

# SOULE NEWSLETTER

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: NO C 371, VOL XXXIX, APRIL, 2005

**The Soule  
Chandelier at  
the  
Mayflower  
Museum**



Published by Soule Kindred in America, 53 New Shaker Rd., Albany, NY 12205

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Judith C. Hill...see '07 Driector

#### 2005 Reunion Host

Christine Hill ...see 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

Our Cover is a photo of the Soule Chandelier in the Mayflower Museum Center, Plymouth, MA. The chandelier was a gift from "The Soule Family" It is Venetian Glass with a pair of matching candle sticks

## ***Table of Contents***

Officers & Committees.....	page 2
New Members.....	page 4
Presidents Letter.....	page 5
News From our Cousins.....	page 7
Editor's Notes.....	page 9
News from Soule Scholars.....	page 10
Soule Scholarship application.....	page 13
What Ever Happened To Ethel Miller.....	page 15
Obituaries.....	page 17
Newsletter Order Form.....	page 19
Reunion News.....	page 20
Reunion Registration Form.....	page 22
Soule College.....	page 23
The Soule Canal.....	page 25
Caleb Johnson Research Report.....	page 28
Application for Membership.....	page 39

# Welcome to our new members

Mike Anderson, 6436 Gemstone Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80918  
Cheryl Badagnani, 10187 Dunn Rd., Oceola, IN 45561  
Marilyn D. Curtis, 36 Kay St., Newport RI 02840  
Cheryl S. Degner, 92076 Coburg Rd. Eugene, OR 97408  
Karen s. Everly, 209 N. Jackson, Olney, IL 62450  
Charles F. Gangel, 198 Cedar St. Contoocook, NH 03229  
Sarah Hill Inbody, 2521 W;. 46 th St., Kansas City, KS 66103  
Glenys Black King, 163 Stackpole Rd., Durham, ME 04222  
Brenda J. Ladd, 212 Sutherland Mews, N>W., Calgary, Alberta, T3R1H1, Canada  
Cynthia LeBlanc, 1677 Peltier Lake Dr. Centerville MN 55038  
Marveen Minish, 331 Pearson Way NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432  
John E. Proctor, 5600 W 162<sup>nd</sup> St., Stilwell, KS 66085  
Bruce W. Rideout, 8030 Captain Mary Miller Dr., Shreveport, LA 71115  
Diana Soule Seifert, 53 Zion Hill Rd., Salem NH 03079  
Levin C. Soule 3911 W. Crestview Dr., Huntsville, AL 35816  
Mary Catherine Soule;, 766 Rue Marseille, Mandeville, LA 70471  
Michael Sowle, 1401 Sanders Dr. Auburn, IN 46706  
Caleb Johnson 8912 N>E. 30<sup>th</sup> Ave., VanCouver, WA 98665  
Kimberly Soule Lang, 56 Greenfield Rd., Essex Jct., VT 05452  
Barbara J. Noble, 36938 Clear Lake Dr., Waseca, MN 56093  
Connie Chanda Shaparnis, 1174 Fair Oaks Ave., #4, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
Marisa Amanda Shaparnis, 1174 Fair Oaks Ave., #4, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
Lor3en E. Somes, Sr., 8453 SW 109 th Place, Ocala, FL 34481  
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Luther H. Soules IV 3606 Barrington, San Antonio, TX 78217  
Mary Sowles 7267 W 23 rd Ave., Gary;, IN 46406  
Anna Warden, 23725 Wayne's Way Golden CO 80401  
Cameron Warden 23725 Wayne's Way Golden , CO 80401  
Charles Warden 646 Longwood Dr., NW, Atlanta, GA 30305  
Elizabeth Warden, 646 Longwood Dr. NW, Atlanta, Ga 30305  
Kristi Wright 1372 Road 200, Emporia, KS 66801

## **New Life Member**

Eunice Brabec, 461 Dellbrook Ave;., So. San Francisco, CA 94080

## **Former Member, rejoined**

Mary Danehower 2080-8 Marich Way, Mountainview ,CA 94040

## **New Library**

Duxbury Free Library, 77 Alden St., Duxbury, MA 02332

# Presidents Letter...

Dear Soule Kindred member:

This is the last newsletter that you will receive before the 2005 Soule Kindred Reunion at Hutchinson, Kansas. [22 June-26 June] I hope to see many of you there. It is the only chance we get as a Society to elect officers, directors and discuss issues that are of vital importance. Your input and vote are important. We realize that health and distances make it hard to for many to attend. This is why we try to hold these reunions in several regions of the U.S. and Canada. Please talk to each other before the Reunion and give your thoughts, ideas and wishes to those who are planning to attend.

Your fellow officers and directors of Soule Kindred have been busy with two main projects that will benefit the Society. I have been very gratified with the responses, cooperation and questions sent to me by them. Teamwork is always a hallmark of a healthy organization that will continue to prosper and survive.

The first project is to revitalize the Luther and Merle Soule Grant. We have been most fortunate to have been able to retain the research services of Mr. Caleb Johnson to pick up the trail. Mr. Johnson's name should be familiar to most of you. Caleb has had success in finding several Mayflower passengers' birthplaces. When Caleb Johnson feels that all research avenues have been exhausted he is candid to declare that no conclusion can be made with all available documentary sources and modern scientific procedures considered. The first and second reports concerning the Eckington, Worcester pilgrim George Soule families are printed in this issue. There will be several more research reports to be printed in the Soule Kindred newsletters in the future. By a unanimous poll of the Soule Kindred officers and Directors the reports will only be publicly available after they are first published here. In addition to their historical value these periodic reports will provide very interesting reading and possibly attract new members through the many libraries and societies that we send the issues to.

I personally continue to work the ancient Scottish end of the Grant as well. I am still in contact with the Liddell Society whose ancestors lived in the same area at the same time as William Soule, "Butler of Scotland", who signed the declaration of Abaroath in 1320. I hope to compare DNA results for any matching. They have gifted us with a treatise on interpreting DNA results which will be published in a later issue of this newsletter.

The Second project concerns advertising our existence and information in a modern format of electronic media. The domain name of [www. soulekindred.org](http://www.soulekindred.org) has been paid

for and registered for several years without use. I have contacted Ms. Ruth Hall for her opinions and comment on establishing a second, primary Soule Kindred web site. By email she has approved of this action. Please continue to access her site and keep it book marked as a favorite. I have retained Mr. Jeremy Soule of Monroe, Michigan to assist us in getting a new web site going. As Judy Hill [Director 07] has much more Knowledge and capability that I in web construction I have asked her to work with Mr. Soule, on a temporary basis, to get all of the questions and problems resolved. Judy is already on the scholarship committee so we will need someone to come forward and take this responsibility by the June meetings. All that should be required is data management and maintenance. We need to replace three Directors whose terms are concluding in 2005. I would like one of the new Directors to take on the mantle of "Web Master". I hope to report to you at the reunion that our new site is working.

This brings me to the Agenda for the Board and General meetings. On Friday, 24 June 2005 the Board Meeting will convene at 9AM. The meeting should be adjourned no later than 11AM that morning. The primary article of business at this meeting will be to elect 2006 officers and discuss candidates to fill the three Director's terms now open. The leadership positions should be the primary "politicking" done from the start of the Reunion to the Board Meeting. Make your vote count even if you do not actually vote at the Board meeting. Your current officers and Directors should be contacted to voice your opinion and vote. The General meeting will take place at the usual time of 9AM. We will follow the traditional Roberts Rules. Under old business Officer's reports will be given concerning projects and activities for the year to inform the general membership. Under new business we will call for nominations to fill the three Director positions and then elect the candidates after a vote by the general membership. There will be a call for any other new business. I hope this meeting can be concluded by 11AM.

I hope the approaching spring brings health, peace and prosperity to all.

Best Regards,  
Frank Flint Soule, President Soule Kindred in America, Inc.

# News of our Cousins

## **In our prayers**

The family of Christine Hornsleth. Christine's brother William Henry Parr III died on November 24, 2004, the day after Thanksgiving. He is survived by his son William IV ( 19 years old ), his parents June and William Jr. and his sister Christine Hornsleth. His only other surviving family is a cousins Laurie Jean Clark and Michael Nilsson Jr. , their parents Mike and Roberta Nilsson .

The Lynde Randall family. Lynde is recovering from a heart attach in her Yarmouth Maine home with her family. She is improving steadily.

The family of Judy Hughes. Her husband Bob passed away on March 10,2005 after battling advanced liver cancer since last September.

## **Deaths**

Nadine Gunn included a note to Betty-Jean that her husband Horace died February 15, 2004.

Mrs. Elizabeth ( John) Whitecotton died May 13,2004. She was the mother of former President and Newsletter Editor Glenn Whitecotton., MD . Elizabeth, better known as Betty, worked on the committee for the Indianapolis Reunion. She planned and hosted the day we spent in Terre Haute. She also helped her son Glenn at the Reunion he and his wife hosted in Santa Fe, NM. Betty had been a member of Soule Kindred since January 19, 1973

Joan Verdoorn reported her Mother Mary K. Soule, died September 14, 2004 at American Fork, Utah. She was married to William John Soule for over 55 years. William Soule died in 1985. Mary was 95 years old.

Dorothy Morrison of Stonington, CT wrote her sister Marie Peckham Adams died on July 4, 2004. She lived in Lorain, Ohio and was born in Norwich, CT , July 11, 1916

Lauren Gaudlitz told of the death of Genevieve ( Larson ) Barksdale, sister of her Grandfather William Albert Larson.

## **Birth**

Judah Allen Keona Gaudlitz was born to Lauren and Derek Gaudlitz on January 9, 2005 in Honolulu, HI. Kailee Jo Nevaeh Espinosa was born to Aimee Larson and Paul Espinosa on Sept 7, 2004 in San Antonio, Tx. Aimee and Lauren are sisters.

## **Marriages**

Elizabeth Soul Payne Married Bruce Franklin Pierson on September 25, 2004.

Richard Nathan Mirell married Kristen Marie Niemiera on May 22, 2004 in Bolingbrook, IL. Richard is the son of Holly & Phil Mirel of Champlain, IL.

Heather Brendemuehl married Anthony McCumber on July 10, 2004. Heather is the Granddaughter of Shirley Brendemuehl.

## **Looking for a connection**

Cheryl Degner of Eugene, OR is looking for a connection to Lavinia Tobie Soule and Helen Augusta M Soule Bachelder. Please contact her at 92976 Coburn Rd in Eugene if you can help.

# more news...

## **From Judy Hughes**

Thank you for your recent telephone call to me and the prayer you and your wife offered on Bob's behalf. On March 9, 2005, my husband, Robert "Bob" Hughes died after a three months' decline due to liver cancer. Our daughter, Tara, Joe (her husband), Bob's cousin, Joyce, and I were (after a 6 weeks' wait for an appointment) able to go to M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, TX, where his cancer diagnosis was confirmed. There we were informed that the cancer was in an advanced stage and that only palliative care would be appropriate. They did all they could to make him comfortable and to strengthen him enough that we were able to fly home via air ambulance on March 4th. He wanted to get home to be with his children, grandchildren, and dog. That was accomplished. He also asked to be taken home by the Lord.

We have been overwhelmed by the kindness of strangers, neighbors, family, churchmates, and friends. Our trip to TX was made possible by the willingness of others to assume responsibility for Tara's children and our dog. Hundreds of people prayed for Bob and our family and we are most humbled and grateful. Food was delivered to sustain us and many people have offered our family help in any way.

For that reason I have not answered any messages on my e-mail account (in fact, my mailbox was full and the account jammed). Today I asked my ISP to delete all messages from back in January. If you have sent me a message since then, please resend.

