

THOMAS ROGERS SOCIETY, INC

Established 1974



Website: www.thomasrogerssociety.com

NEWSLETTER November, 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Your Thomas Rogers Society Board has initiated planning for the 2020 400th anniversary celebration of the Mayflower's crossing the north Atlantic and making landfall at Provincetown November 11, 1620. As I previously have written, the error in navigation put the Mayflower some 92 miles north of their patent which was the Crown's permission to settle in Virginia. Because the Pilgrims and "strangers" were not under the legal jurisdiction of English law, the Mayflower agreement or Compact was devised. It is attributed that John Quincy Adams In 1802 described the agreement as "the only instance in human history of that positive, original, social compact" and it is popularly believed to have influenced the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

The 2020 celebration is to include reenactments of the Compact Signing in Plymouth Harbor with the newly refurbished Mayflower at anchor. We are planning to have a Rogers direct-line male family member execute the document for this featured reenactment.

Also there is to be a new Statue of William Bradford placed in the garden adjacent to the Mayflower Society House. There are now two benches in that garden with a commemorative marker placed by the Thomas Rogers Society. Because of the relationship between the orphaned Joseph Rogers (after Thomas' death the first winter) and Governor William Bradford, the benches and marker will be integrated into the Bradford garden setting.

You will notice that we have added Ms Beth Lambright as an At-Large Board Member. She brings her enthusiasm and energetic ideas as a much appreciated addition to your Board. Please consider volunteering your time as a member of the Thomas Rogers Board. Please contact any Board Member if you have an interest. Another way you might support the Thomas Rogers Society is through a gift to our endowment which funds our outreach programs and two \$1,000 scholarships each year to a Rogers Society student.

I am currently working with the GSMD 400th Anniversary Planning Committee to incorporate a time in their agenda for the family societies to meet. Once I have this information, I will inform you of the date and time of the Thomas Rogers Society Triennial meeting as well as the specific program we have planned for our members. I am hopeful that many of our Society members will attend the 2020 gala in Plymouth, Massachusetts; it will be a life time experience.

Regards,
Bob Rogers

2020 Meeting Update

Our triannual meeting will be held Sept. 12, 2020 at the Pawtuxet Room, Plimoth Plantation at 10 am. Hotel reservations for the 2020 events will be accepted in January of 2019

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Virginia Ann Tilton Frisone 832

Virginia Ann Tilton = Fino Joseph Frisone
Floyd Beeson Tilton = Esther Beulah Rogers
Frank Ira Tilton = Etta Beeson/Thompson
Emma/Emily Jane Sabin = Rolden J. Tilton
Meranda/Miranda Nickerson = Joel P. Sabin
David Nickerson = Lucretia Tupper
Peninah Rogers = David Nickerson
Richard Rogers = Sarah Higgins
Ebenezer Rogers = Hannah Cook
John Rogers = Priscilla Hamblin
John Rogers = Elizabeth Twining
Joseph Rogers = Hannah
Thomas Rogers = Alice Cosford

Edward Charles Horton 831L

Edward Charles Horton = Joyce Marie Rudolph
Alford Laurance Horton = Jean Patricia Ruehl
Flora G. Washburn = Charles Linwood Horton
Jerusha Walker Rickard = Salmon M. Washburn
James R. Rickard = Bathsheba B. Davis
Isaac Rickard = Jerusha Walker
Drusilla Richmond = Isaac Rickard
Thomas Richmond = Mary Dodson
Samuel Richmond = Sarah
Samuel Richmond = Mehitable Andrews
Abigail Rogers = John Richmond
John Rogers = Ann Churchman
Thomas Rogers = Alice Cosford

Susan Elizabeth Bear Enright 830

Susan Elizabeth Bear = Victor Joseph Enright III
Verna Marie Morgan = Derge Dewey Bear
Vernon Dewight Morgan = Harriet Leah Nelson
Violet Estelle Vernon Chase = William F. Morgan
Isabelle/Julia Etta Covill = Franklin Howes Chase
Orinza Chase = Capt. Ezra Covill
Peninah Bassett = Owen Chase
Peninah Bassett = Samuel Bassett
Elizabeth Rogers = Nathan Bassett
Eleazer Rogers = Martha Young
John Rogers = Elizabeth Twining
Joseph Rogers = Hannah
Thomas Rogers = Alice Cosford

