cards fall where they will, and thus in the future you may read in the Newsletter about some famous horsethief of ours, or about such colorful past members of the clan as one old Soule that one particular town gave a house to... that they had built out by the city limits... because he never took a bath!

Mrs. B. Linn Soule writes: "The "Plimoth Plantation" was written up in the third grade "Weekly Reader" - making a one day hero of my son." note: We are most happy that the youngsters also benefit from the Soule Kindred. There will be some slides & other materials available soon for loan. Information will be given in a later Newsletter on filmstrips for purchase.

"...for George Soule's HOUSE (Replica)...do you want antiques from Soule named or Soule blooded people?"... June Peavey Diebel NOTE: The Soule Kindred is NOT OFFICIALLY at this time collecting items for the Soule House Replica. IF however, some kind Soule wants to get envolved or to donate something, we will be glad to pass along the information to the authority that is in charge of the George Soule House Replica at Plimoth Plantation.

"... I seem to be a shirt tail relative, leaving "Soule" in the 5th Generation for "Fullers." .... Mrs. J. Ardin Fox Note: Kindred are Kindred and no Soule would deny heritage just because a Soule girl "decided to change her name!"

"I think it is an excellent paper, full of information that will have a great deal of appeal to the family and significance for our children. My only claim to fame is to have married into such an illustrious family!"... Jerome J. Hevey, Jr.

(We have just appointed Mr. Hevey the public relations manager!)

"I also hope that it will be possible to update the records as (Ridlon) published in the two volumes."... Mrs. Fred N. Thompson

Naomi Jarke writes that: "I have in my possession... a print of the painting of the George Soule house which he built in Duxbury." Note: Does anyone know where the painting is? We hope to check this out and share with our Kindred any valuable historical finds.

§ We have received many, many letters of congratulations and I wish to thank these people for their encouragement. Soule Kindred have written in from all corners of the USA (yes, even Alaska and Hawaii), Canada and even South America where one good SOULE is with project HOPE. We seem to have Soules in all branches of the Services and of every rank from private to Major General. (Indeed I believe that we could form our own small army!) Soules also seem to be engaged in every business and profession. There are enough Attornies for a law firm, enough Engineers for a Construction Company (and indeed there is a Soule Construction Company in Florida). There are enough Doctors for a small clinic, and I do not want to leave out the original profession of those early Soules, farming, for I believe that the Soules still produce enough food to feed more than our number. It seems almost impossible that 340 years ago George & Mary could have started a group so large!

ZACHARIAH, BENJAMIN, AND EBENEZER SOULE TO GEORGE SAMSON

Reproduction of the Original Bond, dated 6 July 1731

Know all men by these presents that we Zachariah Soule, Benjamin Soule and Ebenezer Soule all of the Town of Plimton in the County of Plimouth in New England are holden and stand firmly bound and obliged unto George Samson Jur of the Town of Plimton aforesaid in the full and just sum of Thirty Pounds in currant Lawfull money of New England To be paid unto the said George Samson his certain Attorney heirs Executors administrators or assigns To the which payment well and truly to be made we bind our selves our heirs Executors and administrators firmly by these presents sealed with our seals: Dated the Sixth day of July - one thousand seven hundred Thirty and one

The condition of this present obligation is such <sup>that reference</sup> the abovesaid Zachariah Soule, Benjamin Soule, and Ebenezer Soule, with George Samson and Hannah his wife: being proprietors and owners of a certain parcel of land and Swamps lying and being on the neck called the Post Tree neck and thereabouts in the Township of Plimton aforesaid: And they having made a division of the same into ten lots: as may appear by a writing of agreement under their hands and seals bearing date with these presents: and the ninth lot in number of said lots fell by lot unto the abovesaid George Samson and Hannah his wife and which said lot lyeth butting on the brook called Coldwater brook and said brook parting into two streams making an Island between the two brooks: and we supposing the southerly part of said brook to be the main brook: and that said Island doth belong unto said ninth lot: but their being others who claim said Island as supposing the northerly part of said brook is the main brook: That therefore if any other claimor shall dispossess the said George Samson and Hannah his wife or their heirs or assigns by a due course of law and recover said Island from them and the abovesaid Ebenezer Soule, Benjamin Soule, and Ebenezer Soule or their heirs Executors or administrators or any of them shall well and truly pay unto the abovesaid George Samson the value of four fifth parts of said Island or his heirs or assigns: the Value of four fifth parts of the said Island between the said brooks together with four fifth parts of the said Island in law occasions hereby if any be: that is to say the said Zachariah Soule to pay the one half of said four fifths: and the said Benjamin Soule to pay the one quarter of said four fifths: and the said Ebenezer Soule to pay the one quarter of said four fifths: that when the abovesaid written obligation shall be null and void and of no effect also the same to stand and remain in full force effect and Virtue signed sealed and Delivered in the presence of us