You can go to [www.Mem.com](http://www.Mem.com) and type in Hughes, go to Robert Lloyd Hughes (it was on page 12 the other day) and read his obituary. By clicking on the Slide Show (or movie) you will see the 25 photos that my family chose to best represent his life (from infancy through his Appalachian Trail hike). Today he is journeying down a new trail with our Lord.



# a note from the editor...

First I must apologize for the poor photo reproduction in the last issue. The printer and I did not communicate. I tried to give him the entire document in Microsoft Publisher and that was an incompatible system. The learning curve was a little steeper than I anticipated. Also, I am embarrassed by the typos and incorrect spellings that I made.

Now on to the future. The deadlines for the June issue are as follows; All copy to me by July 1. The entire issue to the printer by July 21, Printed issue to the mailing house by August 6. You can see the issue will be about a month late due to our Reunion in Hutchinson, KS. We sure want to have all the news from that gathering.

I received a number of comments about the January issue and I appreciate every one of them. For some unknown reason we use an outdated membership list in the issue. We shall correct that in a future issue by printing an up to dated version. Please be advised that due to the illness in Judy Hugh's home we were not able to update and correct the membership list. This issue membership has been updated by Peg Rocke and I really appreciated her help. Judy wants to continue to update the mailing list for the newsletter. She will keep us informed on when she will be ready to assume this function. It is not an easy job.

When you advise me of changes that need to be made I will pass them on to Peg or Judy. I have my plate full just trying to put the newsletter together. I appreciate the challenge and enjoy doing it, but I can't do any more until I catch on to this one. I am sure everyone understands.

This issue contains news about many past **Soule Scholars**. I was so pleased to hear from them. I was as proud as I could be of each of them after reading their stories. Please take a moment to read all about them and write them and tell them. I must recognize Betty-Jean Haner for all the work she did in researching over 50 addresses of the past winners. That was a challenging job to go thru all the past years to record the winners and their addresses.

I would like to draw your attention to the section on the Reunion that starts on page 20. Please fill out your registration form ASAP and send it to Chris Hill. This promises to be great reunion.

On page 28 there is an article of special interest. This is the first 2 installments from Caleb Johnson regarding the origins of George Soule. His findings to date are very interesting.

Regards,  
Cousin Bill

# News from Soule Scholars...

## From Molly Gallentine

Hello, my name is Molly Gallentine and a recipient of a Soule kindred scholarship, and I have to say that my experiences thus far at the University of Iowa have greatly impacted my life. In the dorms, I live on a specialized co-ed "writers' floor," where I have become extremely close with many eccentric and fun-loving people. I have not only worked with these select students, but I have been able to attend workshops led by graduate students from the famous Writers' Workshop, and have met numerous traveling authors. In the beginning of the school year, I volunteered my time to work with a group of people at the local senior center. During that time, I aided several adults in the completion of their memoirs. In addition to helping others with their writing, I have been attending intensive poetry workshops and have enjoyed interviewing several members of my own family in order that I may have a compilation of stories important to my own ancestry.

On the weekends in Iowa City, I frequent the music scene. As well as being an English major, I'm also working on achieving a vocal performance degree. The great thing about living in a college town is diversity and culture. I may spend my Saturday night dancing to a live salsa band, clapping along with a gospel choir, or chilling out to a jazz combo. It is nice to have so many choices with such wonderful venues. One of the exciting happenings including the downtown district was the renovation of the Englert theatre this winter. In December, I was lucky enough to be involved in the opera, *Amahl and the Nigh Visitors*. Because of this, I was able to perform in the newly opened space. As far as other instrumental opportunities, I've started to work with "The Highlanders," in which I have begun to learn the bagpipes. Hopefully, I will earn my kilt soon.

Another exciting event which has allowed me to make new friends this semester is Dance Marathon. Dance Marathon is a student-run organization that helps raise thousands of dollars towards Iowa City hospitals and clinics as well as support The Children's Miracle Network. This year, I was involved in the letter writing campaign as well as being a dancer. Lots of families came to the event, and it was nice seeing smiles on so many children's faces as we boogied the night away. The kids were able to forget about their health problems for a short time, and I could feel as if I made a little bit of a difference.

When the summer rolls around, I plan on taking more classes here at the university, as well as become accustomed to living independently apart from the dorms. With the rest of my time, I will join my parents at the Lake of the Ozarks so I can soak up some sun and work on my wakeboarding skills. It's been a great year so far, and I anticipate many more exciting adventures...Thank you for the financial support of the Soule kindred.

## From Emily Buchholz

I recieved the Soule Scholarship back during my undergraduate education at the University of Minnesota. I am currently in my fourth year of Dental School and will graduate in May with my D.D.S. I am looking forward to moving back to WI, which is closer to my family, and beginning my career in the Milwaukee area. After eight years of post graduate education (and eight years of student loans), all help has been greatly appreciated. Thanks again,

## From Jessica Johnson

This year has been a very productive one. I am almost finished with my psychology major and am thinking seriously about the future post-May 2006. Last semester I finished many of my required courses for graduation and participated in the 2004 Dance Extravaganza, a student run and produced dance show.

This semester I have begun a researching internship at Oregon Health Sciences University in the field of psychology. I also am working in a lab on campus doing psychological research in emotional intelligence. I am volunteering at a local high school and am a teacher's assistant for Biology. This summer, I hope to study abroad in Australia and work on psychology related studies."

## From Charles Warden

I am a recipient of the 2003 George Standish Soule Kindred Scholarship, and I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for receiving this award. Similar to previous scholarship recipients, I have maintained an active role in my community, and I would encourage any potential applicants to apply for the scholarship because I believe that scholarship helps demonstrate the impact of current Soule Kindred legacies and has certainly helped me recognize and appreciate my heritage.

Currently, I am a sophomore at Georgia Tech majoring in applied biology. Academically, I have maintained Faculty Honors and

## more from Soule Scholars...

Dean's List quality grades every semester I have been in attendance. While at Tech, I have been an active member of MOVE Outdoors, which is a community service organization that organizes monthly activities for the Georgia Tech community. I am also a member of Beta Beta Beta (the biological honors society), where I have participated in activities such as volunteering at Zoo Atlanta. During Summer 2004, I was a Summer Safari Camp teacher at Zoo Atlanta, and this semester I will undergo some animal handling training so that I can perform additional duties when I return as a teacher again this summer. During Fall 2005, I intend to begin gaining some research experience in a biology professor's lab, and, in the near future, I intend to continue my studies in graduate school, possibly in the field of bioinformatics.

Thanks again to the scholarship committee for awarding me this scholarship!

### **From Kate Soule McDermott**

Thank you so much for writing to me. I appreciate the opportunity to write to Soule Kindred Newsletter recipients about my life twenty years after I received the Col. John Edward Soule Scholarship in 1985. When I won the scholarship I was a sophomore at Amherst College in Amherst, MA where I graduated in 1988. I then earned an MBA from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1991. In that year I moved to Waukegan, IL where I became Assistant Fiscal Officer and then Chief Fiscal Officer of Shimer College, a small liberal arts college specializing in the Great Books. Shimer is known for small classes and for discussion of primary source material. Shimer has about 125 students and 25 employees and offers bachelors degrees in a traditional day program and a weekend program for working adults. Shimer is a wonderful educational community that is very committed to providing a liberal arts education to all academically curious students.

In 1996 I left Shimer College to become Associate Executive Officer and then Director of Budget and Fiscal Affairs for the Faculty of Arts & Sciences at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. As budget officer for the academic departments and programs at the College, I work with the Dean of Faculty and Associate Deans to provide the faculty with financial support for research, teaching and professional development. I enjoy my job very much both because I like working to create opportunities for innovation through financial management and because I get to spend so much time working with other people to solve problems.

I also work with the honor society Phi Beta Kappa. I serve as Secretary and Treasurer of the Alpha of New Hampshire Chapter at Dartmouth College, as President of the Northern New England Association and as New England District Chair. I feel this work is another way I can promote liberal arts education at Dartmouth and throughout New England.

Also in 1996, I married my husband John McDermott. We operate a day care business in our house in part so that John can stay home and look after our family. We have two daughters, Taylor and Zoe who are now 5 and 4 years old respectively. Both are in preschool and very active. They take gymnastics, dance and music lessons and enjoy singing, coloring, playing imaginary games, running, giggling and making noise. They carry the Soule name proudly into the next generation. Enclosed is a picture of all of us.

I am continually grateful for my family, the Soule Kindred and for the scholarship I received in 1985. Thank you again for the opportunity to update you about my activities.

### **About Kristopher Carver**

Kristopher Carver graduated from college - moved home for a short period of time then was offered a job in the Western part of Massachusetts as a Computer Engineer. He lives and works out there now:)

# still more from Soule Scholars

## **From Ben Harbaugh**

I am enjoying my freshman year at Ohio Wesleyan University. It is located in Delaware, Ohio. In the fall, I began my college career in economics and played football for the Battling Bishops. Economics is a fascinating area and I am fortunate to have the excellent professors that I do. As for the Battling Bishops' football team, we took second in our conference.

I have met many interesting people and am pledging a fraternity this spring. My freshman year is going by quickly. I work evenings in the weight room and often take recruits on tours and to lunch. Our campus is friendly and I feel quite at home at OWU.

Thank you for the monetary contribution that enabled me to attend such a highly accredited university,

## **From Tina Baich**

I received your letter requesting a little information about where I am today, do here goes.

I graduated cum laude from Butler University in 2000 with a degree in arts administration. I have worked for a variety of nonprofit organizations, but am currently the Event Manager at Clowes Memorial Hall in Indianapolis, Indiana. I am also in graduate school working towards a dual master's degree in public history and library science. Thank you to the Soule Kindred for helping me start on the path I've chosen.

## **From Elizabeth Keohane**

I graduated from The college of New Jersey in 2002 with Highest Honors. I received a BS in biology and a BA in philosophy with a minor in Chemistry. I am now in my 3rd of 8 years in the M.S.T.P. (Master Science Training Program) at the U of Texas Southwestern Medical College in Dallas. I completed the first 2 years of medical school and am now in my first year of graduate school. At the end of 4 years of grad school, I go back to med. School for years 3 & 4 of that. At the end of the 8 years I will receive and M.D. and a Ph. D in genetics.

I volunteer in a clinic translating Spanish-English for the doctors & patients. I still relax by playing the piano & clarinet, rollerblading and running. Thank you again for awarding me the Soule Scholarship.

**SOULE KINDRED IN AMERICA, INC.**  
**SOULE KINDRED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**\$1000.00 AWARD**

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

- I.           Name \_\_\_\_\_  
              Address \_\_\_\_\_  
              Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
              Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
              Mother's Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_
- II.           Proven Lineage to George Soule - Mayflower Passenger. (on separate sheet)
- III.          What college or training program do you expect to attend? \_\_\_\_\_  
              \_\_\_\_\_
- IV.          Have you been accepted by this college or training program? \_\_\_\_\_
- V.           What will be your major field of study? \_\_\_\_\_
- VI.          List school and community activities below:
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- VII.         Please write a short statement of your goals for the future on the back of this form.
- VIII.        Please enclose 2 letters of reference from teachers or religious counselor.
- IX.         A transcript of student's grades is requested to be forwarded with this application.
- X.          All applications must be received by Chairman of Scholarship Committee by July 1st of applicant's Senior year, or of year of application.

