

Newsletter January 2026

Doty Proclamations From our Governor Jeff Given

Hey Cousins,

Happy New Year! 2026 is here with us, and I'm still not sure where 2025 went—lol. I hope all of your holidays were fantastic, as mine were, but I am already ready for spring. I am not a cold-weather person. Good thing I live in the southern part of the Midwest, where we don't have tons of ice and snow.

2025 brought us 99 new members to the society. I want to say thank you to the 99 for joining our family group, and to all of you who stayed with us another year—thank you too! Also, a reminder to all: your annual dues come due on the anniversary of the date you joined the society and are automatically withdrawn from your bank account or credit card on that date. If you change banks, change bank accounts, and/or get a new debit or credit card with different numbers, then please log in to the website and update that information. If you ever have any questions or problems with this, or 'anything else concerning the society, please feel free to reach out to me either by email or phone.

Some of you may have experienced problems using the website during the last three months of 2025. Our webpage is like an old car—it ran smoothly for a long time, but as it has gotten older, it has needed some maintenance. We didn't catch some of the issues for a little while, and then it took someone much smarter than me to get it fixed. But as of now, it appears to be up and running again.

Our new Webmaster, Desarae Harmon, is developing an easier-to-use webpage for the society. Sometime this year, The Pilgrim Edward Doty Society will have a brand-new website. You won't have to do anything—Desarae will take care of moving everyone over to the new system and getting us rolling again. Back to the car reference, we went to the car dealer and bought ourselves a new car. Desarae is getting it all cleaned up for us so we can start driving in style again—lol.

We have our triennial meeting scheduled for September 12, 2026, at the Plimoth Patuxet Museum, where we will meet and eat. I am excited and hope you are too, and that you will do your best to join us this September. We are still trying to work out some of the details, but I will keep you all informed of any and all activities. We would like to do more as a

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Join the Pilgrim Edward Doty Society!
Lineage proof not required!
Join at edwarddoty.org
Dues: $10/yr.

group than just the triennial meeting and dinner, and your board is talking and exploring what might be possible. So please keep checking your emails for updates.



If you will recall from my last newsletter article, our founder, Mary Lee Merrill—who started this group in October 1982 in Wilmington, Delaware—celebrated her 100th birthday on December 6, 2025! Mary Lee, I hope you had a fantastic birthday, and I truly pray that you can make it to the celebration this year in Plymouth.

Before I close out my portion of this newsletter, I want to take another minute of your time to say THANK YOU to the most incredible executive board a guy could ever ask for. Jeanie Watts has been my go-to person for a few years now. Every time I had a question about genealogy, I would call her, and she always had the answers for me.

Teresa Jazo is my #2. She and I met three years ago when I took a trip to Massachusetts and visited the Plymouth area. She is always there for me when I need someone from the area. I live in Illinois and have all my life, so I don't know the area or what is there, etc. Teresa has been there for me whenever I needed her, and she has been a big part of our Facebook page for years now.

When I have had questions about our website, I could always call on Dana Doten, who has been a huge help, especially this last year when issues arose that made it apparent it was time to start thinking about a major undertaking in updating the website.

Last year, Rose Reiman, who wore about every hat the society has ever had, decided it was time to retire, and we needed a new treasurer. Wow—did I ever find one! Diane Travis is our treasurer and does a fantastic job. She has also helped me with some other issues that were not in her job description, but she has gone above and beyond anything I ever imagined.

Then Dana, who was our Webmaster, said he needed to step back from his duties if at all possible. It took some time, but we found ourselves a new Webmaster in the form of Desarae Harmon. Desarae is (I believe) the youngest member of the executive board and is sharp as a tack, as we say out here. As I mentioned earlier, she is in the process of building us a new webpage. She is doing this while still working and being a wife and mother. I truly could not do half of what I do weekly without this incredible group of people.

Thanks again for being a member of the Pilgrim Edward Doty Society.

Until Next Time!