Joseph Lucas  
Jacob Tomson

Zachariah Soule

Benjamin Soule

Ebenezer Soule

# THE MAYFLOWER DESCENDANT

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OCTOBER, 1913

No. 4

## ZACHARIAH, BENJAMIN AND EBENEZER SOULE TO GEORGE SAMSON

BY THE EDITOR

THE illustration facing this page is a reproduction of an original bond now in the collection of old documents owned by the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. This bond was given by Zachariah<sup>4</sup> Soule, Benjamin<sup>4</sup> Soule and Ebenezer<sup>4</sup> Soule, all of Plympton, Mass., to George Samson, Jr., of Plympton, the husband of their sister Hannah<sup>4</sup> Soule, in connection with the division of the real estate of their deceased father, Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Soule (*John<sup>2</sup>, George<sup>1</sup>*) of Plympton. The mother of Zachariah<sup>4</sup>, Benjamin<sup>4</sup>, Ebenezer<sup>4</sup> and Hannah<sup>4</sup> Soule was Sarah<sup>3</sup> Standish, who was the daughter of Alexander<sup>2</sup> Standish (*Myles<sup>1</sup>*) by his first wife, Sarah<sup>3</sup> Alden (*John<sup>1</sup>*).

This bond is in the handwriting of Jacob Tomson<sup>4</sup> (*Jacob<sup>3</sup>, Mary<sup>2</sup> Cooke, Francis<sup>1</sup>*), the second witness, who was town clerk of Middleborough, Mass., for many years.

The bond is endorsed on the back "Souls Bond to George : Samson" A careful transcript of the bond follows :

### "SOULS BOND TO GEORGE : SAMSON"

Know all men by these presents that we Zechariah Soul Benjamin Soul and Ebenezer Soul all of the Town of Plimton In the County of Plimouth in new England are Holden and Stand Firmly bound and oblidged unto George Samson Jun<sup>r</sup> of the Town of Plimton aforesaid In the Full and Just Sum of

Thirty Pounds In currant Lawfull money of new England To be paid unto the Said George Samson his certain Attorney heirs Executors administreters or assigns : To the which payment well and truly to be made we bind our Selves our heirs Executors and administraters Firmly by these presents Sealed with our Seals : Dated the Sixth day of July one thousand Seven hundred Thirty and one

The condition of this present obligation is such that whereas the abovenamed Zechariah Soul : Benjamin Soul : and Ebenezer Soul : with George Samson and Hannah his wife : being proprietors and owners of a certain percel of land and Swamps lying and being on the neck called the Bee Tree neck and thereabouts In the Township of Plimton aforesaid : And they having made a division of the Same into ten lots : as may appear by a writting of agreement under their hands and seals bearing Even date with these presents : and the ninth lot in number of said lots Fell by lot unto the abovenamed George Samson and Hannah his wife which Said lot lyeth butting on the brook called colchester brook and Said brook parting into two Streams making an Island between the two brooks : and we Supposing the Southerly part of Said brook to be the main brook : and that Said Island doth belong unto Said ninth lot : but their being others who claim Said Island as Supposing the northerly part of Said brook is the main brook : That therefore if any other claimer Shall Dispossess the Said George Samson and hannah his wife or their heirs or assigns by a due course of law and Recover Said Island from them and the above bounden Zechariah Soul Benjamin Soul : and Ebenezer Soul or their heirs Executors or administraters or any of them Shall well and truly pay unto the above named George Samson or his heirs or assigns : the Value of Four Fifth parts of the Said Island between the Said brooks together with Four Fifth parts of the cost of a Suit in law occasioned thereby if any be (that is to Say) the Said Zechariah Soul to pay the one half of Sd Four Fifths : and the Said Benjamin Soul to pay the one Quarter of Said Four Fifths : and the Said Ebenezer Soul to pay the one Quarter of Said Four Fifths : that then the above written obligation Shall be null and Void and of no Effect Else the Same to Stand and Remain In Full Force Effect and Virtue

Signed Sealed and Delivered  
In the presence of us  
Joseph Lucas  
Jacob Tomson

Zachariah Soule\*  
Benjamin Soule  
Ebenezer Soule

\* The seals appear to have been affixed before the bond was signed, as the last letter of Zachariah Soule's autograph was written on the wax.

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY

PART I - WHO WAS WHO

Compiled in 1967 by Colonel John Soule

§ We have included every member of the family who has ever appeared in "WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA" and is now deceased. Those still living will be included in Part II - WHO IS WHO, scheduled for our July issue. Many members of the family who have not appeared in "Who's Who" have also been included because, in our opinion, either their contribution to the family or to society warrant such recognition. Consideration has been given to such factors as the prominence certain men and women would have achieved from the broad press coverage of today in relation to relative population of their era. We fear that the list may not be complete and will welcome candidates for supplementary listing. We also will appreciate nominations for inclusion in Part II of those members of the family still living who can be considered qualified. Our listing is chronological by birth and indicates the generation from George Soule of the Mayflower if known. Of course, many are included who are not from that branch if otherwise qualified. Here they were:

GEORGE<sup>1</sup> SOULE (ca1597-1680) of England and Plymouth Colony; Mayflower passenger and influential leader of Plymouth Colony.

