



Christmas Symbols



The Tree ...
points to heaven and reminds
us that God is eternal.



The Wreath ...
is a circle reminding us that
God's love for us never ends.



The Candle ...
shines brightly, showing us that
Jesus is the light of the world.

Finally, I attended the General Society of Mayflower Descendants meeting in Asheville N. C. on 9 September just before hurricane Helene struck. I have memories and pictures of places there that no longer exist! We continue our prayers for all those impacted by the hurricane.

Hearth & Home: Celebrating Our Family Moments

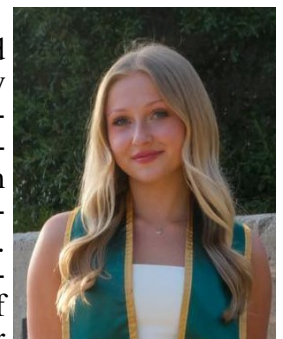
By Kathy Watson

Marston connected to the Droitwich Spa (England) Thanksgiving Day celebration of Mayflower Governor Edward Winslow as a descendant. It all began with an inquiry from one of its residents, Elaine Turton. She contacted Craig Failor, Governor of the Winslow Heritage Society, in search of an Edward Winslow descendant in the United States. Craig referred Elaine to Marston.

Elaine and Marston communicated with each other, which resulted in his "across the pond" participation in the celebration on Thanksgiving Day by writing an article for the local newspaper. There is a monument and statue of Edward Winslow in the town square.

Two Graduations!

Lexie Watson graduated from Cal Poly on Sunday June 16, 2024 with a Liberal Arts degree. She is now living in Madrid teaching English for nine months having been selected for the graduate program. While there, she has the opportunity to immerse her learning of Spanish. She traveled home for the Holidays!



Xander Maniaci graduated this month from Sonoma State with a Computer Science degree. He will walk in May, so there will be more to report in 2025. First task will be to report for jury duty in January. His work experience is var-

Travel Snapshots

By Kathy Watson

Let's begin this annual message with a few tales from the 2024 travel schedule. It seems that not having a car has impacted the travel we plan. The first trip of the year was planned as an official duty of the Mayflower Society State Governor. Orange County was the destination for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Orange County Colony. Featured speaker was Scott Miller and I delivered congratulations from the State Society.

Next was a combined trip for a family visit with first cousin Mark Maloof and Karen Gagne who live



so close to Hartford Conn. where the SMOTJ Grand Convent was held. Marston handled the travel cross country well! No mishaps and we enjoyed site seeing in western Massachusetts and the events of the Grand C&I.

Massachusetts and the events of the Grand C&I.

ied from roof construction to gaming development so following his civic experience, the world will open to his dreams.

Magical #30

Michael Amador turned 30 on July 19, 2024. He's living his best life having celebrated his first anniversary with wife Dani and a fulfilling job at the University of California, Berkeley. Dani enjoys working as an instructor and golf pro at the Presidio Golf Club in San Francisco. Oh, to step back in time and imagine being 30 again!



L to r: Lexie, Watson, Haley Watson, Karen Amador, Marston Watson, Al Amador, Jill Watson, Erik Watson, Kathy Watson, Rob Maniaci, Xander Maniaci and Dionne Maniaci.

The year 2024 was filled with many wonderful events, which culminated in a blessed Christmas dinner on Monday, December 23. We are fortunate to have a blended family who showed their love with one another in animated and happy conversation. There were toasts to Lexie Watson (*Marston's granddaughter*) and Alexander Maniaci (*Kathy's grandson*) for their achievement as 2024 college graduates. It was heartwarming to hear them talk about their future plans as post graduates.

California Curiosity

By Kathy Watson

The Centennial Light is an incandescent light bulb recognized as the oldest known continuously operating light bulb. It was first illuminated in 1901, and has only been turned off a few brief times since. It is located at 4550 East Avenue, Livermore, California, and is open to public viewing. Due to its longevity, the bulb has been noted by The Guinness Book of World Records, Ripley's Believe It or Not!, and General Electric.



The handmade lightbulb was originally manufactured by the Shelby Electric Company of Shelby, Ohio, towards the end of the 1890s and donated to the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department in 1901. It has been relocated several times since and remains in the care of the fire department to this day. The bulb's longevity has been attributed to the high quality of its manufacture, it being seldom turned off, and its low wattage. Originally a 60-watt bulb, the light has for many years emitted dim light equivalent to a 4-watt bulb, about the strength of a nightlight.

Join with me [to view the Centennial Light](#).

Living Family History

Haley Watson traveled to Massachusetts with her father Erik this fall. They visited Marston Mills and the USS Constitution among other sites. Marston's sister Kim was an excellent tour guide sharing many family stories along the way. One blended family site visited was King's Chapel and the gravesite of Mayflower passenger Mary Chilton Winslow and her husband John Winslow, brother of Governor Edward Winslow. Mary is Kathy's Mayflower passenger.



A Special Visit

Sophia Amador comes to visit us as often as she can fit the time into her busy schedule. Her most recent time with us was just last week. She told us about her new job at Compassionate Care, a hospice care organization that specializes in providing quality home care. Sophia works in administration and enjoys the work.



Happy New Year

