

THOMAS ROGERS SOCIETY, INC

Established 1974



Website: www.thomasrogerssociety.com

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Please plan to attend our triennial meeting in Plymouth on September 6, 2008 at 10 am. There is a sign up coupon and more information further in this newsletter. We will be holding an election of officers. Sharon Matyas has agreed to chair the nominations. Tracy Crocker is presenting a program on "The Passion For Genealogy." Officers will be making reports and we will also be able to tour the Plimoth Plantation after our meeting and meal. Come and meet your 'cousins' and enjoy a great day.

Mike Yoemans has written a wonderful article on occupations in Leiden. This article opens up the opportunity for all Thomas Rogers descendants to join the newly formed 501©(3) organization – National Society of Descendants of Textile Workers of America. Thomas Rogers was indeed one of the first qualifiers in the nation. For more information, contact Mary Brown at mbrown51@snet.net or 218 Green Hollow Rd., Danielson, CT 06239. I will also bring applications to the triennial meeting.

NOMINATIONS:

All of the current officers have expressed an interest in retaining their status. If anyone else is interested in holding an office, they can be nominated from the floor. Remember, proxy votes are important if you cannot attend. Please send you proxy to William Muttart, secretary, at 28 Carol Dr. Uncasville, CT 06382

DNA Update:

Steve Rogers is the chair of this committee. The Rogers project is currently gathering data. If you are interested, there are currently 92 Rogers males with data and we can see our data as a subset. http://www.familytreedna.com/surname_join.asp?code=F50643&special=true If you care to participate or want more information, Steve's email address is steve@rogersemail.net.

Scholarships:

Our scholarships are open to any member of TRS – undergraduate or graduate student. Go to the website www.thomasrogerssociety.com for the application and submit it to Joan Condon. Have you received a scholarship in the past? You may be eligible for a second scholarship.

TRS Treasurer's Report:

Despite the erratic state of the stock market, the Society continues to be in excellent financial condition. We have \$3,691 in operating funds, \$17,357 in Life Membership funds, and \$21,478 in Scholarship funds for total net worth of \$42,526 as of March 2008. We appreciate the generous contributions made to the scholarship and operating funds and to the 6th and 7th Generation.

Donors who made additional contributions include:

Jean Harvie Beatty, Penny R. Bonnema, Shirley Howell, Betty-Jane Yunker Lee, Richard J. Mc Ghee, Mary L. Phinney, Michael Yoemans, Tracy Crocker, William Muttart

The New Occupations the Dutch Gave to Thomas Rogers & His Fellow Pilgrim

By Mike Yoemans

Evidence published from Dutch records in 1905 indicates that Thomas Rogers was a camlet merchant¹, but what do we know of the real importance this played in his life and of the other Pilgrims? Answering this question requires a look back at the early occupations, especially those of the Pilgrims in Holland.

In its simplest form a camlet merchant is a seller of camlet, which is cloth used to make cloaks and petticoats. Dictionaries describe "camlet" as a fine, lustrous fabric of wool and silk. Once it is woven into haircloth, using the outer protective fur called guard hair, camel hair is coarse and rigid; however, when blended with wool or fur from the pure under coat, the result is a soft and plush camel hair cloth. The pure camel hair frequently used for coats is gathered when camels molt in warmer seasons. This under coat is very soft, and is divided from the dense, coarse guard hair for cloth use.²

Camel hair is collected from either the dromedary, one-humped or Arabian camel or the two-humped Bactrian camel, found from Turkey east to China and north to Siberia. A camel can produce around 5 pounds of hair a year. There are five primary steps to the production of camel hair: *collection, sorting, dehairing, spinning, and weaving or knitting*. After collecting the hair either through shearing or collecting during the molting season the hair goes through a sorting method in which the coarse hair is separated from the fine, soft hairs. The fibers are then washed to remove any dirt or debris. The sorted and washed hair is then dehaired to remove the coarse hair and any dandruff or vegetable matter before it is sent to be spun into yarn and used for either weaving or knitting.

While life in Holland was easier for the Pilgrims than a life of persecution in England, it was still difficult for the Separatists to make a living. Most of the group had been farmers in England and upon moving to Holland they had to learn new skills to survive in a large city that afforded them only a meager income.

Nevertheless, for the industrious, Leiden (or Leyden) offered great economic opportunity to the Pilgrims as this city had only recently obtained its own freedom from oppression. This transformation started in 1572 when the city sided with the Dutch revolt against Spanish rule and played a major role in the Eighty Years' War. Under attack from May until October 1574 by the Spanish, Leiden was relieved by the cutting of the dikes, which enabled ships to transport supplies to the inhabitants of the flooded town. For their heroic defiance, they were rewarded by William I of Orange in 1575 with the founding of the University of Leiden.