ZACHARIAH<sup>2</sup> SOULE (ca1624/26-1663) of Plymouth Colony; first member of the family born in America and first casualty in a military expedition.

BENJAMIN<sup>2</sup> SOULE (ca1641-1676) of Plymouth Colony; first member of the family in America known to be killed in action - in King Philips War.

JAMES<sup>3</sup> SOULE (1659-1744) of Plymouth and Massachusetts colonies; first known draft dodger having been impressed 2 Apr 1690 "for services of their majesties at Canada" and having refused to serve was sentenced 9 Oct 1690 by Council of War at Plymouth to fine and imprisonment.

ISAAC<sup>5</sup> SOULE (1732-1808) of Massachusetts; soldier of the American Revolution and a rugged individualist voting "Nay" to ratification by Massachusetts of the Federal Constitution at Boston Convention 9 Jan - 5 Feb 1788.

PETER SOLES (ca 1740-1820) of Maryland and Pennsylvania; farmer, horse trader and promulgator of a large family centered in the McKeesport, Pennsylvania area and westward. Over twenty of his descendants served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

WILLIAM SOULES (1766-1820) of New York and Indiana; a hardy pioneer - one of the first to settle in what is now Vigo County, Indiana, and the progenitor of a host of descendants. He was possibly, but by no means certainly, one BILDAD SOULE or SOULES born Pembroke, Mass. on 17 Sep 1766.

JOSHUA<sup>6</sup> SOULE (1781-1867) of Maine, Ohio and Tennessee; clergyman, founder and long-time presiding bishop of Methodist Episcopal Church, South. His name is honored throughout the southern states. Soule University (now South-Western University at Georgetown, Texas), many Soule chapels and Soule cemeteries in the south were named after him.

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY - PART I - WHO WAS WHO - Contd.

RUFUS<sup>6</sup> SOULE (1785-1867) of Maine; builder of 85 wooden clipper ships which sailed the Seven Seas during the period of American supremacy in that type of vessel.

NATHAN<sup>7</sup> SOULE (1790-1860) of New York; soldier (sergeant War of 1812), U.S. Congressman (22nd Congress 1831-1833) and member New York State Assembly (1837).

GIDEON LANE<sup>7</sup> SOULE (1796-1879) of Maine and New Hampshire; linguist and educator, reputedly "one of the best known and most successful schoolmasters that America ever produced" at the Phillips Exeter Academy over sixty years as student, instructor, professor, principal and principal emeritus.

PIERRE SOULÉ (1801-1870) of France and Louisiana; Lawyer, orator, financier and man of affairs, U.S. Senator (1847-1853), diplomat (Ambassador to Spain (1847-1853), hot-headed expansionist and fomentor of revolutions (Cuba and Nicaragua) and brigadier general in the Confederate Army.

Dr. JOSHUA<sup>7</sup> SOULE (1805-1853) of Maine, Ohio and Indiana; medical practitioner and early birth control advocate and authority, author "Science of Reproduction and Reproductive Control".

CHARLES<sup>7</sup> SOULE (1809-1869) of Maine, Ohio, Missouri, New York and New Jersey; talented and widely recognized itinerant artist.

FRANK<sup>7</sup> SOULE (1810-1882) but more properly BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SOULE of Maine, Mississippi, Louisiana and California (with the 1849 Gold Rush); historian, author and publisher.

RICHARD<sup>7</sup> SOULE (1812-1877) of Massachusetts and Missouri; lexicographer and author particularly noted for "A Dictionary of English Synonyms and Synonymous Expressions" repeatedly republished (latest edition Boston 1959).

HENRY BIRDSALL<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1815-1852) of New York; Universalist minister.

ENOS CHANDLER<sup>7</sup> SOULE (1820-1894) of Maine; early genealogist of the Soule family and author (jointly with Charles Edward Banks 1854- ) of "The Soule Family of North Yarmouth and Freeport, Maine" published Yarmouth, Me., in 1882.

GEORGE<sup>7</sup> SOULE (1823-1867) of Connecticut; Civil War chaplain and Congregational clergyman.

ASA TITUS<sup>7</sup> SOULE (1824-1890) of New York and Kansas; flamboyant business entrepreneur and world-wide promotor of sports events to publicize "Hop Bitter, the Invalids Best Friend & Hope" (40% alcohol) widely used by aging teetotalers. His legendary exploits were chronicled by Samuel Hopkins Adams who labeled him "the patent medicine king" in a book entitled Grandfather Stories; also in New Yorker magazine 23 Aug 1952.