Bruce Gill Dutcher 829L

Bruce Gill Dutcher = Nancy Caroline Bishop
Burt Dodge Dutcher/
Dean Burt Dodge Minor = Lillian Patricia Gill
Dean Howell Miner = Louise Burt Dodge
Henry Nelson Miner = Anna Howell
Joel Guild Minor = Genette Christine Allis
Enoch Water Miner = Laurinda Guild
Mary Rowley = Amos Minor
Rebecca Hurd = John Rowley
Rebecca Higgins = Jacob Hurd
Hannah Rogers = Jonathan Higgins
Joseph Rogers = Hannah
Thomas Rogers = Alice Cosford

Christina Marie Weissgerber Twardowski 828

Christina Marie Weissgerber = Paul Twardowski
Kathleen Louise Shiers = Donald F. Weissgerber
Chester Earl Shiers = Gertrude Elizabeth Harris
Earl Robert Shiers = Mabel Connor
Clara Preston = Harry Edward Shiers
Mary A. Huggins = Calvin Jerome Preston
Enoch Huggins = Mary Ann Mellor/Miller
Elizabeth B. Babcock = Benjamin Huggins
Joseph Babcock = Mary/Polly Bosworth
Jethro Babcock = Phoebe Bownell
Virtue Eastland = Benjamin Babcock
Joseph Eastland = Freelove Shepherd
Mary Phinney = John Eastland
Mary Rogers = John Phinney
Joseph Rogers = Hannah
Thomas Rogers = Alice Cosford

Frances Dunlap Matchett 827

Frances Rosalind Dunlap = Clarence H. Matchett
Almeda May Pugh = Henry Raymond Dunlap
Ora/Aurilla F. Burcham = Joseph Eugene Pugh
Emma Frances Lord = Charles Burcham
William Nelson Lord = Sara Jane Neer
Joseph Tilden Lord = Maria Ross
Joseph Lord = Mary Hovey
Ruth Rogers = Jonathan Lord
Nathaniel Rogers = Silence Dimmock
John Rogers = Elizabeth Twining
Joseph Rogers = Hannah
Thomas Rogers = Alice Cosford

Sumner Gary Hunnewell 826L

Sumner Gary Hunnewell = Sylvia B. Richardson
Sumner Gary Hunnewell = Shirley Ann Mayo
Dorothea Grace Libby = Frederick A. Hunnewell
Clinton Cleveland Libby = Catherine E. Boyle
Henry Augustus Libby = Grace Stanford/ Fenley
Asenath Sanborn = Edward Libby
Mercy Irish = Benjamin Sanborn
Stephen Irish = Anna/Anne Bangs
Mary Gorham Phinney = James Irish Jr.
John Phinney = Martha Coleman
John Phinney = Sarah Lombard/Lumbert
Mary Rogers = John Phinney
Joseph Rogers = Hannah
Thomas Rogers = Alice Cosford

Susan Kathleen Graham Lomax 825

Susan Kathleen Graham = Brian Frank Lomax
Janet Susan Butel = David Yates Graham
Floyd Charles Butel = Maude Berniece Humbert
Lucy Angelina Wadsworth = Ulice Constan Butel
Jesse E. Wadsworth = Tennessee Pearl Logan
Laura A. Kingsley = Jonathan W. Wadsworth
Laura Smith = Benajah Kingsley
Solomon Smith = Lucy Paine
Solomon Smith = Deborah Kibbee
Solomon Smith = Susanna Snow
Hannah Rogers = James Smith Sr.
John Rogers = Elizabeth Twining
Joseph Rogers = Hannah
Thomas Rogers = Alice Cosford