As a result this new found freedom, Leiden became the perfect place for the Pilgrims to live for a time in the early 17th century before their departure to Massachusetts and New Amsterdam in the New World. Leiden flourished in the 16th and 17th century. At the close of the 15th century the weaving establishments (mainly broadcloth) of Leiden were very important, and after the ejection of the Spaniards Leiden cloth, Leiden baize and Leiden camlet were familiar terms. In the same period, Leiden developed as an important printing and publishing industry.



Bactrian camel



Portrait of Anna Codde 1520
Oil on canvas, Rijksmuseum,

¹ The English Ancestry of the Pilgrim Thomas Rogers and his wife Alice (Cosford) Rogers--The accepted lineage researched and published by Clifford Stott in *The Genealogist* (<http://www.richmondancestry.org/thomasrogers.shtm>)

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camel_hair

Once they were free, the Dutch embraced much of what we would call a free market philosophy and set up a limited government. In the early 1600s, Holland was considered the most liberal society in Europe. It should not surprise us, then, that when English Separatists began to think of emigrating, they thought of Holland. Through his new profession as a camlet merchant and using whatever wealth he had, Thomas Rogers bought a house on the Barbarasteeg in Leiden by 1617, having joined the English Separatists there in or after 1613, and he became a citizen of Leiden on 25 June 1618. He sold his house in April 1620, probably to prepare for removal to America. In the fall of 1620 he and his son Joseph sailed on the *Mayflower* and he was the eighteenth signer of the *Mayflower Compact* on 11 November 1620. Alice and the other children remained in Leiden, apparently expecting to join Thomas and Joseph later; they were still there in 1622, living in the home of Anthony Clements (see picture at right).³

According to an article written by Duane A. Cline in 1999 entitled: *The Pilgrims & Plymouth Colony*, Thomas Rogers and other Pilgrim Fathers owe their livelihood to the Leiden textile trade. While we do not know what the Pilgrims actually wore, they were certainly knowledgeable of fabrics and clothing construction.

In looking at the occupations (see table at right) of the Pilgrims we find that Isaac Allerton and James Chilton were tailors, William Bradford was a fustian-maker, Edward Tilley was a cloth-maker, John Tilley was a silk worker, Francis Cooke and William White were wool combers or carders, and Digory Priest had been a hatter in London. In addition to those clothing-related trades we know that William Mullins was a boot and shoe merchant, and Thomas Rogers was a camlet merchant. By all accounts, the Dutch did not welcome the Pilgrims with open arms with offers of gifts and donations. What they offered the Pilgrims instead was freedom to worship according to their consciences and a chance to thrive in the Dutch marketplace. In the application granted on February 12, 1609, the Dutch authorities stated that "they refuse no honest persons free ingress to come and have their residence in this city, provided that such persons behave themselves, and submit to the laws and ordinances." Their coming, the Dutch authorities added, "will be agreeable and welcome." As early as the 1600s, the Dutch began to value human enterprise given their few natural resources.⁴



Aerial view of Robinson's house site (lower center) and the Kloksteeg (Bell Alley) leading from the Pilgrim's region to Academieggebouw (Academy building of the University of Leyden). The first white house on the right side of the Kloksteeg is where the family of Pilgrim Thomas Rogers roomed while he and his son Joseph journeyed to America on the *Mayflower*. The picture was taken by Michael Keating from scaffolds erected for Pieterskerk's exterior restoration work.

Pilgrim Fabric Workers and Merchants

- Allerton, Isaac - tailor
- Bradford, William - fustian maker
- Chilton, James - tailor
- Cooke, Francis - wool-comber
- Goodman, John - linen weaver
- Holbeck, William - bondman to William White, carder
- Hooke, John - servant to Isaac Allerton, tailor
- Priest, Digory - hatter in London
- Rogers, Thomas - camlet merchant
- Tomson, Edward - servant to William White, carder
- Tilley, Edward - cloth maker
- Tilley, John - wool carder

³ Robert A. Peterson: *The Pilgrims in Holland*, *The Freeman*, a publication of the Foundation for Economic Education, Inc., November 1988, Vol. 38, No. 11.

