



THE EVERGREEN LOG

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Fall 2021

Family Historian came face to face with actual ‘Skeleton in the Cupboard’, Unjustly Hanged 190 Years Ago

By Sandra Rimmer for Ancestry-Genealogy & DNA

When Mary Halliwell tracked her Horwood ancestors down to a parish near Bristol, she never expected to find a real skeleton under lock and key in a cupboard. The skeleton belonged to 18-year-old John Horwood, convicted of murder and hanged in Bristol in 1821. John was the youngest brother of Mary’s 3x great grandfather, Thomas Horwood.

Mary, of Leigh, Lancashire, told the Bristol Post “None of my existing family had ever heard of John Horwood, or knew that there was a convicted murderer in the family. Maybe the story was not passed on from generation to generation, or had just been forgotten over the passage of time. While researching the maternal side of my family I discovered that my great-great-great grandfather had been born in the parish of Bitton. As I had never heard of the place I decided to search the internet, hoping to find out about its location,



John Horwood's Skeleton

geography and history. I stumbled upon a web page about a book of human skin held in Bristol Record Office and of some papers collected by Dr. Richard Smith, who had dissected the body of a John Horwood in 1821. The same web page claimed his skeleton was in the Bristol University Medical School and still being used for teaching purposes. I then discovered that the murder had taken place in Hanham, in the parish of Bitton, the birthplace of my ancestors. I began to wonder if John Horwood was also one.”

“I contacted the Bristol and Avon Family History Society to seek advice and the resulting information proved invaluable. Baptism records proved that Thomas and John were brothers, two of ten children born to Thomas and Phoebe Horwood of Hanham. After discovering this tragic and shocking family story my curiosity was aroused and I decided to visit the Bristol area. Accompanied by my cousin, Marie, I left home with appointments to view both the skeleton

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and the book. Our first encounter with the past was a visit to the prison on Cumberland Road, the place of John's execution. The building had been demolished – only the main gate remains – but we found it very moving and upsetting being at the place where our ancestor's life had so brutally ended."

"The next day we had an appointment with Angela Wells at the Bristol University Medical School to view John's skeleton. We followed her up two flights of stairs before she stopped by the side of the next stairwell. Here she opened a padlocked cupboard door revealing a wooden case rather like the case of a grandfather clock, with a glass door front. Suspended inside by a brass hook attached to the top of the skull was the skeleton of John Horwood, still with a rope around his neck. Before I could say anything Angela explained that the rope was there to show that the skeleton was that of a felon. I noticed that the skeleton had very large hands – my grandfather also had very large hands. I placed my hands on the shoulder of the skeleton and closed my eyes, silently saying 'God Bless You'."

"The following morning we had an appointment at the Bristol Record Office to view the book which had been bound with John's skin...The first thing I noticed was the awful smell – I can only describe it as rotting leather. With age it had turned dark brown but I could see a skull and crossbones embossed in each corner and the inscription 'Cutis Vera Johannis Horwood', which translates as 'The skin of John Horwood'."

Mary returned home to Lancashire determined to find out more about John Horwood, and eventually uncovered his story. John was just 17 years old

when his relationship with his sweetheart, Eliza Balsom, ended in 1820. A few months later, in February 1821, the still infatuated teenager spotted her strolling with a new beau, William Waddy, on the hillside near her West Country cottage. It was too much for John and, in a fit of anger, he picked up a pebble and hurled it at Eliza. It hit her on the right temple and she tumbled into a brook.

However, the pebble had only made a small



John Horwood

wound, for which she was initially treated at home. When she went to Bristol Royal Infirmary to get the wound dressed properly, surgeon Richard Smith declared that it had become infected and decided to operate. In the early 19th century this meant trepanning – drilling a hole in the patient's head to relieve pressure. The trepanning caused

an abscess and four days later Eliza died. Dr. Smith alerted the police to the stone-thrower's identity and John was arrested.

Smith also appeared for the prosecution at the one-day trial in Bristol, at which John was found guilty of murder and condemned to death.



