

West Goes East

Retirement doesn't seem to suit **Marston** and **Kathy**, whose trips to Boston and Washington, D. C., along with many other activities, definitely keep them from getting bored. Marston's trips to Boston (sometimes alone) were related to his position as the Templar Prior of New England. However, our two-week plus vacation to New England in August was one of the highlights of our year. Our first week included Marston's speech at the *USS Constitution's* 198th anniversary on August 19 of its fa-



Family on board *USS Constitution*: Kim Watson, Kathy & Marston, Mimi & Jim Watson, Janet & George Watson

mous battle with *HMS Guerrière*. He talked about his 3rd great-grandfather, Commodore **Charles Morris**, who was a hero in that battle. We visited friends in Vermont, venturing to Montreal for two nights, and cousins in Stockbridge and East Harwich, Mass. A direct result of Marston's presentation in August garnered an invitation to return in October to be a part of the turn around cruise of the *USS Constitution* on the annual celebration of the launching. The ship leaves the Charlestown Navy Yard and heads to the Coast Guard Base where the ship is honored with a twenty-one gun salute. Another highlight on this trip to Boston in October was the Templar event in honor of the Rev. Canon **Andrew White**, known worldwide as the Vicar of Baghdad. Multiple opportunities were available to meet with Canon White: an afternoon tea, a Priory dinner, and a prayer breakfast. These events were followed two days later with the dedication of a new grave marker for Marston's Watson ancestors (his grandfather and great-grandparents). A number of his Watson cousins participated, followed by a family lunch in Cambridge.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Congress in Washington D. C. in July allowed us to stay in the 47,000 sq. ft. mansion, known as the Anderson House, which

is one of the benefits of Marston's membership in the Society of the Cincinnati. Marston and **Erik**, who are both members, spent time together in Boston at the February 22nd annual meeting of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati. In May, Kathy began her two-year term as Regent of Anne Loucks Chapter of DAR. The year culminated with the successful Wreaths Across America event where Kathy was the Mas-



Kathy with dignitaries at the 2010 Wreaths Across America event at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.

ter of Ceremonies at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery.

Family Update

Michael (16), **Karen** and **Al's** son, is well into his junior year at De La Salle High School in Concord, where his favorite sports



are swimming and track. He is already thinking about his college options, but has not narrowed down his preferences as yet. Michael asked his grandpa Marston to take

him to the Department of Motor Vehicles, where he passed his learner's permit test on the first try. He saw a school friend there who was on his 5th attempt at the test. Michael is becoming quite proficient on his electric guitar. In January we invited Michael to go with us on a tour of Oakland on Segways-what fun we had!

Sophia (13), **Karen** and **Al's** daughter, has a passion and a pen-

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chant for acting, which included the musical *Suessical* in honor of the Dr. Seuss books. Her acting experience landed her the opportunity to be a part of an upcoming PBS show *Kids Kitchen*, which will allow her to teach young students how to prepare healthy vegetable dishes. Sophia continues to excel in school (8th grade) and on her clarinet. She hopes to play in the high school band next year.

Haley (10), **Erik** and **Jill's** daughter, continues to garner medals for her synchronized swimming. She participated in a district meet at which she earned a gold medal, three silver and three bronze medals for her efforts (the highest number of medals for any participant at that event). Haley manages to hold on to her straight "A's" in school, despite four days a week of practice for her swimming.

Alexia (8), Erik and Jill's daughter loves swimming, but has the acting bug as well. She is enjoying her tennis lessons and is doing quite well.



Haley, Sophia, and Lexie on a recent trip to China town at the Canton Bazaar.

Alexander (10), **Dionne** and **Rob's** son, continues to excel in gymnastics. He looks forward to displaying his skills at special events where his family can enjoy seeing him perform. The two-and-a-half acres of his parent's property allow him plenty of room to enjoy his pets (goats, dogs and cats), as well as spend time driving his go-cart.



New York, New York



Start spreading the news,
I'm leaving today
I want to be a part of it -
new york, new york
These vagabond shoes,
are longing to stray
Right through the very heart
of it - new york, new york
I wanna wake up in a city,
that doesn't sleep
And find I'm king of the
hill - top of the heap.

In June, we attended the Grand Convent for the Sovereign Military Order Temple of Jerusalem. The Grand C&I was a wonderful event - much to my surprise, I was recognized with the order's highest honor, the Legion of Merit medal. The event was held at West Point, which afforded us an opportunity to visit New York City as well.

Besides staying at the Union League, a private club located close to Grand Central Station, we visited Central Park, the Episcopal Cathedral and saw a wonderful Broadway show. It was great fun navigating around New York City by bus and subway. There is so much to see, and we had so little time, but we made the most of it including a boat tour to see the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. One of the best memories that we both have is the wonderful friend we had as a tour guide: **Richard Stanley** (thanks for the memories!).

Social Networking



You see them everywhere now when surfing the web...you know them. The little icons representing Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Blogger, YouTube, Google Buzz, etc. Well, this is the year that Kathy decided to learn what all the "buzz" was about. She first started with a Facebook account and then branched into Twitter then on to starting her own blog. Yes, all can be quite addicting, but taken in moderation, all can be fun.

The very newest social networking tools are location specific games (Foursquare and Facebook Places to name two). Then there is a tool to measure your internet "Klout". Many hours later Kathy's clout was not very high, but she has learned a tremendous amount about internet tools and has used them to improve the websites that she designs and maintains. Look for Kathy's blog "Bits n' Bytes" - you can get to it by doing a Google search or by starting on our redesigned personal website <http://home.comcast.net/~marston.watson/>.

Happy New Year!