

HILDRETH HIGHLIGHTS

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“The Great Migration” Included Richard & Thomas Hildreth

There were perhaps 30,000 emigrants from England to New England before the English Civil War. These folks were mainly from the English middle-class, self motivated to find a place where they might live, worship, and raise their families without government harassment. This movement is called the “Great Migration.”¹

It is speculated by some Hildreth researchers that Richard and Thomas Hildreth came to New England in 1635. This may very well be correct, but to this date no documentation has ever been presented to verify this date, nor has the name Hildreth been listed in any ships passenger records for the period covering the “great migration.” It is thought that Richard probably traveled to New England with his wife Sarah and their 2 children, Jane and James. Unfortunately, no official records mention Richard until May 10, 1643, when he was admitted as a “Free Man” to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, although numerous records of Richard’s activities are documented from that period forward. Thomas Hildreth also was not mentioned in any known documents until October 26, 1643 in Southampton, Long Island. Some evidence has been presented that he came to Southampton as early as 1640, possibly from Lynn, in the colony of Massachusetts. (See page 2 of Hildreth Highlights April 2004)

According to the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), nearing completion of their massive “Great Migration Study, they believe that between the years 1620 and 1643, about twenty thousand English men, women and children crossed the Atlantic to settle New England.² As mentioned above, The Winthrop Society puts the number much higher at 30,000, before the English Revolution beginning in 1642.

Why did they come? Their motivation was religious, political and economic. The British church and government was becoming insufferably hieratic, tyrannical and tax-hungry. Common resentment among the English people led soon to the English Revolution beginning in 1642, and eventually to the beheading of King Charles for treason in 1649, after agents intercepted his secret invitations to foreign kings and armies that they invade England, crush Parliament and the English Constitution.¹

The Winthrop Society, in addressing the years 1633–1635 have presented the names of ships and of 1500 people who came over during that period. “It is an amazing story of God’s Providence and the skill of English seamen that dozens of Atlantic passages were made in little wooden ships bringing our Puritan ancestors to America almost without mishap in the 1630’s; the unhappy exception being the harrowing story of the *Angel Gabriel* 1635, which met a terrible storm and cast up on the coast of Maine with only a few survivors”¹

Although they may exist, I am unaware of any personal diaries kept by anyone of their voyage to New England during the period of the “Great Migration.” However this past May the NEHGS in their eNews #167, detailed Reverend Richard Mather’s “Journal to New England,” 1635. This Journal will be covered in a separate article in this issue as I believe it may shed light on other crossings made during that period, including those of Richard and Thomas Hildreth.

¹ www.winthropsociety.org/ships.htm 10/11/02, *The Great Migration, Ships to New England 1633 -35*

² www.newenglandancestors.org/articles/great_migration/Default.asp 3/13/04

Reverend Richard Mather's "Journal to New England" 1635

One could only speculate what a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean might have been like, during the period spanning the first half of the 17th century when Richard¹ and Thomas¹ Hildreth sailed to New England. I have read accounts of Atlantic crossings in the 1700's, including the first person accounts by John Adams (to whom the Hildreths are connected (see Hildreth Highlights dated July 2000) of his harrowing 3000 mile voyage on the North Atlantic to France in February 1778, its most treacherous season. However, I had not previously read an account of a passenger who made the crossing during the period when Richard and Thomas made their voyage, which some believe was 143 years before John Adams sailed to France.

Interestingly, The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), in its eNews #167 made available to its members on-line, Rev. Richard Mather's "Journal to New England," 1635, which occurred just one year prior to the year that many believe that Richard & Thomas sailed to New England.

The following paragraphs in quotation marks, are taken from the NEHGS eNews #167 under a segment titled Tales from the Manuscript Collection: Reverend Richard Mather's "Journal to New England," 1635.

"Richard Mather was born in 1596 in the town of Lowton, in Lancaster County, England. He was the father of Increase Mather, and the grandfather of famed Boston Minister and Salem witch trial advocate, Cotton Mather. After completing his education, he became minister of the Episcopal Church at Toxteth, near Liverpool. His Puritan beliefs conflicted with the policies the Church of England, and he was removed from the ministry in 1633. To avoid further persecution, Mather made the decision to sail to New England. He and his family began their journey from Brighton, England on May 23, 1635, arriving in Boston on August 17 of that year. He became minister of the church in Dorchester, Massachusetts in 1636, where he remained until his death in 1669."