Mary Halliwell with John Horwood's Skeleton

John was hanged in front of an assembled crowd above the gatehouse entrance of the New Bristol Gaol on 13 April 1821, three days after his 18th birthday. Hanging in those days was a slow death. The 'long drop' method of hanging – using the victims' own weight, combined with the fall, to break their necks and render them immediately unconscious – had yet to be developed. Instead, John Horwood, with hands and feet bound, was dropped through a trap door on a short rope and strangled to death in writhing agony.

His body was requisitioned by the very same Dr. Smith for medical research. John's family pleaded for his body to be released to them for burial in his home village of Hanham, but Dr. Smith refused. A group of John's friends and relatives even planned to hijack the cart taking the body from the prison to the hospital. However, the gaol authorities thwarted this plan by delivering the corpse under

cover of night to the Bristol Royal Infirmary, where Dr. Smith carried out the dissection in front of 80 people at one of his medical classes.

The findings were then bound with a transcript of the trial in a book. Smith's macabre twist was to send John's flayed skin to a tanner, where it was turned into leather and used to bind the book. Smith kept the skeleton, complete with a noose round its neck, in a cabinet at his Bristol home, showing it off to guests, until it was moved to Bristol University.

Mary Halliwell legally claimed John's skeleton and on 13 April 2011, exactly 190 years after he was hanged, arranged for him to be finally laid to rest in Hanham in a funeral ceremony attended by more than 50 mourners.

Mary's husband, David Halliwell, went on to write about the story of John Horwood and his book, *An Unjust Hanging: Sent to the gallows by folly, ignorance and a doctor's selfish cruelty*, was published recently.

Read more about John Horwood on his Find A Grave page #68317877.

Read online at: abroadintheyard.com



I hope this edition of the Evergreen Log finds you & yours well. It has been a long time since anything has seemed 'normal'. We are all anticipating that time when life can fully resume ... safely. Unfortunately, when the Board needed to proceed with planning an 'in-person' Compact Day meeting, the COVID numbers were too high to permit us to do so.

Over this past year, the Bylaws Committee - consisting of Luanne Green, Jerri McCoy, Cheryl Eastman and Martha Music - was busy revising and adapting our WASMD Bylaws to meet both the present day needs of WASMD, as well as aligning with GSMD Bylaws, to avoid any conflicts. There were some key issues that needed to be addressed immediately:

I. The ability to hold meetings virtually to meet the needs of our society. Whether it be for Officer/Board elections or the affirmation of a society decision, being unable to meeting in person has been an issue for every organization this past year. WASMD now has Zoom capabilities to hold virtual Board meetings to, in addition to virtual Meet Ups, educational presentations, or forums on a variety of topics. More news on that topic in a later article.

II. Due to the increase in GSMD dues, WASMD can no longer maintain the Life Membership Category and still maintain our fiduciary responsibilities. Current Life Members are still exempt from paying dues, but we will no longer be offering future Life Memberships.

III. Our Life Membership program was not organized with the long-term financial health of WASMD in mind. With the increase in GSMD dues, the current costs of Life Members' dues financially impact our WASMD budget as the current Bylaws state that only the 'income' (interest) from the Life Membership fund may be transferred to the General Account to defray the expenses of those members. Presently, the income on the Life Membership fund covers only a fraction of the dues of only few LMs – and the remainder is taken from the income generated by the WASMD dues of the General Members. The Bylaws amendment would allow 'principal and accrued interest' from the Life Membership fund to be transferred to the General Fund to cover the GSMD dues of Life Members. *As the Governor, I encourage those holding Life Memberships to consider contributing to either the WASMD Scholarship Program or to the general fund itself. While the Life Membership program continues to pay the GSMD portion of your dues, there is no contribution to the yearly operating costs of WASMD.*

Gov's Message Cont'd

Your Officers and Board of Assistants strongly urge you to support the amendments. Much time and deliberation were spent amending the Bylaws to keep WASMD financially viable and relevant in today's world. See 2021 Proposed Bylaws Standing Rules Document sent accompanying this Fall 2021 Newsletter. More news on how to vote on these amendments will be delivered in a subsequent email via Mailchimp.