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Early in the seventeenth century, most production was still small-scale, with rather independent spinners, weavers and drapers, most of who owned their means of production and sold their products themselves to textile merchants. Production was carried out through the "putting out" system, whereby weavers with their own looms and often with other dependent weavers working for them, obtained imported raw materials from merchants who paid the weavers by the piece for their work (the merchant retained ownership of the raw materials throughout the process). We can suppose that Thomas Rogers used the "putting out" system to perform his camlet merchant functions and that some of the Pilgrim fabric workers may have participated with him in this process. For example, William Bradford belonged to the cloth guild that met here at the Church of St. Louis pictured below. This was where cloth was approved by the guild was sold and it was where Thomas Rogers would have likely obtained approval to sell his camlet products.

Church of St. Louis



As mentioned earlier, most of the Pilgrims went to work in the textile industry, something for which they had little experience. William Bradford became a fustian worker, while others became weavers, wool-combers, and merchant tailors. In England, almost all had been farmers, following the same patterns of medieval agriculture that their fathers and grandfathers had followed. It must have been hard for grown men to learn a new trade, but it was the price they had to pay to live in a relatively free society. Moreover, it helped to make the Pilgrims an adaptable and teachable people.

No doubt, the Dutch experience proved to be an excellent intermediate state to the freedom the Pilgrim Thomas Rogers and his son Joseph Rogers hoped to find in the New World. For at least 11 years, the Pilgrims took advantage of Dutch society opportunities afforded to them. Known for their excellent reputation for honesty and hard work, Pilgrims like Thomas Rogers were able to get the loans and jobs they needed to establish themselves in Holland. The Pilgrims knew that there was no substitute for keeping one's word and honoring contracts in the new market economy they were now completely dependent upon for their livelihood. William Bradford, who later became governor of Plymouth Colony, wrote: "And first, though many of them were poor, yet there was none so poor but if they were known to be of that congregation the Dutch (either bakers or others) would trust them in any reasonable matter when they wanted money, because they found by experience how careful they were to keep their word, and saw them so painful and diligent in their callings. Yea, they would strive to get their custom and to employ them above others in their work, for their honesty and diligence."⁶

⁴ John Brown, *The Pilgrim Fathers of New England and Their Puritan Successor* (New York: Fleming I-I. Revell, 1896), pp. 120-121

⁵ John Brown, *The Pilgrim Fathers of New England and Their Puritan Successor* (New York: Fleming I-I. Revell, 1896), pp. 120-121

⁶ William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1952. 1982), pp. 19-20.

One Hundred Eleven Questions and Answers Concerning the Pilgrims

This book is soft covered, 8 1/2 x 11, fully indexed and contains maps, photographs and illustrations.

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* Editor's note: Bill is donating \$2.00 for each book sold to the 6th & 7th project.

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Please send me ___ copies of *One Hundred Eleven Questions Concerning the Pilgrims*.

Enclosed is \$ _____, the cost of the book(s), plus shipping and handling.

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City/State _____ Zip _____

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Would you like your signed copy to be dedicated to anyone? Please note.

Time to Make Reservations:

Our **triennial meeting** will be held on **September 6, 2008**. Thomas Rogers Society, Inc. will meet at **10 a.m.** at the **Patuxet Room of the Plimoth Plantation**. We will have a punch and cheese board social time. A business meeting will follow. We will have a **program presented by Tracy Crocker on The Passion for Genealogy**. After the luncheon, we may tour the Plantation and Indian village. There will be a children's meal selection at a lower rate for any child under twelve. Young members and guests of members are welcome and encouraged to enjoy a fun day at the Plantation.

Please have your reservation in by July 1st, 2008

Luncheon featuring a choice of

1. Broiled schrod with herb crumb topping

2. Boneless chicken breast stuffed with cornbread stuffing

Garden salad, Roasted red bliss potatoes, Seasonal vegetable, Rolls, Hot Fruit cobbler with fresh whipped cream, coffee, tea and decaf

3. Children's entree (under 12 years of age) of Chicken fingers with french fries

Adult price is \$25.00 -Children \$18

I will be attending _____ **number of guests** _____

Lunch choice #1 _____ **#2** _____ **#3** _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Name: _____ **Membership#** _____ **Telephone#** _____

Names of guests for name tag purposes:

Please return by July 1st 2008 to:

Ms. Mary Brown

President Thomas Rogers Society, Inc.