Jeff Given

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The Pilgrim Edward Doty Society

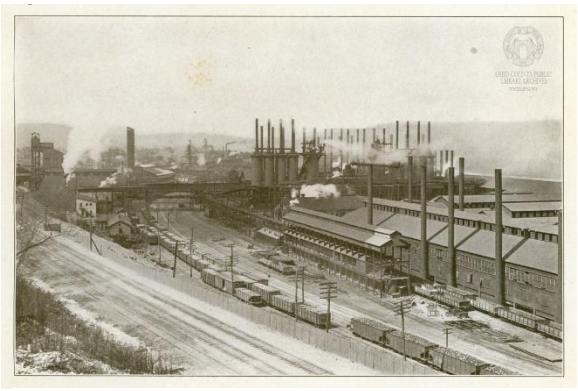


Historians Corner By Jeanie Watts

Rags to riches…. It's a story we've seen play out in movies, on television and read in books. Some of us have discovered the stories in our own families through diligent research. It's the sort of fairytale many of us wish was our own reality. But what about the riches to rags stories? Have you ever discovered an ancestor or relative who "had it all" and somehow…lost it? Let me answer that for you-YES, we have!!

Calvin Bradford Doty was born in 1813 in Massachusetts. He was a descendant of Edward by way of Joseph, Joseph, Joseph, Joseph, and Nathaniel Doty. Thanks to his mother's lineage (Olive Samson) he was also a direct descendant of William, Alice and Priscilla Mullins, John Alden, Myles, and Barbara Standish and a two-times great-grandchild of Henry Samson's brother. That's quite the pedigree so it should come as no surprise that Calvin built quite the legacy for his own children. He was considered a true pioneer, a charitable man and was a prominent and wealthy businessman by the time of his death in 1893 in Steubenville, Ohio.

In between those two events Calvin married, had children, moved to Pittsburg and then to Wheeling, WV where he was one of the original incorporators of the Belmont Nail and Iron Works. After managing the company for about a decade, Calvin sold his interests (but remained a managing member) and invested with several others in a new venture called LaBelle Iron Works in Wheeling, WV. Later, in 1859 the company bought Jefferson Iron Works in Steubenville, OH where Calvin took his family and lived out the remainder of his life. He remained active and served as vice president until 1885 and retained interest in LaBelle until his death. In addition, he was the director of the Union Deposit Bank of Steubenville for many years. At the time of the probate of his will, Calvin's estate was valued at $150,000 (just under $5.5 million in today's standards) which included a mansion in Steubenville filled with pricey art and furnishings. This fortune would all be gone in no time.



La Belle Iron Works 1909

Mary Miller Doty, daughter of Calvin and his wife Lucinda Carr, was by all accounts the perfect example of an affluent young lady with looks to accompany the societal standing of her family. Perhaps this is exactly how she caught the eye of her suitor turned husband, the Consul for Norway and Sweden in Pittsburg and a real-life Baron.

Baron Israel Frederik Lagerfeldt of Sweden married Mary Miller "Molly" Doty in December 1884 in a grand wedding in Steubenville. The papers declared it to be the largest and most spectacular wedding the city had ever seen. However, the joy of having such a couple as members of the society there would be short-lived.

In July 1890, the Baron suddenly disappeared. Mary believed he was going to NY to accept the Consul position there and she would be joining him once settled. This was a lie. And, sadly, Mary, her father and the entire city would soon discover it was just one of an endless stream of lies. As it would be discovered the Baron was broke, apparently married Mary for her father's fortune and proceeded to forge numerous stock certificates in order to defraud

the Iron Works, several companies, and the bank of tens of thousands of dollars. He was removed from his position as Consul in Pittsburg and the lies were quickly closing in. In a panic, the Baron sold all the expensive furnishings (purchased by Calvin) in the mansion he shared with Mary, pocketed the money, and disappeared. It was later discovered he sailed from NY to Sweden. He would never be seen in Ohio again.

Mary was forced to sell the mansion to pay some of the debt her husband had incurred. She returned to her parents' home and lived with them until they died; Lucinda in January 1893 and Calvin in December of the same year. Calvin's will provided for his two living children: Mary and her brother Harry and his two grandchildren from deceased daughter Bethiah. The provision for Mary was to be placed into a trust until she divorced the Baron to protect what little was left from the thief. She didn't apply for a divorce until November 1895, perhaps hoping her husband would return and make right all the wrongs. The divorce was granted a month later.

