



OUR PILGRIM  
ANCESTORS



## INTRODUCTION

Understanding early American history requires a clear distinction between Pilgrims and Puritans—groups often linked but not identical. While many Pilgrims held Puritan beliefs, not all Puritans were Pilgrims. The Pilgrims, a group of English Separatists, sought religious freedom during the reign of King James I and became some of the first settlers in New England. After failed attempts to leave England, they found temporary refuge in Amsterdam before settling in Leiden, Holland, where they lived for about a decade under relatively tolerant Dutch laws that allowed them to worship freely.

Concerned that their children were losing their English identity and religious traditions, a portion of this community decided to journey to the New World. In 1620, they departed from England, initially planning to travel on two ships—the *Speedwell* and the *Mayflower*. Mechanical issues forced the *Speedwell* to turn back, leaving the group to continue their voyage aboard the *Mayflower* alone. They arrived in New England as winter approached and faced severe hardships while establishing the Plymouth colony.

Over time, additional Pilgrims followed, driven by the promise of religious freedom and new opportunities. Their perseverance contributed to the growth of stable colonies and laid important groundwork for the principles of self-governance and religious liberty that would later shape American democracy. Among these early settlers were our ancestors, Colonel Augustine Warner, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Reade, Lieutenant Colonel George Reade, Major Thomas Walker, General Robert Lewis, and Captain Nicholas Martiau who settled in America prior to 1700.



OUR PILGRIM  
ANCESTORS

TABLE of CONTENTS

Page

1. [Colonel Augustine Warner](#)
3. [Lieutenant Colonel Robert Reade](#)
3. [Lieutenant Colonel George Reade](#)
4. [Major Thomas Walker](#)
5. [General Robert Lewis](#)
6. [Captain Nicholas Martiau](#)

## Col. Augustine Warner (1610 - 1674)

Augustine Warner was born on September 28, 1610, in Norfolk, England. He was the first of his name to come to America, arriving in 1630. Around 1635, he built Warner Hall on the Severn River in Gloucester County, Virginia.

In 1642, Warner received a land grant of 600 acres on the Severn River, known as "Austin Deire." Later, in 1652, he patented 2,500 acres at Cheescake (also spelled Chesapeake) on the Piankatank River, acquiring the land from the Chiskiack Indians, the last Native tribe to inhabit Gloucester County.

Warner was active in colonial government, serving as a burgess in 1652 and 1656, and as a member of the Council from 1659 to 1674.

He married Mary Towneley, who was born on May 15, 1614, in Stone Edge, Lancashire, England.

Their descendants include notable historical figures. Through their daughter Sarah Warner and her husband, Lawrence Towneley, they are ancestors of General Robert E. Lee. Additionally, Mildred Warner—daughter of Augustine Warner II and Mildred Reade—married Lawrence Washington; they became the grandparents of General George Washington.

---

### "The Queen's American Ancestors"

Look Magazine, Oct. 29, 1957 by Hector Bolitho.

The story begins with a dull flat tombstone that was covered with snow when I found it in Gloucester County, Virginia last winter. I wiped away the snow and read: Augustine Warner, deceased y 24th day of December 1674 aged 63 years 2m 26D.

The grave yielded no more than that I had to cross the York River and search through a pile of books in the library of the College of William & Mary to make the old bones of Augustine Warner come to life—which they did splendidly, for I learned that he was the ancestor of Gen. Robert E. Lee, of George Washington, and Queen Elizabeth II.

We do not know much about this first Augustine Warner. We learn that he used the coat of arms of an English family that he was a "gentleman," born in England or Wales, presumably on September 28, 1611, he immigrated to Virginia when he was 39 with his wife Mary, his son Augustine II, and his daughter, Sarah, who married Lawrence Townley and was to be the ancestor of Robert E. Lee.

Augustine Warner prospered. He built a small mansion, Warner Hall, on a prong of the Severn, and soon became a leader in the colony; a Colonel of the militia, a justice and then a burgess in the General Assembly. It must have been a pleasant life on the Tidewater. There was an

occasional poisoned arrow from a belligerent Indian to keep the colonists on their toes, but there was also a certain elegance about their English homes and habits, adapted to the climate. For they remained English. Their children went back to English schools—packed in with the barrels of tobacco in the little ships—to learn the English way of thinking. Among them went Augustine Warner II to be taught at Merchant Taylor's School in London.