In other news, the Education Committee consisting of Tom Brown, Ken White and Robert Keatts have implemented our Scholarship Program! A Scholarship open to high school Juniors and Seniors across Washington in the amount of \$1,620 is now available. High School Counselors now have access to the WASMD Scholarship on a statewide data base.

Bruce D. Harrington
31st Governor

Scholarship Updates

The WASMD promotes education about the Pilgrims of the Mayflower and understanding of their impact in the world today.

WASMD has broadened its scholarship beyond its junior membership, to all high school juniors and seniors in Washington State. WASMD will award its first scholarship of \$1,620 by May 2022.

Go to our Society website and look under the Education and Scholarship tab for an application and instructions or go to the Washington State scholarship search website "theWASHBoard.org".

Submission DEADLINE: April 1st 2022

[EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIP LINK](#)

[WASHBOARD SCHOLARSHIP LINK](#)



The Washington State Society of Mayflower Descendants donates to the Seattle Public Library in memoriam of deceased members. These funds are used for books and materials in the Genealogy Collection.

In the Footsteps of Our Ancestors

Images & Article By Cousin Ken White

In honor of the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower landing, the town of Plymouth as well as historical locations along the Cape spent a great deal of time doing upkeep and historical research to make the year a great time of celebration, unfortunately Covid caused a major delay in the unveiling. Excited to get back to New England, my wife and I wanted to retrace the landing and early experiences of the Pilgrims.



On the Cape the Pilgrim Museum as well as a climb to the top of the Pilgrim Monument, which overlooks Cape Cod, provided a bit of history and an excellent view of the surrounding area. The other stops along the Cape provided a lesson in the need to continue promoting the education of our ancestors. At each of the other stops, I found my wife and I were the only people who seemed interested in looking at the memorials of First Landing and Corn Hill (a location where Pilgrims found corn buried, as well as other items and took it for their own use). Nearby while visiting at First Encounter Beach, an ice cream truck was parked in front of the monument honoring the location where the Nauset Tribe and Pilgrims engaged in a not so friendly exchange of weapons fire which

encouraged the Pilgrims to move on to Plymouth. No one seemed aware of the significance of the location. Our final stop on the Cape was to the Cove Burial Ground to visit the site of Constance Hopkins and Joseph Rogers burials. The cemetery has over 100 unmarked graves as well as many early settlers of Eastham, but once again we were the only onlookers.



Next, we headed to Plymouth, a location that has continued to draw in people to learn and see some outstanding history of our past.



We began with a visit to the Mayflower II, a ship originally created in 1952, but recently refurbished for the 2020 anniversary celebration and now looks flawless. Visitors can relive the feel of a 17th century

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Footsteps Cont'd

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sailing vessel and the tight living conditions the passengers had to endure. In addition to the ship, the newly refurbished shallop sits in the water next to the Mayflower II. To imagine this vessel being the only source of transportation of passengers and supplies to the shore of Plymouth only further reflects the struggles of the early settlers.

Close by the Mayflower II is Plymouth Rock and Coles Hill. After a quick look at the rock, we ascended the stairs to see the statue of Massasoit and the sarcophagus that contains the remains of those who died the first winter. In early July, a group of archaeologists began a dig to find remnants from the past on the hill prior to the transition of the ground becoming Remembrance Park. The newly created park will honor the Pilgrims struggles, the devastation to the native population due to European interaction, and impact of the 2020 pandemic.



From there, we drove a short distance up the hill to the Monument to the Forefathers. This monument features the ideals generally endowed by the United States: Education, Liberty, Law, and Morality, with each depicted with images showing the Pilgrims meeting these stated ideals.