## ***SOULE KINDRED NEWSLETTER***

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### **SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT**

Soule Kindred in America, Inc. will continue to award a scholarship to a George Soule descendant. These scholarships are known as the SOULE KINDRED IN AMERICA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS. Application on reverse page should be completed and sent by July 1st to:

**Miss Betty-Jean Haner  
Chairman, Scholarship Committee  
53 New Shaker Road  
Albany, NY 12205**

*(Remainder of this sheet to be used by applicant)*

Curiosity got the better of me when I noticed an old magazine advertisement for a Plymouth. The ship *Mayflower* rode on the Plymouth's hulging hubcaps and, if I remember correctly, the hood ornament was the *Mayflower* under sail. This was a powerful looking car!

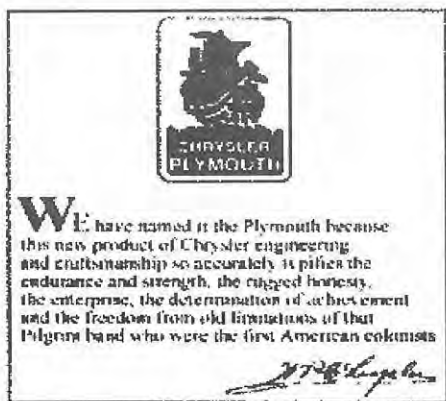
An online search led me to the Plymouth Car Club, Inc. where the following story of Mrs. Ethel L. Miller was so intriguing that, upon request, Jim Benjaminson allowed it to be reprinted here.

The next SKA issue will conclude with Jim's sleuthing to discover the life of Mrs. Miller after 1938, when she was not to be found!

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Bristol

## What Ever Happened To Ethel Miller?

Ethel Miller -- who was she? And what happened to her? And just exactly who was Ethel Miller you might ask? She is the woman who claimed to have purchased the first Plymouth car ever built, back in 1928. Over the years, she would also own the One Millionth Plymouth and the Two Millionth Plymouth--then she seems to have fallen off the face of the earth. It's a question that has perplexed Plymouth researcher and historian Jim Benjaminson for twenty years. The former editor of the Plymouth Bulletin magazine has asked these questions many times--without getting any concrete answers to the questions.



"From the original Plymouth announcement in 1928"



Above, the one millionth Plymouth coming off line. Corporate Treasurer B. E. Hutchinson is taking his turn behind the wheel.

According to Chrysler Corporation history, Mrs. Ethel Miller of Turlock, California claimed to be the purchaser of the first Plymouth car ever sold, when the marque was introduced in mid-summer 1928. Upon learning that Plymouth would build its one millionth vehicle in August of 1934, Mrs. Miller wired Walter P. Chrysler to reserve the car for her. Chrysler in turn, offered to send her a plane ticket so she could be present when the car came off the line--an offer Mrs. Miller turned down, opting instead to attend Turlock's Melon Festival. The One Millionth Plymouth was built in Detroit August 9th. Mrs. Miller didn't leave Turlock until Tuesday, August 28th to begin her eastward trek to pick up the new car, following a bon voyage party thrown by Turlock's mayor at City Hall. In the meantime Chrysler had the car, a 1934 Deluxe PE Plymouth shipped to the Chrysler Pavilion at the Chicago Worlds Fair where it was put on display.

Upon arrival in Chicago, Mrs. Miller's 1928 Plymouth Model Q was put on display in place of the 1934 (Chrysler also sponsored an antique auto display at the fair including a Friday the 13th Jinx Day race, which was won by Barney Oldfield driving an early Maxwell). Taking delivery of the One Millionth Plymouth, Mrs. Miller told Chrysler to reserve the Two Millionth Car for her when it was built. That event happened in the fall of 1936, after the 1937 models were introduced. An extant photograph shows Mrs. Miller posing with Car #1, Car One Million and Car Two Million along with Harry Mook of the Detroit sales offices and Verne Orr, California sales manager.

From that point, Mrs. Miller seems to have vanished into thin air. When the Three Millionth Plymouth was built in 1939, she

was no where to be seen; same for the Four Millionth Plymouth in 1941.

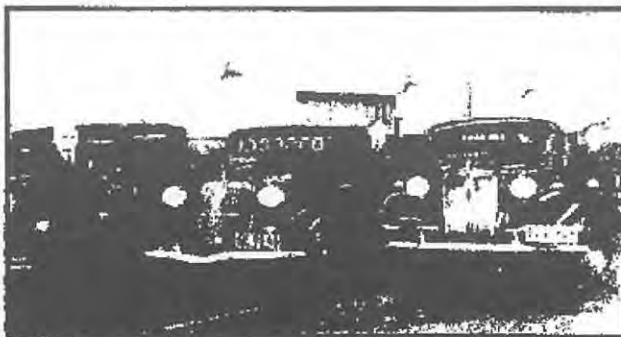
Who was she? And what connection did she have to Chrysler? And what do we really know about her? These are the few facts that have been gathered. First, she was always referred to as Mrs. Ethel Miller (her full name was Ethel L. Miller). When she first appeared in 1934 she was listed as the manager of the St. Elmo Hotel in Turlock, California. She appeared in city directories up through 1938--the last year being listed as living at the Vincent Apartments.

Her first Plymouth, a 1928 Model Q Deluxe Coupe, carried California license plate 1L 1696; the One Millionth car, a PE 4 door sedan had California plate 6E 96 48 while the Two Millionth car, a 1937 P4 four door had California license 11 C 919. Efforts to trace these license plate numbers has so far proven futile.

What became of the # 1 Plymouth? Chrysler Corporation still retains a Model Q Deluxe Coupe it calls #1 -- but its serial

number clearly shows it is not the first Plymouth built. How did Mrs. Ethel L. Miller of Turlock, California come to think her 1928 Plymouth was the first car built? Would YOU turn down a plane ticket from Walter P. Chrysler to see your One Millionth car being built?

After purchasing these milestone cars, what happened to her? Where did she disappear to? Did she pass away? (California death records list far too many Ethel Millers to pursue that line of research). Did she remarry so that her last name changed--and she no longer had an interest in obtaining new milestone Plymouths? The St. Elmo Hotel she managed disappeared years ago and no one in Turlock has even heard of her...*To be continued in the June issue...*



#1, Million & 2 Million. Left to right, Harry G. Mook, Plymouth Sales Manager, Verne Orr, California Sales Manager and Mrs. Ethel Miller.



# Obituaries

## Mecklenburg



### Suzette McCommons Soule

Mrs. Soule, died Sunday, August 1, 2004 at Presbyterian Hospital. She was born September 12, 1912 to the late Joseph and Maude Gilleland McCommons in Concord, NC. Suzette graduated from Central High School in 1931. She was a Den Mother, had 20 years of service with the Red Cross and held many offices at Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church. Mrs. Soule was also deeply involved in the Scottish Highland Games for many years with her family on Grandfather Mountain as well as Waxhaw.

Mrs. Soule was preceded in death by her adopted son, Russell L. Kologiski. She is survived by her husband of 69 years, Guy Soule; sons, Guy Jr. and wife Frances, Bill and wife Phyllis, Philip and wife Linda, Jim and wife Lois, and John and wife Misty. Also surviving are Russell's widow, Earleen Mobley and her husband, Jack, as well as 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

A funeral service for Mrs. Soule will be held 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 4, 2004 at Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church with the Rev. Jim Parsons officiating and the Rev. Mark Key assisting. Interment will follow at Sharon Memorial Park Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. prior to the service at the church.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church, 501 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, NC 28204 or the charity of one's choice.

Harry and Bryant Company is serving the family of Mrs. Soule. *As*

### KATHLEEN L. SOULE

1924 - 2000

AUGUSTA — Kathleen L. Soule, of flowers. 75, of Gardiner, died Tuesday, May 9, at the Augusta General Hospital.

Born in Skowhegan, Nov. 1, 1924, the daughter of George and Amelia (Flannery) Taylor, she was a homemaker.

Mrs. Soule liked to crochet and she loved to take care of her animals, dogs, cats and horses, loved to ride horseback, the outdoors and was a great lover



She will be missed by her many special friends, including a special sister, Florence Webber.

Survivors include her husband, Daniel Soule of Togus; two sons, David Flannery and Daniel Jr. of Rutland, Vt.; two sisters, Josephine Waig of Yarmouth and Evelyn Wilson of Reo Linda, Calif. She was predeceased by a daughter, Lauretta Hines.

### BRENTON C. SOULE

1950 - 2000

ORONO — Brenton C. "Brent" Soule, 50, husband of Barbara (Skehan) Soule, died July 2 at home after a brief illness.

He was born in Portland, March 31, 1950 the son of Laurence P. and Jean (Carter) Soule. He was a graduate of No. Yarmouth Academy class of 1968 and Husson College class of 1971.

On Nov. 6, 1971 he married Barbara (Skehan) of Houlton. He began his career with G.H. Bass & Co. and became regional manager opening several new stores in his 10 years with the company. He was later employed for 19 years with CVS, managing several stores in Maine. For the past three years he has been employed with Circuit City as Operations Manager in Burlington, Vt., most recently relocating to Bangor to open the new store. He enjoyed fishing, sailing,



skiing and golf.

Surviving in addition to his wife of 28 years of Orono and his parents of Cumberland Center are one

brother, Allen and his wife Jill of Rowdoinham; one sister, Nancy and her husband Richard of Freeport; mother and father-in-law, Joseph and Virginia Skehan of Houlton; brothers-in-law, Kevin Skehan and his wife Christine of Milbridge, Joe Skehan and

his wife Joan, James Skehan and his wife Lynn, John Skehan and his wife Sandy all of Houlton; sisters-in-law, Mary Longstaff and her husband David of Norway, Jeanne Wypyski and her husband Bill of Brewer, Ann McCarthy and her husband Bob, Teresa Lincoln and her husband Brent, Jane Nicklison and her husband Brent all of Houlton; 34 nieces and nephews; three great-nephews; one great-niece.

## Obituaries

### ELLEN L. SOULE

1820-1999

AUBURN — Ellen L. Soule, 79, the Women's Society of the formerly of 71 Spring St., Heritage church, the Gold Star Mothers, Court, Auburn, died early Thursday morning, Dec. 8, 1999, at the American Legion Auxiliary. Clover Manor Health-care Facility.

She was born in Locke Mills, March 16, 1820, daughter of Charles and Caroline Williams Larrabee, and was educated in Lewiston schools.

On Oct. 4, 1948, she married Everett E. Soule; he died on April

21, 1994. She had been employed in area shoe factories for many years and retired from the former Shapiro Brothers Shoe Co.

She was a member of the Lewiston United Baptist Church, and



Survivors include three daughters; Mary E. and Ira Hammond of Wells, Linda J. and Ronald Nadeau of Casco, Bertha E. and Wilfred Ayotte of Lewiston; a step-daughter, Norma Libby of Wales; a son, Everett C. Ray of Alfred; a step-son, Ernest H. Soule of

Everett, Mass.; a sister, Charlotte Dougherty of Portland; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by a son, Charles H. Soule in 1871.