Mary and her brother continued to live



Massillon State Hospital Ca 1920 – Also known as:
Eastern Ohio Insane Asylum

in the mansion for several years until it became necessary to sell the home and most of its expensive furnishings as the Doty fortune was no more. Stories say Harry had spent both his and his sister's inheritance and run up massive debts of his own along the way. He never married, had no children, and refused to work believing it "beneath" him. Harry ended up living in several hotels in Steubenville for the next few years and was eventually taken to court, declared insane and lived out the remainder of his life (1909 until 1922) in the Massillon Insane Asylum, destitute and alone.



BARONESS IN ALMSHOUSE

"The Lovely Mollie Doty" is Found in a Room Almost Starved.

Pittsburg, May 25.—Baronness L. Lagerfelt, who in her youth was universally admired as "the lovely Mollie Doty," of Steubenville, O., whose father, Calvin B. Doty, was one of the wealthiest men of this section, was admitted to the poorhouse at Altenheim, W. Va., at her own request yesterday.

Miss Doty married Baron L. Frederick Lagerfelt, scion of a fine old noble Swedish family, vice consul of Sweden here, in St. Paul's church, Steubenville, Dec. 12, 1884, and thereby broke the hearts of many American suitors. Five years afterward Baron Lagerfelt disappeared and charges of forgery were made against him. Three years later his broken hearted wife divorced him.

It is not known how the baroness exhausted her resources. She spent her last penny three weeks ago.

Friends of her youth found her starving in a wretched room on Rebecca street, North Side, here. Proud still, in her misfortunes, she refused to occupy the quarters they provided for her or the money offered her, and applied for admission to the almshouse.

Calvin W. Doty was the largest stockholder in the Jefferson Iron works and a large stockholder in the La Belle furnaces at Wheeling, W. Va. After his marriage Baron Lagerfelt devoted himself entirely to his father-in-law's business and Mr. Doty had him elected vice-president of the Jefferson Iron works. Lagerfelt vanished; then it was charged that he had forged the names of the president and secretary of the iron works to blocks of stock on which he had borrowed large sums from banks and individuals.

Poor Mary was left broke, broken-hearted, and wasting away in her own rented room in a home in town. Eventually, friends found her "nearly starved" and offered to care for her. According to the news article she refused and instead asked to be taken to Altenheim, the poorhouse in Steubenville. Perhaps most

ironically, Altenheim was until 1891 a hotel where the elite would "get away" from work and enjoy luxury and relaxation with others in their financial/social circle. The hotel was called the Belleview Hotel. In 1891 it was purchased and turned into the "Home for the Aged and Friendless Women". Again, an irony- the majority of women who found themselves as residents with nowhere else to go were immigrant domestics who worked for many of



Mt Bellview Hotel 1891

the families Mary no doubt interacted with on a regular basis. Mary lived at the home from May 1909 until her death in April 1916.

A hard-working man who built an immense fortune, said to have been valued at over half a million dollars at its highest (worth over 19 and a half million dollars today) watched most of the fortune disappear only to have the remainder squandered by his own children who both died in sad and lonely conditions with not a cent to their names. My grandfather used to tell us that we should never be too impressed by those with lots of money because as quickly as it's made, it can be unmade. I think this is what he was talking about. In the blink of an eye, a lifetime of fortune was gone. What a sad ending to such an incredible life!

Happy Hunting, cousins.
Jeanie Watts



Quick reminder that our Triennial will be held in September 2026. Mark your calendars and start planning your visit!! We are partnering with the Pilgrim Families Societies this year and have some really exciting things planned for our cousins who are able to attend! More to come! Stay Tuned!

Check out our Pilgrim Edward Doty Society Facebook Page!



It's a great way to stay connected !