CAROLINE AUGUSTA (White) SOULE (1824-1903), widow of Rev. HENRY BIRDSALL<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1815-1852), of New York and Scotland; author and Universalist minister.

FREDERICK A. SOULE ( ? -1894) of ? ; geographer and author, Methodist minister.

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY - PART I - WHO WAS WHO - Contd.

AUGUSTUS LORD<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1827-1887) of New Hampshire and Massachusetts; lawyer and jurist (Massachusetts Supreme Court).

HORACE HOMER<sup>7</sup> SOULE (1827-1908) of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania; well to-do importer and cotton dealer and author (under pseudonym "Seneca") of "Canoe and Camp Cooking" and "Hints and Points for Sportsmen"; retired in 1880 when insurance companies failed following the great Boston fire of Nov 1872.

HOWARD SOULE (1829-1924) of New York; skillful Civil Engineer with broad experience in railroad and canal construction and developer of Syracuse's water supply.

SAMUEL WILLARD SOULE (1830-1875) of New York, Wisconsin and Vermont; linguist, inventor and patentee of the prototype of the modern typewriter now on display in the Smithsonian Institution.

EDWARD ADAMS<sup>8</sup> SOWLES (1831-1905) of Vermont; lawyer, state senator, historian, orator and author.

HARRISON<sup>9</sup> SOULE (1832-1922) of New York and Michigan; captain and major Union Army, long-time (1870-1907) Treasurer of the University of Michigan.

GEORGE<sup>9</sup> SOULÉ (1834-1926) of New York, Illinois and Louisiana; author, mathematician, educator (college president) and lecturer, socialite and Confederate Army officer (lieutenant colonel),

WILLIAM STIMSON<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1836-1908) of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Kansas, New Jersey and Vermont; early photographer with recently recognized (pp41-43 of LIFE Magazine for 23 Dec 1966) technical competence and artistic skill.

WILLIAM H.<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1837- ? ) of Maine and California; hardware merchant and civic leader.

JOHN H. SOULE (ca1840- ) of District of Columbia; author and publisher of "The Pocket Guide to Washington" and "The United States Blue Book".

SILAS STILLMAN<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1838-1865) of Maine and Colorado; captain in Union Army murdered while performing duty as Provost Marshal of Denver, hero of an historic novel (The Great Betrayal by Dorothy Gardiner) and periodic subject of magazine and Sunday supplement authors discovering a new theory of the alleged sinister plot in the murder.

CHARLES CARROLL<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1842-1913) of Massachusetts; Union Army officer, merchant, publisher (Boston Book Company), author and early active member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

FRANK<sup>8</sup> SOULÉ, Jr. (1845-1913) of Mississippi and California; West Pointer (Class of 1866) resigning in 1870 to become Assistant Professor of Mathematics, later also of Astronomy, Professor of Civil Engineering and Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of California; also widely known technical consultant on civil engineering matters.

SIDNEY HOWARD<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1849-19 ? ) of Maine and Minnesota; advertiser and merchandiser as well as author of Rand-McNally's "Guides to the Great Northwest" (1903, 1909).



PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY - PART I - WHO WAS WHO - Contd.

CHARLES PARSONS<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1851-1922) of Maine, Nevada and California; banker and civic enterpriser.

CAROLINE GRAY<sup>9</sup> SOULE (1855-1920) of Massachusetts; entomologist, ornithologist and author.

MINNIE (Meserve) SOULE, wife of CHARLES LOREN<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1856-19 ?) of Massachusetts and New York; noted medium and deliverer of spirit messages.

ANNAH MAY<sup>10</sup> SOULE (1859-1905) of Michigan; professor of American History and political economy and noted authority on Michigan state boundary lines.

SHERROD<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1860-1951) of Connecticut; Congregationalist minister and author.

ELLA FRANCES (Haskell) SOULE, wife of FRANK WALDO<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1861-1904) of Massachusetts; author of childrens books.

JUSTUS FREELAND<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1862-1939) of Massachusetts and Wyoming; distinguished member of the faculty of the University of Wyoming for over fifty years as professor of Greek and Latin, football coach, librarian, Secretary of the Faculty, first Dean of Men, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Vicepresident of the University.

BERTHA LOUISE<sup>9</sup> SOULE (1863-1956) of Maine; last surviving and outstanding alumnus of Colby College Class of 1885, Latin teacher and author of Latin textbooks, biographies of Colby College faculty members and works of poetry.

MORGAN LOUIS SOULS (1864-1901) of South Carolina; successful businessman, sawmill operator and general merchandiser.

HORACE HOMER<sup>8</sup> SOULE (1864-1920) of Massachusetts; senior partner of prominent Boston insurance firm of Elmer A. Lord & Co., very active and an officer for years in Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants and New England Historic Genealogical Society.

THOMAS H. SOULE (1868-19 ?) of Idaho; architect.

