

Newsletter May 2026

Doty Proclamations From our Governor Jeff Given

Hey Cousins,

Well Spring has Sprung, finally after all that nasty cold and snow many of us experienced these past few months. We, your Executive Board are looking forward to September and meeting many of you at our Triennial meeting which coincides with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants Congress. This year the Congress is being held from Friday, September 11th through Tuesday, September 15th. This will be the first meeting of our society since 2017. We were due to have one in 2020, but we all know what happened then, the COVID scare hit the world. So that prevented us from having one then and then we still were partially in it for our next one in 2023, so we didn't have that one either. We have a great Board of Trustees here and we are all looking forward to meeting all of you in Plymouth where it all started!

Please go to our website at https://www.edwarddoty.org/society-news/ for the registration form and payment details. The Triennial dinner and meeting will start at 5pm on Saturday, September 12th at the Plimoth Patuxet Museum. Gathering (meet and greet) starts at 5pm with a cash bar opening at 5:30 for beer and wine (soda, water, etc. is provided by PEDS) and dinner being served at 6:30. The cost of the meal is $67 per person if paid by credit card, $65 if paid by check. The meal is going to be a traditional Harvest Dinner. This menu is served annually at the Harvest Feast and is prepared very much like the meals our Plymouth ancestors would have eaten. For more on the menu, individual dishes, and a wonderful account of the meal you can go to the blog entry of an attendee at one such Harvest Dinner at https://www.charlottestexashillcountry.com/a-17th-century-harvest-feast/.

To close out our official business at this Triennial, we will all meet for breakfast Sunday morning September 13th at 8:30am at The Farmer's Omelet located at 2291 State Rd in Plymouth. This breakfast will be paid for by PEDS. You can find them on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/thefarmersomelet/. The food looks amazing!! Come join your cousins for some more food, friendship, and fun before leaving Plymouth! **This concludes our official business but there are still activities and events in the area through Tuesday**.

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

There are several hotels in the area which have agreed to offer a 20% discount on your stay. You MUST mention that you are with the Pilgrim Edward Doty Society to get the discounted rate.

Hilton Garden Inn, Plymouth, 866-994-6609. 20% discount if you mention PEDS.

Hampton Inn, Plymouth, 508-747-5000- 20% discount if you mention PEDS.

Fairfield Inn, Plymouth, 508-503-6699- 20% discount if you mention PEDS.

Towneplace Suites in Wareham Buzzards Bay has given us a discounted rate with a special link just for our members. Please use this link to book your reservations. *This rate is good for Sept. 7th through the 14th, but reservations must be booked no later than July 21st!*

Book your group rate for Pilgrim Edward Doty Society

All reservations and money for the dinner need to be received no later than August 18th, 2026. Please indicate if you intend to attend breakfast so we have a general headcount for the restaurant. Any questions, please send an email to treasurer@edwarddoty.org and Diane will get back to you as quickly as possible.

I just sent out a membership certificate to our latest member #4204. We are growing all the time, but I ask you to tell every Doty relative you know or any Doty you come across to sign up to become a member of our society. They do this by going to www.edwarddoty.org and clicking on Become A Member and then filling out the questionnaire and then on the last page they will pay their dues.

Have a great Spring and Summer, come see me and the rest of your board this fall in Plymouth.

Jeff Given

Governor/Membership Chair
Pilgrim Edward Doty Society
Email: governor@edwarddoty.org
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The Pilgrim Edward Doty Society

100 Years Young!

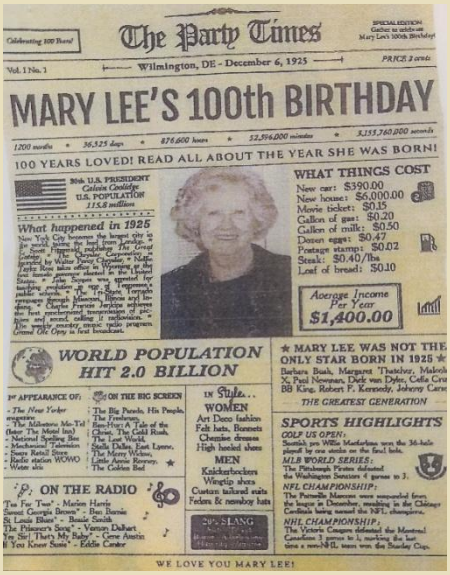
As many will remember, our Governor shared with us that our wonderful founder Mary Lee Merrill was turning 100. There was a lovely party in her honor for that incredible milestone and Mary Lee was so touched by all of the cards and well wishes from Doty cousins!! She shared a photo of the Newspaper Front Page created for the occasion and had the following words for all:

"A good turnout for the party, about 45 were present for the occasion. Speaking of our Doty Society, there were about 65 there for our first meeting & very enthusiastic, still are! We have a great number now and it thrills me!