Treasurer's Trove

Diane Travis

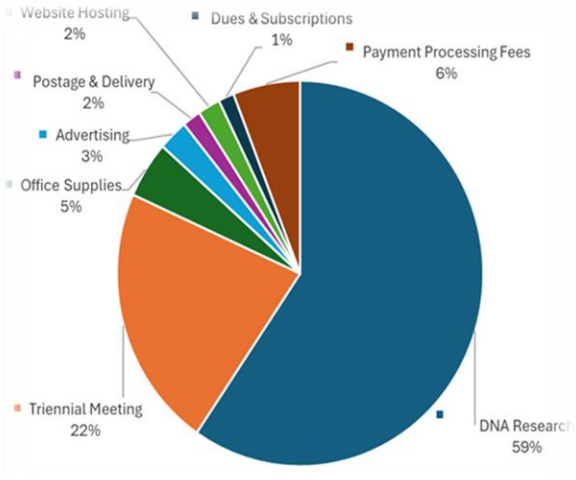
Year in Review

I assumed the role of Treasurer for the Pilgrim Edward Doty Society at the beginning of April, taking over from Rose Reiman, who retired from her Society duties after many years of dedicated service. I am grateful to Rose for her stewardship and for assisting with a smooth transition.

Because of that mid-year transition, complete historical comparisons are limited. However, the Society ended the year on solid financial footing. As of December 31, 2025, the Society held $36,560.44 in cash and had no outstanding liabilities, providing a strong foundation as we move into the new year.

During the year, the Board approved significant expenditures in support of Y-DNA testing projects, reflecting the Society's ongoing commitment to genealogical research and our mission. These projects represent a substantial investment in advancing our understanding of the Doty lineage, and a report on the findings will be forthcoming from our Historian, Jeanie Watts.

Overall operating expenses for the year exceeded annual income, resulting in a planned operating loss driven primarily by DNA testing costs and preparations related to the upcoming triennial meeting in September. These expenditures were approved by the Board and funded by prior-year reserves rather than current-year income, consistent with responsible nonprofit financial management.



PEDS 2025 Operating Expenes Breakdown

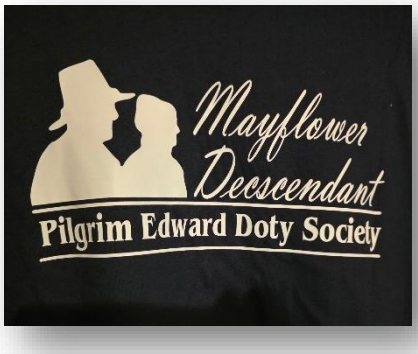
This year, our attention has also been focused on organizing financial records and improving internal processes, building on the strong foundation already in place. We have experienced website-related payment issues during the year, but we believe those problems have largely been resolved. If any member is experiencing payment difficulties or has questions regarding their membership payments, please feel free to contact me directly at **treasurer@edwarddoty.org**.

As we enter the new year, improving financial clarity and transparency will remain a priority. Members who are interested in making an additional donation in support of the Society's work are welcome to reach out to me as well. Thank you to our members for your continued support and patience as we strengthen the Society's financial systems.

Diane Travis — *Treasurer, Pilgrim Edward Doty Society*

Support Your Doty Society!

We are excited to share with you that the design has been updated for the official PEDS T-Shirts.



Jeff shares that these are available in most any color you want! These are available in either short or long sleeve style at a cost of only $25!

We also have official Mayflower Descendant Can Koozies! These are only $6 with postage included! What a Deal! Get yours today!

All Profits go toward PEDS expenses, all orders are appreciated.

Please contact our Governor Jeff Given to get yours today!

REMEMBERING GRANDPA CLIFFORD DOTY

Submitted by
Desarae Harmon

In the spirit of our Edward Doty Society newsletter, where we celebrate the branches of our family tree, I'd like to share a tribute to my grandfather, Clifford Doty—my mother's father. My younger brother Cliff Veit was named after him.

I remember Grandpa Clifford as a tall man, although I am only 5'1". He had tons of video games and fun toys. He had raven-black hair, a thick black mustache, and olive skin that spoke to his rugged, outdoorsy roots.