Nancy Ellin Howe Richards 824

Nancy Ellin Howe = Charles Daniel Richards
Virginia Ann Mediam = Dale Edward Howe
Glen Irving Mediam = Olga Zarling
Minnie Jane Rogers = Miles Mediam
Richard Rogers = Lucinda Ann Coats
Richard Rogers = Cordilera Davis
Ebenezer Rogers = Elizabeth Kibbee
Ebenezer Rogers = Elizabeth Mather
John Rogers = Priscilla Hamblin
John Rogers = Elizabeth Twining
Joseph Rogers = Hannah
Thomas Rogers = Alice Cosford

Helene Elizabeth Veazie Lambright 823

Helene Elizabeth Veazie = Terry M. Lambright
Wildes Walker Veazie = Helene Regina Hurley
Wildes Walker Veazie = Charlotte Sutcliffe
Mary E. Morgan = Wildes P. Walker Veazie
Angelina P. Lord = Roscoe Ferris Morgan
Asenath C. Murch = Robert Varden Lord
Mary Cousins = Noah Murch
Thankful Hopkins = Elisha Cousins
Joseph Hopkins = Mary/Mercy Higgins
Thankful Smith = Isaac Hopkins
Thankful Paine = Jonathan Smith
Hannah Higgins = Nicholas Paine
Elizabeth Rogers = Jonathan Higgins
Joseph Rogers = Hannah
Thomas Rogers = Alice Cosford

One Hundred Eleven Questions and Answers Concerning the Pilgrims

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Costs for purchasing this book and the address for placing orders: 1-4 copies \$14.50 each plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling; 5 or more \$13.50 each plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling- cost per book \$15.00. Make payment by check or money order to: Mayflower Books, 12 Wyndwood Rd, Uncasville, CT 06382. Purchase orders accepted via e-mail. Inquiries may be directed to:

Mayflowerbooks@99main.com

Rogers of Watford, Northamptonshire

By Murray Johnston

Part 1: Rogers and Cosford, Farmers of Watford

As is well-known, Thomas Rogers the pilgrim of Mayflower fame was born in the parish of Watford, Northamptonshire. His father and father-in-law were William Rogers and George Cosford, respectively. Less known, however, is that both families, Rogers and Cosford, were tenant farmers of Watford in 16th century Elizabethan England. The two families knew each other probably even before Thomas was born.

William Rogers became a tenant and George Cosford continued as a tenant, each by virtue of an indenture sealed and delivered on the same day in October of the 9th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, or 1567. The two indentures, or contracts in today's terminology, were similar in their formal language and differed only in the specifics of each lease. Such documents were almost never signed (many people could not write), but instead the names of witnesses to the "sealing" of the document were added. In both cases, one witness was John Watkyn, tenant of one of the Watford manors, soon the purchaser of that manor. Another witness to William Rogers' lease was George Cosford. Both men were described as "husbandman [farmer] of Watford".

George Cosford paid his landlord an upfront fee of £3 6s 8d in consideration of the sealing and delivering. The lease was for one yardland of arable land and a close of pasture in return for the annual rent of 25 shillings (or £1 5s). William Rogers paid an upfront fee of £3 for which he took on the lease of a messuage, half a yardland of arable, and two closes of pasture, and his rental was 26 shillings and 8 pence per annum. These were not insignificant sums of money at that time – this was the year Mary Queen of Scots abdicated her throne and 20 years before she was executed by the order of Queen Elizabeth. For comparison, smaller grants in the Patent Rolls by the same Queen would pay a lucky grantee rents of £5 to £10 per annum; an income not to be scorned at the time. Clearly, neither farmer was a peasant or farm labourer; both must have been yeoman farmers, although not a landholder. Furthermore, each man likely employed financial assistance inherited from his father.

A "yardland" represented a parcel of arable land (in Watford about 20 acres) suitable for growing crops, and included the right to use the pasture and meadow of nearby common fields in the township. A close, on the other hand, was a field inclosed (hence "close") by a fence of some kind or a hedge, therefore not available to other farmers. A messuage included a dwelling and the land upon which it stood. George's lease did not include a messuage ... therefore he either had a house elsewhere, or there was a small cottage or toft on the farmland.