We then walked to the Meeting House at the top of Leyden Street. The Meeting House which is the fifth structure to sit on this location at the top

of Leyden Street in Plymouth was built in 1897, the same year the General Society of Mayflower Descendants was formed. We had arranged a month before our travel, a guided tour through the GSMD as is required in order to see the interior of the structure. Our tour guide was Peter Santaw, an Allerton descendant, who provided an informative tour which allowed us to see the amazing structure including Tiffany stained glass windows which have just been restored that tell the story of the trials of our ancestors. The structure continues to be in need of repair and donations to turn this outstanding location into an interpretive center are still needed to finish the work. I look forward to a return trip to the location to see the finished product.

Not far down the hill we drove to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants House and although the house is under renovation, the Bradford Statue in the garden is very well done and worth a visit. Upon a close inspection, you can see the words "Just as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many" written on the journal he appears to have just finished writing.

From here we headed south to visit Plimoth Patuxet. This site has replica houses of the Pilgrims as well as examples of native structures, with reenactors playing the role of the early settlers. As we exited the village, we were surprised to see a video playing in the museum about the dig at Burial Hill with the same professor we had just spoken to earlier. The exhibit featured the artifacts discovered in the recent excavation. It was a great history nerd moment.

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Washington Society Board Members

Governor – Bruce D. Harrington

Governor@WashingtonMayflower.org

Deputy Governor – Jocelyn Paulson

DeputyGovernor@WashingtonMayflower.org

Recording Secretary – Marilynn Sabo

RecordingSecretary@WashingtonMayflower.org

Corresponding Secretary – Luanne Green

CorrespondingSec@WashingtonMayflower.org

Treasurer – Martha Music

Treasurer@WashingtonMayflower.org

Historian – Jerri McCoy

Historian@WashingtonMayflower.org

Assistant Historian – Andrea Arnold

AssistantHistorian@WashingtonMayflower.org

Assistant Historian Juniors - Tim Brinson

AsstHistorian-Jrs@WashingtonMayflower.org

Elder – Carol Jean Gaffney

Elder@WashingtonMayflower.org

Captain – Jeffrey Doughty

Captain@WashingtonMayflower.org

Evergreen Log Editor– Barb Doughty Maghirang

logeditor@WashingtonMayflower.org

Assistants:

Barb Doughty Maghirang, Federal Way

Dorothy Hull, University Place

Cheryl Eastwood, Redmond

Kathleen Quickstad, Sammamish

Allen Gray, Issaquah

Robert Keatts, Walla Walla

Ken White, Kalama

Tom Brown, Seattle

General Society Officers

Deputy Governor General (DGG) – Martha Music

Assistant General (AG) –Cheryl Eastwood

Immediate Past Governor

Judith A. Arnold

The Treasurer's Note:

Annual Members - Hopefully by now you have received your dues invoice either by email or snail mail. If you have not received it, please let me know.

Life Members - If you have not contacted me or another board member since the beginning of the year, please contact me by email or phone so your membership stays active.

Thank you,

Martha Music, Treasurer

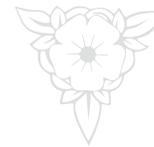
Treasurer@washingtonmayflower.org

360-275-3457

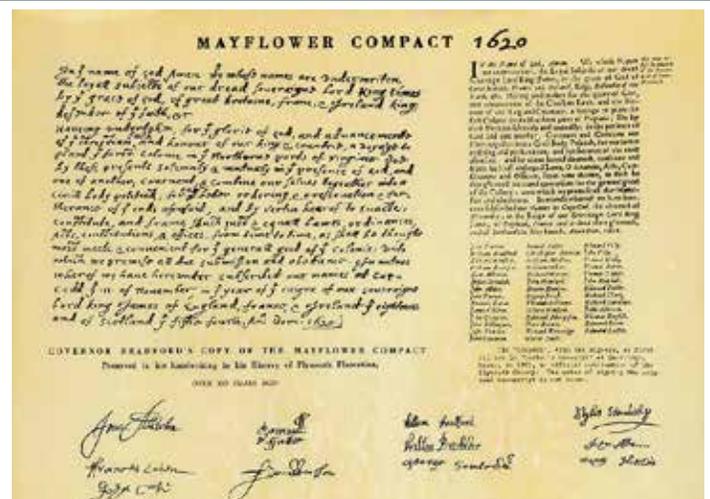
Do You Know What DNA stands for?