Please give my regards to the members!!

Love to all,

Mary Lee Merrill"


The Party Times

Wilmington, DE - December 6, 1925

MARY LEE'S 100th BIRTHDAY

100 YEARS LOVED! READ ALL ABOUT THE YEAR SHE WAS BORN!

What happened in 1925

WHAT THINGS COST

Average Income Per Year $1,400.00

WORLD POPULATION HIT 2.0 BILLION

MARY LEE WAS NOT THE ONLY STAR BORN IN 1925

THE GREATEST GENERATION

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

ON THE RADIO

WE LOVE YOU MARY LEE!

Historians Corner By Jeanie Watts



It appears that Spring has FINALLY arrived!! Thank goodness!! I hope you all are enjoying some sunshine and warmer temperatures these days. It won't be long until we're all complaining about the heat and humidity and wishing for those fall evenings. Speaking of fall……

September will be here sooner than you think. And that means TRIENNIAL!!! I don't know about you all, but I am super excited about FINALLY making my way to Plymouth and getting to meet so many of my Doty cousins. This experience will be one of those to remember forever! Please, come join us this year. There is so much to do and see and it's all in the spot where WE all started!! How amazing to think that over 400 years ago, a man stepped off a ship and onto land where he would begin a new life and legacy most likely far beyond his wildest dreams!

In addition to the dinner and breakfast Jeff mentioned in his article we will have a small table set up outside the Congress Ballroom during the GSMD Congress. The table will be there from September 7th through the 14th. Stop by and say hi!!

In the meantime, a Doty cousin has shared information for a reunion they are planning. If you are in the area please join them!! And if you aren't by all means consider having a reunion or weekend picnic or whatever in your area and let us know so we can share the word!! I would LOVE to see more Doty meetups across the country throughout the year.



A quick note/update about our amazing Y-DNA project:

There is so much happening on the DNA front. We have tested over 100 men now which is so incredible!! We have the largest YDNA project of its kind and the results are beyond anything any of us imagined when we began all of this. We can't wait to share everything with you!! It's incredible how much work goes into a project like this…from the financial aspect to the research behind the scenes to recruiting testers from specific lines to sorting though and organizing the results which are constantly updating!! It's been a whirlwind and I have honestly loved every minute of it.

After working with the admins on this project for a while now, I was finally able to meet a fellow admin in person. Last night (April 23rd) I was able to have dinner in Kansas City with David Stapp. I cannot even begin to talk about all that he has done for this project. David brought along his wife and little boy and another Doty cousin he recently found right there in KC!! Great food and even better conversation-of course all about the Doty's!!



Enjoy your summer, cousins. I am off to continue working with our treasurer on all the things we are cooking up for you in Plymouth. Can't wait to see you!!

Happy Hunting, cousins.
Jeanie Watts

Check out our Pilgrim Edward Doty Society Facebook Page!

It's a great way to stay connected !

Happy Mother's Day Doty Cousins!

We would like to wish all our Doty cousins a Happy Mother's Day and while doing so take a moment to honor and reflect on our courageous Mayflower mothers who crossed the ocean helping to create a legacy that lives on through their descendants today! Elizabeth Hopkins gave birth to Oceanus Hopkins on November 6th, 1620. He was the first child born on the Mayflower. Can you imagine those birthing conditions?!?! Susanna White gave birth to Peregrine White on December 21, 1620. Peregrine was the first English child born in New England recorded. Among the other mothers were Mary Brewster, Eleanor Billington, and Elizabeth Tilley Howland.



And the most important Mother to many here is Faith Clarke Doty. Although she herself was not an original passenger, with Edward, she created a lasting heritage for all of us!

Why the Triennial Meeting Matters: Keeping the Doty Legacy Alive

by Teresa Jazo

When Edward Doty set out across the Atlantic, he couldn't have imagined the generations that would follow—or the family he was helping to begin. Today, we have the unique privilege not only of knowing we are his descendants, but of coming together to share in that legacy. Even more meaningful, we have the opportunity to meet one another and enrich our lives through each other's stories, experiences, and connections. Family reunions—because that's really what our triennial meeting is—are about so much more than gathering together. They are a living connection to the past, a celebration of the present, and an investment in the future of our shared history.