From his photos as a young man, I like to think he had the soul of a cowboy. That image embodies the independent, resilient ethos that defined so much of his life. I know he lived in the Black Hills of South Dakota as an adult, near Rapid City. I think he grew up somewhere in South Dakota too, but I'm not sure which family member first brought us there.



Connie, Clifford, Desarae, Emma

He built a life alongside my step-grandmother Connie—whom I always knew simply as Grandma. Connie always worked with Black Hills gold. I have a ring I still wear that reminds me of them. It features my birthstone and Black Hills gold. But first, he married my grandmother Denise. I never knew Denise. They divorced when they were young, after having four kids: my mom Tami, Scott, Tonya, and Robert.

Together with Connie, they transformed a rented house into a beautiful home. It was filled with warmth and handcrafted touches on a hillside in SD. We went to see him one last time a few months before he passed, when my daughter was a baby.

Grandpa was a skilled carpenter. He poured his talents into that place, constructing additions and improvements that made it feel truly theirs. It was a shock to learn after his passing that it was rented. The owners asked Grandma Connie to move so a relative could take residence.



Clifford, Clifford, Desarae

His military service was a cornerstone of who he was. It instilled discipline and a sense of duty that he carried quietly. One of my fondest memories captures this perfectly: Grandpa and my little brother Cliff, both dressed in uniforms, sitting together at the kitchen table. Cliff was just a kid then, beaming with pride as he mirrored his namesake.



WA Christmas 2026 with Clifford and Greg Veit (My Father)

Grandpa Clifford was a man of few words, but he was thoughtful and generous.

We lived far apart my whole life, which made visits special. Holidays with Grandpa and Grandma were adventures that brought our family together across miles. We'd pile into the car and drive cross-country to South Dakota. Sometimes we'd stay in a cozy cabin or right at their house, eagerly awaiting Santa's arrival. Those visits were filled with anticipation (long rides without AC), laughter, and the crisp air of the hills.

What stands out most is Grandpa's unique holiday ritual with our presents. He had this sweet habit of opening the boxes of our presents ahead of time. He'd install batteries or put them together, testing the toys to ensure they worked perfectly. Then he'd put them back in their original boxes, retape them, and wrap the presents for us to "discover" on Christmas morning. It was such a thoughtful gesture—a quiet way of showing his love and making sure our joy was uninterrupted.

Even now, after the holidays, I think of it as a way to keep his memory alive. Perhaps I'll adopt the tradition myself for the younger family members.



Jared and Desarae Harmon

This year, my brother Cliff and my dad actually bought us huge packages of batteries to make sure every toy was ready to go. It's heartwarming to see that generosity of spirit carrying on.

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about how it only takes one generation to lose family stories and history. It's so important to share these memories and histories. That way, the names of our loved ones aren't just remembered by a name and date on a stone somewhere—especially as our family may get spread out across the country or even the world. Grandpa Clifford is laid to rest at Sturgis National Cemetery. But his story deserves more than that; it deserves to be remembered.

That's why I want to share more stories of our family and the Dotys who came before us. We already save genealogy research about the family and images on the Edward Doty Society website.

The board has discussed adding a space onto the site dedicated to saving these stories—a digital archive where we can preserve photos, anecdotes, and connections for generations to come.

The board has also discussed the idea of potentially offering QR codes on metal plates

that could be added to your loved one's gravestones. Imagine scanning a code at a cemetery and instantly accessing shared memories, photos, or even audio recordings. It bridges the past with the present in a simple, modern way. I think it's a wonderful concept, blending technology with tradition to keep our histories alive and accessible.

Additionally, I've started a book to tell family stories. I've even turned some of my family into cartoons, complete with a tree, to share these tales with my daughter in a fun, engaging way.

FEEDBACK:

What do you think of these ideas? Would you be interested in sharing a story about grandfather? Let's keep the conversations going and ensure our family's legacy endures beyond the stones.



Clifford Doty

Though Grandpa is no longer with us, he is remembered with love and in the simple rituals that make holidays special.