George Cosford's lease was to last for the three lives of himself, his wife Margaret, and their son, Henry (born therefore about 1565 – 66). This meant the lease would remain to each in turn upon the death of the first then the second and therefore endure for the longest lived of the three. George's lease stated his farmland had first been occupied by him more than six years ago, leased to him by the current lessor's father, now deceased. In order to legally take on a lease in his own name in April 1561, George cannot have been a minor. He must have been over 21 years of age and potentially as much as 30. We may deduce he was born before 1540 and potentially as early as 1530-33; clearly not as late as 1545.

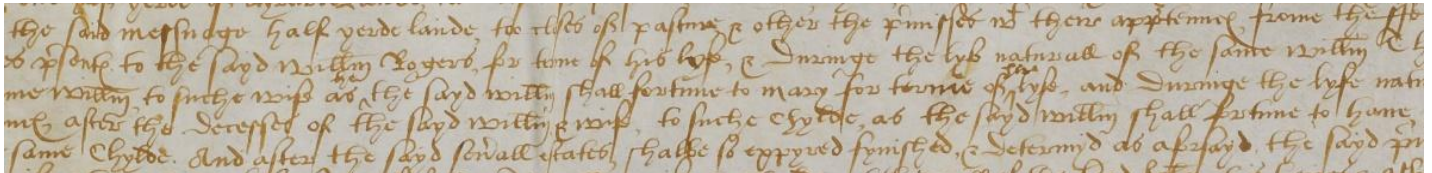


Figure 1: Part of the 1567 lease to William Rogers, from OK 229, image by kind permission of Northamptonshire Record Office.

William Rogers' lease (see Figure 1) was also to last for three lives. However, at the time of sealing and delivery of the lease William was not married. The lease was for William's lifetime, then for the life of "such wife as he shall fortune to marry", and thirdly, for "such child as William shall fortune to have". William also must have been older than 21 in 1567, and therefore might have been born around 1540-42, possibly as much as ten years younger than George.

William Rogers and George Cosford are again named as tenants in 1569 when the same tenements were among those sold by the lessor to the Spencers, recent purchasers of the *Comberford Manor* in Watford. In the same year, George gains another mention as the tenant of an unspecified parcel of land within the de Watford manor, by then called the *Catesby Manor of Watford*. (Regarding either Manor, reference *The Watford Knight's Fee*, published April 2018, available in the USA on Amazon.com or BN.com).

Undoubtedly the young Thomas Rogers of future fame was brought up and worked on his father's farm in Watford. When father William died in 1585, he left the land he held, being a messuage and a quarter of a yardland, to his eldest son, Thomas. On the other hand, the lands he had leased since 1567 he bequeathed to William, his younger son. Thomas Rogers, son of William, married Alice, daughter of George Cosford, at Watford in 1597 and eventually left Watford for Holland. George Cosford died in Watford in 1608, and in his will dated 1601 required the provisions of the marriage contract for his daughter and son-in-law be fulfilled. Thomas's brother William, born 1581 in Watford, remained a farmer in Watford.

Part 2: William Rogers in Watford

The lands leased by William Rogers in 1567 descended to his wife Eleanor in 1585, and upon her death, to their son, also William, which he may not have been able to possess until he

turned 21 in 1603. In 1585, the lease included the house where the Rogers family lived, and the half yardland came with the typical appurtenances (rights attached). William was also bequeathed £10 by his father to be paid upon his reaching the age of 18, and three bee hives after his elder brother Thomas had chosen the best hive for himself. William Rogers jnr married Mary Sabin, member of another prominent family in the parish, in 1609 and a year later followed tradition when naming his first son after his father, William.

William (born 1581) is recorded in occupation of his father's leased lands in 1622. The reverse side of the 1567 lease document is marked to indicate William Rogers (the son) was living in April 1622, and a note is added: "since dead".

We know William Roger's leased lands were not part of the largest manor of Watford, the Burneby Manor (see *The Watford Knight's Fee*). William Rogers was, however, named in 1627, when he was sworn in as a juror on the occasion of the new Watford Lord's Manor Court held in 1627. George Clerke had just purchased the Burneby Manor including the right to hold "Court Leet". William was one of four given the assignment of "Finders and Counters of Cattle".

