

# The Fuller Society Newsletter

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Issue 1



## Greetings From Governor Debbie

Happy New Year, 2020! I hope that you all are looking forward to the celebrations and commemorations of the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of our ancestors on the good ship Mayflower!

The Fuller Society Tour to England is full. If you were interested in going, I will be happy to put you on a waiting list in the event that there are cancellations.

Linda, John and I, along with the rest of the Hoffman family, recently lost our beloved Mother. Our thanks for your condolences and cards. I know that many of you will miss her. She so enjoyed coming to the Fuller reunions!

There has been a change in location for our Annual Meeting. We are now based in Plymouth. Check-in is Saturday, 19 September. On September 20th we will dedicate the Fuller memorial gravestone followed by a group supper. The annual business meeting will be held Monday at the hotel with a banquet dinner that evening. The hotel information can be found on page 8. Please email me at FullerSociety@aol.com to let me know that you are planning to come. This will help with final arrangements. The reservation form will be in the July newsletter.

Please encourage your high school seniors to apply for the 2020 Bridget Lee Fuller scholarship.

Many thanks to those of you that have made donations to the Fuller Society. They are important to the society and will help fund our educational missions. All donations are tax deductible.

# A New Fuller Connection?

The following information was published in the Summer 2019 issue of the Mayflower Descendant published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS).

According to Y-DNA testing, Lt. John Sprague, ca. 1655—1727/8 of Duxbury, MA and Lebanon, CT was the illegitimate son of the Reverend Samuel Fuller, son of Dr. Samuel Fuller.

At the General Court in Plymouth on 6 June 1655, John Sprague and Ruth Bassett of Duxbury were “present(ed)” for fornication before they were married; they were cleared by paying the fine. Ruth and John’s eldest child John was followed by six other children. Upon comparison of Y-DNA results between descendants of the eldest, John, and the younger two sons, Samuel and William, have shown that Lt. John Sprague was not the biological child of John Sprague.

In 2017 Christopher Child, who wrote this article, was asked by Mary Sprague Langsdorf to look into her late brother’s DNA results. Mr. Child was surprised to find that although the results matched several members of the Sprague family, there were also a large number of matches to the Fuller family of Plymouth.

Of the seven Fuller men living in New England in 1655 that were old enough to father a child, only Rev. Samuel was living in Plymouth near Duxbury. Edward Fuller’s sons Samuel and Matthew and were living in Barnstable. Thus Samuel Fuller, who was probably single and not yet a reverend, is the most likely father as he was the only Fuller male living near Ruth Bassett. No record has been found that connects Ruth to Samuel. Extensive DNA matches were performed the Sprague and Fuller family descendants.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is recognizing the results of Mr. Child’s research and are accepting that Lt. John Sprague is the illegitimate son of Rev. Samuel Fuller. Beyond this generation, proof of descent is required to submit an application to Dr. Samuel through Rev. Samuel and John Sprague.

Bea and Linda—2019  
Philadelphia, PA meeting



Bea and Debbie—2018  
Cooperstown, NY meeting



### **Obituary for Beatrice D. Hoffman**

Beatrice Dorothy (Sheppard) Hoffman “Bea”, “Grandma Bea” went home to her Lord on Sunday, January 12, 2020. Surrounded by her family, she passed away at Riverview hospital in Red Bank, NJ.

Bea was born in Bridgeboro, NJ on September 24, 1930 and grew up in York, PA, where she graduated from William Penn High School and York Junior College. Bea and her family then moved to Pitman, NJ where she met the love of her life John ‘Jack’ Hoffman, who predeceased her, and their epic love story began.

As a military wife, Bea proudly supported Jack traveling all around the world including Germany, Belgium, Italy, Holland and various locations in the U. S. before settling in Tinton Falls, NJ at Fort Monmouth where she loved to sing in the choir.