Answer - Deoxyribonucleic acid.

No wonder it was shortened to DNA. It is a mouthful to say. Not sure how many people could actually spell it correctly.



Mayflower Compact



William Bradford's Copy of the Compact

Welcome Aboard!

New Members

Congratulations on tracing your family's history to a 1620 passenger of the ship Mayflower emigrants from England and Holland, Signers of America's first self-governance agreement (the Mayflower Compact) and present at America's first Thanksgiving!

WA#	First/Last	Ancestor(gen#)	City
1931	Debra Jean Blum	Richard Warren (I2)	Kennewick, WA
1932	David L. Richardson	Degory Priest (I2)	Kent, WA
1933	Elizabeth M. (Thompson) Richardson	Mary Chilton (II)	Kent, WA
1934	Holly (Scott) Sullivan	Elizabeth Tilley (I3)	Mukilteo, WA

New Supplementals

WA#	Society Member	Ancestor (gen#)
I440	Jim MacDonald	James Chilton (I2)

Transfers

WA#	Society Member	Ancestor (gen#)	From	To
1929	Alexandra (Bellis) Kromelow	John Alden (II)	CA	WA
1930	Virginia Sue Field	George Soule (II)	OR	WA

NEW JUNIOR MEMBERS WELCOMED!

A great gift for newborns and juniors (in and out of state.) Junior members receive a birthday card annually through their 18th birthday. Birthday cards are mailed first class, with "Return Receipt Requested," to ensure addresses are updated. Sponsors may request application forms and send address changes to this email address: AsstHistorian-jrs@WashingtonMayflower.org

No new Junior Members

Welcome Cousins!

We all have “skeletons in the cupboard” and we usually take delight in finding one in our family tree but I’m pretty sure no one ever thinks they’d find a REAL skeleton in their cupboard like Mary Halliwell in our lead article.

Can you image your family’s reaction, as you gather round the dining room table for a holiday feast, as Grandpa casually announces that he’s found a skeleton, a real one, in the cupboard? Maybe the adults roll their eyes and mumble “Here we go again with Grandpa’s stories” but the grandchildren suddenly drop their cell phones and say “What?!?” What a sneaky way to catch their attention!

So think about one of your interesting ancestors and write up a short story to share with your family this holiday season, and maybe you can ignite some interest in your family history. And share your story with us - we would be interested!

Take care, have a safe holiday season, change the batteries in your smoke detector and update your passwords.

Cousin Barb Doughty Maghirang
Your newsletter editor



Have you checked out the GSMD lately?



Check out the new GSMD website and the new Society logo. Find links to past and upcoming webinars.

<https://www.themayflowersociety.org/>



On The Horizon

Fall, 2021

Mayflower Compact Day - Canceled

Out of an abundance of precaution, your Board of Assistants unanimously voted to cancel our 2021 Fall Compact Day meeting. The cancellation of this event was our only option to continue to safeguard members.



November 10, 2021, 7pm

DNA Webinar

via Zoom by

Julie Maley McClellan

(Details and Zoom Link will be emailed via Mailchimp soon)



November 20, 2021, 11am

“We Gather Together: Thanksgiving, Gratitude, and the Making of an American Holiday”

Presentation by Richard Pickering, Deputy Executive Director of Plimoth-Patuxet

(Details and Zoom Link will be emailed via Mailchimp soon soon)

Winter, 2021

Dec. 15, 2021 - 2022 Membership Dues

Life Members annual update of contact info - Dec. 15, 2021

Spring, 2022

January 2022 - New GSMD webinars

Annual Spring Meeting - To Be Determined

A Letter Home Scholarship Deadline - April 1, 2022

WANTED: WASMD Officers and Board Members!