We next observe William Rogers recorded in the 1630s as one of the tenants of the Comberford manor when sold by the Spencers to George Clerke. This tenancy then included the same farm house, two closes and half a yardland all with the same rental of 26s 8d, therefore still under the original lease of 1567. Now, William also leased the former Cosford lands of one yardland and one close, although for the much higher rent of £7 per annum, therefore probably under a new lease.

Some time after he purchased the several manors of Watford, the "modern" Lord of Watford Manor, George Clerke, re-leased to William Rogers what appear to be the same lands the Rogers and Cosford families had occupied for decades. The lease of one yardland and close in the netherend field, by then known as Hankins Close, had three more years to run at £7 per annum, and from 1641 increased to £9 for each of the next 18 years. The other half-yardland in the upperend field was to be swapped with another half-yardland of equal value in the netherend. With this lease, William Rogers also agreed to provide a horse and team to carry whatever goods George Clerke desired within Watford parish.

By 1648, William Rogers is sworn in as one of the jury for another session of the Manor Court of George Clerke the elder. William Rogers and another local farmer were lucky enough to be elected "keepers of ale", a common appointment in those times to control the quality and price of ale, which was usually brewed locally.

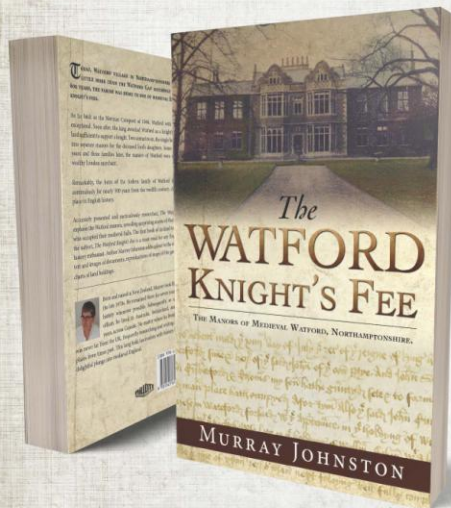
Another William Rogers, born about 1650 amid the English Civil War, when church records were often incomplete, is the lessee of a messuage, two closes and one and a half yardlands in Watford in 1689, the year George Clerke the younger died. This seems to be the same Rogers and Cosford lands, together.

The end of the William Rogers story, at least in Watford, seems to occur in the early 18th century. At the age of 64, William gave evidence in 1715 as a deponent for an interrogatory, concerning a squabble between two of Watford's landlords over land ownership and values:

[William Rogers] rented two yardlands, part of the lands in [dispute], called Rogers Land ... at 15 £ per annum to the best of his remembrance as to the sum, and [Sir Robert Clerke] having given him notice to quit the possession thereof, he left the same [lands] about thirteen years [since] and then took other two yardlands ... which this deponent held for one year at 18 £ per annum to the best of his remembrance ... and then [Clerke] insisting that this deponent should pay ten pounds per annum for each yard land [i.e. £20 per annum total] and pay the taxes [the] deponent not being willing to continue as Tenant thereof at that rate & having lands of his own quitted the possession thereof to [Clerke]

And retired to Long Buckby, one of the neighboring parishes of Watford.

TODAY, WATFORD VILLAGE IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE IS KNOWN FOR LITTLE MORE THAN THE WATFORD GAP MOTORWAY STOP. BUT, FOR 600 YEARS, THE PARISH WAS HOME TO ONE OF MEDIEVAL ENGLAND'S FIRST KNIGHT'S FEES.



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AUTHOR
Murray Johnston

TITLE
The Watford Knight's Fee

SUBTITLE
The Manors of Medieval Watford,
Northamptonshire

ISBN
978-1-54561-705-2

PRICE
\$17.99

PUBLICATION DATE
04/10/2018

GENRE
HIS015020 - HISTORY - Europe - Great Britain - Norman
Conquest to Late Medieval (1066-1485)
REF013000 - REFERENCE - Genealogy & Heraldry
BIO002000 - BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY - Cultural,
Ethnic & Regional - General

PAGE COUNT
356

TRIM
6" x 9"

BINDING
Perfect Bound

PUBLISHER
Mill City Press

WHOLESALE ORDERS
Available through ingrambook.com
and many major wholesalers.