Warner hall, in Virginia, was burned down in 1849, with all its library, so there are no documents to help us build up a picture of these early years of young Augustine Warner's life. After returning to Virginia, while he was still in his twenties, he became burgess for Gloucester County and married Mildred Reade, the daughter of a Tidewater neighbor. His premature death in 1681 marked the end of the Warners as a name and a family, for he left only daughters besides his widow. One daughter, also named Mildred, was to marry Lawrence Washington and be the grandmother of the first president; the youngest, Mary, married John Smith of Puritan Hall—another fine house on the Tidewater—and it is from there that we trace our way to the Bowes-Lyon family of Scotland, and Queen Elizabeth.

I lunched at Puritan Hall one day last winter. The enchanting, mid-18th century house is built near the site of old Puritan Hall, and the scene was as lovely in 1956 as it must have been in 1680, when Mary Warner went there as a bride. But Mary and John Smith were the last of Queen Elizabeth's ancestors to remain in Virginia. From the tranquil landscape of the Tidewater, I went to Ripon cathedral, in Yorkshire, England for the next interesting link in the story. There, in the south aisle, I found a white memorial, high on the wall. On it read the epitaph of Robert Porteus, the Virginia gentleman who married Mildred, the daughter of John and Mary Smith in 1700.

He was then 21, and he stayed in Virginia only long enough to produce the first of his flock of 19 children. He brought his family back to England, he explained, in order to "procure better instruction" for his children. One of his children, Robert, entered the church. We can trace his story from the time he was admitted to Cambridge University in 1725, to his quiet service as rector of Cockayne Hatley, in Bedfordshire. From then, through four generations, as the chart shows we come in 1852 to the

marriage of his great-great-granddaughter, Frances Dora, to Claude Lyon-Bowes (Later Bowes-Lyon), the 13th Earl of Strathmore.

So, the story has moved, through nine generations, from Augustine Warner, prospering on his plantation in Virginia, to this marriage between the Scottish earl and the descendant of Augustine Warner.

The way into our own time was set: In December 1895, the prince who was to become King George VI was born at Sandringham; his future wife lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, was born in August 1900. "You are indeed a lucky man," King George V wrote to his son of his Scottish Daughter-in-law, when she married into the Royal Family, 23 years later.

No one then seemed to know the link between the Bowes-Lyon family and Augustine Warner; but when the present Queen Elizabeth is in Virginia this month, she will be able to go to Warner Hall, on the Tidewater, and see the tombstones of her American Ancestors. She may also visit Mt. Vernon, and perhaps plant a tree besides the tomb of George Washington. This gesture will mean more to her than to any sovereign who has been there before her; She will realize that she is related as closely as anyone now alive to the man who freed America from British rule.

Col. Augustine Warner died on December 24, 1674, at Warner Hall in Gloucester County, Virginia, at the age of 64. He was buried in the Warner Hall Cemetery.



*Augustine Warner Deceased ye 24<sup>th</sup> of December 1674  
Aged 63 years 2 Mth 26 Da*

Mary died earlier, on August 11, 1662, at Warner Hall at the age of 48, and was buried beside him.



*Mary Warner ye wife of Agus-tine Warner Esq. was Born 15<sup>th</sup>  
of May 1614 And Dyed ye 11<sup>th</sup> Day of August 1662*



OUR PILGRIM  
ANCESTORS

## LINEAGE *from* COL. AUGUSTINE WARNER

13. Col. Augustine Warner  
m. Mary Townley
12. Col. Augustine Warner II  
m. Mildred Reade
11. Col John Lewis II  
m. Elizabeth Warner
10. Col. Robert Lewis  
m. Jane Meriwether
9. Col. Nicholas Lewis  
m. Mary 'Captain Molly' Walker
8. Lt. Hudson Martin  
m. Jane Walker Lewis
7. Thurston Dickinson  
m. Mary Walker Martin
6. John D. Duggins  
m. Frances Elizabeth Dickinson
5. James Henry Smith  
m. Elizabeth Marshall Duggins
4. Peter Christen Jensen  
m. Laura Ann Smith
3. Wilhelm August Heineman  
m. Lucile Marguerite Jensen
2. Peter Edward Heineman  
m. Doris Jean Crum
1. Peter Lea Heineman

## Lt. Col. Robert Reade (1575 - 1626)

Lt. Col. Robert Reade (son of Andrew Reade) was born in 1575 at Linkenholt Manor in Hampshire, England. He later held prominent positions in the Virginia colony, serving as Secretary of the Colony and acting governor from 1638 to 1639.

