



WINDOW ON AMERICA'S PAST

The Alden Home

The Official Newsletter of the Alden House Historic Site

“... Investing in the Future of the Past”

FALL 2006

Occupants of the Alden House

Part 1: John and Priscilla

—by Alicia Crane Williams

They were “America’s First Couple,” but we really don’t know that much about John and Priscilla (Mullins) Alden. We don’t know where John was born or who his parents were. We can calculate that he was born about 1598 because he was “about eighty-nine years of age” when he died in 1687, but we have no such reference point to calculate the birth of Priscilla. Our best guess is that she may have been born between 1600 and 1605 (and thus was between 15 and 20 when she sailed on the *Mayflower*), but that is just a guess. While we know that Priscilla’s family came from Dorking in County Surry, England, no birth or baptismal record has been found for her.

We don’t know the date on which our famous ancestors were married – again, our best guess is about 1623. We don’t know the dates of birth for any of their ten children; and we don’t know the date of Priscilla’s death, except that she was living in 1650 and died before John. Unlike Governor William Bradford, John Alden left nothing in writing to give us any clues about his personal story. So what do we know?

John Alden was a “hopeful young man” who was hired to serve as cooper on the ship *Mayflower* while she was preparing to sail from Southampton, England. Coopers, or wet carpenters, were required by law to sail on any ship carrying passengers to tend to the casks and barrels of food and drink, making certain they did not leak and that seawater did not get in to contaminate the contents. John would have been about 21 or 22 years of age and

because he had a skilled trade, he may have just finished an apprenticeship.

When the *Mayflower* passengers arrived in New England, they gave John the choice of staying with them or going home with the ship. He stayed. The exact reasons he stayed are unknown to us now, but certainly the opportunity to own land and make a better economic future for himself was part of it. Another reason undoubtedly was that pretty young lady named Priscilla. Even though John may not have yet aspired to her hand, and although he was not originally one of the religious group, he apparently embraced the church, becoming a respected member.



Detail from an 1867 painting of the Alden homestead by J.M. Alden.

Priscilla came with her father, William Mullins, his wife, Alice (presumed to be Priscilla’s mother, but without a birth record, we cannot absolutely say that she wasn’t a second wife), and Priscilla’s brother, Joseph. In February 1621, William Mullins died. His will was carried on the *Mayflower* back to England where his other daughter, Sarah (Mullins) Blunden, and son, William Mullins (Jr.), still lived. In Plymouth, sometime after April of 1621, Alice and Joseph also died, leaving Priscilla alone and orphaned in New England. We do not know

any more about Sarah, but William Jr. eventually came to New England, married (possibly twice) and had three daughters (including one who married three times), but left no other descendants.

The fact that Priscilla did not immediately marry in 1621 suggests that she was a little too young for marriage. There were certainly plenty of available men, including the famous Myles Standish, whose first wife also died in the winter of 1620-1621, and only a handful of eligible women until the later ships ar-

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The Alden Home

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From the Editor

Hard to believe that another year is almost at an end! It was great to see so many of you at this year's Annual Meeting of the Alden Kindred in August, which kicked off a busy season for the Alden House Historic Site...much of which you'll read about in these newsletter issues.

In our spring '06 issue, we published a newsletter survey to determine what our readers think of the newsletter and the direction in which it has been going. We received a total of nine responses, most of which were positive. The following is a brief breakdown of the responses by question.

When asked their opinion of what the primary purpose of the Alden newsletters should be and if they thought we were adequately fulfilling that mission, eight felt that we were and one felt that we were not. Primary purposes included keeping the membership informed (most popular answer), promoting/increasing membership, historical information, and helping maintain the house.

When asked what they liked about the newsletters, most respondents replied that they considered them interesting and informative. Specific mentions included Jim Baker's museum updates and articles about the Alden family. (You're in luck! Part 1 of our new series, "Occupants of the Alden House," premieres with this issue of *The Alden Home* on p. 1!)

When asked what they disliked about the newsletter, one respondent questioned "if the mission is really being fulfilled," but did not elaborate. The same respondent stated that "two publications really don't seem to be working," and felt that continuity was an issue. We went to two newsletters several years ago in an attempt to separate Alden Kindred member news from information of interest to members and non-members alike. To make the most of our limited resources, the idea was to give the newsletter a second use as a marketing tool by offering it at the Alden House Historic Site and at locations in the surrounding area to more effectively promote the museum to the community at large. Separating member news seemed to make it more user-friendly for non-members.

Nearly all of the survey respondents felt that the newsletter adequately covers Alden-related news. Some suggestions for future articles included reviews of books that might be of interest to members, and a follow-up report on this year's trip to England hosted by Jim Baker (which you'll find on p. X of *Aldens' Progress*). Feature story suggestions included more articles about genealogy and on "the Hawaiian branch of the Alden family." (I'll have to check with our genealogist, Alicia, about that one!)

When asked if a Letters to the Editor section would be of interest, only four respondents replied; three were in favor (one saying only if it added information to benefit AKA members) and one was not, saying that he/she felt it would take up too much space.

In the overall comments section, the responses were mostly positive. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in the survey. We appreciate your input and suggestions, which will assist us in improving the quality of future newsletters. ◊

It's beginning to look a lot like...

No holiday season would be complete without a visit to Aunt Polly's Gift Shop online for all of your gift-giving needs! You'll find exquisite items ranging from one-of-a-kind, Alden-themed keepsakes to beautiful decorative items for your home. Aunt Polly's is the perfect place to shop for gifts for those Alden cousins and friends on your gift list! Shop on-site at the museum during our months of operation, or online during the off-season at www.alden.org and click on the link for "Aunt Polly's Gift Shop." ◊



First-ever “Adventures in Time” Summer History Camp a Success!

