



If we practiced Jesus every way,  
It'd be like Christmas every day;  
If we, like Him, were meek and mild  
And loved each woman, man and child,  
If we'd read our Bible, it'd remind us,  
So that every single day would find us  
More and more in sweet accord  
With our sweet Jesus--Master, Lord.

Then every day that we're alive  
Would be like December 25.

By Joanna Fuchs

## All in the Family

by Marston Watson

**M**arston's fourth volume in his series on *Royal Families: Americans of Royal and Noble Ancestry* is called *Pelham-Avery-West*. This 901-page book, which was published this year by the Genealogical Publishing Company in Baltimore, focuses on the Pelham family of Massachusetts, the Avery family of Connecticut and the West family of Virginia. He successfully traced his own ancestry to **Mary Boleyn** (wife of **William Carey**), who had a five-year relation (without contact with her husband) with **Henry VIII**, King of England and bore two children during that period (possibly his illegitimate children). Henry VIII later married Mary's sister **Anne**, mother of Elizabeth I, Queen of England. It turns out that the current English monarchy and Princess **Diana** are descended from Mary Boleyn and are related to Marston's family.

### Michael Amador (23)

**Karen** and Al's son **Michael** graduated 2012 from De La Salle Catholic School, where their football team set a national record of 151 consecutive wins (1992-2004), doubling the previous record of 72. Michael attend Chico State University for two years before deciding on a career as an EMT and afterwards as a paramedic, when he completes his current classes in February 2018. He will become a paramedic intern for a minimum of 600 hours before he can take his national examination. Michael is a self-taught guitar player and is in a rock band.

### Sophia Amador (20)

Sophia graduated 2015 with honors from Carondelet Catholic High School,



Walnut Creek California. She is a junior at the University of Nevada (Reno), where she is studying communications and community health. She enjoyed several years in community theater, with a major role as Amy in Little Women.

### Haley Watson (17)

**Erik** and **Jill's** daughter **Haley** is a senior at Northgate High School, Walnut Creek, California and will graduate on June 6, 2018 as an honor student. She has been a synchronized swimmer for the Walnut Creek Aquanuts for eleven years, which has earned her numerous gold, silver and bronze medals in regional, national and international competition. Ohio State University invited Haley to matriculate there in 2018 and join their synchronized swim team, which currently is number one in intercollegiate competition.



### Alexia Watson (15)

**Erik** and **Jill's** daughter Lexie, as she likes to be called, is a sophomore at Northgate High School, Walnut Creek, California, where she continues to be an honor student with a straight "A" record. She enjoys competitive volleyball and has served as an acolyte at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Walnut Creek for many years. Lexie has enjoyed being a part of the Walnut Creek Community Theater as well.

### Karen Amador

**Marston's** daughter **Karen**, who has a terrific job (nearly 20 years) at The Table Group, celebrated her 50th birthday (March 10) in fine style with family and friends at a lovely restaurant. Karen's parents, brother **Erik** and his family, as well as her husband **Al Amador's** family celebrated this milestone birthday. Karen is blessed to work with an internationally-known business author and speaker and his close-knit family of employees, who attended as well. Karen and Al enjoy some well-earned leisure time at their beautiful property on Whidbey Island, Washington, with their private beach at the scenic Holmes Harbor near Puget Sound.

### Erik Watson

Marston's son **Erik** left a successful sales position at XO Communications (17 years) to join a startup company (Fastly) as national sales director and vice-president for two-and-half years. However, he was highly-sought after this year by another startup company (Amplitude), which recruited Erik to be their national vice-presi-

*continued next page*

dent of sales (October). There is a high-tech world out there that only a father of my generation could envy. We are very proud of his success. Erik will be celebrating his 48th birthday on December 30.

## Dionne & Rob Maniaci



In the spring, **Dionne** and I spent a weekend in Sonora with a scrapbooking group. The three day event saw Dionne finishing over a dozen two page layouts and me creating a stash of greeting cards. All meals were catered so we really had quality time with each other.

Shortly after, they broke ground on their new home to be situated on their property in Sebastopol. By October, the foundation was finished and walls began to take shape. **Rob** continues challenging assignments in his career as a design engineer.