REBEKA B. COLTON

# Soule Kindred Newsletter Order Form

1967-1990 issues: \$2.50 per issue, \$ 10.00 for full year  
 1991-2002 issues: \$3.75 per issue, \$15.00 for full year  
 2003-2004 issues: \$6.25 per issue, \$25.00 for full year

Complete sets are available for \$125.00 (excluding copies not listed below) plus \$25.00 shipping in the US. Copies not listed below can be copied at a cost of 5 cents per page plus collating and stapling charges.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the back issues as checked. Blank spaces indicate issues available at 5 cents per page

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1986-V.20	—								

Send this form along with your check payable to **Soule Kindred in America, Inc.** To

Soule Kindred in America, Inc.  
 C~O Betty-Jean Haner, Treasurer  
 53 New Shaker Rd.  
 Albany, NY 12205-3615

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## PIONEERS TO PLANETS

### Soule Kindred in America 2005 Reunion

**Who:** All Soule cousins, family and friends are welcome  
**What:** The 2005 Soule Kindred in America Reunion  
**When:** June 22, 2005 – June 26, 2005  
**Where:** Hutchinson, Kansas  
**Why:** To have a good time, get to know your cousins, explore new areas, and maybe learn about family.  
**Host:** Chris Hill, 620-663-7288, or [jshill@cox.net](mailto:jshill@cox.net)

### SCHEDULE

#### Wednesday, June 22, 2005

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Check in at the Hampton Inn  
6:00 p.m. Dinner “on your own” as a group at the Carriage Crossing in Yoder, KS  
8:00-10:00 Hospitality Room will be open if there is an interest

#### Thursday, June 23, 2005 (*Pioneers*)

Breakfast Continental Breakfast is available at the Hampton Inn  
7:45 a.m. Board a Motor Coach to go to Dodge City, KS  
10:00-12:00 Self-guided tour of Boot Hill Museum  
Relive the legend in a western history village museum.  
12:00-12:30 Re-enactment of the Gunfight  
12:30-1:30 Lunch at the Museum  
1:30 p.m. Guided tour of historic Dodge City: The tour includes downtown Dodge, the cattle industry, Fort Dodge and Fe Trail historical area.  
We will also learn about Asa T. Soule who left his mark on Dodge City.  
5:00 p.m. Begin the journey back to Hutchinson (Box Dinner will be served on the return trip.)



historical  
the Santa

#### Friday, June 24, 2005 (Hospitality Room will be available most of the day.)

9:00 a.m. Board Meeting  
2:00 p.m. Tour of the historic Fox Theatre, an Art Deco Theatre that has recently been renovated.  
Time on your own to explore Hutchinson and the surrounding area:  
Antique District, Play golf, Explore the Amish community of Yoder  
6:00 p.m. Dinner “on your own” as a group at the Anchor Inn

#### Saturday, June 25, 2005 (*Planets*)

9:00 a.m. General Meeting of the Kindred  
10:30 a.m.- Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center. Included Hall of Space Museum, Planetarium show, Omnimax and Dr. Goddard’s Lab.  
6:00 p.m. Annual Banquet



are the  
show,

#### Sunday, June 26, 2005

Worship at First Presbyterian Church with Reverend Soule, then say our good-byes until next year.

Tim

## PIONEERS TO PLANETS

Soule Kindred in America  
2005 Reunion

I look forward to having the Soule Kindred come and "Share Our Space" as we have a "Party on the Prairie" in Hutchinson, schedule is included.

We will spend some time learning about the pioneers of the West" as well as a "Soule connection" with Dodge City. you a bit of a teaser, Asa T. Soule left an impression on City. I say this literally and figuratively. He was instrumental in the Eureka Irrigation Company that was move water from the Arkansas River to help the farmers. that was dug was known as the "Soule Ditch" or "Soule Folly".



"Share Our  
KS. A

the "Old  
To give  
Dodge

going to  
The canal

In 1999, the Fox Theatre, an Art Deco Theatre, reopened after extensive renovation. We will learn about its history, the renovation process and its designation as the State Movie Palace of Kansas.

We will also explore the Planets with a trip to the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center. The Cosmosphere is said to be second only to the Smithsonian in space artifacts. This day will include the museum, a planetarium show, an Omnimax show, and a visit to Dr. Goddard's Lab.

The Reunion Headquarters will be at the **Hampton Inn, 1401 ½ E 11<sup>th</sup>, Hutchinson, KS.** Reservations should be made through the hotel, not the national number to get the special rate. That number is **620-665-9800.** There is a block of rooms that will be held until May 22<sup>nd</sup> under Soule Kindred. Rates for 1-4 people are: King room—79.95 + tax; 2 Queen room--\$84.95 + tax. They also have a few that are "family suites" and "Jacuzzi suites". The family is one room with 2 queen beds and a hide-a-bed. Other accommodations are available. RV hookups are available at the Kansas State Fair Grounds, 620-669-3600. There are other motels for which I can provide information.

### Air Travel:

Mid-Continent Airport, Wichita Kansas is approximately 50 Hutchinson. Wichita is served by AirTran, Allegiant, West, American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, and Salina Airport is 60 miles north of Hutchinson. It is served carrier of USAir.

Other possibilities are Kansas City, approximately 3 ½ -4 and Oklahoma City, also 3 ½ to 4 hours.

### Weather:

Late June has an average low of 66 and an average high of



miles from  
America  
United.  
by a regional

hours away

90.

To "Linger Longer" in Kansas, visit <http://www.travelks.com> for other Kansas attractions.

### Silent Auction:

All proceeds from this will go to the Soule Kindred Scholarship Fund. If you have something that you would donate? Contact me at 620-663-7288 or [jshill@cox.net](mailto:jshill@cox.net).

# 2005 SOULE KINDRED REUNION

Hampton Inn

Hutchinson, Kansas

620-665-9800 Rooms held until May 22

June 22 – 26

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEE: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Dodge City Trip—includes  
Motor Coach trip, entry to Boot  
Hill Museum, Lunch at Boot  
Hill, guided tour of historic  
Dodge City

FRIDAY: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$0.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Fox Theatre Tour

SATURDAY: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$11.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Kansas Cosmosphere &  
Discovery Center

Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION IS NEEDED BY JUNE 1, 2005!**

PLEASE SEND REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT TO:

Chris Hill  
2402 Kipling Pl  
Hutchinson, KS 67502

Questions: [jshill@cox.net](mailto:jshill@cox.net) or 620-663-7288

STATE OF KANSAS

JIM MAAG  
 REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT NO. 10  
 1000 P. O. BOX  
 1217 FIFTH  
 DODGE CITY, KANSAS 67801



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

ASSISTANT 44 GIFTY FLOOR LEADER  
 COMMITTEE APP. COM. 1112  
 MEMBER EDUCATION TRAINING UNIV. EXT. DIST. 11  
 KANSAS STATE COLLEGE

Soule College was the result of efforts by a patent medicine magnate, Ass T. Soule from Rochester, N.Y., to bring higher education to the frontier plains of western Kansas. Soule came to southwest Kansas in 1853 with many ambitious projects in mind, some of which he guided to fruition during his seven years on the high plains.

His most challenging project was to build an irrigation canal from the Arkansas River in Gray County to Spearville which was nearly 100 miles away. The project was organized under the name of the Eureka Irrigation Canal Company and construction started in 1853. Using nothing more than horse-drawn equipment and human muscle the canal was completed to Spearville by the summer of 1858. Unfortunately the canal's usefulness was short-lived because similar projects further west on the river plus several years of drought dropped the river's water level so low that no water would flow into the canal. However, Soule did not suffer financially from the canal's failure as he sold the company to a group of unsuspecting Englishmen shortly before his death in 1890 for \$1, 100, 000.

Soule was also instrumental in organizing the town of Ingalls in Gray County where he envisioned a prairie metropolis since it was located where the canal began and was also being promoted as the county seat of Gray County. Soule's attempts to get the county seat moved to Ingalls have a somewhat comic-opera appeal as they involved building a special railroad to Moxezuma (the other town in the county whose votes were needed in the upcoming county seat election) and a Sunday afternoon shoot-out in Cimarron (an attempt to physically transfer the county records from Cimarron to Ingalls).

In 1886 Soule donated \$50,000 and a tract of land to the Presbyterian church to establish a college in Dodge City. The college which opened its doors in 1888 was named in honor of the chief benefactor and even after the control of the college shifted from the Presbyterian to the Methodist church in 1893 the name Soule College was retained. Unable to solve the financial problems which constantly beset the college the Methodist church in 1912 sold it to the Sisters of St. Joseph in Wichita. The Sisters used the facilities as a girls' school (St. Mary of the Plains) until May of 1942 when a tornado destroyed the two main buildings on the campus. Ten years later the Sisters opened a high school and a 4-year co-educational college under the same name at a site about one mile east of the old campus.

Today all that remains of the determined efforts of Mr. Soule are a few trees and the foundation of the main college building at the campus site. Traces of his canal can still be viewed to the west of Dodge City while one of the main streets in Dodge City bears the name "Soule Avenue".

# Soule College

DODGE CITY, KANSAS

## General Information

### LOCATION

The College is located in Dodge City, Kansas, on the main trunk line of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad between Chicago and San Francisco. It is also the terminus of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. It was once the heart of the Great American Desert, the land over which, in later years, the wild buffalo roamed in unnumbered thousands, but is now, in some respects, perhaps the most beautiful land on which the sun shines. It is almost in the center of a territory more than four hundred miles square, in which there is no other college, and in which the Methodist Episcopal Church has more than twice as many members as all other churches combined.

It is preparing itself for a large patronage, and to supply the intellectual needs of the coming generations. The elevation is 2,500 feet above the sea-level, and the mean temperature 55 degrees.

### BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The buildings, made of brick and trimmed with stone, were erected by Hon. Asa T. Soule, a Presbyterian gentleman of Rochester, New York, and donated to the Methodist Episcopal Church, with a campus of forty acres, since increased to two hundred acres, and now being used by the Industrial Department.

The Main Building is erected according to the most improved plans, and is large enough for the accommodation of one thousand students.

The Boarding Hall for Ladies is most comfortable and convenient, and designed to accommodate one hundred lady students.

It is the design of the management to erect one like it for boys, on the opposite side of the campus, as shown in the picture elsewhere.

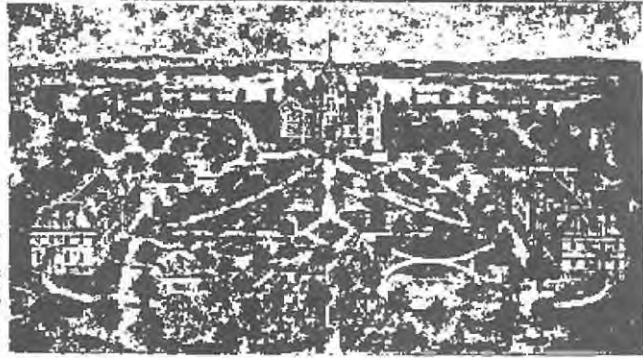
Since the property came into possession of the Church the buildings have been improved and partly furnished and equipped, and the grounds have been laid out in walks and drives, and adorned with trees and shrubbery in a most beautiful and artistic manner.

The State has established an irrigation station at the edge of the grounds, and donated it to the College. It insures water and fish in the lake on the campus, and the continued growth and beauty of the trees and shrubbery.

### LIBRARY

The College already has a good Reference Library of about two thousand volumes, and it is the purpose of the management and the friends to continue to increase it, and to give to the Library the prominence and connection with the courses of study which are essential to the highest success of the students, and also to establish a Chemical Library and Laboratory with facilities and apparatus for demonstrating before the students the work of the Science Department.

What ever happened to Soule College above?? The above information came out of the 1902-3 "Ninth Annual Announcement of SOULE COLLEGE of the Methodist Episcopal Church." If any of our kindred can shed further light on this namesake college or if any of our cousins living in Kansas would investigate, we will be glad to print their comments.



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF SOULE COLLEGE AND GROUNDS  
(The hall at the right has not yet erected)

### EXPENSE

The cost of board is \$2 per week. Furnished room (towels and bed clothing not included) is 50 cents per week for each student (two in a room).

Unfurnished rooms, 25 cents per week (two in a room). Students furnish their own fuel and light, which costs but little.

Those who (by accident or otherwise) do any damage to the buildings or property are required to pay for it.

Where students take parts of different courses they pay the proportional part of the tuition for each.