—by Christopher Daley,
Education Committee Chairman

After much planning, the first Alden “Adventures in Time” Summer History Camp was held July 11–14, 2006, at the Alden House Historic Site. The response of the children and the parents exceeded all of our expectations! Five campers signed up to travel back to colonial times and see what life was like when Aldens still lived in the Alden House. The activities they participated in by the day were:

Tuesday:

Campers made their own monogrammed handkerchiefs by learning different stitches as well as a little bit about the history of the handkerchief, an item that both men and women had in the colonial



Sewing handkerchiefs, under the instruction of “Mistress” Regine Porter.

era. During the rest of the day, children practiced country dancing and singing for a presentation that would take place on Saturday. (The children practiced dancing and singing a little bit each day for the rest of the week).



Wednesday: Campers participated in a one-day, one-room-schoolhouse activity in which “Mistress Porter,” the stern schoolmarm, instructed the students in penmanship using quill and ink as well as the writing of poetry.

Thursday: Children were exposed to the science of archaeology. Craig Chartier (*right*), archaeologist and director of the Plymouth Archaeology Rediscovery Project, was on hand to show the children the different techniques of archaeology and to show and discuss certain artifacts that he brought with him. Afterward, campers participated in a mock archaeological dig in which they used their newly learned techniques to recover and record actual artifacts.



Friday: Captain Fred Hills of Hingham (*left*) arrived fully armed and armored carrying his Flag of St. George. The children learned about the different arms and armor used in the days of the Pilgrims, and also learned about the various punishments

given for certain crimes, such as being made to stand in the pillory. Later, the children spent the afternoon preparing colonial penny loaves and sweet tarts.



Saturday: In the morning, the children learned compass and map skills and used those skills to locate “the long-lost Alden Treasure” by using a map and compass. The children were very adept in their compass and map skills, and their hunt came to a very profitable conclusion. Saturday being the last day of camp, families were invited to

bring a picnic lunch, be entertained by their children, and enjoy a tour of the house, where each child was stationed in a room in which he or she explained all about the room and its history.

Plans for a second year of the “Adventures in Time” Summer History Camp have already begun. Several local newspapers covered the camp, and thanks to Linda Redding, we have an extensive collection of photographs of the children participating in different activities (as shown here). This has been developed into a slideshow and put on a DVD which will be given to the local cable station to play before enrollment next year. We expect that both the press coverage and the DVD will help us increase our numbers for next year. ◇



2006 “Adventures in History” campers, from l to r: Bridget Fowler, Kimberly Whitney, Anthony Adamo, Scott Struski, Will Betteridge.

Occupants, cont. from p. 1

rived. From her father's will, Priscilla inherited among other things the income from forty dozen pairs of shoes and thirteen pairs of boots that William had brought to sell to the colonists as his family's means of support – which would have given Priscilla an attractive dowry.

The story of how John proposed to Priscilla was reputedly handed down through generations of the family until it was made famous by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's

poem *The Courtship of Myles Standish* in 1858. The poem takes many literary liberties, and even the first known written account in 1814 contains historical discrepancies,

but the basic story is that when the widowed Myles Standish wanted to re-marry, he sent his friend, John Alden, as a messenger to plead the cause with Priscilla. She, however, "with an open and pleasant countenance," turned the tables by asking, "prithee, John, why do you not speak for yourself?" John is reported to have blushed, bowed and excused himself while he went to deliver the bad news to Myles before returning and making his own declaration to Priscilla. The 1814 account describes John as "said to have been a man of most excellent form with a fair and ruddy complexion."

Although John Alden came to New England as a cooper, he became a farmer (undoubtedly supplementing his income with cooperage work). Their first home was within the stockade of Plimoth Plantation, but after the division of land in 1627, John and Priscilla resettled in Duxbury. For the first several years, they probably farmed in Duxbury during the summer then returned to the Plantation during the winter in order to attend church, which was a mandated requirement. In 1632, a church was authorized in Duxbury and the Aldens built a permanent home on the 100 acres they had been granted there. Over the years, John received further grants of land



Fanciful 19th-century depiction of the "Courtship" story.

in Duxbury, Bridgewater, and Middleborough; at least 600 acres, which he deeded to his sons before his death.

Despite having joined the Pilgrims as an outsider, by 1627 John Alden was one of only eight men (known as the "Undertakers") who took on the debt of the colony from the "Purchasers," or venture capitalists, who had funded the Plantation. In return, these men (Alden, Bradford, Standish, Allerton, Winslow, Brewster, and Prence) received the boats, furs and stores that had belonged to the Company and the trading rights for six years. They made their payments in corn and tobacco.

John knew how to read and write well enough to be given various positions of responsibility in the colony that required education – magistrate (justice of the peace), Assistant to the General Court, Colony Treasurer, acting Deputy Governor. Whether he received that education in England or from men such as Bradford, Winslow or Brewster after his arrival in New England is not known.

More importantly, John was a man whose opinions were respected. He served on many committees involved in settling disputes and on the councils of war. He did end up on the wrong side of the law on one occasion in 1634 when he was arrested in Boston after an incident on the



1904 rendering of John Alden by A.S. Burbank.

Kennebec River. A group from Plymouth Colony had clashed with a group from Massachusetts Bay Colony over a trading post on the river. A man from the latter group was shot and killed. John Alden had been bringing supplies to the post, although he was not involved in the shooting. By the time John returned to Boston, however, the news had preceded him, and as the nearest Plymouth Colony representative available, he was arrested. Ironically, it was Myles Standish who was sent up from Plymouth to secure his release.

John deeded the homestead in Duxbury to
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Become a Museum Member of the Alden House Historic Site

Membership Benefits:

- Receive the museum newsletter
- Invitation to the Annual Meeting
- FREE admission to the historic Alden House (based on membership level)
- 10% discount on select items in Aunt Polly's Gift Shop on-site at the museum and online at www.alden.org
- Discount admission for special events for all ages
- Satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to preserve a valuable historic property

Membership Levels:

- Individual: \$25 per year (includes one adult unlimited museum admission)
- Family: \$50 per year (includes one unlimited admission pass good for two adults and children in family under the age of 18)
- Business/Group: \$100 per year (includes one unlimited museum admission, plus ten one-time passes with attached discount coupons)

Please make checks payable to *The Alden Kindred of America* and mail to:

**Alden House Historic Site
P.O. Box 2754
Duxbury, MA 02331-2754**

Read more about the activities at the Alden House Historic Site at www.alden.org. ♦

ALDENS' PROGRESS

News of the Alden Kindred of America, Inc.