## Xander Maniaci (17)

Dionne & Rob's son, **Xander** is a junior at Analy High School in Sebastopol. This is the year that he passed his driver's test and is now on the road. He surpassed Mom, Dad and Grandma in height. Grades are good and turns out he loves computer games and is exploring website development/game/coding as a potential career.



## Waseem Wasaya



**Waseem Wasaya**, who was enrolled in the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center (ETVTC) in Ramallah took courses in math, physics, engineering and advanced coding. He graduated last spring with the school's highest marks on the national matriculation exam. It was our opportunity to help Christians in the Holy Land by sponsoring Waseem's education at the ETVTC.

He just started his first year as a computer engineering student at Birzeit University in the West Bank. Congratulations!

## A Sad Note

by Kathy Watson



**M**y brother, **Tim Todd** who lived in Aurora, Colorado passed away June 4, 2017. He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, **Marcia Todd**. Tim was a Vietnam Veteran who dedicated his career to serving as a consultant for public works agencies, retiring from Aurora Public Schools in 2014. He was a devoted volunteer for the Aurora Police Department for 22 years. During retirement he enjoyed working on his bucket list; attending NASCAR

races at every track. Tim had a life-long fascination with trains.

I visited with him over the Memorial Day holiday helping in any way I could on their network, computer, radio setup as sadly, Tim was no longer able to fill that role. We were hoping that he would recover from Mesothelioma but it was not to be.

## This-n-that...

by Kathy Watson

**J**uly 4th 2017 is the day I began walking for good health-10,000 steps in the Danville parade with my DAR chapter got me started. Since then, about 45 miles/week gets recorded by my Fitbit. So far, I've walked the length of India-got the badge to prove it!

Volunteer activities with Daughters of the American

Revolution, Daughters of the American Colonists, Colonial Dames and Jamestowne keeps my computer humming. Then there is the work with Sovereign Military Order Temple of Jerusalem (both USA and International) as the chair of the 900th celebration committee and webmaster for both.

To feed my creative right brain, greeting cards are made for birthdays and other special occasions. Teamwork completes each creation as Marston uses his writing talents on a special message for each recipient.

The devastating California fires (so close this year) and the threat of an earthquake always looming has both of us involved to some degree in emergency preparedness. Our gated community has formed teams to help organize neighbors with preparation of escape plans, go bags and communications when disaster strikes. One article says that you have only three minutes to evacuate a house fire! That's barely enough time to get dressed much less gather valuables.

## Centenarian Gladys-Impresses Crowd!

by Kathy Watson

**A**unt **Gladys Hoffman** celebrated her 100th birthday at Salute Ristorante close to our home on May 20. Family and friends were there to celebrate the auspicious occasion. To our surprise and ultimate enjoyment, Gladys recited a poem she learned as a child. In Spanish, she regaled the crowd with an incredible recitation (entirely from memory!) of a classic Spanish-language poem, La historia de Nuredin y de la bella Persa. Cell phones recorded her and the video was posted for the world to enjoy. I was impressed and my dream now at 71 is to be as sharp as Aunt Gladys when I turn 100!



## Travelogue

by Kathy Watson



**O**ur connection with knights templar took us to many places in 2017: Boston Massachusetts; Norfolk, Jamestown, Yorktown in Virginia; Minneapolis and the Mall of America; St. Petersburg, Punta Gorda and Orlando in Florida; Long Beach, California; Seattle and Whidbey Island in Washington (state).

Most impressive event attended was the Virginia International Tattoo. If you ever have a chance to see a tattoo-take the opportunity!

Most relaxing was the visit to Whidbey Island which was coupled with an event in Seattle. Thanks to **Karen & Al Amador**, we were able to enjoy their cabin.

The island is reached only by ferry (either Mukilteo or Port Townsend). The rental car ably took us from one end of the island to the other over the span of several days. I enjoyed the best Sangiovese wine from Whidbey Island Winery in Langley. We are still partaking of the Lingonberry jam from Coupeville. The view from the Admiralty Head lighthouse was spectacular. This will be a regular spot for us to visit in the future and recommend it highly to friends and family.



*Happy New Year*