On July 31, 1600, he married Mildred Windebank at St. Martin-in-the-Fields in Westminster, London, England. Lt. Col. Robert Reade died in 1626 at Linkenholt Manor.

## Lt. Col. George Reade (1608 - 1674)

Lt. Col. George Reade (son of Lt. Col. Robert Reade and grandson of Andrew Reade) was born on October 25, 1608, at Linckenholt Manor in Hampshire, England. He was the son of Robert Reade and Lady Mildred Windebank, who was herself the daughter of Sir Thomas Windebank.

Reade came to Virginia in 1637, where he became closely associated with Governor Sir John Harvey and Secretary Richard Kemp. He held several important colonial offices: serving as Deputy Secretary of the colony from 1640 to 1642; as a Burgess for James City County in 1649; and later as a Burgess for Charles County in 1656. In 1658, he was appointed to the Governor's Council, where he served for the remainder of his life. During his tenure, he was one of twelve councilors who joined the governor in dissolving the Assembly.

He also accumulated significant landholdings, including 2,000 acres along the Piankatank River, land that had previously been occupied by the Chiskiack Indians.

In 1641, he married Elizabeth Martiau in Yorktown, Virginia. Elizabeth, born in 1625 in Elizabeth City, York County, Virginia, was the eldest daughter of Captain Nicholas Martiau. However, some conflicting evidence suggests she may instead have been born in England prior to 1620.

George Reade died October 1674 in Gloucester Co., VA. His remains and those of Elizabeth are buried at the Grace Colonial Episcopal Church at Yorktown.



OUR PILGRIM  
ANCESTORS

## LINEAGE *from* LT. COL. GEORGE READE

14. Lt. Col. Robert Reade  
m. Mildred Windebank
13. Lt. Col. George Reade  
m. Elizabeth Martiau
12. Col. Augustine Warner II  
m. Mildred Reade
11. Col John Lewis II  
m. Elizabeth Warner
10. Col. Robert Lewis  
m. Jane Meriwether
9. Col. Nicholas Lewis  
m. Mary 'Captain Molly' Walker
8. Lt. Hudson Martin  
m. Jane Walker Lewis
7. Thurston Dickinson  
m. Mary Walker Martin
6. John D. Duggins  
m. Frances Elizabeth Dickinson
5. James Henry Smith  
m. Elizabeth Marshall Duggins
4. Peter Christen Jensen  
m. Laura Ann Smith
3. Wilhelm August Heineman  
m. Lucile Marguerite Jensen
2. Peter Edward Heineman  
m. Doris Jean Crum
1. Peter Lea Heineman



Here lyeth interred Coll George Reade Esqr who was born ye 25<sup>th</sup> day October in ye year of our Lord 1608 and deceased October 1674 he being in the 66<sup>th</sup> yr of his age



Here lyeth interred Elizabeth Martiau, deceased wife of George Read Esqr who was born in ye year of our Lord 1625 and deceased 1696 she being in ye 71<sup>st</sup> year of her age

### Maj. Thomas Walker (1625 - )

Maj. Thomas Walker was born in 1625 in Staffordshire, England. Around 1650, he immigrated to Virginia and settled in Gloucester County. There, he became involved in public service, serving as a Burgess (though the recorded date of 1622 appears inconsistent with his birth year) and later as a major in the county militia in 1666.

He married a woman identified as Miss Baylor, whose birth date is unknown. The year of his death is unknown.



OUR PILGRIM ANCESTORS

## LINEAGE from MAJ. THOMAS WALKER

- 13. Maj. Thomas Walker  
m. Miss Baylor
- 12. Lt. Col. John Walker  
m. Rachel Croshaw
- 11. Maj. Thomas Walker  
m. Susannah Peachy
- 10. Dr. Thomas Walker, Jr.  
m. Mildred Meriwether
- 9. Mary Walker  
m. Col. Nicholas Lewis
- 8. Jane Walker Lewis  
m. Hudson Martin
- 7. Mary Walker Martin  
m. Thurston Dickinson
- 6. Francis Elizabeth Dickinson  
m. John Duggins
- 5. Elizabeth Marshall Duggins  
m. James Henry Smith
- 4. Laura Ann Smith  
m. Peter Christen Jensen
- 3. Lucile Marguerite Jensen  
m. Wilhelm August Heineman
- 2. Peter Edward Heineman  
m. Doris Jean Crum
- 1. Peter Lea Heineman

## Gen. Robert Lewis (1607 - 1644)

Robert Lewis was born about 1607 (aged 28 as of July 13, 1635). On that date, he and his wife, Elizabeth Lewis (aged 22), were recorded in London as passengers bound for New England aboard the ship *Blessing*. They subsequently settled in Salem, Massachusetts Bay.