For more information on how Clifford is related, you can view it on our PEDS Website by clicking here:

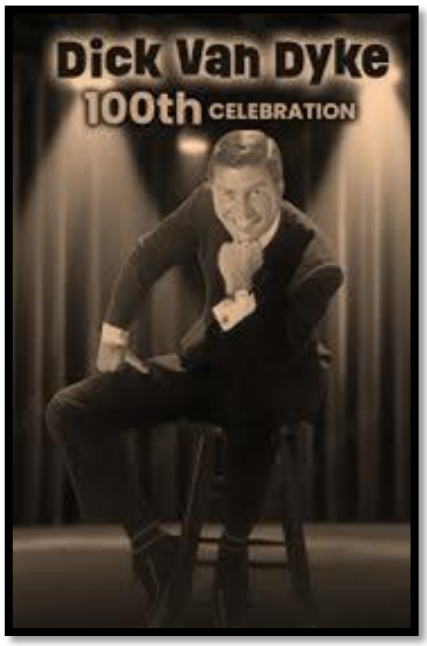
https://edwarddoty.org/tng/familygroup.php?familyID=F5510&tree=DOTY

Happy 100th Birthday Cousin Dick Van Dyke!

This past December 13th marked a very special milestone for our extended Doty family — **our cousin, beloved entertainer Dick Van Dyke, celebrated his 100th birthday!** The legendary actor and comedian rang in his centennial with joy, humor, and the trademark spark that has delighted audiences for generations. He has said a century "is not enough" and that he still feels lucky and youthful — dancing, singing, and sharing his optimism with the world.

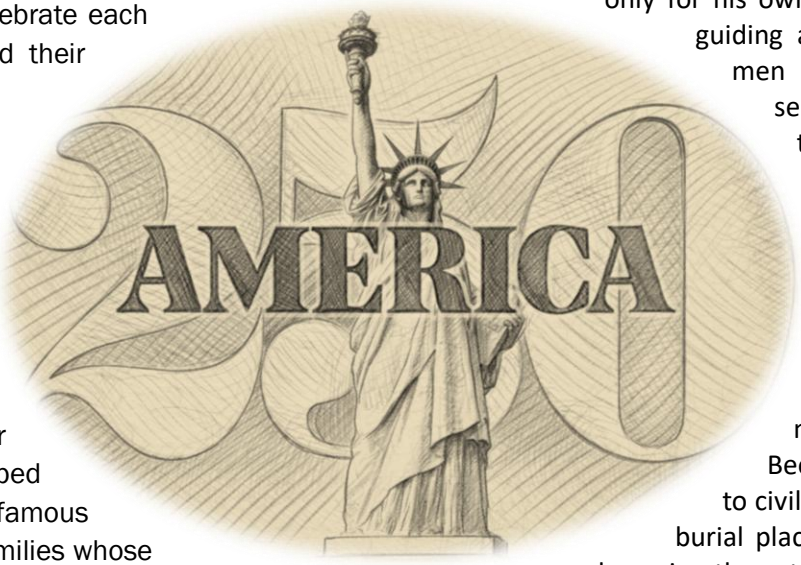
Dick's remarkable life spans more than eight decades in show business, from *The Dick Van Dyke Show* to *Mary Poppins*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, and beyond. His energy and zest for life capture the adventurous spirit of our Pilgrim forebears.

What makes this celebration especially meaningful for members of the Pilgrim Edward Doty Society is Dick's connection to our common ancestry. As we reflect on this momentous birthday, we send heartfelt wishes across the miles to Cousin Dick — thanking him for the laughter, memories, and inspiration he has given the world. May his example of joy, resilience, and longevity continue to uplift us all.



Doty's Stand Proud!

As we celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, each newsletter this year will spotlight courageous Doty men who fought for our nation's freedom, honoring the legacy of Doty Patriots. While historical records do not always make it possible to confirm direct descent from Edward Doty, we proudly recognize and celebrate each of these men and their contributions, acknowledging that every Doty who stood for liberty is part of the heritage we share. Their stories remind us that the founding of our nation was shaped not only by famous leaders, but by families whose service and sacrifice carried the cause of independence forward.