In the school year of nine months (36 weeks) the board will amount to . . . . .	\$72
Regular Tuition . . . . .	24
Furnished Room . . . . .	18
Incidental fees . . . . .	3
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$117</b>

### TUITION

Preparatory or Normal Department, per term . . . . .	\$8 00
Or per week from time of entrance . . . . .	75
College Department, per term . . . . .	10 00
Or per week from time of entrance . . . . .	1 00
Commercial Department, per term . . . . .	8 00
Or per week from time of entrance . . . . .	1 00
Shorthand Department, per term . . . . .	8 00
Or per week from time of entrance . . . . .	1 00
Summer Normal Term . . . . .	4 00
Or per week from time of entrance . . . . .	50
Vocal Music, in class, per term . . . . .	2 00
Use of Piano, per month . . . . .	1 00
Use of Typewriter, per month . . . . .	1 00
Elocution, private lessons . . . . .	50
Music, according to student's advancement, per lesson . . . . .	50 cents to 1 00
Incidental fee, per term or part thereof . . . . .	1 00
Board, per week . . . . .	2 00
Furnished Room (towels and bed clothing not included), per month . . . . .	2 00
Unfurnished Room, per month . . . . .	1 00
Light and Fuel extra.	



# Failure of 'Soule's Ditch' Left Its Mark on Kansas

By FORREST HENTZ  
Staff Writer

For nearly a century, a series of man-made mounds north of U.S. 50 between Dodge City and Ingalls has marked the course of the most ambitious irrigation project ever undertaken in Kansas.

The Eureka Irrigation Canal, also known as "Soule's Ditch," was a failure, if not a swindle. But it also was at least partly responsible for the founding of a town, a college and three banks; the building and dismantling of a railroad; a shooting war over the county seat — and a hefty profit for the promoter.

The guiding genius was Asa Titus Soule, a New Yorker who made \$10 million selling "Hop Bitters," a concoction with enough alcohol to make one forget whatever was wrong.

Soule came to Kansas in 1883 at the request of John and George Gilbert, who were convinced that they could make the "Great American



Desert" burst into bloom. All they needed was water from the Arkansas River — and Soule's money to get that water where it was needed.

They envisioned a canal meandering 96 miles from the old Cimarron Crossing on the Santa Fe Trail to Coan Creek near Kinsley, irrigating 640,000 acres.

**SOULE BUILT** a town at the intake end of his canal and, because he was bankrolling the project, named it "Soule." He soon changed it to "Ingalls," however, to honor Sen. John Ingalls.

The company was incorporated at Spearville and issued \$1 million in stock. Soule took it all, bonded the company for \$1 million and, in 1887, sold the bonds at par in London, clearing a half-million-dollar profit.

Henry Beard, the foremost surveyor of that era, was hired as engineer. The actual digging began in 1884 and took 3½ years. It was done by 225 men using 360 horses and mules to move countless thousands of yards of dirt with slip scrapers.

**AMID CONSIDERABLE** pomp and ceremony, the water was turned into the canal in March 1880 and began disappearing into the sandy soil at an alarming rate. It took more than 24 hours for the water to move a mile — and until July to reach the other end. By that time, the crops had burned out and people had lost faith in the project.

Despite constant breaks, massive seepage losses and a host of other problems, the canal struggled along until 1890, when a diversion project in Colorado left the intake high and dry. Pumps were used for a time, but even those proved inadequate.

Soule had been hedging his bets, however. He figured he still had a chance if Ingalls became county seat of Gray County. Cimarron had a big edge, but the only other contender was Montezuma, and Soule decided to buy the town's votes. If Montezuma citizens would agree to vote solidly for Ingalls, he would build the Dodge City, Montezuma & Trinidad railroad. They did and he did.

He said he was going to drill gas and water wells at Ingalls, build a sugar plant and spend \$100,000 on public improvements.

**SOULE DIDN'T** want Cimarron to become a metropolis, so he began booming Dodge City to draw off any possible investments. He spent \$50,000 to build Soule College and a dormi-

tory, gave it a \$10,000 endowment and turned it over to the Presbyterians. They went broke, the Methodists eventually took over — with the same luck — and the college finally became St. Mary of the Plains.

The promoter founded the National Bank at Dodge City and started others at Ingalls and Spearville. Then he hired a crew of gunslingers to intimidate Cimarron voters.

Article from

WICHITA EAGLE

June, 1982

But Cimarron won, and on Jan. 12, 1889, a shooting war broke out when an Ingalls contingent raided the town and stole the records. One Cimarron man was killed and three Ingalls men were wounded.

Two companies of militia were called out to keep the peace, and the court battles continued for two years. Ingalls got the decision and remained county seat until 1892, when it was returned to Cimarron.

**THE DODGE** City, Montezuma & Trinidad was abandoned, and the angry farmers literally carted off the whole thing. With nothing left, the Montezuma townsite was vacated in 1895. The present town 1½ miles away was built in 1912.

Soule died in 1893, and finally the Gray County battles came to an end. The Eureka Irrigation Canal faded into legend.

Much of the old ditch has been filled in now, but there still are places where one can stand in it and marvel at the incredible amount of work that was involved. Remains of two of the gates, their wooden parts long gone, still stand, reminders of a dream that failed.



Photo Courtesy of Boar Hill Museum, Dodge City

**TITUS SOULE**

... "Guiding genius"

## Soule Canal Now Is Only Dirt Mound

By Barbara Oringderff

Cimarron, Kas.—If you happen to be driving along U. S. 50 between Cimarron and Dodge City, watch on the north side of the highway for the strange rows of mounds that look like giant primeval reptiles humping their way across the rounded crests of these gently sloping Southwest Kansas hills.

Of course, these humps don't really date back to prehistoric times. They were made by men and horses 35 years ago and they mark all that remains of the Eureka Irrigation canal—popularly called the Soule canal—the first really big irrigation project in Western Kansas.

THE PROJECT was conceived in 1882, when the Gilbert brothers of Dodge City (but formerly of Rochester, N. Y.) looked over the cattle country west of Dodge City and came away convinced that the future of the "New West" lay in farming not ranching.

The brothers dreamed of starting a big irrigation project using water from the Arkansas river. Their only problem was lack of money, so they promptly set about persuading an old friend from Rochester to come west and invest some of the millions he had made from the sale of ketchup bottles.

The patent medicine king of Rochester was Asa T. Soule. He too was impressed with the potential of the New West, and in 1883 he incorporated the Eureka Irrigating Canal company (with its first headquarters at Spearville) and began work on his promising new project.

The source of water for the Soule canal was to be the Arkansas river at a point six miles west and a little north of Cimarron (at the site of what is now the town of Ingalls), and the route along the Arkansas river was surveyed from there to a point 45 miles east of Spearville a total of 96 miles.

THE CANAL, built entirely by team-drawn slips and hand labor, was 48 feet wide and 6 feet deep at its head gradually decreasing to a width of 45 feet and a depth of 3 feet. It had a fall of about 2 feet to the mile. To direct the water into the canal, a wing-dam of piles extending 2,000 feet up stream was built into the river at Ingalls. (The dam cost about \$30,000.)

The canal made big news throughout Kansas, and both Cimarron and Dodge City named a street in its honor. Cimarron still has Canal street on the east edge of town and Dodge City still has its Soule avenue in the north part of the city, near where the construction of the old Soule canal ended.

Asa T. Soule had made his mark on history, but it had been expensive. He furnished all the money for the construction of the canal, which reportedly cost about \$250,000, and he issued one million dollars worth of stock in the Eureka Irrigating Canal company and bought it all himself. (It is said that Soule later bonded the project for a million dollars, sold the stock in London at par, and cleared a half million dollars in profit out of his investment.)

To this day, there are many different stories and opinions as to the success of Soule's ditch. Actually, the project was successful in that the canal did have water running in it and some irrigation resulted. However, its success was limited from the beginning because it was built so near the river that it didn't really reach any large farming area. Also, the sandy formation of the soil at its head allowed the water to seep out of the ditch at an alarming rate.

DURING those first years, this seepage was relatively unimportant, but about 1890 Colorado began her extensive irrigation projects that brought the mighty Arkansas down to a mere trickle. From that time on, the Soule canal went down hill—figuratively as well as literally.

In 1908 a company of Eastern men tried to revive the canal by putting in a new and larger sump at Ingalls. This sump was a hole in the river bottom about 65 feet wide, a mile and a half long, and about 10 feet deep. Two large dredges, which were floated on barges 40 feet square, were used to take out the sand. Then, two large centrifugal pumps were installed. It is said that one of these pumps could throw a stream of water close to 30,000 gallons a minute, but even with both pumps in operation they were unable to overcome the great amount of seepage and evaporation.

By this time, Soule's town of Ingalls was thriving and the sump served the community as a swimming hole, fishing pond and baptistry. The irrigation canal, however, was considered a bad investment and no further development was attempted. The Pueblo Flood of 1923 wrote the final chapter on the usefulness of the Eureka irrigation canal when it filled in the sump and buried the abandoned dredges.

Now, 85 years later, all that remains of Soule's auspicious project are the small parts of the canal marked by the dirt mounds left atop the hills.

Kansas City Star,  
Sunday 13 Apr 1969

The following article appeared in KANSAS' Magazine, 1st issue/1982  
(Quarterly publication of the Kansas Department of Economic Development)

## The SOULE CANAL

Story and Photography by Tim Wenzel

**AS** one flies over southwest Kansas a distinct serpent-like scar zigzags across the rolling plains. The scar is the remnant of a very extensive irrigation system constructed by early Kansas pioneers.

Water has long been the concern of farmers in southwest Kansas. Today, the concern is the area's depreciating water table. In the late 19th Century, however, the major concern was how to utilize the torrent waters in the Arkansas River to aid the drought-stricken land.

In 1882, George and John Gilbert from Spearville developed an idea to put the waters to use. An irrigation canal was planned to provide moisture for the surrounding farmland. But the idea needed financial support. The Gilbert brothers were formerly from New York and knew of a wealthy man in Rochester who was always looking for a way to invest his money. Thus, Asa Titus Soule became involved in the project.

Asa T. Soule was a patent medicine millionaire. He was known worldwide as the "Hops Bitters King." Hops Bitters was an elixir with the express purpose to "cure what ails ya." The elixir, made with bitters, hops and alcohol, was a very popular medicine. With factories and stores in Rochester, New York; Toronto, Canada; London, England; Paris, France; Antwerp, Belgium, and Melbourne, Australia, Soule was quick to accumulate a fortune of between eight and ten million dollars from the sale of Hops Bitters.

Soule was soon sold on the investment possibilities of an irrigation

canal in Kansas, and, within months, came west to invest his fortune in the building of the canal.

Plans called for the canal to begin two miles west of what is now the town of Ingalls and to extend 96 miles to Coon Creek near Kinsley. Soule immediately started plans for the construction of the Eureka Irrigation Canal. An English engineer, Edward Beard, was hired to manage and build the canal.

Every available man in the area was put to work. The wages were \$1.50 a day per man and \$2.50 a day for a man with a team of horses. The canal was dug entirely by horse teams and plenty of hand labor. The canal was

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**The canal was dug entirely by horse teams and plenty of hand labor.**

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dug at an average of six feet deep with the base 28 feet wide and the top 48 feet wide.

The Eureka Canal was built between 1884 and 1885 at a cost of \$800,000. Despite plans to extend the canal to the Kinsley area the construction ended about 15 miles west near Spearville.

Farmers who owned land along the canal route were given the opportunity to purchase water rights. All one had to do to take advantage of the water was to dig laterals off the canal and pay a subscription of between \$1 and \$1.50 per year per acre. During the height of the canal's use, 500,000 acres benefitted from the irrigation waters.