Left to celebrate her legacy are her children, Deborah A. (John Yingst) of Boiling Springs, PA., John F. Hoffman Jr. (Brenda) of Carlisle, PA., Steven L. Hoffman (Lisa) Buford, GA, Laura J. Hoffman (Marty Flatley) and Linda Hoffman of Tinton Falls, NJ; eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

She was a member of Eastern Star, Officers’ Wives Club, The Women’s Club of Tinton Falls, Protestant Women of the Chapel, and The Fuller Society, serving as Secretary for six years. Bea was a true blessing to all those she touched.

## **Fuller Society Pin and Miniature Member Medal**

Visit the Fuller Society website to order Fuller Society 2020 pins and Miniature Member medals. The pins can be ordered from the *Lineages & Jewelry* page and the Member medal from the *Members Only* page. The password is 'Plymouth'. Pins \$30.00 for 1 or \$50.00 for 2. Medals \$72.00—Includes shipping. Contact Governor Debbie at FullerSociety@aol.com or call 717-512-3655 with any questions or for pricing if you wish to purchase more than two pins or one medal. See page 7 for a picture of the pin. It may also be seen on the website.



St. Mary's Redenhall Church is engraved on the bell. Why a bell? Robert Fuller, father of Edward and Samuel, donated a bell to St. Mary's which is still in the bell tower.

The medal is about 4 inches long. This medal is only available to members.

Show your Pilgrim pride by wearing a Fuller Society Member medal and Fuller Society 2020 pin to your Mayflower meetings or other hereditary society meetings!

# 2020 Dues Notice

Your 2020 dues should now be paid. If you receive the newsletter via email, and would like to check your member status, please email Secretary Linda at: LSHQuinter@aol.com

*Dues are \$10.00 Send dues to:*

**Linda Hoffman**

**42 Sugar Maple Lane, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724**

Check payable to: The Fuller Society

or pay via PayPal on our website at [www.TheFullerSociety.org](http://www.TheFullerSociety.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Fund Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fuller Memorial Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your prompt payment of dues and your continued support of the Society's mission and educational goals!

## The Fuller Society

### 2020 Bridget Lee Fuller Scholarship Award Application

The Bridget Lee Fuller Scholarship Awards are offered to 12th grade High School Students of *Fuller descent*. A total of \$1620 *may* be awarded with at least \$1000 to be awarded to the first place winner.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Of: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA (include grade transcript if available): \_\_\_\_\_

College You Plan to Attend: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

List extra curricular activities, honors and awards on a separate sheet.

Are you a Fuller Society member? \_\_\_\_\_ **If you are not a member, list the Name and your relationship to your relative that is a member.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

An original essay of at least 750 words written by the student must accompany the application. See Page 7 for this year's essay topic.

A copy of your college acceptance letter must also be included.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Counselor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail all documents to be received by April 18, 2020 to:**

Kimberly Skellie, Scholarship Chair  
328 Skellie Rd, Greenwich NY 12834



The essay topic for the 2020 Bridget Lee Fuller Scholarship is:

***“Why was the Mayflower Compact important in 1620?  
How has it impacted the United States over the past  
400 years and your life today?”***

You may not copy any text from outside sources. Sources must be cited in appropriate bibliographic form. Essays will be evaluated for accurate historical content, organization, and grammar. All essays should be 12 font, double spaced and at least 750 words. Failure to comply with any of the Fuller Society Scholarship rules will cause the application to be disqualified.

**The applicant must be an active member or descended from an active member as of 10/31/19 to be eligible to apply.**

**Newer members or descendants of newer members must contact Governor Debbie at FullerSociety@aol.com to be considered for the scholarship.**

**“Thank you”** to all who have contributed to the Bridget Lee Fuller Scholarship Fund! All donations are tax deductible.



# Hotel Information

The Fuller Society 2020 Annual Meeting will be held in Plymouth, MA. We will be based at the Hampton Inn & Suites Hotel located at 10 Plaza Way, Plymouth, MA 02360.