"Rev. Mather kept a journal of his entire voyage, in which he describes in rich detail the wonders and hardships of the sea, and vividly depicts a life-threatening hurricane that occurred near the end of the journey. This Journal was originally in the collections of the Dorchester Antiquarian and Historical Society, which was instituted on January 27, 1843. The NEHGS has this original journal in its R. Stanton Avery Collections."

Reverend Mather and his family sailed on a ship named "James," a 220 ton vessel with 100 passengers, 23 seaman, 23 cows and heifers, 3 suckling calves and 8 mares. Mr. Maud, a pastor was also on board and shared some of the pastoral duties with Rev. Mather. Aboard also was a Reverend Richard Becon, who suffered the misfortune of having his arm crushed and hand pulled off when caught in the lines during the great storm that occurred at the end of the voyage on August 15, according to Rev. Mather's journal entry of that date.

In all, there were five ships that sailed from that same port, within a few days of each other. The 2 ships headed for New England were the "James" which carried Reverend Mather, and the "Angel Gabriel", (240 ton). The three other ships, the "Diligence" (150 ton) the "Mary" (80 ton) and the "Bess," or Elizabeth tonnage unknown, were bound for Newfoundland. (*Mather's Journal entry May 3, 1635*)

The following is a excerpt from the May 23rd (day 1 of his voyage to New England) diary entry written by Reverend Mather.

"Going aboard y^e ship in King roade the 23rd of May, wee found thing very unready, and all on heapes, many goodes being not stowed, but lying on disordered heapes, here and there in the ship. This day there came aboard the ship 2 of the searchers, and viewed a list of all o^r names, miinisterd the oath of allegiance to all at full age, viewed o^r certificates from the ministers in the parishes from whence wee came, approved well thereof, and gave us our tickets, that is Licenses under their handes and seales, to passse the seas, and cleared the ship, and so departed. When we came to King roade (which is a spacious harbor of 5 or 6 miles broad, and 4 or 5 miles distant from Bristol) wee found neere o^r ship another ship of Bristol, called the Diligence, bound for New-found-land, riding at ancre."

Space will not permit the quoting of more entries which Rev. Mather made each day of his voyage on the ship James, which spanned a period of 12 weeks and 2 days from May 23 to August 16, 1635. This story and diary account of Reverend Mather will conclude with the following excerpt taken from the August 16, the final day of the voyage. Considerable information of interest can be learned from this intriguing diary about the social, government, living, and religious climate existing at that time.

August 16

This day wee went on towards Cape Ann, as y^e wind would suffer, & our poore sayles further, and came within sight thereof y^e other morning ; which Sabbath, being y^e 13 wee kept on ship-board, was a marveyulous pleasant day, for a fresh gale of wind, & cleare sunshine weather. This day wee went directly before y^e wind, and had delight all along y^e coast as wee went, in viewing Cape Anne, y^e bay of Saugust, y^e bay of Salem, Marvil head, Pullin point, and other places ; and came to ancre at low tide in y^e evening at Nantascot, in a most pleasant harbor, like to wch I had never seene, amongst a great many of llands on every side. I was excercised on ship-board both ends of y^e day. After y^e evenings excercise, when it was flowing tide againe, wee set sayle, and came y^t night to ancre againe before Boston and so rested y^t night with glad & thankfull hearts y^t God had put an end to o^r long journey, being 1000 leagues, y^t is 3000 miles English, over one of y^e greatest seas in y^e world. Now y^s o^r journey, by y^e goodnesse of o^r God, was very prosperous unto us every manner of way. First of all it was very safe, & healthfull to us ; for tho: wee were in y^e ship 100 passengers, besides 23 seamen, & 23 coves and heyfers, 3 sucking calves & eight mares, yet not one of all these dyed by y^e way, neither person nor cattell, but came all alive to land, and many of y^e Cattell in better liking yⁿ when wee first entered y^e ship; and most of y^e passengers in as good health as ever, and none better yⁿ myne owne family, and my weake wife & little Joseph as well as any other. Fevers, calentures, small pockes, & such diseases as have afflicted other passengers y^e Lord kept from among us, and put upon us no grieffe in o^r bodyes, but a little sea-sickness in y^e beginning of y^e voyage ; saving y^t 2 or 3 seamen had y^e flux, and Rich. Becon lost his right hand in y^e last storme, and one woman and a little child of hers, towards y^e end of y^e journey, had y^e scurvy. The meanes of which infirmity in her wee all conceyved to bee y^e want of walking and stirring of her body upon y^e decke; her manner beeing to sit much betweene y^e deckes upon her bed. And a speciall meanes of y^e healthfulnesse of y^e passengers by y^e blessing of God wee all conceyved to bee much walking in y^e open ayre, and y^e comfortable variety of o^r food; for seeing wee were not tyed to y^e ships diet, but did victuall o^r selves, wee had no want of good and whole-some beere & bread ; and as o^r land-stomaches grew weary of ship diet, of salt fish and salt beefe and y^e like, wee had liberty to change for other food which might sort better with o^r healthes and stomaches; and therefore sometimes wee used bacon & buttered pease, sometimes buttered bag-pudding made with curraynes and raisins, and sometimes drinke pottage of beere & oate-meale, and sometimes water pottage well buttered.