Soule sold the stock in the canal company to a group of London

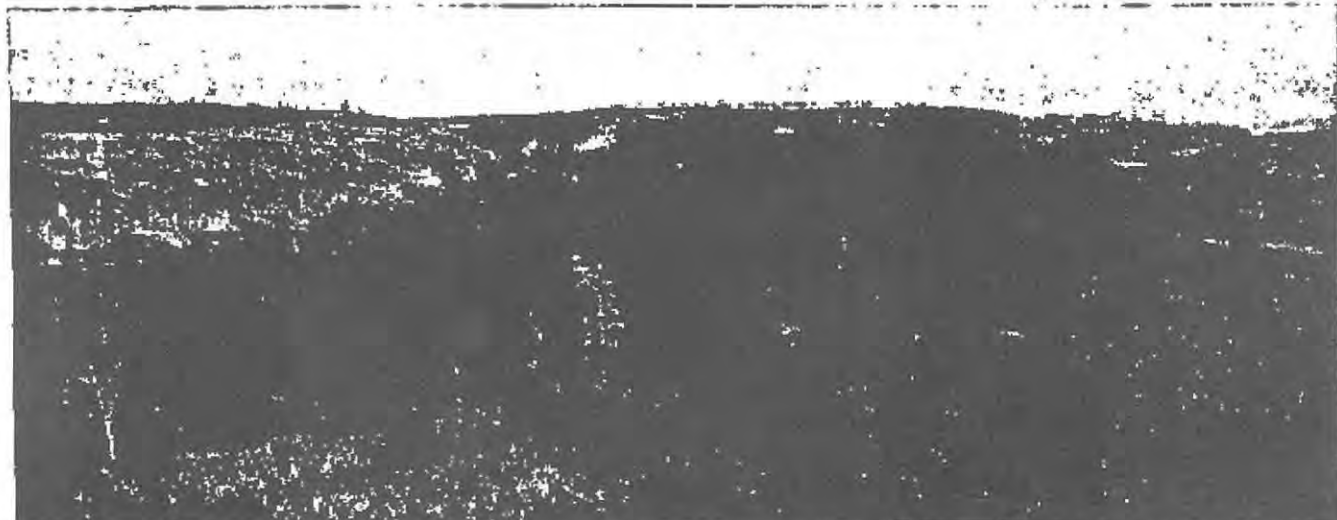
investors shortly after the canal was started for one million dollars in gold.

The canal was operated for five years. But, as with most big ideas, problems plagued the project. Seepage of canal water in the porous soil near the mouth of the ditch was a major problem. Two mammoth centrifugal pumps were used to throw water from the river into the canal but the seepage problems were never overcome.

The problem which finally ended the use of the irrigation canal actually originated in Colorado. In 1890, eastern Colorado farmers learned of the benefits of irrigation so that much of the water in the Arkansas River was utilized for Colorado farmland and never reached Kansas. The Kansas irrigation company took the matter to court when there was no more water to feed the canal. The courts ruled that Colorado had prior rights to the water since the river originated in that state.

Several times in the 1950's serious consideration was given to reviving the canal. By then, however, roads crossed the canal's route at almost every mile so that re-establishing the canal would require the construction of many bridges. This cost made the reviving of the irrigation project unfeasible. Today, the remnants of the ditch appear as severed ravines.

Soule built a college which bore his name in Dodge City. This institution was not a successful venture and failed soon after his death in 1888. Today, the streets "Soule" in Dodge City and "Canal" in Cimarron, are the only reminders of the man who came to southwest Kansas to make it "blom like a rose." □



A depression in the earth near Dodge City is all that remains of Asa T. Soule's Eureka Canal which was built between 1884 and 1885.

THE SEARCH FOR THE ENGLISH ORIGINS OF  
MAYFLOWER PASSENGER GEORGE SOULE  
PART I: ECKINGTON, CO. WORCESTER

By Caleb Johnson

Before any attempt is made to ascertain the English origins of *Mayflower* passenger George Soule, it is important to briefly summarize what is known about him. Many of the more significant facts were recorded by William Bradford, governor of Plymouth. In 1651, Bradford wrote several pages containing "The names of those which came over first, in y<sup>e</sup> year 1620 and were (by the blessing of God) the first beginners, and (in a sort) the foundation, of all the plantations, and colonies, in New-England. (And their families)." On this list is found:

Mr. Edward Winslow  
Elizabeth his wife, &  
2 men servants, caled  
Georg Soule, and  
Elias Story; also a litle  
girle was put to him caled  
Ellen, the sister of Richard  
More.<sup>1</sup>

George Soule was one of the signers of the "Mayflower Compact," according to Nathaniel Morton who first recorded the names of the signers in his 1669 book, *New England's Memorial*.<sup>2</sup> George Soule received one acre in the 1623 Division of Land at Plymouth "on the South side of the brooke to the baywards."<sup>3</sup> In the 1627 Division of Cattle, George Soule is listed with his wife Mary and eldest son Zachariah, joined with the family of Richard Warren. They received shares in "one of the 4 black Heyfers that came in the Jacob caled the smooth horned Heyfer and two shee goats."<sup>4</sup>

Since children during this time period were very regularly named after their parents and grandparents, it is worth noting the names of George Soule's children. He and wife Mary had nine children: Zachariah, John, Nathaniel, George, Susanna, Mary, Elizabeth, Patience, and Benjamin. The names Zachariah, Nathaniel, Patience, and Benjamin appear to be Puritan-influenced names that are not probably to be found in George's parents. Children George and Mary were presumably named after their parents. That leaves only John, Susanna, and Elizabeth as names that could have been inherited from a grandparent.

<sup>1</sup> William Bradford, *History of the Plimoth Plantation ... Now Reproduced in Facsimile from the Original Manuscript*. John A. Doyle, ed. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1896), p. 526.

<sup>2</sup> Nathaniel Morton, *New England's Memorial* (Cambridge MA, 1669; facsimile reprint, Heritage Books, 1997), p. 26.

<sup>3</sup> Nathaniel B. Shurtleff and David Pulsifer, *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth*, 12 vols., (Boston, 1856), 12:4 [Hereafter cited as PCR]

<sup>4</sup> PCR 12:42

Others who have searched English records have had trouble determining the age of George Soule—a necessary piece of information to accurately formulate a theory on his origins and eliminate unnecessary candidates. Charles E. Banks, writing in G.T. Ridlon's *History, Biography and Genealogy of the Families Named Soule, Sowle and Soulis* (Lewiston, ME, 1926), at page 141, states that because "his age is not known and no document has survived here which connects him with an English parish, two prime clues are lacking." Nils Wilkes, in his *In Search of George Soule of the Mayflower* at page 43, notes with a little more precision, "George Soule must have been born in England somewhere between 1590 and 1600."

However, it is possible for us to considerably narrow his age from that given by Banks/Ridlon and Wilkes. First, George Soule signed the "Mayflower Compact." In order to have done so, he needed to have been of legal age. On 8 September 1623, William Bradford wrote a letter to the English investors in the Pilgrims' joint-stock company to answer some of their concerns and complaints about the government the Pilgrims had established. Bradford wrote: "Touching our government you are mistaken if you think we admit women and children ... for they are excluded, as both reason and nature teacheth they should be; neither do we admit any but as are above the age of 21 years, and they also but only in some weighty matters, when we think good."<sup>5</sup> In other words, the men over 21 in the colony were only allowed to participate in government for "some weighty matters," and women and those under 21 were barred from participation. George Soule, therefore, was over 21 years of age on 11 November 1620, and thus was born in 1599 or earlier.

Additionally, George Soule came in the capacity of a "manservant" to Edward Winslow. Manservants were essentially apprentices, except in many cases they were not being taught a specific trade, but were simply housed and fed by their master for a contractual period of time, in exchange for labor. This was often done when a father died, leaving a wife and children without enough estate to care for themselves; or when a family became too large to support itself. The contractual period of service ended at age 25, or sometimes earlier. So when George Soule came on the *Mayflower* as a manservant for Edward Winslow, he must have been under 25 years of age, meaning he was born sometime after 1595. These facts place George Soule's birth at between 1595 and 1599.

Additionally, it can be noted that George Soule was not married in 1623. He only received one share in the Division of Land: if he were married he would have received two shares. His future wife, Mary Buckett, arrived on the ship *Anne* in July 1623. She is listed elsewhere in the Division of Land, receiving one share "on the south side of town towards the eele-river."<sup>6</sup> However, George and Mary were married and already had one child by 22 May 1627, the date of the Division of Cattle. So he was married at least by 1626. George Soule would not have been eligible to marry until his contract was up, which normally would occur when he reached the age of 25. His marriage right around 1624-1626 fits in perfectly with the chronology given above for a birth between 1595 and 1599.

Previous researchers seem to have assumed that George Soule's origins should be found in co. Worcester, near the birthplace of his master Edward Winslow. However,

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<sup>5</sup> R.G. Marsden, "Letter of William Bradford, September 1623," *American Historical Review* 8(1903):294-301.

<sup>6</sup> PCR 12:6

this need not be the case. Edward Winslow left co. Worcester for London by 1613, where he became a printer's apprentice, and then left for Leiden, Holland by 1618.<sup>7</sup> Winslow probably made his contact with the Soule family through one of the other Pilgrims in Leiden, or through one of the London investors that were underwriting the voyage.

#### THE PREVAILING THEORY: ECKINGTON, CO. WORCESTER

The most popular theory on the origin of George Soule has him coming from Eckington, co. Worcester. This theory was worked primarily by G.L. Ridlon and Charles E. Banks through the 1920s<sup>8</sup>, and was further investigated by Nils Wilkes about 1986.<sup>9</sup> Though none of the researchers came to any conclusive conclusion, both Ridlon and Banks offered tentative theories and suggestions, which over the intervening 75 years have often been presented as if they were documented fact. A closer examination of the Eckington Soules is thus a necessary beginning-point for any investigation.

A careful examination of the records of Eckington, co. Worcester, reveal that there are three different George Soule's living there in the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Research is hampered somewhat by the fact that the parish registers for Eckington do not begin until 1678, and only the pre-*Mayflower* years of 1612, 1615, and 1617 are available in Bishop's Transcripts. So most of the information about the Soule family of Eckington comes from probate and manor records.

Let us now take a look at each of these three Georges, to determine if any meet the necessary qualifications to have been the *Mayflower* passenger.

#### GEORGE SOULE, SON OF ROBERT SOULE, SALTER OF LONDON.

On 5 February 1580, Robert Soule "citizen and salter of London" sold to his brother Thomas his lands in Eckington, co. Worcester. The deed was witnessed by his sons Edward and George.<sup>10</sup> On 20 September 1581, George Soule of Evesham leased land in Eckington and the neighboring parish of Birlingham.<sup>11</sup> On 17 August 1583, George Soule had a daughter Mary baptized at All Saints, Evesham. This is his only child of record for him. Robert Soule was a gentleman, and had his coat of arms confirmed by the College of Arms in London on 18 June 1591.<sup>12</sup> Robert Soule, salter, made out his will, proved 17 April 1595 at St. Giles Cripplegate, London.<sup>13</sup> In his will, he bequeaths son George £10, and mentions George had received a "great house or inn" at Evesham, co. Worcester.

<sup>7</sup> Jeremy D. Bangs, *Pilgrim Edward Winslow: New England's First International Diplomat* (Boston: NEHGS, 2004), p. 3-5.

<sup>8</sup> G.L. Ridlon, *History, Biography and Genealogy of the Families Named Soule, Sowle and Sowls* (Lewiston, ME, 1926), and Charles E. Banks, *English Ancestry and Homes of the Pilgrim Fathers* (Baltimore, 1929), at pp. 80-81.

<sup>9</sup> Nils Wilkes, *In Search of George Soule of the Mayflower* (n.d., c1986). Typescript deposited at the Worcester Records Office, and available from the Soule Kindred of America.