Meeting Dates: **September 19, 20 and 21, 2020**

Hotel reservations must be made by **August 5, 2020.**

To make reservations, call **508-747-5000**. If you would like to use a direct link to book, please email FullerSociety@aol.com and the link will be sent to you.

2 Queen beds: \$165.00 + 11.7 % taxes

1 King bed: \$155.00 + 11.7% taxes

Please reference **Fuller Society Group Block** to receive the guaranteed room rate. You must book 3 nights to be eligible for the group discount room rate above. If rooms are available, the discount rate will apply to nights either before or after the meeting dates listed above. The hotel has a shuttle that runs from 8 am to 10 pm daily within a 5 mile radius of the hotel. This includes the waterfront and downtown areas of Plymouth. A complimentary full, hot breakfast buffet is available to guests from 6 am to 10 am daily.

FYI: A registration table will be set up in the lobby from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm on September 19th.

See you in Plymouth!



# Welcome New Members!

***Help us reach 400 members in 2020!  
We now have 375 Regular and Junior members!***

***Lynda Cazort—Anchorage, AK***

***Alice Cook—Tiburon, CA***

***Jodi Schwartz-Drake—Amarillo, TX***

***Theresa Treacy—Petersburg, IL***

***Jonathan Bayba—Wausau, WI***

***Elmira Cook—Englishtown, NJ***

***Jennifer Cook—Cape May Courthouse, NJ***

***Devin Weis—Wamego, KS***

***Karen Weis—Smith Center, KS***

***John Parker—Merced, CA***

***Henry Fuller—Nova Scotia, Canada***

***Holly Neel—Ridgway, CO***

***Daniel Fuller—Myrtle Beach, SC***

***Franki Coughlin—Huntington, MD***

***Alison Heyniger—Bethlehem, CT***

***Sean Thompson—Meridian, ID***

***Karen Bauer—Murfreesboro TN***

***Ken Frack—Longview, WA***

***Henry Brus—Millersville, MD***

***Elizabeth Berry—Beaverdam, VA***

***Marcia Fletcher—Green Valley, AZ***

***Charles Schwender—Glen Gardner, NJ***

***William Shimp—Port Charlotte, FL***

**Go Green!**

**Help your Society save \$\$\$\$**

**and**

**Keep the dues at \$10.00!**

If you are still receiving our newsletters through the U. S. Mail, please consider receiving future newsletters via email.

The newsletter is more interesting in color!

Do you have an article to submit for the newsletter?

Would you like to share a story about one of your Fuller ancestors or a Pilgrim experience?

Send an email to the FullerSociety@aol.com to remove your name from the mailing list or to submit an article for future publication.



**[www.thefullersociety.org](http://www.thefullersociety.org)**

Have you visited the Fuller Society website yet?

The Members Only page password is: **Plymouth**

The password is the same for all members.

# Junior Members

Junior members are our future!

What better way to teach them about their ancestors? Junior membership is a one time payment of \$10.00.

New Junior members will receive a packet of facts and games about the Mayflower.

Junior membership is for ages 0 –18.

At age 18, adult membership may be obtained.

The Junior Membership application may be found on the website or email Roxy Pemrick for a copy.

Please send a check payable to “The Fuller Society” or pay on our web site with PayPal.

The Fuller Society, c/o Roxy Pemrick

17 Cottage St, Greenwich, NY 12834.

Email: [jpemrick1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jpemrick1@nycap.rr.com)



# The Fuller Memorial

Below is a depiction of the approved design for the Fuller memorial gravestone that will be placed in the Nemasket Hill Cemetery in Middleborough, MA this year. The front top of the stone will be a replica of a Nathaniel Fuller carving. Nathaniel was the great grandson of Dr. Samuel and a well known carver in Middleborough.

Please consider a donation to the John F. Hoffman Research Fund earmarked for the gravestone. Your donation is tax deductible. Be a part of this lasting historical tribute to our Fuller ancestors. If you have already donated, thank you! The Fuller Society will dedicate the gravestone on 20 September 2020.