As a society, we're especially fortunate to have the chance to gather on a larger scale. Our upcoming triennial meeting weekend this September is one of those special moments—a time to reconnect, share, and celebrate our heritage together. These gatherings don't happen often, which makes them all the more meaningful. They give us something to look forward to and remind us just how far-reaching and connected our Doty family has become.

Many of us have spent time building our family trees—tracking lines, verifying records, and discovering how we connect back to Edward Doty. But something special happens when we move beyond paper and screens and meet in person. At a reunion, those names become people. Cousins who once felt distant or unfamiliar suddenly have faces, voices, and stories. We begin to notice shared traits, familiar expressions, and connections that go far beyond documentation.

At the last triennial gathering, I had the opportunity to attend with my daughters, who were in 2nd and 4th grade at the time. It was a special experience to watch them begin to understand what it means to be part of something bigger than themselves. If you were there you might remember Elizabeth performing her wax museum project on our dear Edward. Now, as we look ahead to this September, so much has changed. One will be a junior in high school and the other a freshman in college, and we are all looking forward to finally coming together again.

There's something powerful about marking time in this way. These gatherings become milestones—not just in the history of our society, but in our own family stories as well. One of the most meaningful aspects of reunions is the opportunity to bring the next generation into the story. For children and young adults, history becomes real when they can see it, hear it, and experience it. Meeting relatives, listening to family stories, and discovering how they fit into a much larger picture gives them a lasting sense of belonging. We aren't just preserving history—we're passing it on.

Edward Doty's legacy isn't only found in historical documents or genealogical records. It lives in all of us—in our families, our stories, and our connections to one another. When we gather—whether at a large society event like our September triennial or at a smaller family reunion—we continue that legacy in the most meaningful way possible. We're not just remembering history. We're living it.

As September approaches, we warmly invite you to be part of this experience. If you've been thinking about attending, consider this your sign to make it happen.

Register, make your plans, and become part of something meaningful!

Come meet the cousins behind the names!
Come share your story—and hear others!
Come help carry the Doty legacy forward!

Because this isn't just history—it's our family!

Board Positions Open for the 2026 Election

As we prepare for the upcoming PEDS Triennial Meeting in September, several Board of Trustee positions will be up for renewal. This is an important opportunity for members to take an active role in shaping the future of the Society.

The Board of Trustees serves as the governing body of PEDS, providing leadership, direction, and oversight of the Society's activities, programs, and long-term goals. We are always strengthened by members who bring fresh perspectives, skills, and enthusiasm to our work. We encourage any member who is interested in serving on the Board to submit their name for consideration.

To begin the process, please **complete the Board Interest Form**, available by requesting a copy from the Secretary/Treasurer at **Treasurer@EdwardDoty.org**

The application will request:

- Basic contact information
- A brief statement of interest
- Relevant experience, skills, or qualifications
- Two references
- A short biography for election materials

Trustee positions open for election include **Governor, Deputy Governor, Treasurer, Historian, and Webmaster**. This information helps ensure a smooth and transparent nomination process. Submissions should be completed by **June 30, 2026**. All submissions will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee, which will prepare a recommended slate of candidates for consideration by the membership. Board positions will be voted on by the membership at the Triennial Meeting in September. Additional details about the election process, along with finalized bylaws and meeting information, will be made available on the Society's website in advance of the meeting.

If you have any questions about Board service or the nomination process, please don't hesitate to reach out. We would be happy to talk with you about what serving entails.

We look forward to hearing from members who are interested in helping guide PEDS into its next chapter.

Proposed Bylaws Update

The Board of Trustees has recently completed a comprehensive review of the Society's bylaws and has recommended an updated version for approval. These proposed bylaws will be presented to the membership for ratification at the September Triennial Meeting.

Members are encouraged to review the proposed updates in advance by visiting the Governance section of the Pilgrim Edward Doty Society website. Taking a few moments to familiarize yourself with the changes ahead of time will help ensure a smooth and informed ratification process at the meeting.

We appreciate your engagement and look forward to your participation in this important step for the Society's future.

Travel Planning Support for the 2026 Triennial Meeting

We're pleased to share an exciting update for our upcoming September Triennial Meeting in Plymouth, Massachusetts. PEDS has partnered with Anja of *Journey and Jubilee* to assist members with travel planning and enhance the overall meeting experience.

Anja will be working on curated travel packages designed specifically for our members. These packages may include options for attending the Triennial Dinner and Breakfast, along with additional activities to enjoy during your stay in and around Plymouth. Her goal is to make planning your trip easier while also offering meaningful and memorable experiences beyond the meeting itself.