Captain Barnabus Doty
Massachusetts Militia

Born in 1738 in Rochester, Massachusetts, Barnabus Doty was a husband and father when the Revolution called him from home. Beginning service during the alarms of 1775, he rose from sergeant to lieutenant and ultimately captain in the Plymouth County Militia. He repeatedly marched to defend coastal towns in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, answering urgent calls to protect vulnerable shorelines. His was a pattern of steady readiness rather than a single battle, leaving family and farm whenever duty required. After the war, he settled in Vermont, remembered as a citizen-soldier whose leadership was rooted in responsibility and resolve.

Corporal Joseph Doty — New York Line

Joseph Doty, born in 1759 to Simeon and Elizabeth Doty, belonged to the younger generation that stepped into the struggle as the war deepened. Serving as a corporal in the 17th Regiment under Whiting, in Davis's Company, Joseph held a role of trust — responsible not only for his own conduct, but for guiding and steadying the men around him. His service came during the hard middle years of the conflict, when endurance mattered as much as bravery. After the war, Joseph married Rhoda Beebee and returned to civilian life, though his burial place is unknown, his place in the story of American independence — and in the Doty family legacy — remains firmly marked.

Private Elias Doty — New York Militia

Elias Doty of Dutchess County, New York, born in 1732 near Oyster Bay, stood among the ordinary men whose quiet endurance made independence possible. Serving as a private in Colonel William Humphrey's 5th Regiment of the Dutchess County Militia, His role was not to command, but to stand in line, hold position, and answer every muster. Through years of unrest, shifting loyalties in New York, and the constant strain of frontier defense, Elias balanced military obligation with the responsibilities of a large family, raising children who would inherit the freedoms he helped secure. He lived to see the nation established, passing in 1806, his long-life bridging colonial uncertainty and American independence.

PEDS
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Through September 2026
Triennial Meeting

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The Pilgrim Edward Doty Society was founded in October 1982 as a non-profit entity under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Annual Membership $10.00 Junior Membership until age 18 $10.00 Visit our website:
edwarddoty.org

Editor's Note



Michelle Hall

Greetings Cousins!

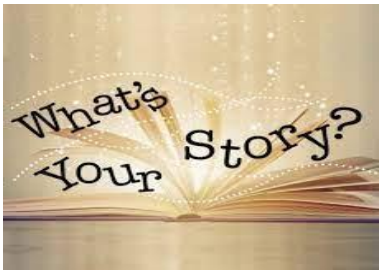
As we wrap up this newsletter, I am reminded of the incredible stories we have shared in these pages. From celebrating the 100th birthday of our cousin Dick Van Dyke to honoring the brave Doty patriots who fought for our nation's independence, this issue reminds us that the legacy of our family is built on courage, resilience, and dedication. Articles like Jeanie Watts' look at Calvin Bradford Doty and his family's fortunes and challenges also show that our ancestors' lives were rich with triumphs, trials, and lessons that still resonate today. What I truly appreciate is the article submitted by our webmaster, Desarae Harmon, honoring her grandfather Clifford Doty's memory. Each story, whether of heroism, personal sacrifice, or everyday life, helps us understand who we are as a family and the values that have carried through generations.

Finally, as we look ahead to the triennial meeting in September and the new initiatives such as digital archives and sharing personal stories, let us carry forward the lessons and memories contained in this newsletter. From stories of family adventures to historic research, we see that wealth, fame, or circumstances may change, but the impact of family, dedication, and community endures. Let us honor both the lives of our ancestors and the efforts of our present members as we work to keep the Doty legacy alive and vibrant for generations to come.
I would also love to hear from more of you—whether it's an interesting tidbit you've discovered, a short write-up, or even just an idea you'd like to see featured. Your articles, stories, and little gems of history are what make the newsletter worth reading. The more voices we have, the more fun and meaningful this newsletter becomes for everyone. Here's to keeping our Doty story alive and well—together!

Until next time, stay curious, stay connected, and keep honoring the legacy of Edward Doty!

Shelli

Email: editor.peds@gmail.com



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