There is no documented record of Robert Lewis in New England between 1635 and 1641. However, it is generally accepted that the 1635 passenger is the same individual who later lived in Salem. This identification is supported by the fact that he traveled on the same ship as Richard Hollingsworth, with whom he later had close ties—working for him and ultimately being listed as one of his creditors at the time of his death.

On June 1, 1641, a court record notes that “the wife of Robert Lewis” was punished for “dishonoring the name of God” and was sentenced to be whipped.

Some historical sources, including Savage and Pope, claim that Robert Lewis moved to Newbury. However, no clear evidence supports this assertion. His continued association with Richard Hollingsworth and John Maddux instead suggests that he remained in Salem. A related claim that he was a “proprietor in the new town” in 1643 is also undocumented and may stem from the same confusion.

Robert Lewis died by July 6, 1644, the date his probate inventory was recorded in Essex County. Although the inventory lists his death as May 4, 1643, other records indicate that he was still alive after that date, making the later probate record more reliable.



OUR PILGRIM  
ANCESTORS

## LINEAGE *from* GEN. ROBERT LEWIS

13. Gen. Robert Lewis  
m. Elizabeth
12. Maj. John Lewis  
m. Isabella Warner
11. Col John Lewis II  
m. Elizabeth Warner
10. Col. Robert Lewis  
m. Jane Meriwether
9. Col. Nicholas Lewis  
m. Mary 'Captain Molly' Walker
8. Lt. Hudson Martin  
m. Jane Walker Lewis
7. Thurston Dickinson  
m. Mary Walker Martin
6. John D. Duggins  
m. Frances Elizabeth Dickinson
5. James Henry Smith  
m. Elizabeth Marshall Duggins
4. Peter Christen Jensen  
m. Laura Ann Smith
3. Wilhelm August Heineman  
m. Lucile Marguerite Jensen
2. Peter Edward Heineman  
m. Doris Jean Crum
1. Peter Lea Heineman

## Capt. Nicholas Martiau (1607 - 1644)

Nicholas Martiau "Captain Nick" was born in Il de Rhe France 1591. The Martiaus were French Walloon Huguenots residing in the Valley of the Meuse, Belgium Walloon refers, in daily speech to French-speaking Belgians from Wallonia, "the land of the valleys." When the Religious War, known as the Thirty years War commenced in 1619, fifty-five families, including the Martiaus, fled for their lives and took refuge in Holland. In the spring of the year 1620, some months before the Mayflower sailed for America, Nicholas Martiau, of a family of French Protestants sailed from England for America in the vessel, the *Francis Bona Venture*. Martiau acquired and settled upon a tract of land along the York River in Virginia.

Nicholas Martiau was in the service of Henry Hastings, Earl of Huntington and member of the Virginia Company, and educated as a military engineer. He was naturalized as an Englishman by royal decree. He came to Jamestown in 1620, legally representing the Earl to plan fortifications.

After the 1622 massacre at Jamestown, the depredations of the Indians had caused such concern among the first settlers that a series of forts and outposts were planned, and the first "western" frontier was established by a line crossing the Tidewater Peninsula from Jamestown to the Charles (York) river along which it was proposed to erect a wall of logs. The construction of this log palisade and the protective forts was entrusted to Martiau, and the site on the Charles selected of a fort was called York.

Martiau's defense of the French king in an argument with Capt. Thomas Mayhew forced him to take a loyalty oath in Jamestown in 1627.

The fort at York occupied a point on the river at the mouth of the Wormley Creek, named for the first settler in that section, Colonel Christopher Wormley, and lies about two miles down the river from the present site of Yorktown.

The safety of the fort caused a settlement to spring up around it, and in 1633 York was selected as a receiving port. A store was built for receiving and shipping purposes, and to serve the inhabitants both of York and the settlement at Kiskiack.