And tho: we had two stormes by y^e way, y^e one upon Munday y^e 3d of August, y^e other on Saturday y^e 15th of y^e same, yet o^r gracious God (blessed and forever blessed bee his name) did save us all alive in y^m both, & speedily assuaged y^m againe. Indeed y^e latter of y^m was very terrible and grievous, insomuch y^t wⁿ wee came to land wee found many mighty trees rent in pieces in y^e midst of y^e bole, and others turned up by y^e rootes by y^e fiercenesse thereof: and a barke going from y^e bay to Mar-vil head, with planters & seamen therein to y^e number of about 23, was caste away in y^e storme, and all y^e people therein perished, except one man & his wife, that were spared to report y^e newes. And y^e Angel Gabriel beeing yⁿ at ancre at Pemmaquid, was burst in pieces and cast away in y^s storme, & most of y^e cattell and other goodes, with one seaman & 3 or 4 passengers did also perish therein, besides two of y^e passengers y^t dyed by y^e way, y^e rest having y^r lives given y^m for a prey. But y^e James & wee y^t were therein, with o^r Cattell & goods, were all preserved alive. The Lords name be blessed forever.

21y. It was very delightfull, while wee tooke pleasure & instruction in beholding y^e workes & wonders of y^e Almighty in y^e deepe; y^e sea sometimes beeing rough with mighty mounteynes and deepe valleyes, sometimes againe plaine and smooth like a levell meadow, and sometimes painted with variety of yellow weedes : besides it was a pleasant thing to behold y^e variety of fowles & mighty fishes swimming and living in y^e waters.

3ly. It was comfortable to us, by meanes of y^e fellow-ship of divers godly Christians in y^e ship, & by meanes of o^r constant serving God morning & evening every day, y^e dayly duties beeing performed one day by Mr. Maud, another by myselfe, and y^e Sabbath excercises divided (for y^e most part) equally betwixt us two.

True it is o^r journey was somewhat long ; for tho: from Munday y^e 22d of June, wⁿ wee lost sight of our ould English coast, untill Saturday y^e 8th of August wⁿ wee made land againe at Menhiggin, it was but six weekes & 5 dayes, yet from o^r first entering y^e ship in King road, on Saturday y^e 23 of May, till o^r landing at Boston in N. E. on Munday y^e 17th of August, it was 12 weekes & 2 dayes. For wee lay at ancre in King road 11 dayes before wee ever set sayle, & 3 dayes at Lundy & 12 dayes at Milford, and spent 3 dayes in tacking betweene King road & Lundy, one day between Lundy & Milford, & 8 dayes betweene Menhiggin & Boston. Neverthelesse o^r God preserved us all y^e while, and wee had opportunity by these often delays to take in more haye, oates & frech water, and arrived in a good condition, Agayne let our gracious God be blessed forever. Amen.

