

Jesus Is The Reason

In Bethlehem, God gave to us
The source of Christmas joy;
A star shown on a miracle:
The virgin birth of a boy.
He was born both God and man,
A Savior for us all,
The way to get to our heavenly home,
If we just heed His call.
So as we shop and spend and wrap
And enjoy the Christmas season,
Let's keep in mind the sacred truth:
Jesus is the reason.



By Joanna Fuchs

A Look in the Rear View Mirror

by Marston Watson

Marston continues to work on the 400-year genealogy of his Watson family in America and the genealogy of his ancestor **Lord Delaware**, of royal and noble ancestry, and five-generations of his family in America. Marston and Kathy traveled out of state nine times this year, including five trips to their



“second home” in Boston. They visited his Maloof cousins at a family reunion, as well as with friends in Boston and Vermont. They stayed with his cousin **Mark Maloof** at Stockbridge, Massachusetts (former home to **Norman Rockwell**) before the reunion. However, their trips to New England kept them quite busy during their stay in Boston at the following events.

Old Ironsides Sail

The *USS Constitution* (“Old Ironsides”) celebrated the bicentennial of its historical naval victory over *HMS Guerrière* on Sunday, August 19, which took place on this date in the War of 1812. Old Ironsides went to sea in the Boston Harbor for a short turnaround cruise, partly under sail for only the third time since 1882. The ship’s crew, a few re-enactors and the British Consul were joined by Marston, who represented one of the ship’s heroes of that battle, Lt. **Charles Morris**



(later Commodore), his third great-grandfather.

It was an emotional and memorable experience for Marston, as he stood on the deck where Lt. Morris fell from a musket ball in his abdomen, barely missing his vital organs. Morris refused medical treatment until the British captain surrendered his sword nearly two hours after he suffered his wound.

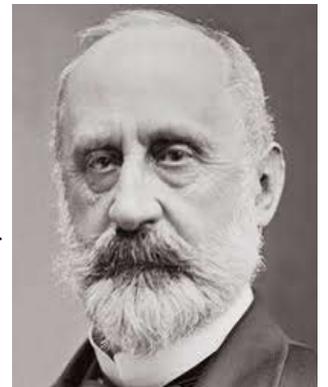
War of 1812 Celebration

Marston was one of two guest speakers at the Society of the War of 1812 national meeting on August 17 and 18 at the Constitution Inn, Charlestown, Massachusetts during its bicentennial celebration of the War of 1812. Members and guests learned about the exploits of Commodore **Charles Morris** and his brilliant career of 56 years, 6 months and 27 days as a naval officer. Of particular interest to the group was the timeline of the battle of the *Guerrière* on August 19, 1812 and the heroic efforts of Lt. Morris.

Marston’s interest in his third great-grandfather’s naval career led him to be appointed three years ago as proprietor of the gravesite of Commodore Charles Morris at Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, D. C. He and his cousin, **Jim Watson**, visited the gravesite last July.

Major General Charles Devens Presentation

Marston’s love of genealogy led him to research and write about Major General **Charles Devens**, his first cousin four times removed (as Marston’s 4th great-grandfather and Devens’ father were brothers). Two of his articles were published in the *Historical Journal* of the Military Order of Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) when he was its editor a few years ago.



Marston’s 5,000-word biography of General Devens will be published in the upcoming book on the Hundred and Fifty Year History of the Union Club of Boston, of which he is a member. This book will be available at the sesquicentennial celebration on April 8, 2013 of the club’s formation in 1863, which was founded by General Devens and other Union sympathizers in a show of support for President **Abraham Lincoln**. Marston was one of several Civil War descendants of the Union Club founders who made a presentation at a club function last September.

Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (SMOTJ) Awards

Marston and Kathy have been members of SMOTJ since 2004 and 2005, in which they have had very active roles in their New England priory and national organization. The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Grand Priory of the United States of America (GPUSA) was celebrated last June in San Antonio. Kathy was inducted into the Order of Merit, to which deserving members with impressive service in GPUSA are nominated. Marston received the Distinguished Service Medal, GPUSA’s highest award to its members. He was involved as editor of GPUSA’s 150-page book on its fifty-year history in America.



No Longer a “Wanna Be”

by Kathy Watson



For eighteen years I would introduce myself at Mayflower meetings as a Mayflower “wanna be” because my research for a Mayflower ancestor did not bear any fruit. That all changed in 2012!