ANDREW MacNAIRN<sup>10</sup> SOULE (1872-1934) of Ontario, Virginia and Georgia; distinguished agriculturalist, author and educator (president Georgia College State College of Agriculture & Mechanical Arts).

WILLIAM ELLSWORTH<sup>9</sup> SOULE (1875-1953) of Maine and Massachusetts; newspaper and advertising man, financial writer and a SOULE family historian.

FAYETTE FLETCHER<sup>9</sup> SOULE (1877-1946) of Michigan, Illinois and Florida; designer and builder of movable bridges throughout North America and Europe and of 10,000 - ton cargo ships during World War I.

JULIEN ELIZABETH<sup>9</sup> SOULE (1879-19 ?) of Florida; educator and author.

CHARLES CARROLL<sup>9</sup> SOULE, Jr. (1883-1943) of Massachusetts; U. S. Naval Officer and author of revised edition "The Blue Jackets Manual" (GPO-1922), "Naval Terms & Definitions," (D. Van Nostrand Co. Inc., 1923), and "International Law for Naval Officers" (editions of 1928 and 1936).

PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY - PART I - WHO WAS WHO - Contd.

WINSOR<sup>9</sup> SOULE (1883-1954) of New York, Massachusetts and California; much married architect and author (in 1923) of "Spanish Farmhouses and Minor Public Buildings".

MALCOLM HERMAN<sup>9</sup> SOULE (1896-1951) of New York and Michigan; distinguished bacteriologist, author and educator.

ROBERT HOMER<sup>9</sup> SOULE (1900-1952) of Wyoming; senior (major general) and much decorated U. S. Army Officer and "old Far East hand" (AEF Siberia and Philippines 1918-22, Chinese language student Peking 1929-33, airborne infantryman under MacArthur in Pacific 1943-45, commander of Japanese occupation at Sendai 1945-46, Military Attache to China at Nanking 1946-50, infantry commander in Korea 1951).

HENRI REMY SOULE<sup>9</sup> (1903-1966) of France and New York; widely praised and honored French restaurateur of New York City.

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HISTORY OF GEORGE SOULE and his DESCENDANTS

§ Attached to this issue is the first installment of the History of George Soule and his descendants. In it is some information of the original land grant. Perhaps some of you have visited Duxbury and have seen the Alden House (owned by the Alden Kindred) and the Standish house, which is still lived in by a descendant. (The Alden house is open in the summer to the public - see it if you can.) We hope to be able to tell you something also about George Soule's house in Duxbury in a later newsletter. The houses now left standing were probably built by first generation sons, but thought to be lived in by the retired John Alden, and Miles Standish. There is some evidence that materials in these houses came from yet earlier homes.

§ Also to be presented later will be a copy of the famous "Fish" map, which shows the old Soule land area.

§ We have heard of a half dozen articles, still existing, which are claimed to have belonged to the first George Soule. We hope too, to be able to explore these fascinating topics.

AN OLD SOULE HOUSE.....

§ An old Soule House still stands on the original land of the first George Soule. We hope to be able to include in the next newsletter an article about this house which incidently is presently for sale. To our knowledge, it has been in the Soule family continuously. We have asked Mr. Donald Walker of Duxbury to acquire a full history about it for us.

§ We wish to point out that there has been started in THE MAYFLOWER QUARTERLY, a series of articles on historic houses built between 1620 and 1720. The first article appeared in the February 1967 Quarterly, and was about the Isaac Champlin Wilbour House and the Dessie Gray House. Extra copies of the Mayflower Quarterly are available from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Plymouth, Mass. at 25 cents each.

# George Soule of the Mayflower and his Descendants

By Colonel John Soule

1. GEORGE SOULE, the 1620 Pilgrim, was born in England, possibly in Eckington, County of Worcestershire. Dr. Charles Edward Banks, the late noted authority on the subject says (p80 "English Ancestry and Homes of the Pilgrim Fathers" 1929) he is "tentatively identified as the son of John Soule of Eckington, Worcester, and probably kinsman to Robert Soule, a wealthy London salter, who died in 1590 a native of Eckington". Various authors have placed the date of his birth between 1590 and 1600 - let's say circa 1597. We are reasonably certain as this is written (March 1967) that no record has actually been found confirming either date or place (see COMMENTARY following this biographical sketch). We do know that George Soule died at Duxbury, Plymouth County, Massachusetts probably in January 1680 (new style- as the inventory of his estate was taken 22 Jan 1679 (old style) or 1 Feb 1680 (new style). (See appended excerpts from THE MAYFLOWER DESCENDANT 2:81-84). According to Banks "the name of Mary Bucket (undoubtedly a variant of Beckett) the wife of George Soule, who came in the ANNE (arrived Plymouth on 31 Jul 1623) should be looked for in the parish of St. Botolph, Aldersgate, London". (We would suspect from this that Dr. Banks did not look). It seems safe to assume that George & Mary were married at Plymouth and probably in 1623 shortly after her arrival. In fact, Ridlon (p186) theorizes that they had known each other in London and that a matrimonial understanding brought her to America, although Ridlon definitely is in error concerning her arrival in 1622 (see Samuel Eliot Morison's 1952 edition of William Bradford's "Of Plymouth Plantation 1620-1647" pp 43n, 125, 127, 130-2, 148n and 154). George Soule received a land lot for building in 1623 indicating the probability that he was at least considering marriage if not already married at that time. This lot was situated on the south side of the brook to baywards (PLYMOUTH COLONY RECORDS 12:4). We can be reasonably certain that the marriage took place no later than 1626 since the family of George Soule included his wife Mary and son Zachariah on 22 May 1627 when their names were listed in the division of cattle (PLYMOUTH COLONY RECORDS 12:12). Mary died at Duxbury in December 1676.