Hildreth on the Move, in the News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

07/15/2004

Governor Schwarzenegger Appoints **Susan Hildreth** State Librarian

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today announced the appointment of Susan Hildreth as state librarian.

"I am confident that Susan will continue the tradition of inspiring, educating and informing Californians through the tremendous resource of our state libraries," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "She shares my commitment to education and to preserving our state's rich cultural heritage and I know she will use her tremendous experience as a librarian to enhance and strengthen California's public libraries."

Hildreth joins the administration with more than 30 years of experience as a librarian. She most recently served as the city librarian for the City and County of San Francisco's Public Library, where she managed a staff of 650 with an annual operating budget of \$59 million. Prior to that, Hildreth served as a planning consultant to the California State Library and served as deputy library director for the Sacramento Public Library. Throughout her career she also has served in libraries in Placer County, City of Benicia, Yolo County, the City of Davis and Edison Township, New Jersey. Hildreth is currently the president of the California Library Association and a member of the American Library Association, Library Administration and Management Association, Public Library Association and the Urban Libraries Council. She was also a public library delegate to the White House Conference on Libraries in 1991.



In a ceremony in the State Librarian's office in Sacramento on August 2, 2004, Susan Hildreth was officially sworn-in as the new the State Librarian of California. State Librarian Emeritus Dr. Kevin Starr held the bible while Deputy State Librarian Cameron Robertson administered the oath of office to Hildreth.

"I am honored Governor Schwarzenegger has asked me to serve the people of this state by preserving the tradition of excellence in California's public library system," said Hildreth. "I look forward to using my background and experience in library management to support the remarkable asset California has in its public libraries."

Hildreth, 53, earned a master's degree from Rutgers University, and a master's degree in library science from the State University of New York, Albany and a Bachelor of Arts from Syracuse University. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$123,708. Hildreth is a Democrat.

The California state librarian is tasked with overseeing the collection, preservation, generation and dissemination of a wide array of information. The librarian ensures that the State Library remains the central reference and research library for state government and the Legislature. The librarian also provides technical assistance to, and outreach programs for, California's public libraries as well as directing state and federal funds to support these libraries.

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**GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER · SACRAMENTO,
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Ray Hildreth Authors Book on His Vietnam Experiences



Ray Hildreth in East Room of White House, August 1967, meeting President Lyndon B. Johnson following the Congressional Medal of Honor Presentation to Gunnery Sergeant Jimmie E. Howard for the Battle of Hill 488. Ray had previously received the Silver Star for gallantry in action on Hill 488.

I recently received the following email from a person who saw my name on www.hildreth.net:

"Dear Mr. Hildreth,

My father, Homer Joe Hildreth just discovered your organization and told me about it and I was very excited to check out the website. I plan on joining soon, but am writing to you right now because I thought you and other Hildreths might be interested in reading a book recently published about my great uncle, also named Raymond Hildreth, detailing a fairly well known battle in which he was involved in Vietnam. It is a great read and is available on www.amazon.com. The title is "Hill 488" and the authors are Raymond Hildreth and Charles Sasser. This is not a shameless promotion, but rather my attempt to share the fun and excitement that I had in reading an incredible story about one of our relatives." Joseph Rhody



SiFU Ray Hildreth, Owner and operator of The Ray Hildreth Academy of Self-Defense in Tulsa, OK has been inducted into The World Karate Union Hall of Fame.

After receiving Joe's email, I did purchase the book and found it to be an outstanding description of a harrowing true story of the most highly decorated small unit in the history of the U.S military, as told by one of its survivors, Raymond Stanley "Ray" Hildreth, highly decorated, including the Silver Star Medal for his gallantry in action on Hill 488 in June of 1966. After a second tour of duty Ray was honorably discharged in 1977, and worked 20 years for the United States Postal Service, retiring in 2002. Ray currently owns and operates the Ray Hildreth Academy of Self- Defense in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Hildreth Family Association wishes to convey sincere thanks and appreciation to Ray for his heroism in service to our country.