Because this partnership was just finalized, details are still being developed. We encourage members to check the PEDS website regularly for updates as new information and package options become available.

We look forward to sharing more soon and hope this added support helps make your trip to Plymouth both enjoyable and seamless.

Rootstech 2026!



Walking into Rootstech in Salt Lake City from March 5th through March 7th, you feel the kind of excitement that only comes from being surrounded by people who share a deep love for family history. One of the most meaningful parts for me was finally meeting Jeanie Watts, our society historian, in person after years of working together. We had collaborated for so long that seeing her face to face felt both familiar and special, like meeting an old friend I had known ***forever*** through our shared love of family history!

When I first began planning my trip to Salt Lake City for RootsTech, I reached out to our cousin, Connie Rapp Marston. Connie and I had first connected a few years earlier after discovering we were researching the same ancestors on FamilySearch, which led to a memorable few days together at the Ohio Genealogical Society. Although Connie was unable to attend RootsTech in person, she met with us almost daily afterward, and together we spent countless hours researching in the incredible FamilySearch Library. One of the most exciting moments of the trip came when we uncovered an actual record identifying Sarafein as the wife of John Doty, son of Benjamin and Mary Bush Doty — a discovery we had long hoped to find documented. I am sure you can relate to my excitement. We were able to also print an impressive 9-generation chart! I also brought one back to my home area for our cousin Jo Culbertson who was attending the conference virtually.

Rootstech 2027? Can't Wait!

One of my favorite parts of the event was exploring the Expo Hall, where vendors and historical societies shared resources, services, and information with attendees. Naturally, one of the first booths we visited was the Mayflower Society booth, where we introduced ourselves and shared our roles within the Edward Doty Society. Jeanie, our historian, especially enjoyed speaking in depth with their representatives. What made the visit even more memorable was that the volunteers were dressed as their Mayflower ancestors — and we were thrilled to meet "Edward Doty" himself! Thomas Portluck, who descends from Edward through his father, was incredibly friendly and enthusiastic to talk with us about our shared Pilgrim heritage. Encounters like this made the event feel both personal and deeply connected to history.

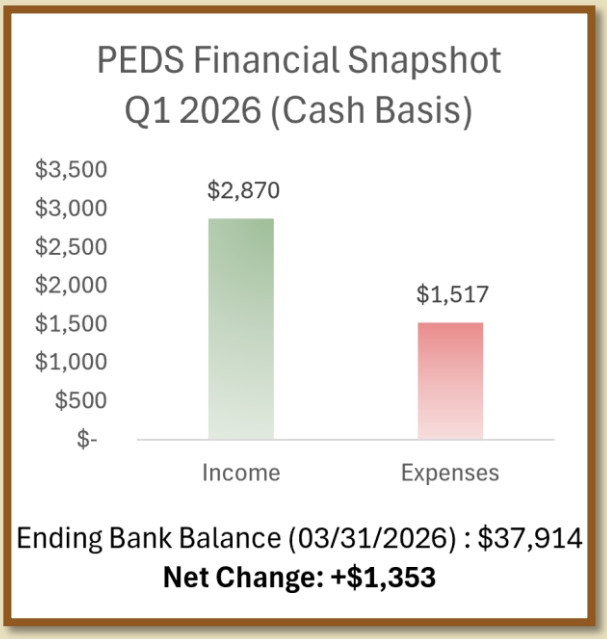


One of the unique features of RootsTech is the ability through FamilySearch to discover relatives attending the conference. During one

class, the instructor mentioned the feature, so of course I immediately pulled out my phone to check it out. To my surprise, I found two attendees connected through our shared ancestors, John, and Sarafein Doty! Excited by the discovery, I reached out right away to see if they would be interested in meeting. One of them was Dan Call, who, impressively, was also a presenter at RootsTech. Dan works for FamilySearch as an Experience Engineer, helping create tools that connect people with their family history. Jeanie and I met up with him at the FamilySearch booth, where we enjoyed a wonderful conversation with meaningful connections that family research can create.

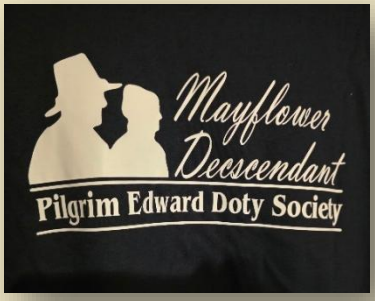
We are so fortunate to be part of a society with board members like our historian Jeanie Watts, who are so committed to protecting our family history and carrying our stories forward for future generations. Rootstech showed me just how powerful networking can be, not only for sharing ideas, but for building relationships that strengthen the work we do together. Each conversation seemed to open another door, and I left feeling inspired by the people behind it. Simply put, it's one of the most impactful ways for our society to invest in its people and sharpen its purpose. Hopefully one day soon, our PEDS society will have its own booth at Rootstech to share and grow our 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!