FALL 2006

Alden Kindred of America 106th Annual Meeting — August 4-5, 2006



AKA President Linda Osborne (right) expresses the organization's gratitude to guest of honor, Executive Board Member Pauline Kezer, as AKA Director Alden "Rink" Ringquist (center) looks on.

The 106th Annual Meeting weekend of the Alden Kindred of America started on Friday evening, August 4, with a reception to honor Board Member Pauline Kezer and her generous gift to the Alden House Historic Site of three pieces of furniture that once belonged to her ancestor, Major Judah Alden. In attendance to honor Pauline were Alden House Historic Site Curator Jim Baker, AKA President Linda Osborne, AKA Director Alden "Rink" Ringquist, and a group of appreciative members. Among the items presented to Pauline to show the appreciation of the AKA was a framed antique postcard of the Alden House and a copy of Jim Baker's updated history of the house, *Alden House History: A Work in Progress*.

The Annual Meeting itself began Saturday morning at 8:45 a.m. with registration. Volunteers Janet Curley and Blair Stanford (right) handled duties at the registration table. After signing in, arriving members enjoyed morning refreshments and the opportunity to buy some Aunt Polly's Gift Shop items at a special table set up under the meeting tent.



At 10:30 a.m., President Linda Osborne called the 106th Annual Meeting to order. Pauline Kezer gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by this year's Dr. Donnell B. Young scholarship winner, Daniel Duffy, and the singing of the national anthem by all assembled. Linda then welcomed distinguished guest Caroline Kardell, former Historian General of the Mayflower Society, to the meeting.

Genealogist Alicia Williams welcomed our new members, and invited them to stand and be recognized. They were greeted with applause, after which all were invited to "meet our neighbors" around the tables.

The Business Meeting began with a vote to accept the minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting, which were approved without correction.

In her dual role as Scholarship Committee Chair, Linda reported on the past year's scholarship activities. She then introduced Executive Board member Barbara Itz to present the 2006 Dr. Donnell B. Young Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to her

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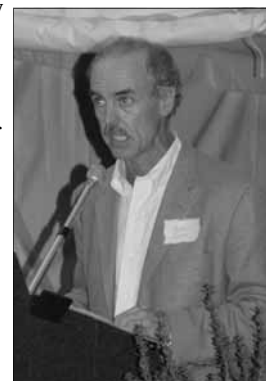
"Speak for Thyself" Awards Dinner a Resounding Success!

The organizers of the "Speak for Thyself" Awards could not have imagined a more perfect evening than August 5, 2006, for this first annual event. A full moon, a warm breeze and a picture-perfect evening greeted the almost 200 guests who came to the Alden House and Museum to honor the first



slate of inductees. The spirit of Priscilla Alden was evident and her hand was clearly on each and every aspect of the evening's activities. Under a large tent on the freshly manicured grounds of the Alden property, the Buddy Siroonian Orchestra (above) played the Big Band tunes of a fondly

remembered era enjoyed by all. Mark and Linda Collins and their staff prepared and delivered a lovely dinner of Statler Chicken, Lyonnais potatoes, and Indian pudding with cinnamon ice cream. Martha Cantelli and her staff



Master of Ceremonies
Brian Cook

greeted and seated each and every guest, while the Duxbury High School hockey team provided an added touch of elegance with valet parking.

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Annual Meeting, cont. from p. i

grandson (and Dr. Young's great-grandson), Daniel Duffy, of Haverhill, Mass., who is attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass., this fall. His winning essay was entitled "Pursuits and Pastimes of the Pilgrims." (Barbara was not involved in the applicant review process

this year because of her grandson's application. Education Committee Chairman Christopher Daley served on the review board in her place.)



Daniel Duffy accepts his scholarship award presented by his grandmother, Barbara Itz.

Linda then awarded the 2006 John and Priscilla Alden

Award for \$250 to Duxbury High School student Travis Lincoln, who is attending the Universal Technical Institute in Arizona to study in the automotive field. Travis was not present at the meeting.

In attendance at this year's meeting was Richard Tingblad, of Whitman, Mass., whose daughter, Kristin, was the recipient of last year's Dr. Donnell B. Young Scholarship. He reported that she had had a great freshman year at Bridgewater (Mass.) State University, making many new friends and receiving the President's Honors Award in her first semester.

The next order of business was to accept the reports of the various standing committees: Finance, Operations, Membership, Physical Properties, Education, and Communications, most of which were contained in the preprinted Annual Report distributed prior to the meeting. There were no By-Law changes this year.



Linda then made a special presentation of a Reward of Merit to recognize Alicia Crane Williams (above left) for her extraordinary volunteer efforts over the past year.

"We would not be where we are without your dedication," Linda said as she presented the award. "You are the 'glue' that holds us together."

AKA Vice President John C. Alden (below) gave the Nominating Committee report. It was then moved, seconded and voted to accept the Nominating Committee's 2006-2007 Slate of Officers for the coming year.



Next was Alden House Historic Site Curator Jim

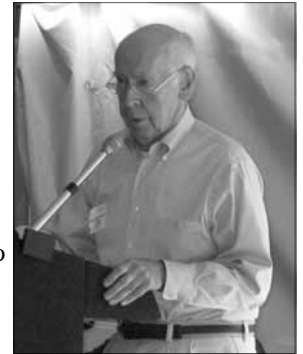
Baker and his report for the year. Jim talked about the new direction of the Alden House's exhibits. The east side of house will show the evolution of how the house has been exhibited over the last century, while the west side of the house will be restored to the year 1876, which was the start of America's "Colonial Revival" period, the genesis of such descendant societies as the Alden Kindred. As people tour the east side of the house, they'll hear the story of John and Priscilla and see some authentic artifacts from that period; and as they tour the west side, they'll see an authentic representation of the house as it would have appeared when Aunt Polly, Captain Jack, and his brother, Henry, lived there.