218 Green Hollow Rd,

Danielson, CT 06239

Harriet Nancy Holder Hogan 709

William Joseph Hogan = **HARRIET NANCY HOLDER**
JAMES LESTER HOLDER = Mabel Elizabeth Kunschke
James Arthur Holder = **HARRIET VIOLA SMITH**
OLIVER JAY SMITH = Nettie Florence (Foster) Vanatta
JOSHUA SMITH = (1st) Julia Ann Deuel
OLIVER SMITH = Mary Anna/Nancy Christina Vrooman
JOSHUA SMITH = Freelove Kibbee/Kibbe
JOSHUA SMITH = Mercy Snow
James Smith = **HANNAH ROGERS**
JOHN ROGERS = Elizabeth Twining
JOSEPH ROGERS = Hannah NN----
THOMAS ROGERS = Alice Cosford

Charles Thomas Cragg 710

CHARLES THOMAS CRAGG = Barbara Garrett
Rev. John Aubrey Cragg = **MARCIA HARRIET BEATTY**
Thomas Edgar Beatty = **WINNIFRED SHERBOURNE DUNHAM**
Lucius Clark Dunham = **MARCIA (Marta) ELLEN ANDREWS**
Freeman Andrews = **ELVIRA RICHMOND**
JOSEPH RICHMOND = Anna Bailey
ABIATHAR RICHMOND = Lavinian Deane
BENJAMIN RICHMOND = Silence Deane
JOSIAH RICHMOND = Mehitable Deane
EDWARD RICHMOND = Mary ----
John Richmond = **ABIGAIL ROGERS**
JOHN ROGERS = Anna Churchman
THOMAS ROGERS = Alice Cosford

Philip Charles Rogers 711

PHILIP CHARLES ROGERS = Sandra Gail Bombarger
DENNIS EARL ROGERS = Veronica (Varonika) Margaret Dequitis
GLENN MERLE ROGERS = Dorothea Rose Patch
VOLNEY ROGERS = Mary Ellen Perkins
WILLIAM ROGERS = Minerva Goss
RICHARD ROGERS = Elizabeth Kenny
EBENEZER ROGERS = Elizabeth Mather
EBENEZER ROGERS = Hannah Cook
JOHN ROGERS = Priscilla Hamblin
JOHN ROGERS = Elizabeth Twining
JOSEPH ROGERS = Hannah NN----
THOMAS ROGERS = Alice Cosford

Deborah Marilyn Pelletier Tajmajer 712

David Alan Tajmajer = **DEBORAH MARILYN PELLETIER**
Roland Wallace Pelletier = **MARILYN DOLY JENNINGS**
Edward Frank Jenning = **MADLINE ALLISON SAWYER**
Fred Jay Sawyer = **ISABELLE FILES**
WILLIAM SCOTT FILES = Harriet (Hattie) Amelia Lyons
JOSEPH PHINNEY FILES = Rebecca Hill
Ebenezer Scot Files = **PATIENCE PHINNEY**
JOSEPH PHINNEY = Susanna (Crocket) Crockett
EDMOND (EDMUND) PHINNEY = Elizabeth (Betty) Libby Meserve
JOHN PHINNEY = Martha Coleman
JOHN PHINNEY = Sarah Lumbart
John Phinney = **MARY ROGERS**
JOSEPH ROGERS = Hannah NN----
THOMAS ROGERS = Alice Cosford

6th & 7th++++ Generation Project

You will note that when you visit the database (<http://www.thomasrogerssociety.com/trs-project-p/index.htm>) that not only are there the facts about the lineages, but surnames, charts, resources and places. We are adding all generations of those who have a line except if they are still living. Everyone who submits a lineage will be included in the database as time permits. The complete database will only be shared with members. The on line database includes all members, but only reflects those who have a lineage to Thomas Rogers, but are no longer living.

(editor's note) It should be noted that this is the only website with this material available. The Board of the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne has just approved a similar project for their website. Thank you Tracy Crocker for leading our Society in becoming a major source in the genealogical community.

We invite life and other members who have not already done so to please consider donating to this worthy project and we also encourage you to purchase a Thomas Rogers Society Pin. This will let others know that you are a proud member of the society. The cost is only \$15 per pin. Earnings from these pins will be used to fund the 6th and 7th Generation Project. **Thank You** for your generosity!

Please make checks payable to the: Thomas Rogers Society, Inc. and mail to: Mr. Michael Yoemans, 27 W. Taylor Run Parkway, Alexandria, VA 22314

-----Please cut this portion out and return it with your check-----

Remittance from:

Contributions 6th & 7th Generation Project _____

Thomas Rogers Society pins--Number of TRS pins____ @ \$15.00 _____

Total _____

Please notify us of any address or name changes. Thank you.

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

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