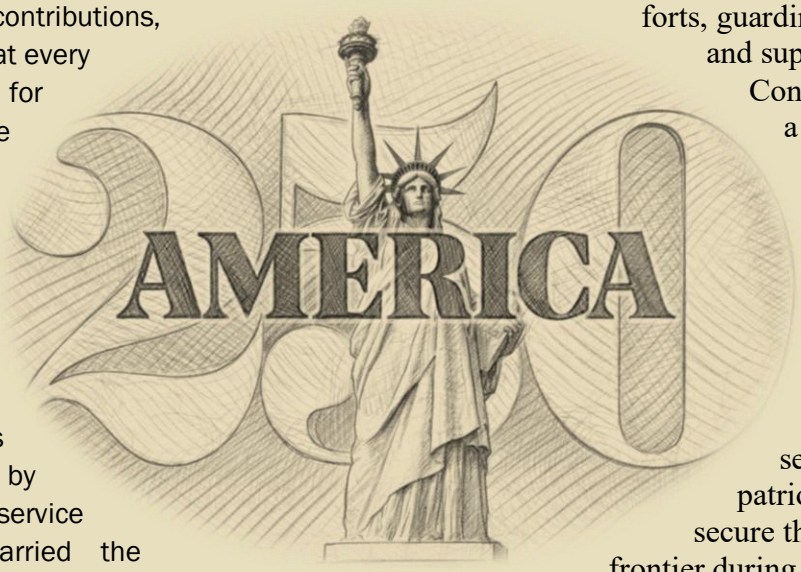
We also have official Mayflower Descendant Can Koozies! These are only $6 with postage included! What a Deal! Get yours today!

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

Please contact our Governor Jeff Given to get yours today!

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.



Private Peter Doty — New Jersey Continental Line

Born in 1757 in New Jersey, Peter Doty served first in the Somerset County militia before joining Colonel Matthias Ogden's 1st New Jersey Regiment in the Continental Line. In 1778, he marched with Washington's army and fought at the Battle of Monmouth, one of the war's largest engagements. His service reflected the endurance of ordinary soldiers whose perseverance helped secure independence. After the war, Peter settled in Ohio with his family.

Private Jacob Doty — Albany County Militia

Jacob Doty of New York served as a private in the Albany County Militia during the Revolution. He answered repeated calls to defend the Hudson Valley, reinforcing forts, guarding settlements, and supporting Continental forces in a region central to the war. Like many militia men, Jacob left home whenever duty required. Though little recorded his service, his steady patriotism helped secure the northern frontier during America's fight for independence.

Private Orman Doty — New York State Troops

Orman Doty served as a private from Albany County, New York, during the Revolutionary War. Enrolled among militia and state troops defending New York's interior, he helped guard settlements, roads, and supply lines during years of unrest. Like many patriots, Orman balanced military duty with family life in uncertain times. Though little survives of his personal story, his service remains part of the enduring legacy of Edward Doty's descendants in America's founding.

PEDS
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Through September 2026
Triennial Meeting

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Asst. Administrators Teresa Langel Jazo
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Sandra Andrews

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 this newsletter reflects, the Pilgrim Edward Doty Society is far more than an organization—it is a living family connection that continues to grow stronger with each passing generation. From celebrating the remarkable 100th birthday of our founder, Mary Lee Merrill, to the exciting discoveries unfolding through our Y-DNA project and the shared experiences at RootsTech, we are reminded that our history is not confined to the past. It lives on through every story uncovered, every cousin discovered, and every new member who joins our society. The dedication of our board, historians, researchers, and volunteers ensures that Edward Doty's legacy continues not only to be preserved, but actively shared and expanded for generations yet to come.

As we look ahead to September and our long-awaited Triennial Meeting in Plymouth, we invite each of you to take part in this meaningful chapter of our shared story. Whether this will be your first gathering or a long-awaited reunion with cousins and friends, these moments together create memories that become part of our family history. Our ancestors crossed an ocean to build a future they could scarcely imagine, and today we honor them not only through research and remembrance, but by continuing to gather, connect, and strengthen the bonds they began over 400 years ago. We hope to see you there as we celebrate our heritage, our family, and the enduring legacy of Edward Doty together.

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

Shelli

Email: editor@edwarddoty.org



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