So sturdily did Martiau build York for that it was still in active use more than forty years later when it was described as "*the most considerable fortress in the country.*" During the Indian uprisings along the Rappahannock in 1676 the terror-stricken county folk of Gloucester fled across the river for refuge in the fort at York. They were dismayed to find that they could be afforded scant protection there, however, for to



OUR PILGRIM  
ANCESTORS

## LINEAGE *from* CAPT. NICHOLAS MARTIAU

14. Capt. Nicholas Martiau  
m. Jane Berkeley
13. Elizabeth Martiau  
m. George Reade
12. Mildred Reade  
m. Augustine Warner
11. Elizabeth Warner  
m. John Lewis II
10. Robert Lewis  
m. Jane Meriwether
9. Nicholas Lewis  
m. Mary Walker
8. Jane Meriwether Lewis  
m. Hudson Martin
7. Mary Walker Martin  
m. Thurston Dickinson
6. Frances Elizabeth Dickinson  
m. John Duggins
5. Elizabeth Marshall Duggins  
m. James Henry Smith
4. Laura Ann Smith  
m. Peter Christen Jensen
3. Lucile Marguerite Jensen  
m. Wilhelm August Heineman
2. Peter Edward Heineman  
m. Doris Jean Crum
1. Peter Lea Heineman

prevent the fort's stores of arms and ammunition falling into the hands of Nathaniel Bacon, who was also on the warpath, Governor Berkeley had taken them with him in his flight to the Eastern shore.

Having engaged so actively in the defense against the Indians, it is reasonable to assume that Captain Martiau was eager to begin reaping some of the benefits to be derived from his own defensive works. He was also active in the legislative affairs of the Colony, as

Representative in the House of Burgess from both Kiskiack and the Isle of Kent in the Chesapeake, and he probably had a hand in framing the Court Order of October 8, 1630.

Captain Martiau was among the first settlers to qualify for land under this Act, following Captain Robert Felgate, John Utie, and John West into the wilderness of Kiskiack. For "*Adventure of himselfe, his wife and ten persons to Chiskiake...and for the transportation at his own costs and charges of fourteene persons into this Colony,*" Governor Francis Wyatt granted Martiau patent to sixteen hundred acres on May 20, 1635, to be "*augmented and doubled when he or his assigns shall have sufficiently peopled and planted the same.*" This land included the present site of Yorktown and lay between the holdings of Sir John Harvey who held patent to the land from directly east of Martiau to York at the mouth of Wormley Creek and the estate of Richard Townsend west of what is now Yorktown Creek.

Because of the tyrannical rule of neighbor Sir John Harvey during his term as Governor, Martiau strongly opposed him. Opposition, while general throughout the Colony, centered at York and Kiskiack, both being Burgess districts separately represented in the Jamestown Assembly. It was daring of Captain Nick but typical of the man's spirit of fearless independence. If the campaign against Harvey had proven unsuccessful there is no doubt that Martiau would have lost favor with his patron in England, the Earl of Huntington, and his fortunes in Virginia would have come to a very definite ending. But Martiau was again fortunate. Governor Harvey was finally arrested by the colonists themselves and sent back to England.

Harvey returned, bringing George Reade--Martiau's future son-in-law with him. Martiau moved to the present Yorktown site in 1630 on 600 acres, plus 700 for headrights, where he grew tobacco. On this land Cornwallis surrendered his troops to Martiau's great-great- great-grandson, General George Washington in 1781.

Martiau later was granted 2000 acres on the south side of the Potomac River, which he gave to Col. George Reade in 1657.

The Harvey affair was one of the first manifestations of the strange new force of uncontrollable power at work in the minds of the first settlers. They tingled with unaccustomed impulses of freedom in this wild, new land; and for the first time, the united strength of the English yeomen seemed adequate to their imaginings. It was this unity of effort, while preserving the rights of the individual that furthered their every activity.

In 1633 every fortieth man between the James and the York was directed to repair to the plantation of Dr.

John Pott to be employed in building the houses of "Middle Plantation," that tiny budding settlement that was to blossom out into the City of Williamsburg and the Colonial Capital of Virginia. The men of York and Kiskiack can well be depended upon to have entered into the construction of Middle Plantation with the same energy and spirit with which they greeted each new enterprise.

The Legislature had divided Virginia into eight shires or counties in 1634, and Kiskiack and York had been included in Charles County which extended from beyond the Charles River to the center of the peninsula where it met James City County which, in its turn, included the land south to beyond the James River. Middle Plantation lay along the boundary dividing these two counties. In 1642 the name for both the river and county of Charles was changed to York, in honor of the Duke of York who became James II, and the future site of Williamsburg founded itself half in York County. The records of James City County were destroyed during the Civil War, but those of York County were preserved; and through their preservation, invaluable documentary research material for reference in the John D. Rockefeller restoration of the City of Williamsburg was provided.