Alicia Crane Williams then gave the Operations Committee report. She began by thanking everyone for their generous donations in 2005, which was a big year for house repairs, but nevertheless, all donation goals were met. She went on to stress the importance of continued giving to the Annual Fund, which underwrites all of the organization's operations. In addition, Alicia discussed her efforts to reorganize procedures in the office to maximize what resources there are to keep the Alden Kindred running.

Next, Board Member Pauline Kezer talked about the Executive Board Retreat planned for November 17 and 18 at St. Margaret's Convent in Duxbury, at which long-term strategies for the organization will be discussed. She then extended an invitation to all members who are interested to become involved in the processes that govern the future of the Alden Kindred and the Alden House Historic Site.

Alden "Rink" Ringquist then gave the Director's Report, in which he

highlighted the past year's events, including the annual golf tournament (which has raised approximately \$55,000 since its start four years ago), the ongoing efforts of the local Boy Scout troops in maintaining the grounds and at the annual Halloween Haunted House, and a new fundraising initiative started last year of Christmas tree sales at the Alden House. In other news, Rink talked about the success of the "Adventures in Time" summer camp, the \$30,000 Town of Duxbury grant to cover the house window repairs, and an update of Tom McCarthy's continuing efforts to bring us closer to National Historic Landmark status. He also expressed much enthusiasm about that evening's upcoming "Speak for Thyself" Awards Dinner, a first-ever event of its kind to raise funds and awareness for the Alden Kindred and the Alden House Historic Site (read about this event starting on p. i).



Linda Osborne (below) began her President's report by recognizing the efforts of long-time Board Members and volunteers who work so tirelessly to keep the organization going. She then went on to urge everyone to consider



volunteering for an event or becoming a member of the Board or a committee. She also asked everyone to support the

AKA's various fundraising efforts, and thanked them for previous donations. In addition, Linda mentioned the ongoing efforts of the Education Committee, particularly the second grade program in collaboration with the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society and the "Adventures in History" summer camp.

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Next was the Reunion Committee report, presided over by Chair Janet Curley (*below*), who reported that 79 members were in attendance. By descent, members in attendance were: Elizabeth—21; Ruth—



16; Sarah—13; Jonathan—5; Joseph—19; Rebecca—1; David—1; and John—0.

14 states were represented, as follows: Massachusetts—42; New Hampshire

and Vermont—7 each; Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and Maryland—3 each; Washington, Virginia, Texas, New York, Idaho, Alaska—2 each; Connecticut and Maine—1 each.

The oldest person in attendance this year was Elsie Clemente at 88, and the youngest was double the fun with twins Dana and Rowyn McLaughlin, aged 3-and-a-half months, who are the children of Susan Bingham and Kevin McLaughlin, and the grandchildren of Executive Board Member George Bingham and his wife, Carolyn.



From l to r: George Bingham and oldest member in attendance Elsie Clemente (holding our youngest members), with second oldest member in attendance, Ann Reid.

Before ending the meeting, Linda Osborne urged everyone to bid in the Silent Auction, buy a raffle ticket for the rug raffle and to visit the gift shop after the meeting. This year's rug (*below*), created and donated by the Duxbury Rug



Hookers, measured 25"x36" and featured colorful primitive household artifacts.

The meeting concluded shortly before noon with final announcements, after which everyone gathered on the hill in front of the family homestead for the family photo.

This year's luncheon was a buffet presented by Mark and Linda Collins. The menu included deli sandwiches, assorted salads and sides, and extra-large cookies for dessert.

The after-luncheon speaker was none other than our famous ancestor, "Priscilla Alden" (a/k/a Regina Porter), who told us the story of how she met her husband, John, and how they came to live in the Alden House. She later answered audience questions about a wide variety of topics about her life and about her famous "Speak for Thyself" statement. It quickly became apparent



from her answers that there are a surprising number of similarities between life in the 17th and 21st centuries!

The 2006 Annual Meeting ended with tours of the house, shopping at the gift shop, and the drawing of the rug raffle. The rug was won by Lisa Koster of Wayland, Mich. The rug raffle earned \$970 in donations this year, and the Silent Auction took in \$822. It was a wonderful day to reunite with family and friends, and great to see everyone again. ♦



Anthony Adamo mans the register at Aunt Polly's Gift Shop on Annual Meeting day.



Ethel Fletcher (center) supervises the "half-price" table under the tent while Ann Reid (left) and Skip Taylor (right) look on.

**See you all
in 2007!**

Aldens Abroad 2006

—by Jim Baker

Our *Aldens Return to England* (August 7–15) tour was quite successful, even if we did not have the attendance we had originally hoped for. Our tour companions were Kathy Pillsbury (Duxbury), Elna Headberg* (Marlboro), Chuck* and Leada Ask (Seattle, WA) and John* and Kathy Holmquist (Juneau, AK). The asterisks denote Alden lineage, so with myself, just half the party were Alden “cousins”—and Chuck and John were actual close cousins as well. Although I had been to almost all of the places we visited on the trip, it was the



Our group at Southampton, from l to r: John Holmquist, Kathy Holmquist, Chuck Ask, Peg Baker, Jim Baker, Leada Ask, Elna Headberg. (Kathy Pillsbury was in Canterbury already.)

first time for everyone else, which made this pilgrimage to Alden sites all the more exciting. Peg and I prepared introductory talks about the sights we would see; she covering the cathedrals and royal connections and I the Alden and Pilgrim sites. Laurie Ann Bolles at Ancestral Tours to Great Britain (Connecticut) and Mandy Howes at British Historical Tours (Chester, England) worked out the travel arrangements with admirable efficiency so that we had comfortable “en-suite” hotel accommodations and wonderful dinners throughout the trip, and we were blessed with a wonderfully indefatigable and unflappable coach driver, Vivien Roddy.