In listing the passengers in the Mayflower, Bradford says (Morison edition p441) "Mr. Edward Winslow, Elizabeth his wife and two men-servants called George Soule and Elias Story; also a little girl was put to him called Ellen, the sister of Richard More". Later (on p444) Bradford wrote "One of his servants died, as also the little girl, soon after the ships arrival. But his man George Soule is still living and hath eight children." Here is a minor puzzle. Morison theorizes that the first quotation was written about 1647/48; the second about 1650. Since George & Mary (Bucket) Soule had nine children, was Bradford in error in his count or was Morison in error in placing this writing in 1650? Or was their youngest child born after that date? A frequently repeated explanation of the Winslow-Soule relationship places the latter as a tutor of the Winslow children. It is much more logical and concomitant with the times if the term "servant" is read as "employee". Winslow was a relatively wealthy man and one of the financial backers of the Plymouth Colony venture. We find that he made repeated voyages between Plymouth and England, and had no children until after George Soule married and had his own family (see Hubert Kinney Shaw's 1956 "Families of the Pilgrims" and Plymouth Colony Records). We also know that George Soule was the 35th of the 41 signers of the Mayflower Compact of 11 Nov 1620 (see SOULE NEWSLETTER 1:1).

In July 1627 George Soule was one of a group of fifty-eight "Purchasers or Old Comers" who assumed the Colony's debt to "The Adventurers" who were the promoters and capitalists who financed the voyage of the Mayflower and other early ventures and expenses of the colony. In return the former group was granted trading concessions in Maine, at Cape Ann, Buzzards Bay and subsequently on the Connecticut River. The General Court, the governing body of the colony, voted 5 Mar 1639/40 to pay these "Purchasers or Old Comers" for the surrender of their patent (see Morison pp37, 184-196 and 429; also Plymouth Colony Records).

The date of the removal of George Soule and his family from Plymouth to Duxbury, or Ducksborrow as it was called originally, has not been established. However, we are of the opinion that it was some years earlier than the frequently cited date of 1645. According to the Plymouth Colony Records he was named with 88 others on the Plymouth Tax List of 2 Jan 1632/33; was a freeman of the incorporation of Plymouth in 1633; taxed 00:09:00 on 25 Mar 1633; was ordered 1 Jul 1633 to mow grass for cow near his dwelling house; again on the Plymouth Tax list with 80 others 2 Jan 1633/34 and was taxed 00:09:00 on 27 Mar 1634; on 14 Mar 1635/36 assigned land for haying for 1636; and on 6 Oct 1636 The General Court granted to Will Bradford for Constant and Thomas Southworth "land now in occupation of George Soule and from thence to swamp on north side of Eele River". Obviously still of Plymouth, he was ordered by The General Court on 10 May 1637 to provide "heigh wayes" from his house next the river Eel thence over the river by bridge. Soon thereafter his interests shifted to Duxbury as he was assigned a garden place on "Ducksborrow sie \* \* to lye to his ground at Powder Point" on 4 Dec 1637; and on 7 May 1638 he was granted one acre at the watering place and two additional acres at "Pouder Point". In the trek to Duxbury, George Soule was following rather than leading a trend. As early as 1632 Bradford wrote (Morison pp 252-53) "Also the people of the Plantation began to grow in their outward estates, by reason of the flowing of many people into the country, especially into the Bay of

"Families of the Pilgrims" - Compiled for the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants by Hubert Kinney Shaw - 1956.

"Plymouth Church Record (1620-1859)" - Boston 1920.

"English Ancestry and Homes of the Pilgrim Fathers" by Dr. Charles Edward Banks - 1929.

"Saints and Strangers" by George F. Willison - 1945.

"The Truth About the Pilgrims" by Francis R. Stoddard - 1952.

"New England Historical & Genealogical Register" to date.

"The Mayflower Descendant" (all issues published).

Plymouth County Probate Records and Plymouth County Deeds.

"History of the Town of Middleboro, Massachusetts" by Thomas Weston - 1906.