On a visit to the New England Genealogical Society in Boston in February, staff genealogist **Chris Childs** identified the parents of Sarah Davis who married Wooster Peck. The genealogy of Alden Davis and Martha Edson was well documented and led to two Mayflower ancestors who arrived in this land November 1620.

Stephen Hopkins (b. about 1582 – d. between 6 June 1644 and 17 July 1644), and was baptized on 30 April 1581, at Upper Clatfor, Hampshire, England the son of John Hopkins and Elizabeth Williams. He was a tanner and merchant who was one of the passengers on the Mayflower in 1620, settling in Plymouth Colony. Hopkins was recruited by the Merchant Adventurers to provide the governance for the colony as well as assist with the colony’s ventures. Hopkins was one of forty-one signatories of the Mayflower Compact and was an assistant to the governor of the colony through 1636.

Mary Chilton was baptized on May 31, 1607 in Sandwich, Kent, England and was the daughter of Mayflower passenger James Chilton. Mary Chilton’s mother’s name has been listed as “Susannah, possibly Furner” in many places. At the age of thirteen, Mary accompanied her parents on the voyage to Plymouth. Her father, at age sixty-four, was the oldest passenger on the Mayflower.

By legend, Mary Chilton was the first passenger to step ashore at Plymouth, reportedly so excited that she jumped out of the small boat and waded ashore onto “Plymouth Rock.”

Her father died on December 18, 1620 aboard the Mayflower and her mother died six weeks later on January 21, 1621, also aboard ship. Once orphaned, it is believed she became the ward of Myles Standish or John Alden. Chilton was given three shares in the land division of 1623, one for herself and one each for her deceased parents.

Membership in the General Society Mayflower Descendants and the California Mayflower Society was granted in September 2012.

Oh! Discovery of these ancestors also led Marston to identify that I am descended from George Watson of Plymouth making Marston and me Watson cousins!

My Cup Runneth Over

by Kathy Watson

Genealogy research on the Todd ancestors took an unexpected turn in March at the CSSDAR State Conference over breakfast with **Jeannette Shiel**. We discovered that **Stephen Hopkins** was a common ancestor for Jeannette and me so she shared that being able to trace ancestry back to Stephen qualifies for membership in the Jamestown Society!

Wikipedia says “In early 1609 Stephen Hopkins began employment as a minister’s clerk, reading religious works to a congregation including members of the Virginia



Company. On June 2, 1609 Hopkins left his wife and family and in his ministerial clerk’s position, departed for Jamestown in Virginia on the 300-ton *Sea Venture*, flagship of a flotilla lead by Sir **George Somers**. The *Sea Venture* was carrying the new Jamestown governor, Sir **Thomas Gates**, to his post as well as resupplying the colony with goods and new settlers.”

By invitation to the Society, the application was submitted in late November and I learned of membership approval in early December. My genealogy research cup truly runneth over in 2012.

Family News to Share

by Marston & Kathy



Michael Amador, our oldest grandchild, graduated from DeLaSalle High School in June and is now attending Chico State University. How proud we were to be able to attend his graduation ceremony to see him receive his diploma. We enjoyed a lovely graduation party with family and friends after the ceremony which was open only to close family.

Sophia Amador,

Michael’s sister is attending Carondelet High School as a sophomore this year. Mom **Karen** shared some fun pictures of Sophia’s prom night preparation with three of her friends. Sophia has advanced placement classes which occupies a lot of her day leaving little time for her passion for drama.



Haley Watson,

pictured on the left and a seventh grader is still swimming with the Aquanuts Synchro team. This year she and mom **Jill** went to London to see synchronized swimming (and other events) at the Olympics for Haley to get a flavor of what is in her future. Early in the year she was #1 swimmer in her class at a meet in Washington.

Lexie Watson, pictured right is one of the big kids on the campus at her elementary school: she’s in fifth grade and still loves drama. We will see her on December 15 in the *North Pole Review* at the Lesh theater in Walnut Creek. She has two roles this year: a toy and an elf, so we had to pick the right show to see her in the elf role.

Big sister **Kori Segerer** pictured in the middle, lives in Oroville. She was visiting here with her friend Eric Jensen—a great time for all at Rocco’s Pizza—the best in Walnut Creek!



Finally, **Xander Maniaci** is now in middle school as a sixth grader in Sebastopol. He says that he likes his “directed studies” class the best because he gets his homework done there. Xander enjoys Tae Kwon Do and just passed his level 2 purple belt test. Belts reflect a member’s proven level of competence and (just as importantly) the progression of colors reflects an inner journey that never truly ends.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