We left for London after the annual meeting on separate flights. Kathy, Elna, Peg and I arrived at Heathrow at 6:30 a.m. on Monday, August 7, only to find (or rather not find) our connection. The coach was delayed by London traffic for two hours. By 9:30, however, we were able to pick up the Asks and the Holmquists at a local hotel (they had arrived the evening before) and set off for Winchester. Al-

though there are no Pilgrim or Alden associations with Winchester Cathedral, it is a wonderful introduction to English history (being in the original capital of England) and lunch in the cathedral cafeteria was equally welcome.

Our next stop was the Mayflower Monument in Southampton on the quay outside the city’s West Gate where John Alden signed on for the voyage and the *Mayflower* departed on August 5, 1620. With visions of archaic sailing vessels in our imaginations, we went next to Portsmouth Naval Yard to see relics of the real thing: the artifacts and surviving section of the

Mayflower Monument, Southampton. The 1913 memorial to the Mayflower departure on the West Quay outside the old Southampton city walls. The second plaque down, dedicated to John Alden, was contributed by the Alden Kindred.



Mary Rose, Henry VIII’s 1545 wrecked warship. Looking over the many fascinating objects, mundane and magnificent alike, that had been recovered in raising the *Mary Rose*, impressed the reality and immediacy of period maritime life on us all. We then traveled on through the green Hampshire and Surrey downs to the quiet old market town—now quite gentrified—of Dorking, where the Mullins family lived before immigrating to America. Our hotel, the White Horse, was an old, rambling coaching inn with a cobbled courtyard and fully modern accommodations as well as a wonderful restaurant.



Mullins House, Dorking. The entire four-gabled building belonged to William Mullins, Priscilla’s father, who sold it in 1619 for £280. The Surrey Hills Antiques Shop (right) is where the public can see inside the house.

The next day we toured Dorking and were given an informative survey by local historian Pam Hunter at the Dorking Museum, after which we inspected one of the four sections of William Mullins’ old house on West Street, where there is an antique shop today. After independent lunches in the local pubs and cafes, we reassembled and left on the hour-and-forty-five-minute ride to Canterbury. However, a tragic traffic accident had closed the eastbound lanes of the M25 and it took us five-and-a-half hours of stop-start driving on back roads around the blockage to get to Canterbury, far too late to tour the city or attend evensong. We did have another fine hotel dinner, however.

Although it would make us late for our scheduled tour in Harwich, we decided to do a quick morning tour of Canterbury. There are a number of locations connected with Robert Cushman, such as the site of the grocery where he was apprenticed, the place he had his own shop, the alleged site where he “hired the *Mayflower*,” the gatehouse where he was imprisoned for religious dissent and the church in which he was married. In addition, sites of the Chilton and Delano family residences have been identified. We passed quickly by a few Cushman sites and then Peg took everyone for a quick tour of the cathedral before we rushed back to the coach in the rain. By the time we crossed under the Thames in the Deptford Tunnel, the sun was out and we arrived at Harwich



(pronounced “herr-ridge” locally) in fine weather by 2:00. As Vivien had called ahead, we were able to have a quick lunch before we had our introduction to the town by our tour guide, Bernie, who then took us on a circuit of the little town center, including *Mayflower* master Christopher Jones’ house. It is quite possible that a John Alden (born ca. 1566) who was Jones’ cousin by marriage and living in

Jones House-Harwich. Early home of Christopher Jones, master of Mayflower (and possible relation of John Alden).

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Aldens Abroad, cont. from p. v

Harwich in 1599, may have been the father of our John Alden. At least there are no better alternatives known at this time. We left Harwich too late to see St. Mary's church in Bury St. Edmunds, so we just checked in at our hotel for the night. News of the foiled plot to blow up airliners over the Atlantic was just surfacing the next morning. After breakfast we set off across fen country for Boston, stopping briefly in Spalding, where there are associations with Mrs. Billington and Susanna White Winslow. We had a thorough tour of the "Boston Stump" (the parish church of St. Botolph) with its many New England connections. Unfortunately, the Guild Hall where the Pilgrims were imprisoned following their unsuccessful attempt to flee to Holland in 1607 was under repair, closed, and entirely covered in gray plastic and scaffolding. We did drive out to the bleak riverbank in Fishtoft east of Boston where there is a memorial erected to the first abortive Pilgrim flight.

Our next destination was Lincoln. We arrived in the late afternoon, and were immediately impressed by the view of the cathedral on its dramatic hilltop location. We were fortunate enough to have our hotel right opposite the north side of the edifice, which provided a magnificent sight that evening when the whole structure was lit up, giving it the appearance of a piece of old carved ivory. We attended evensong, sitting in choir seats that were hundreds of years old. The next day we were given a tour of the cathedral by a very knowledgeable guide (and author of the guide book) before dividing up to visit the shops, the castle and the ruins of the



Scrooby Manor. This is the surviving east wing of William Brewster's home. The arch at the right is where the old gallery extended west to the great hall.

bishop's palace. Soon we were on the road again to Retford, in the Bassetlaw—the northern section of Nottinghamshire,

which is the heart of Pilgrim Country.

After viewing the Bassetlaw Museum in East Retford, we drove up to Scrooby. The church was open and preparations were ongoing for a wedding the next day, but churchwarden Mary Broom showed us around and then took us down to see the remains of old Scrooby Manor. This was a real treat as the manor house and farmyard have been off limits to visitors for a number of years (with dogs set on trespassers). We didn't go too close as it is now rented to two tenants, but we were able to get a good look behind the obscuring shrubbery at the last surviving section of Elder Brewster's old home. We then returned to Retford and the West Retford Hotel. Our meals here were somewhat less elaborate than those at the earlier hotels, in part because the head chef had quit and his 18-year old assistant had had to run the kitchen alone. He did an admirable job, and we congratulated him on it.