Bud Hildreth

Rocky Hildreth, Swift Boat Commander

Robert "Rocky" Hildreth, who commanded an accompanying Swift Boat at the time that presidential candidate John Kerry, was in Vietnam, has been widely mentioned in newscasts, newspapers and on television. He is also mentioned and quoted on pages 78 and 80 of the New York Times Bestseller #1, "Unfit For Command." He was quoted as saying, "I would never want Kerry behind me. I wouldn't want him in front of me, either. And I sure wouldn't want him commanding our kids in Iraq and Afghanistan."

FROM THE GENEALOGY CORNER

Old Style vs. New Style Calendar Year

In old records we frequently see dates written with a slash as in 1693/4. This is because of the change in calendars from the Old Style to the New Style which was adopted by the American colonies in 1752. The Old Style year began on March 25th, and the days between January 1st and March 24th are now accepted as belonging to the following year.

The original Richard Hildreth died on February 23rd, 1693 and his second wife, Elizabeth died August 3rd, 1693. One might actually think that his death occurred first, but such is not the case. Elizabeth is listed on her gravestone (Bell Rock Cemetery, Malden, Mass.) as “wife of” not “relict of” Richard, indicating that he was still alive. She died in the 6th month of 1693 (August) while he died in the 12th month, having survived Elizabeth by 6 months and **20 days**.

Most of the above information was included on the last page of a 5 page document “Finding Our Forebears” written by the late George A. Parkhurst in 1979, now in the possession of Bud Hildreth – 32 Stuart St. Newington CT 06111-3741 –email: budhildreth@cox.net

First Use of Surnames/DNA Mutations

Most people in England adopted surnames by 1400, which is a little over 600 years ago. In the time frame of 600 years, depending on the figure used for years per generation, we would expect between 20 to 24 generations to have occurred, at 30 years per generation or at 25 years per generation. The current mutation rate estimated for the Y DNA Markers by the scientists is 1 mutation (*see note*) every 500 generations per Marker. For a 25 Marker test we would expect 1 or maybe 2 mutations if two people were related in the 1400's, in the time since surnames were adopted.¹

Note: In genetics this can be defined as a change of the DNA sequence within a gene or chromosome of an organism resulting in the creation of a new character or trait not found in the parental type.

¹ *Facts & Genes from Family Tree DNA March 3, 2004*

Kinship (Determining Relationships)

- Find the common ancestor (CA)
- If the two people ARE of the same generation, the cousin “number”--- 1st, 2nd, etc.---- is one more than the number of “greats” of the common ancestor.
- If the two people ARE NOT of the same generation, determine the relationship, of the one nearest the common ancestor to his counterpart in the other's line.
- Taking the relationship established in step 3, add the number of “removeds” which is simply the difference in generations.

Note: Great or grand uncle is the uncle of one's father or mother

Editors note: The information above was received in a letter to me from the late George A. Parkhurst many years ago.
Bud Hildreth

Email from a Hildreth in New Zealand

Hello from 'Down-Under'

We thought we might send an email in the hopes that we are somehow connected to one of the American family trees of the Hildreth clan. We have unable to trace our 'branch' back any further than a Francis Hildreth of York, England (b.1744 d. Sept. 1778). If this ancestor is somehow connected to your branch of the family, we would love to hear from you and perhaps share the information that we have gathered.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Robert Bryant Hildreth and family

(Onewhero, New Zealand) Email: heslington@xtra.co.nz

Charles Hildreth NY died 1865 Battle of the Wilderness

A posting on a genealogy website is as follows: I am trying to find descendants of Charles Hildreth (son of Chauncey R. Hildreth---Chauncey b. circa 1802 Chesterfield, NH) The purpose of my inquiry is that a few years ago I found a book in a California thrift store with a pencil inscription: "The company that Charles Hildreth was in killed May 4 - 65 Battle of the Wilderness." It is a history of the 5th NY Cavalry written by their Chaplin, Louis N. Boudrye in 1865. The book has been reprinted, but this copy appears to be the 1865 edition -- in rather poor condition, but probably of special interest to the Hildreth family. I will send the book for postage to the first of Charles Hildreth's direct descendants who contacts me. Sonia Meyer, 14495 Edgeridge Dr., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745. Email: smeyer610@adelphia.net *Editors Note: Charles R. Hildreth's lineage is Chauncey R. Hildreth, Elijah, Samuel, Isaac, Isaac, Richard*