<sup>10</sup> Worcester Records Office 899:637/BA 7852

<sup>11</sup> Wilkes, p. 6, citing Worcester Records Office 850 / BA1615 / Box 4

<sup>12</sup> G. L. Ridlon, p. 25, citing "The record of grant of arms to Robert Sole, salter, found in the College of Arms in London."

<sup>13</sup> Prerogative Court of Canterbury PROB 11/85.

This George Soule could not be the *Mayflower* passenger. He was an adult in 1580, so clearly was born well outside the 1596-1599 window calculated previously. It has been suggested that perhaps he had a son George. But there is no record of any such son. Additionally, this George Soule had a fairly high social status and wealth, being the son of an armorial gentleman and having received a "great house or inn." If he ever did have a son George, he would not make a likely candidate to have been a manservant to Edward Winslow.

#### GEORGE SOULE, SON OF ROBERT SOULE, HUSBANDMAN OF ECKINGTON

On 5 February 1612/3, Robert Soule, husbandman of Eckington, made out his will. He bequeathed to wife Elizabeth his lease of land in Eckington, and upon her death it was to transfer to his son George. Son Thomas received a malt mill, cistern, and watering trough, while son Robert received the "residue" of his goods that were not otherwise disposed of. Daughters Alice Warde, Anne, and Eleanor are also mentioned. An estate inventory was made on 12 March 1612/3, and the will was proved the next day, 13 March 1612/3.<sup>14</sup> On 10 October 1613, George Soule and his mother Elizabeth signed a lease of land in Eckington.<sup>15</sup>

Charles Banks noted that this George "answers best of all the candidates the demands of identification, in point of time, locality and relationship to a Sole family which had contact with Governor Winslow both in London and Worcestershire."<sup>16</sup> Nils Wilkes denoted this man as "George ?Pilgrim?" on his tree of the Soule families of Eckington.<sup>17</sup>

However, this George Soule is almost certainly not the *Mayflower* passenger. He signed a lease agreement in October 1613, which would indicate he was 21 years of age or older at the time. This puts his birth at sometime before 1592. His brother Thomas—presumably a younger brother since he received only a malt mill, cistern and watering trough in his father's will—was married on 2 May 1606 to Winifred Moore. If younger brother Thomas was married in 1606, then he was probably about 25 years old, putting his birth at 1581-1584—so this would push George's birth to sometime before 1584 at least. Once again, this is far too old to have been the *Mayflower* passenger. In addition, as will be discussed under the next George Soule, this man was probably still living in Eckington on 31 August 1647.

#### GEORGE SOULE "THE YOUNGER" OF ECKINGTON, MOLECATCHER

On 5 June 1631, Eckington parish registers record the marriage of George Soule to Susan Nash. If he were about 25 when he married, this George would have been born about 1606—right about the same time period that Thomas Soule, mentioned above, was married to Winifred Moore. Because of the timing, I therefore suspect this George is probably the son of George Soule discussed above. George and Susan had a daughter Frances baptized on 13 November 1636 at Eckington. A few years earlier, the parish registers record the marriage of Grizzigon Soule to Thomas Roberts on 2 February 1627;

<sup>14</sup> Worcester Records Office, Consistory Court of Worcester 1612:191.

<sup>15</sup> Worcester Records Office, 850 / BA 4401 / Document No. 26. "Elizabeth Sole and George Sole have putt their hands and seales even the daie and yeare first above written."

<sup>16</sup> Ridlon, p. 150.

<sup>17</sup> Wilkes, p. 51.

Grizzigon was perhaps George's sister. On 13 February 1633/4, George Soule, molecatcher of Eckington, had a legal dispute with Mary Taylor. Mary was ordered to keep the peace with George, and George signed a release indicating Mary had paid her debt for molecatching.<sup>18</sup> On 9 June 1637, George Soule was in trouble for having stolen a sheep from Thomas Roberts presumably his brother-in-law.<sup>19</sup> Apparently the family dispute was mended, because George was a witness to Thomas Roberts' will in February 1643.<sup>20</sup>

On 31 August 1647, George Soule "the younger" is listed on an account of men of Eckington that were quartering troops and horses during the English Civil War.<sup>21</sup> Because he is referred to as "the younger," we can presume there was an older George Soule still living in Eckington at the time: probably George's father George, as I surmised above. Since both Georges are living in Eckington in 1647, they obviously were not the *Mayflower* passengers. Younger George made out his will on 17 October 1651, proved ten years later on 22 June 1661. His will mentions wife Susanna, and daughter Frances, as well as kinsman Thomas son of Thomas.<sup>22</sup> I presume that is Thomas, son of his uncle Thomas.

These three George Soules (son of Robert the salter; son of the Robert the husbandman; and the molecatcher), can thus all be eliminated as candidates for the *Mayflower* passenger, because they were either too old, or still living in Eckington after the *Mayflower*'s departure. There are no other known George Soules in any Eckington records. Therefore, we must discard the theory he was from Eckington, and move on to search for his origins elsewhere in England.

There are more George Soules somewhat to the west of Eckington in the parishes of Berron, Dymock, and Redmarly D'Abitot, in co. Worcester, as well as Asperdon, co. Hereford. Additionally, there are some George Soules living in Flitwick and Tingrith, co. Bedford, which is not too far from Henlow, the origins of the *Mayflower* Tilley, Samson, and Cooper families; and the Bedfordshire Soules appear to have reached across into northern co. Hertford, into the parishes where *Mayflower* passenger Richard Warren is thought to have originated. These families will be investigated as this research, funded by the Soule Kindred of America, progresses.

*Caleb Johnson is the author and webmaster of the MayflowerHistory.com website. a website he has researched and maintained for the past eight years. He previously has discovered the English origins of Mayflower passenger Stephen Hopkins, and this last year discovered the origins of Mayflower passenger Peter Browne. He is currently working on a book, The Mayflower and Her Passengers, due out in August 2005. His research into the ancestry of George Soule is being funded by the Soule Kindred of America. Simon Neal of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, is accessing English records, and translating them where necessary, in support of this project. Simon is a noted genealogist and records researcher in England, has an M.A. in Latin, and has worked with Caleb on several Mayflower-related projects in the past.*

<sup>18</sup> Worcester Records Office. Worcester Quarter Sessions Rolls, 1/110/24/54.

<sup>19</sup> Worcester Records Office. Worcester Quarter Sessions Rolls, 1/110/84/37.

<sup>20</sup> Wilkes, p. 9, citing Worcester Records Office 008.7/BA.3585/1647 Nu. 157.

<sup>21</sup> Wilkes, p. 10, citing Worcester Records Office 705:877 / BA 8081.

<sup>22</sup> Worcester Records Office. Consistory Court of Worcester: June 1661:26.



THE SEARCH FOR THE ENGLISH ORIGINS OF  
*MAYFLOWER* PASSENGER GEORGE SOULE  
PART 2: STRENHAM, REDMARLY D'ABITOT,  
DYMCK, BERROW, AND ASPHERTON

By Caleb Johnson

In Part One of this article, it was shown that all George Soules residing in, or with direct ties to, Eckington, co. Worcester, could be accounted for, and that none of them could have been the *Mayflower* passenger. It is time to expand the search beyond the parish of Eckington, to look for other interesting candidates.

### **John Soule of Strensham**

In 1929, *Mayflower* researcher Charles Edward Banks published his book, *The English Ancestry and Homes of the Pilgrim Fathers*. Banks, apparently realizing that neither George Soule son of Robert Soule the salter, nor George Soule son of Robert Soule the husbandman, could have been the *Mayflower* passenger, went in search of another candidate father in the vicinity of Eckington. He wrote simply that George Soule “has been tentatively identified as the son of John Soule of Eckington, co. Worcester, and probably kinsman to Robert Soule, a wealthy London salter, ... All other George Soules found in England at that period have been satisfactorily eliminated.” No source, nor any additional details for this new claim, was provided by Banks.

Strangely, there is no John Soule living in Eckington during the time period in question. Banks does mention that “Fuller particulars of this identification will be found in the recently published Soule Genealogy for which a special extensive search covering a number of years was made by the compiler of this book.” That is undoubtedly a reference to the book *History, Biography and Genealogy of the Families Named Soule, Sowle and Soulis* (Lewiston, ME, 1926), by G.T. Ridlon, with contributions by Charles Banks. But this work makes no mention of any John Soule of Eckington during the time period in question either. However, a John Soule of the neighboring parish of Strensham is mentioned. This John Soule was buried in Strensham on 9 July 1615, so on the surface he would seem to make a great candidate for the father of the *Mayflower* passenger (because the most likely time for a son to be apprenticed out is shortly after the father’s death). In addition, John Soule would presumably be closely related to the Soules of Eckington, where the family name of George is regularly in use.

In 1986, Nils Wilkes attempted to follow up on this family for his work, *In Search of George Soule of the Mayflower* [n.d. c1986]. Wilkes reported “I have been unable to link any John Soule to a son George so far. ... A convenient father to George would have been John Soule of Strensham ... His children were being produced at the right time, but there is no George either in the parish register or mentioned in his will of 1615 (I have been unable to locate this will and Banks does not give any references to its whereabouts...) ... Therefore at the present time I am not convinced that John Soule ... was the father to George.<sup>1</sup>”

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<sup>1</sup> Nils Wilkes, *In Search of George Soule of the Mayflower* (n.d. c1986), p. 45.

The will of John Soule of Strensham that Nils Wilkes was unable to locate is actually found in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, PROB 11/126. "John Sowle of Strensham in the dioces of Worcester yeoman" made out his will on 9 May 1615. Among the bequests are the following:

- "First I do give and bequeathe unto Thomas Sowle my eldest sonne twentie poundes ... when he shall accomplishe the age of one and Twentie yeres"
- "I do give and bequeathe the sayed Mesuage house or Tenement and the sayed acre and three quarters of meadowe ground with all and singular theire appurtn[a]nces unto John Sowle my second sonne"
- "Then I do give and bequeathe the saied Mesuage house or Tenement Acre and three quarters of meadowe ground with all and singular theire appurtn[a]nces unto William Sowle my youngest sonne ... to be paied the sayed William when he shall accomplishe the age of one and twentie yeres"
- "Item I do give and bequeathe unto Margaret Sowle my eldest daughter the somme of one hundred and twentie poundes when she shall accomplishe the age of one and twentie yeres or be marryed which shall first happen"
- "Item I do give and bequeathe unto Katherine Sowle my daughter the somme of one hundred and twentie poundes of lawfull money ... when she shall accomplishe the age of one and twentie yeres"
- "my will ys that in case my sonne Thomas Sowle shall accomplishe the age of one and twentie yeres That then he shall enter and enjoye the one moytie or halfe of a Lease in Strensham which I boughte of my Cosin Samuel Butler"
- "The Residue of all my goodes and Chattells unbequeathed ... I do give and bequeathe unto my loving wife Christian Sowle whome I do make my sole executrix: And I do make and ordayne my Cosin Samuell Butler Richard Bradford and Thomas Dingle Supervisors of this my last will and Testament"

The will of John Soule of Strensham, thus, makes it very clear that he only had three sons: eldest son Thomas; second son John; and third son William, along with two daughters, Margaret and Katherine. The parish registers of Strensham confirm this family structure:

John Soule married Christian Portman on 16 September 1596, and had children:

1. John, bp. 13 February 1596/7, buried 14 February 1596/7
2. Margaret, bp. 14 May 1598
3. Thomas, bp. 28 October 1599
4. Katherine, bp. 21 May 1602
5. John, bp. 7 April 1605
6. William, bp. 5 November 1607

John Soule and his cousin Samuel Butler were churchwardens in 1602<sup>1</sup>, perhaps explaining Charles Banks' erroneous statement that John Soule was "mayor."