In the morning, we left to thoroughly survey the surrounding Pilgrim sites. We began at Sturton-le-Steeple, the little church where John Robinson was christened and his father was a churchwarden, now set off by the huge cooling towers of the nearby electrical plant. We crossed the River Trent back into Lincolnshire for Gainsborough and the Old Hall. This

wonderful museum has one of England's best restored medieval halls and state

rooms where Henry

VIII stayed—plus a great view from the tower—as well as associations with the local Separatist congregation led by John Smyth. We had lunch in Gainsborough and departed for the southern tip of Yorkshire and Gov. Bradford's birthplace in Austerfield. Austerfield is largely a single street with its older houses on the easterly side, including St. Helena's church and the so-called "manor house" (not that Austerfield ever had a resident lord of the manor) where Bradford was reputed by



St. Helena's, Austerfield. William Bradford's boyhood church.

some to have lived as a child. The church, an impressively early Norman structure with a tiny "bellcote" and a primitive carving of a dragon over the west door, was a real part of his early life. Churchwarden Robert Harrison welcomed us in. We saw the ancient font that had been rescued from a farmyard a century ago, and stained glass celebrating the Pilgrim Story, a slightly ironic touch in light of the Separatist taste in meetinghouses, but very nice for all that. We then drove south through Bawtry (and around Scrooby) to Babworth, where the Leyden Separatist congregation's first pastor, Richard Clifton, was once employed. John Robinson apparently lived in Norwich until 1607, but he did come and preach in his old neighborhood from time to time.

Babworth church (All Saints) is hidden up a narrow, shaded lane and there is still an ancient path extending north by which Bradford and Brewster traveled to join Clifton and others each Sunday until he was ejected in 1605. Local historian Joan Board gave us a very intriguing talk on the church, the enormous nearby rectory and the manor house out along the old path. We saw the 16th-century silver chalice and paten that had been discovered in a hidden vault in the 1950s. We then returned to the hotel and actually sat for a bit before dinner.

Sunday morning, we set off after breakfast through showers to Nottingham. We toured Nottingham Castle museum (largely 19th century) and a few of us saw the caves called "Mortimer's Hole." The exhibits on the history of the city were particularly well designed. We had lunch at the Olde Trip to Jerusalem, billed as England's oldest pub, which is built into the hillside beneath the castle. The room we ate in was actually a cave, and this was made clear when a small piece of the rock from a crevice in the roof fell in front of John after the meal. As for shopping, the famous Nottingham lace roused some people's acquisitive instincts. We then continued on to Cambridge (passing briefly through the outskirts of Fen Stanton, where John Howland was born) and met our guide, Mandy—behind schedule again—at the Silver Street bridge. Setting off at a trot to hear about King's College (although we didn't have time to go in), we took a peek in at Corpus Christi (Robinson's alma mater, which was closed to visitors that day) and visited Peterhouse, which Elder Brewster attended.

Aldens Abroad, cont. from p. vi

At Peterhouse, we saw the Old Court and the chapel. We then took a lengthy tour of Emmanuel ("Emma"), Mandy's own college, and admired the extensive gardens and the elegant Baroque Wren chapel. We thanked Mandy and crossed over Parker's Piece (the adjacent park) to the Gonville, our hotel for the night.

Our last day for touring began early. We drove down to London and crossed under the Thames to Rotherhithe, where both *Mayflower* master Christopher Jones and mate John Clarke lived at the time of the voyage.

Father Richards opened St. Mary's church for us and told us of the history of this maritime community.



Mayflower-Rotherhithe. The Mayflower Pub, Rotherhithe, near St. Mary's church where Christopher Jones is buried.

There is a monument to Jones in the churchyard. We then went west to see Southwark Cathedral, which is in the neighborhood from which a number of Plymouth Colony emigrants came. After our tour, we returned to Rotherhithe for lunch at the Mayflower Pub (before 1957, the "Spread Eagle"), which is a very handsome old building (although it lost its original top floor in the 1940 Blitz). Good pub food in generous portions is served there. Lunch marked the end of the formal tour, after which Vivien dropped us off in London or at our hotel in Hounslow.

The final adventure occurred the following day as we four Massachusetts travelers attempted to make our way back to America, leaving the west coast contingent to enjoy another few days in London. We had planned to spend our last morning going back into London before our 2:30 departure, but the hastily imposed new security arrangements in the wake of the bomb plot dictated otherwise. We decided to leave for the airport at 9:00 a.m., a judicious decision as it was a full six-and-a-half hours from the time we arrived at the curb until we got on the plane, all of which was spent shuffling in one queue or another. The flight back and arrival in Boston was without incident, and by then we were already looking fondly back at what had been a most satisfying and inspirational return to Alden roots. ◇

Genealogist's Report

—by Alicia Crane Williams

The Alden Kin Search Project, Eight Generations Database has been updated. The 2007 edition has the names of 54,191 descendants and their spouses (representing 17,686 marriages) – that is 10,000 more names than the 2003 edition!

The database will be available on the website without notes and citations (www.alden.org), and on CD. The CD version includes a GEDCOM version of the database that you can integrate into your own genealogy program, plus the html version complete with notes and citations. The database includes information through the eighth generation of descendants of John and Priscilla Alden. Information on later generations may be requested from me at genealogist@alden.org.

The CD version is now available for sale for \$25 (\$22.50 for members), plus 10 percent shipping and \$2.50 handling per order. (For other mail order items see Aunt Polly's Gift Shop on the website, www.alden.org.) Make checks payable to the Alden Kindred of America and send orders to P.O. Box 2754, Duxbury, MA, 02331-2754.

This is still a very small percentage of the material that has been sent to us and we continue to enter new information for future updates. We are looking for a volunteer who is familiar with Personal Ancestral File and is experienced working with genealogical material – and, ideally, who lives close enough to Duxbury to periodically come to the Alden office and enter information from our lineage papers. Ability to understand "Register Form" and other genealogical formats is important because the material we receive comes to us in many different shapes and forms.

The fourth volume of the *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* series on the Alden family, which covers the fifth generation descendants of Ruth (Alden) Bass, is still being edited. Publication is now expected by summer 2007.