"History of the Town of Duxbury with Genealogical Register" by Justin Winsor - 1849.

"Ancient Landmarks of Plymouth" by W. T. Davis - 1883.

Massachusetts Records - Richard LeBaron Bowen - 1957.

The Dartmouth, Mass., Branch of the Soule Family - Waldo Chamberlain Sprague, late of Wollaston, Mass., - The American Genealogist, Vol. 38 (1962) p164 et seq.

Soule, Sowle and Soulis History - Rev. Gideon T. Ridlon, Sr. - 1926.

Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Voluminous correspondence with individuals who claim to have authentic information - but have never been able to offer specific citation to source.

- (2) It is quite interesting to note the way the printed word is revised from time to time to achieve perhaps an involuntary but none-the-less substantive change in meaning. A classic example exists in connection with the parentage and birthplace of George Soule of the Mayflower. Dr. Charles Edward Banks in 1929 concluded that George was born "possibly in Eckington" and tentatively identified him as the son of John Soule of that place. By 1945 Willison, citing Banks as his authority, eliminated these qualifications as did Stoddard in 1952, again citing Banks. Thus we read that he really was born in Eckington; that his father certainly was John Soule. Others have found "evidence" of the name of the wife of John Soule but have been unable to state from whence came that evidence. A similar situation exists concerning his birth date. Banks and his plagiarizers prefer about 1600 but Ridlon with some logic contends that if our George had been in his minority at the time of the writing of the Mayflower Compact, he would not have been one of the signers so he prefers a date "as early as 1590". To compromise, we have recorded "about 1597", circa 1597 or ca 1597. Fortunately, these arguments may soon become academic or moot as the Genealogical Helper for March 1967 reports that the Genealogical Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints (the "Mormons") have stepped up the microfilming in the British Isles of church and government records of interest to genalogists; also that their "Records-Tabulation (R-Tab)" program has so far extracted more than five million names with dates, places, and relationships from the birth, christening and burial entries contained in over 1,500 English parish registers. This information is being transferred to an electronic data processing system. Presumably it should not be too many years before the data concerning George Soule and his ancestors can be retrieved through this source.
- (3) The placement of the children of GEORGE & MARY (Bucket) SOULE in a logical sequence and the assignment of an approximate birth date to each has been most difficult. There are certain of the children whose birth dates have been established with relatively close limits through evaluation of historic data we have found. These facts and our reasoning is given with the biographies of those children. We have been forced to disregard some very tempting clues. For example, one correspondent insisted that he had "authentic family information" that Benjamin Soule was forty-six years old when he was killed. Considerable credence is given to the order in which children are named in the wills of their parents, deeds and other documents. Finally, colonial families have had a distinctly repetitive 2-year cycle of child birth. Admittedly, high rates of infant mortality and mishaps of pregnancy do tend to disrupt such a cycle. Perhaps we are guilty of crowding this family group into a shorter span of years than justified. However, we think it reasonable and hope it will stand the test of time. Certainly, no one can accuse us of plagiarizing previous writers on the subject!
- (4) George Soule is carried as Mayflower Index No. 31,852. To facilitate citation to references for his descendants, each subsequent biographical sketch will indicate the Index number where one has been established by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

# THE MAYFLOWER DESCENDANT

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No. 2.

## THE WILL AND INVENTORY OF GEORGE SOULE.

*Literally transcribed from the original records,*

BY GEORGE ERNEST BOWMAN.

George Soule died at Duxbury, probably in the month of January, 1680, since his inventory was taken 1 February, 1680 (new style). His wife died at Duxbury, in December 1676.

The will and inventory were recorded in the Plymouth Colony Wills and Inventories, Volume IV, Part I, page 50.

[p. 50] In the Name of God Amen

I Gorge Soule seni<sup>r</sup> of Duxberry in the Collonie of New Plymouth in New England being aged and weake of body but of a sound mind and Memory praised be God Doe make this my last Will and Testament in Manor and forme following Imprimis I comitt my soule into the hands of Almighty God whoe Gave it and my body to be Decently buried in the place appointed for that use whensoever hee shall please to take mee hence; and for the Disposall of my outward estate which God of his Goodnes hath Given mee first I have and alreddy formerly by Deeds under my hand and seale Given unto my two sonnes Nathaniel: and Gorge All my lands in the Township of Dartmouth; Item I have formerly Given unto my Daughters Elizabeth and Patience all my lands in the Township of Middleberry Item I Give and bequeath unto my Daughters Sussannah and Mary twelve pence a peece to be payed by my executer hereafter Named after my Decease; And forasmuch as my Eldest son John Soule and his family hath in my extreame old age and weaknes bin tender and carefull of mee and very healpfull to mee; and is likely soe to be while it shall please God to continew my life heer therfore I give and bequeath unto my said son John Soule all the Remainder of my housing and lands whatsoever to him his heires and Assignes for ever Item I Give and bequeath unto my son John Soule all my Goods And Chattles whatsoever Item I Nominate And appoint my son John Soule to be my sole Executer of this my last Will and Testament; and lastly I Doe heerby make Null and voyde all other and former wills and Testaments by mee att Any time made; and Declare this Instrument to be my last Will and Testament In Witnes wherof I the said Gorge Soule have heerunto sett my hand and seale this eleventh Day of August in the yeer of our Lord one Thousand six hundred seaventy and seaven;