John Soule of Strensham, co. Worcester, can be eliminated as a candidate father of the *Mayflower* passenger: he did not have a son named George.

The parish registers of the other parishes that neighbor Eckington, namely Defford, Birlingham, Great Comberton, Bredon's Norton, and Kemerton, were

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<sup>1</sup> Nils Wilkes, *In Search of George Soule of the Mayflower* (n.d. c1986), p. 22.

exhaustively searched by Nils Wilkes, who found no Soule entries; therefore, these were not examined for this research.

Since it is now apparent that the *Mayflower* passenger was not from Eckington or any of the immediately surrounding parishes, it is time to cast a wider net. Since the name George does appear to be used regularly in the Soule family of Eckington, it seems reasonable to follow up on more distant Soule families in co. Worcester. The area that seems most promising are three adjoining parishes: Dymock, Berrow, and Redmarly d'Abitot. It turns out that each of these parishes has a George Soule living there. Each of these George Soules, therefore, were investigated.

#### **George Soule of Dymock, co. Gloucester**

The parish registers of Dymock, co. Gloucester, include the following:

1. Margery Soule, daughter of George Soule, bp. 23 March 1577/8; buried 13 May 1578.
2. Jane Soule, daughter of George Soule, bp. 20 April 1579
3. Ussela Soule, daughter of George Soule, bp. 26 August 1582
4. Thomas Soule, son of George Soule, bp. 17 October 1585; buried 25 November 1585.

Margery, wife of George Soule, was buried on 24 March 1605/6. Unfortunately, no further traces of this George Soule were found. This George Soule is clearly not the *Mayflower* passenger because of his age and the fact he was already married and having children. Most families during this time period had more than three children, so it seems likely that some children in his family have gone unrecorded. Could this family have continued having children into the 1595-1599 time period, and thus been the parents of George Soule of the *Mayflower*? Possible. But there is no record of any children beyond Thomas in 1585.

#### **George Soule of Berrow, co. Worcester**

The will of John Soule of Berrow, co. Worcester, is dated 2 February 1576, and may shed some light on the situation.<sup>1</sup> In the will, which is very difficult to decipher, John Soule requests to be buried next to his deceased first wife Elizabeth. He gives his son George a horse, a canvas doublet, a featherbed, and a crossbow that is currently in the possession of kinsman John Soule of Strensham. This is interesting, because it ties John Soule and son George to the family of John Soule of Strensham—but the exact relationship remains unclear. However, this George was way too old to have been the *Mayflower* passenger. Because Dymock and Berrow are very close to one another, it seems quite possible that George Soule, the only son of John Soule of Berrow in 1576, may be the same man as George Soule of Dymock who began having children of record there in 1578.

#### **George Soule of Redmarly d'Abitot, co. Worcester**

The parish of Redmarly d'Abitot is sandwiched between Berrow, co. Worcester, and Dymock, co. Gloucester. The parish registers of Redmarly d'Abitot include the following family:

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<sup>1</sup> Worcester Records Office, 008.7 / BA 3585 / 1576, No. 36.

Roger Soule married Helen Angeworth (sometimes Angel) on 3 June 1588. Their children were:

1. Helen, bp. 27 July 1588
2. Alice, bp. 20 November 1589
3. John, bp. 1 January 1591/2
4. George, bp. 24 March 1593/4
5. Richard, bp. 5 November 1596
6. Joane, bp. 1 January 1598/9

Roger Soule was buried on 27 February 1634/5, and wife Helen was probably the “Eleanor” who was buried a few years earlier on 15 October 1631. The George Soule here would seem to be much more interesting. The baptism of 24 March 1593/4 puts this George Soule within reach of the expected 1596-1599 birth of the *Mayflower* passenger. Could it be that this man is the *Mayflower* passenger? If the *Mayflower* George Soule were baptized in 1594, it would make him a 26-year old servant, which is not a normal arrangement. But perhaps even more conclusive, it would have made him almost two years older than his master, Edward Winslow, who was born on 18 October 1595: an even more unlikely circumstance. And father Roger Soule was still apparently alive in 1620, making a servant arrangement unlikely as well—normally children do not become servants unless the father dies, or is particularly impoverished. Unlikely circumstances aside, this George cannot yet be conclusively eliminated as a candidate. No further record of him has yet been located.

There is only one manorial record listed at the Worcester Records office for Redmarly, dated 1575, and access to it was refused by the staff of the Records office due to renovations; given the early date of the record, it is highly doubtful it would have mentioned any Soules. Tax records at the Public Records Office (class E179) were searched for Dymock and Redmarly, but no Soules were found. A large number of deeds for Dymock also survive and were searched, but no references to any Soules were found.

#### **Ashperton, co. Herefordshire**

Roger Soule of Redmarly d’Abitot, co. Worcester, was married in 1588. Most men during this period married around the age of 25, so we can estimate that Roger Soule was born about 1563. So it is very interesting to note the baptism of Roger Soule on 12 October 1561 at Ashperton, co. Hereford, a parish that lies about 10 miles to the west of Redmarly d’Abitot. The parish registers of Ashperton, co. Herefordshire, are very faded in parts, making their transcription extremely difficult. Some of the entries are missing from the International Genealogical Index. Examination of the parish registers reveals the following baptism entries (illegible letters are in brackets and are simply guesses at what the name originally was; entries with an asterisk are not found in the IGI):

- 18 March 1559/60 [A]nne, daughter of George Soule\*
- 12 October 1561 Roger, son of George Soule
- 10 February 1562/3 [Kathe]rine, daughter of George Soule\*
- 24 June 1564 John, son of George Soule
- 2 November 1567 John, son of George Soule

There were no marriage or burial records relating to the Soule family in Ashperton. It would appear that the Roger Soule of Redmarly d’Abitot was the son of George Soule of Ashperton, co. Hereford. While we have reasonably eliminated Roger

Soule as being the father of the *Mayflower* passenger (his son George being born a little too early), brother John Soule would necessarily be of interest. Baptized on 2 November 1567, if he survived to adulthood he would have been married perhaps about 1592. And since his father was named George, it would be reasonable that he would name a son George as well.

One quite reasonable possibility is that the John Soule baptized in 1567 at Ashperton is the same as John Soule of Strensham, who was married in 1596. The timing is about right, and he did name a daughter Katherine, perhaps named after his sister; and the Soules in this region apparently had ties to John Soule of Strensham, because the will of John Soule of Berrow calls him a kinsman.

Additional research in Herefordshire has proven very difficult. Archdeaconry wills for co. Hereford were apparently lost or destroyed during the English Civil War, and do not exist prior to 1660. All that remains are some wills in the Episcopal Consistory of Hereford. There is only one Soule will recorded, that of William Soule of Castle Frome, co. Hereford, dated 27 June 1567. In his will, he bequeaths everything he owns to John Flooke alias Mutlowe, with the exception of a lamb and a shirt, which he bequeaths to Anne Abbottes, a servant to William Unett, gentleman. So it is clear from the will that this William Soule did not have a surviving wife or children.

Manorial records, likewise, do not exist for Ashperton. There are some surviving deeds for co. Hereford; these were searched, but contained no references to Soules.

In co. Gloucester, there are only five Soule wills, none of which provide any mentions of the name George. They are:

- William Soule of Slymbrydge, Gloucester, dated 20 June 1577. Mentions son William, and wife Bridget. Ref: 1577/206.
- Andrew Soule of Brockthropp, Gloucester, dated 24 September 1598. Mentions Robert Lymbrygg, Robert Payne, Elizabeth Lord daughter of Reynold Lord, along with Mary, Richard, Frances, John, William, and Edward Soule (no relation specified) and Andrew Soule (kinsman). Also mentioned are Richard Smyth, minister; Robert Wynston, and Richard Harris. Ref: 1598/5.
- John Soule of Newport, Barkley, Gloucester, dated 14 September 1573. Mentions "four children" (not named) and wife Alice. Ref: 1573/100.
- John Soule of Eveington, Leigh, Gloucester, dated 16 May 1634, yeoman. Mentions son John, wife Johan. Overseers John Eagles and John Cooke of Derehurst Walton, yeomen. Ref: 1639/33.
- Stephen Soule of Brockthorpe, Gloucester, dated 11 June 1551, husbandman. Mentions children Thomas, Edward, William, Andrew, Margaret, and Anne. Mentions brother Thomas, Jone (his sister's daughter), Robert Awood the elder (friend), and William Payne and Thomas Graynger. Ref: 1551/112.

At this point, we have exhausted every probate, manorial, deed, and tax records in the regions of co. Hereford, co. Gloucester, and co. Worcester known to have been the home of a George Soule. All known George Soules' in these areas can now be conclusively eliminated as having been the *Mayflower* passenger, with the possible exception of the George Soule of Redmarly d'Abitot who was baptized on 24 March 1593/4. However, some doubt was also shed on that record, he still being baptized a tad too early to have made a likely candidate for the *Mayflower* passenger.

In Part III of this research, I will move on to the Soule families of Bedfordshire, where the name of George Soule is found in use in the parishes of Tingrith and Flitwick.

*Caleb Johnson is the author and webmaster of the MayflowerHistory.com website, a website he has researched and maintained for the past eight years. His research into the ancestry of George Soule is being funded by the Soule Kindred in America. Simon Neal of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, is accessing English records, and translating them where necessary, in support of this project. Simon is a noted genealogist and records researcher in England, has an M.A. in Latin, and has worked with Caleb on several Mayflower-related projects in the past, including a research project on the Dorking records of William Mullins', funded in part by the Alden Kindred of America, and published with the Peter Browne discoveries in The American Genealogist 79(July 2004):161-178. Caleb is a descendant of Mayflower passenger George Soule, and is also a descendant of John Alden/Priscilla Mullins, Myles Standish, Edward Doty, Henry Samson, and Richard Warren.*

# Application to join Soule Kindred in America, Inc

The Soule Kindred in America was formed in 1967 by a group of dedicated people who were interested in tracing their ancestry back to pilgrim Gorge Soule who arrived aboard the Mayflower in 1620 The Soule Kindred are dedicated to preserving and passing this important genealogical information to anyone interested in tracing their ancestry.

The Soule Kindred is a non-profit organization incorporated in Massachusetts in 1972 with members in Europe, Canada and throughout the United States. Through the diligence of the first president George Soule, Colonel John Soule, both direct descendants of Pilgrim George Soule, a great heritage was found to have been left by our founding fathers.

Genealogical records are available through the Soule Kindred Historian to assist those interested in tracing their family roots. The Soule Kindred has microfilm records containing thousands of names and information back to Mayflower passenger George Soule. Through the quarterly Soule Kindred Newsletter genealogical information is contributed and distributed to our membership.

Activities of Soule Kindred include the annual Soule Kindred Reunion held in different cities. The Reunion provides a forum for the annual meeting, an opportunity to meet "cousins", exchange genealogy information and make lasting friendships. Some members maintain their own web sites while others communicate regularly via-mail.

There are no restrictions to joining Soule Kindred. Your name does not have to be Soule, Sole, Soules, Sowl, and Sowles or even begin with an "S". The only requirement is that you have an interest in determining and tracing your ancestry. If the idea of finding your roots and meeting new "cousins" appeals to you, we invite you to send in your application and join us.

If you would like more information, please contact our President, Frank Flint Soule III, at 1413 Dorothy Dr., Palatine, Ill 60067. otherwise please send this membership application, along with a check made payable to Soule Kindred in America, Inc., to Betty -Jean Haner, Membership Chair, 53 New Shaker Road, Albany, New York 12205-3615

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