If you're looking for gifts for your family, remember that you can give Museum memberships for the cost of annual dues (\$25 individual, \$50 family). No lineage papers are involved in museum memberships, even for Alden descendants. Those who wish to take the next step and become Lineage members may do so by filing an additional lineage application (\$75 for individuals, and \$100 for families), but they are not required to become Lineage members to receive all of the other benefits of membership – newsletters, gift shop discounts, invitations to meetings and events, etc. This year I gave museum memberships to 10 relatives!

If you would like to give a gift Museum membership, please contact me at genealogist@alden.org or write to the office in Duxbury. ◇

President's Corner, cont. from p. iv

tions Committee continues to meet all year to address any matters and concerns, plan events and activities, and generally see that everything is running smoothly. If not for this committee, which is made up of a core group of volunteers who live in and close to Duxbury, the AKA would not function as smoothly as it does. These dedicated members volunteer many hours of their time to your organization to ensure that anything that comes up gets taken care of. I know that I have said this before, but I do want to mention again how much I appreciate all that Alicia Williams, Jim Baker, Alden "Rink" Ringquist, Barbara Itz, and Karen Peterson do for the AKA. We cannot thank them enough for all their dedication. Thank you!

In closing, remember our Annual Fund is coming up after the first of the year. This will now be sent out at the same time as the Annual Membership dues. Please give what you can to assist your organization and keep us on a steady track.

I want to wish you all a very wonderful holiday season, and a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year. As always, I appreciate your comments and suggestions. Please give me a call at 781-826-6456 or e-mail me at lindaatcps@juno.com.

Linda

Linda J. Osborne, President,

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Since our last issue, we have accomplished more than in any other comparable period in recent memory. It's been exciting, and many of the accomplishments will

have a dramatic affect on the future of the Alden Kindred. Before I describe the major events, I will touch on one regular event.

Boy Scout Troop #62 assisted us with spring cleanup again this year. This is the third year they have helped us, and we thank them for a great job.

Now for the major things we did this year that will have a positive effect on the future of the Alden House Historic Site and the Kindred.

Our first Summer History Camp, "Adventures in Time," was held July 11th – 15th. This was for children in grades 5–8, and covered subjects of the colonial period with an introduction to an archaeological dig. We had five students who were very excited and pleased to participate. We want to thank Chris Daley, Regina Porter and Jim Baker, who were the faculty, as well as the rest of the Education Committee: Linda Osborne, Janet Ritch and Sue Skeiber.

We received a \$30,000 grant and check from the Town of Duxbury through the Community Preservation Committee under the Community Preservation Act, a state program, for the preservation of 30 windows at the Alden House Museum. Lew Conant has already completed work on 11 of the windows. We hope this grant will open the door for future funding for preservation at the house from the Town of Duxbury.

The National Historic Landmark Application moved forward during the year. Tom McCarthy went before the Historic Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board on April 12th to answer questions about our application for National Historic Landmark Designation. We did not receive approval, but Tom was asked to submit additional information for the board meeting in April 2007. They were very interested in the First Site (the Town of Duxbury are our partners on this part of the application). They also wanted us to emphasize the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow "Courtship of Myles Standish" connection; in particular, the "Speak For

Thyself" quote, as the prime reason for designation for the Alden House Historic Site. Tom will amend the applications.

The Historic Landmarks Committee has come back to Tom and have requested that we do a Geophysical Survey at the "Old Site," a/k/a the "First Site," to help guide a long-term site preservation plan. We hired Daniel Lynch of Soil Sight, LLC to do the grid and survey, which he has completed. The Rockwell Foundation allowed us to use \$7,000 of funds we have already received from them for this purpose. We are very grateful for their help. This survey was done during the second week of August. There were several interesting areas (maybe including another foundation) that should be explored in a future archaeological dig. We will be receiving the final report in a couple of weeks.

Because of the major events that were held at the Alden House Historic Site this summer as well as special events to be held next summer, we have made some major improvements to the physical appearance of the site. Very little had been done to enhance the grounds over the years, so this year, we began by clearing the land at the entrance and building a stone wall with a garden and a cobblestone entrance with crushed stone driveway. We were given permission from the Rockwell Foundation to use \$6,500 of existing funds for this project. Again, our thanks to them for their help. Hedges Landscaping, who did the work, cleaned up the other gardens as well as the lawns, and the whole property looks much better.

Finally, in order for us to carry out our mission of telling the Alden story and keeping the Alden House Historic Site in good repair, we must make the Alden House Historic Site stand out and distinguish it from other small historic house museums. This is why we have embarked upon a major public event called "The Speak For Thyself" Awards" Banquet. We hope that the PR this event has produced will start to put the Aldens on the map. The local and regional press sent reporters for interviews and pictures. The enthusiasm that was generated on August 5th at the event was unbelievable. We had close to 200 people show up for a wonderful evening of fun and music under the stars. See Brian's report on p. i.

Respectively submitted,

Alden "Rink" Ringquist, Director

New! Alden Blog!



Find out what's happening at the Alden House or get the latest Alden Kindred news at our new Alden Blog! Visit <http://aldenkindred.blogspot.com/> for news, information, and to post your comments!

Will you be moving soon? Don't forget to let us know!

Whether your move is permanent or seasonal, we need to know your whereabouts so your newsletter can follow you. Please notify us at 781-934-9092, send us a change of address notice at P.O. Box 2754, Duxbury, MA, 02331-2754, or e-mail us at aldenhouse@adelphia.net.

How to Report the Death of a Member

To report the death of a member, please write to The Alden Kindred of America, Inc., P.O. Box 2754, Duxbury, MA, 02331-2754. If possible, please send a copy of the death certificate and/or include a death notice or obituary.

REMINDER

The basic requirements to receive the **Dr. Donnell B. Young scholarship** are: (1) you **MUST** be a Lineage member of the Alden Kindred of America, Inc.; (2) you **MUST** be a *graduating* high school senior planning to attend college after graduation; and (3) you **MUST** properly complete and submit the scholarship application and required essay so that they are received by the Scholarship Committee on or before the due date of **March 1** of the year the scholarship is to be awarded. The Committee does not make exceptions to this rule.