Of Interest to Members

The following is a list of articles related to Thomas Rogers that have been published in the Thomas Rogers Society newsletters and on the Thomas Rogers Society website thomasrogerssociety.com. Please visit the website to view the issues of the newsletters that these articles are in.

1. *The Genealogist*, Volume 10, No. 2 by Clifford Scott – TRS website
2. *Watford, Northamptonshire, Revisited* by Michael Yoemans – Fall 2006 newsletter.
3. *A Few Observations About the Life of Thomas Rogers* by William Muttart – Spring 2007 newsletter
4. *The New Occupations the Dutch Gave to Thomas Rogers and His Fellow Pilgrims* by Michael Yoemans – Spring 2008 newsletter
5. *They Were Their Brothers Keepers* by William Muttart – Winter 2009 newsletter
6. *Update on DNA Testing Related to Thomas Rogers* by Michael Yoemans – Spring 2014 newsletter
7. *New Ancient Source Document Discovered* by Michael Yoemans – Spring 2014 newsletter
8. *Rediscovering Joseph Rogers* by Michael Yoemans – Spring 2016 newsletter
9. *Analysis of Ancient Thomas Rogers Property Sale Document* by Michael Yoemans – Spring 2017 newsletter
10. *How A Minor Navigation Error Ultimately Led to the American Revolution* by Robert Rogers – Winter 2018 newsletter
11. *Rogers of Watford, Northamptonshire* by Murray Johnson – Fall 2018 newsletter

Scholarship Announcement

In 1981, steps were taken to create a scholarship program as a living memorial to Thomas Rogers, Pilgrim. So far, beginning in 1984, from one to two \$1000.00 scholarships have been awarded annually to deserving students of family and members of the Thomas Rogers Society. See a link to the application below. All applications must be submitted prior to March 10th, to Steven Rogers 33 Bayberry Road, Danvers, MA 01923

Here is a link to the application: <https://www.thomasrogerssociety.com/scholarship.html>

Treasurer's Report

As of October 15, 2018, we have 23 members who have not paid their dues. Of these 14 are now two years arrears. Our policy is to place members who are in arrears two years or more on the inactive list at the end of each calendar year. We will stop mailing them newsletters and eliminate them from the triennial roster. This is not something that we enjoy doing, but postage is expensive so we have to draw the line somewhere. We recognize that a few members may have passed without our knowing and several have moved without providing a forwarding address. **If you have received a notice that you are in the "two year past due" category and you wish to continue your membership, please provide a payment of \$30.00 using the form on the last page of the newsletter. If you have not yet paid your annual dues, please provide a payment of \$15.00 using the form on the last page of the newsletter.** If you are not a life member, you will notice that we have placed a colored round sticker on your newsletter. **Red** means two years in arrears. **Yellow** means you have not paid your dues for 2018. **Green** means your dues are current, but due again in January 2019. If you pay annually, we ask that you treat this newsletter as your notice that your 2019 Dues are to be paid in January. For all those paying dues please write your first name and last name at the top of the form where it says "Remittance from". Please make checks payable to the: Thomas Rogers Society, Inc. and mail to: Mr. Michael Yoemans, 65 Blackberry Ln., Lexington, VA. Life members wishing to buy pins or make donations may also use the form on the last page. If you wish to contact me by email, my address is: myoemans1@gmail.com

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

Remittance from:

Dues: One year at \$15.00 _____
Two years at \$30.00 _____
Three years at \$45.00 _____
Life Membership at \$200.00 _____

Contributions: Scholarship Fund _____
6th & 7th Generation Project _____
Operating Expenses _____

Thomas Rogers Society pins:

Number of pins _____ @ \$15.00 _____

Total _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

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