In 1642 he married Jane Berkeley, widow of young Lieutenant Edward Berkeley who had been killed in the Indian massacre of 1622. She arrived on the *Seaflower* in 1621. Berkeley, a man of great industry, established the first iron works in America and would, no doubt, have made a real name for himself had not the Indians cut him down along with all of his iron-workers in a surprise attack. In marrying Jane, Martiau established himself and his family as the first ancestors in America of another eminent military engineer, George Washington. Good-wife Jane had a daughter, Jane, whom Martiau raised as one of his own. After the death of Jane, Nicholas married Isabella widow of Robert Felgate and George Beech, in 1646.

Martiau was the most important of all the many Huguenots who increased in the early population of the Colony, most of whom had been imported in order that the English settlers might "*benefit by the frenchmen's skill and instructinge of others in the Arte of plantinge and settinge of Vines and in the ministry of making Wyne.*"

Captain Nick scorned such puerile pursuits. He led expeditions against the Indians, continued to study and improve the colony's fortifications, brought many new immigrants to Virginia at his own expense, became a successful planter, was ever an active vigilant protector of the people's rights in his legislative capacity in the Assembly and became the First Citizen of the land that later was chosen for the site of Yorktown.

Besides his stepdaughter, Jane, Martiau had four children of his own. His son, Nicholas Jr., died before reaching maturity. One daughter, Sarah, married Captain William Fuller, the Governor of Maryland. Another daughter, Mary, married Colonel John Scarsbrook, a leader in the Bacon Rebellion. The third daughter, Elizabeth, married Colonel George Reade who in 1637 was Secretary of the Colony and in 1638 was acting Governor. It is through Elizabeth and George Reade that Washington traces his ancestry to Martiau, for the Read daughter, Mildred, married Augustine Warner II; the Warner's daughter, Mildred, married Lawrence Washington; the Washington's son, Augustine, married Marry Ball who was the mother of George Washington. Captain Nicholas Martiau thus became the great-great-great-grandfather of the First President.

Capt. Nicholas Martiau died 1657 in York County, Virginia. The burial place of Captain Martiau has never been located.

Recognition was given in 1931 when a monument was dedicated in Yorktown to his everlasting glory. The dedication address was delivered by General John J. Pershing. The monument was designed by the eminent Philadelphia architect, Paul Cret, and consists of an eleven-foot shaft of Vermont granite bearing a bronze tablet.



**SITE OF THE HOME OF NICHOLAS MARTIAU THE ADVENTURER HUGUENOT HE WAS BORN IN FRANCE 1591 CAME TO VIRGINIA 1620 AND DIED AT YORKTOWN 1657. HE WAS A CAPTAIN IN THE INDIAN UPRISING A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF BURGESS JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF YORK IN 1635 A LEADER IN THE THRUSTING OUT OF GOVERNOR HARVEY WHICH WAS THE FIRST OPPOSITION IN THE BRITISH COLONY POLICY. THE ORIGINAL PATENTEE FOR YORKTOWN AND THROUGH THE MARRIAGE OF HIS DAUGHTER ELIZABETH TO COL. GEORGE READ HE BECAME THE EARLIEST AMERICAN ANCESTOR OF BOTH GEN. GEORGE WASHINGTON AND GOVERNOR THOMAS NELSON**

Marked by the Huguenot Society of Pennsylvania in cooperation with the National Federation of Huguenot Societies and the Yorktown Sesqui-centennial Commission 1931





The National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims (NSSDP), founded in 1908 by Thomas Williams Bicknell, is devoted to preserving the genealogies and historical legacy of early American settlers known as the Pilgrims. The Society's mission centers on perpetuating the memory of these individuals while fostering and promoting the principles and virtues they embodied, including faith, resilience, and a commitment to community. These early immigrants—defined by the Society as anyone who settled before 1700 within the territory that later became the forty-eight contiguous United States, regardless of religious affiliation or country of origin—played a crucial role in shaping the foundations of American identity. Their contributions span the establishment of religious freedom, the traditions surrounding Thanksgiving, and the broader development of early Colonial society, all of which continue to influence the nation's cultural and historical narrative today.