IMPORTANT: All Lineage membership requirements must be completed by September 1st prior to the scholarship year. If you have children or grand-children who might be interested in the scholarship but who are not yet members, **NOW** is the time to start their membership applications. (Because of a backlog of applications, the membership process can take several months, even for a child of a member.) Visit www.alden.org to learn more. ♦

Alden House Historic Site Gets New Curb Appeal!

A crisp new sign and a beautiful new garden at our entrance, to be exact! The photos below were taken at this year's Annual Meeting of the Alden Kindred of America in August. The new sign appears on the right-hand side of the drive, while the new stone wall and Rockwell Garden appear to the left. The landscaping work was done by Hedges Landscaping, owned by Alden Museum Member Chad Frost. ◇



2007 Alden House Historic Site Schedule of Events

- May 14** Alden House opens for season
- July 17-21** "Adventures in Time" Summer Camp
- August 4** 107th Annual Meeting
- August 4** "Speak For Thyself" Awards dinner
- September 24** 6th Annual Alden Open Golf Tournament
- October 8** Alden House closes for season
- October 20** Halloween Haunted House

2006 Christmas Tree Sale

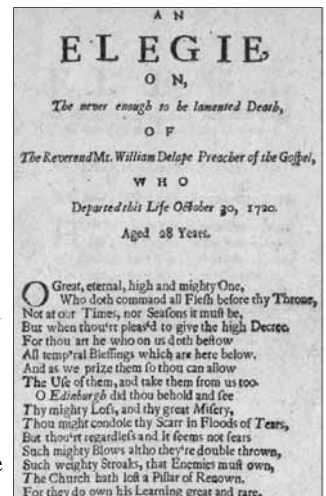
Christmas trees will be on sale again this holiday season at the Alden House Historic Site in conjunction with Hedges Inc. and Benchwarmers Inc.

The tree sale will kick off on Sunday, November 26th, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the start of Duxbury Holly Days, run by the Duxbury Business Association. Tree sales will continue Thursdays and Fridays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Sunday, December 17th. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Alden House Historic Site.

Occupants, cont. from p. 4

his third son, Jonathan, in January 1686, a year and a half before his death. Jonathan had married in 1672 when he was about 39 years old. It is possible that the first portion of the existing Alden House was built soon after Jonathan's marriage and that John lived with his son in the new house during their last years. Perhaps Priscilla had passed away and Jonathan, who had remained at home to help care for his parents and unmarried sisters, finally married and set up his own household that included his widowed father. We will probably never know exactly when the house was built or whether John or Priscilla actually crossed its threshold, but it is certainly possible that it was built within John's lifetime.

When John died, his obituaries, written as elegies and published as "broadsides," noted that he had served his colony for many years "admitting justice impartially," and that "The hearts of Saints [the Pilgrims] intirely did him love, His Uprightness so highly did approve, that wiltst to choose they had their liberty, Within the Limits of this Colony, Their Civil Leaders, him they ever chose." "His walk was *holy, humble, and sincere.*"



1720 example of a broadside elegy.

The last paragraph of one of John Alden's epitaphs was directed to his descendants. "Let ALDEN's all their Father imitate, And follow him till they come to death's state, And he will them most heartily embrace, When he shall meet them in that blessed place. And let New-England never want [i.e., lack] a Race, Of such as may be fill'd with *Alden's Grace.*" Neither of the epitaphs mentioned Priscilla.

(For a more complete account of what we know about John and Priscilla, see *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, Volume 16 (John Alden), Part 1*, 1999, pp. 1-20 [this and Parts 2 and 3 of the series are available through Aunt Polly's Gift Shop at www.alden.org].) ◇

Fifth Annual Alden Open Raises \$13,500!

The Alden House Historic Site Museum held its Fifth Annual Alden Open Golf Tournament at Duxbury Yacht Club Golf Course on Monday, September 25, 2006. Once again, the tournament was a financial success, raising approximately \$13,500 to benefit the Alden House Historic Site and programs.

First-place winners in the White Tee Division were: Mike Walker (Capt.), Ralph Thomas, Jessie Williams and Forrest Williams with -13 on 72 par; first place winners in the Blue Tee Division were Steve Bergamesca (Capt.), K. Moore, Matt Mazanec and Kevin Williams with -9. First-place winners in the Gold Tee Division were William Harris, (Capt.), Scott Salisbury and John Greaney with -9. First-place winners in the Red Tee Division were Tim Braceland (Capt.), Colleen Keating, Vicky Gartland and Nancy May with +2.



Tournament co-chairs Alden "Rink" Ringquist and Bonnie Conant.

Contest hole winners: Men's longest drive – Peter Donohoe; women's longest drive – Jessie Williams; winner of the "On the Green" Contest was the team of Tammy Kirk (Capt.), Molly O'Hara, Jeff Lick and Jennifer Lick. Winner of a 2007 Jeep Wrangler for a Hole-in-One, compliments of Millbrook Motors – no winner.



Ralph Sarro and Darla Patriacca work the registration table and get Jeff and Jennifer Lick signed in to play.

Proceeds from the tournament, which was sponsored in part by Alden & Broden Corp. and Hedges, Inc., fund the educational programs and upkeep of the Alden House Historic Site.

The Board of Directors of the Alden Kindred and the owners and operators of the Alden House Historic Site wish to thank all of the sponsors, donors, players and volunteers who helped to make this such a wonderful outing! ♦



(l to r) Dan Miller, Larry Schmidlin, Chad Frost and Roger Marcincuk make up the Hedges, Inc. Team. Hedges was the major sponsor of the tourney.



(l to r) John Nelson, John Alden, Norm Cease and Barry Bell. Alden & Broden Corp. was the Leadership Sponsor.



Sponsor John Alden looks over the course.



John Greaney warms up on the putting green.

Special thanks to Karen Wong for sharing her photos of the event!

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