Nominating Committee Co-Chairs, Deputy Governor Jocelyn Paulson and Recording Secretary Marilyn Sabo are seeking WASMD members to serve on the Nominating Committee. “The Committee shall consider the qualifications of all candidates and submit at least one name for each position to be filled” (WASMD Bylaws Art VII Sec 1). As our normal 2-year election cycle was interrupted by COVID therefore we will hold elections at our Spring Meeting 2022 for a slate of WASMD Officers/Board of Assistants for a limited 1-year term. In 2023, we will return to our 2-year election cycle occurring in the Spring of odd numbered years.

The Nominating Committee is also looking for persons to serve on the Board. The time commitment is 4 ‘zoom’ meetings per year (roughly Feb, April, June and October), encouraged participation on a Standing Committee, and interest in

the work of WASMD. As an educational organization, our focus is promoting education regarding the history of the Pilgrims, genealogical and historical research, and fellowship with others who share a common ancestry or are interested in the history and contribution of the Pilgrims (WASMD Bylaws Art II).



My time on the Board has been the most rewarding and fulfilling time on any board on which I have ever served. I have deepened my understanding of Pilgrim history. I have forged connections with kindred folk across the country who love genealogy and celebrating their ancestry (and are literally ‘cousins’!) This is an awesome board to be a part of! New members and longtime members alike ... If any of this sounds interesting, please contact:

- ◇ Jocelyn Paulson (DepGovernor@washingtonmayflower.org) or
- ◇ Marilyn Sabo (RecordingSec@washingtonmayflower.org) for more information.

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We next drove to Duxbury to see the Alden House. The home was originally constructed in 1674 by the grandson of John Alden located on the property were John and Pricilla first established their home. After a short walk through a wooded trail we were able to see the foundation of the original house located on the back of an elementary playground.

A short drive from the Alden House took us the Myles Standish Burial Ground, a site that holds the graves of Myles Standish, John Alden and Pricilla Mullins as well as a marker for the first church of Duxbury which was originally formed in 1627. It seemed appropriate that Myles Standish is buried with cannons mounted above his final resting place.



Our last stop in Duxbury was to the Myles Standish memorial on the top of Captains Hill. It is a large structure with a statue of Standish looking out over Duxbury Bay. The stairs to the top of the monument are only open for a limited time on weekends so we were only able to view it from below. We concluded our New England trip with a few hours at the New England Historic Genealogical Society to thumb through the archives of a few of our ancestors. Anyone who is serious about genealogy should visit this location to dig deeper into the past. While our trip was delayed due to the Covid pandemic, it was well worth the wait and we encourage others to take the time to relive their past by traveling to New England.

PRINT AND CUTOUT HALLOWEEN BOOKMARKS!



Make your own skeleton in the cupboard!

1. Draw a skull on some white paper or print one from clip art.
2. Cut out the skull and glue it toward the top of your paper.
3. You will build your skeleton under this.
4. Add the ribs first and then glue the spine over the top.
5. Cut Q-Tips as needed for your skeleton's arms, fingers, legs and feet.

Have fun making several skeletons in different poses!



FALL WORDS CRYPTOGRAM

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
4				26									19					24							



A N
4 11 13 10 19

A E
4 6 6 17 26

N
11 13 10 19

E N
26 2 23 21 19 13 3

A
12 13 13 20 7 4 17 17

A E
22 4 9 10 21 25 26

A E
16 4 11 14 26 20

E A E S
17 26 4 8 26 24

A E
15 4 6 17 26

N
6 23 15 6 14 21 19

A E
10 4 14 26

S A E
24 11 4 10 26 11 10 13 5

S N E
24 23 19 12 17 13 5 26 10

E
20 23 10 14 26 9



Society of Mayflower Descendants
in the State of Washington
8621 John Dower Rd SW, Lakewood, WA 98499
Return Receipt Requested