Gorge Soule and a seale

The above Named Gorge Soule Did signe seale and Deliver this Instrument to be his Last Will and Testament in the p'sence of us

Nathaniell Thomas

The Marke **D T** of Deborah Thomas

Item the twentyeth Day of September 1677 I the above Named Gorge Soule Doe heerby further Declare that it is my will that if my son John Soule above named or his heires or Assignes or any of them shall att any time Disturbe my Daughter Patience or her heires or Assignes or any of them in peacable Possession or Injoyment of the lands I have Given her att Namassakett allies Middleberry and Recover the same from her or her heires or Assignes or any of them That then my Gift to my son John Soule shall shalbe voyd; and that then my will is my Daughter Patience shall have all my lands att Duxburrey And shee shalbe

my sole executrix of this my last Will and Testament And enter into my housing lands and meddowes att Duxburrow, In Witnes whcrof I have heerunto sett my land and seale;

Gorge Soule and A seal

The above Named Gorge Soule Did Signe and seale to this addition in the p'sence of us

Nathaniell Thomas

The Marke **D T** of Deborah Thomas;

[p. 51] An Inventory taken of the estate of the Late Deceased Gorge Soule of Duxburrow in his Ma<sup>ties</sup> Collonie of New Plymouth in New England this twenty second of January 1679 by Edward Southworth and Thomas Delano and exhibited to the Court of his Ma<sup>tie</sup> holden att Plymouth the fift of March 1679: 80 on the oath of John Soule

Item Dwelling house orchyard Barne and upland } praised att	20 00 00
Item Meddow Land	05 10 00
Item bed and beding and wearing Clothes	10 00 00
Item a Gun	00 15 00
Item bookes	01 00 00
Item a Chest and Chaire	00 05 00
Item 2 paire of Sheers a tramell and wedge	00 06 00
Item to other old lumber	00 03 00
Item by Debts Due to the estate	03 00 00
	40 19 00

An Acompt of Debt Due unto John Soule to be payed out of his fathers estate

Anno: 1674 Imp <sup>r</sup> for plowing in one bushell of } wheat & one bushell of pease	00 06 00
for reaping Rye and pease	00 07 00
Item one Day plowing Greensword	00 05 00
Item for plowing in weeding	00 02 00
Item 2 Dayes and an half plowing in of Rye	00 08 06
Item to Willam Clarke	00 00 09
Item for Geting and bringing hom 3 load of hay	01 00 00
1675 Item for one Day plowing in of pease & two } Days Reaping of Rye	00 07 06
Item 1 locke for a Barne Dore	00 01 06
Item for Goods taken up att Edmun Mufords att } Boston viz: 4 yards 2 <sup>l</sup> Carsey	19 01
Item for 7 yards of penistone 2 <sup>s</sup> 09 <sup>d</sup> p <sup>r</sup> yard	00 19 03
Item for 10 yards of Canves att 1 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> p <sup>r</sup> yard	00 15 00
Item for buttons and silke	00 01 10
Item for blew linnine	00 02 02
Item for thred browne Coullered	00 02 08
Item for four yards of Red Cotton att 2 <sup>s</sup> 6 <sup>d</sup> p <sup>r</sup> yard	00 10 00
Item for three hundred of shooe Nailles	00 01 00
Item payed to M <sup>r</sup> Mumford upon the old account	00 08 09
1676 for Drawing 13 load of Brush and hedging } about a feild	00 05 00
Item for plowing in of pease and wheat 2 Dayes	00 08 00
Item for Makeing a p'teing fence between the } orchyard	00 08 00
Item for makeing stone wall about the orchard	02 00 00
Item for 12 yards of teicking of William Vobes	01 10 00
Item for 20 yards of Canvis att 1 <sup>s</sup> 9 <sup>d</sup> p <sup>r</sup> yard	01 15 00
Item for Dowlis of M <sup>r</sup> hetman 7 yards att 2 <sup>s</sup> 3 <sup>d</sup> } p <sup>r</sup> yard	00 18 00
Item for eight yards of Osenbrigg of m <sup>r</sup> Thomas } att 1 <sup>s</sup> 2 <sup>d</sup> p <sup>r</sup> yard	00 09 04
Item for serge for a paire of briches	00 10 00
Item for one paire of sheets	00 10 00
Item for Diett and tendance since my mother Died } which was three yeer the Last December except some smale time my sister Patience Dressed his victualls	
Item for funerall charges	01 00 00

