

## THE WARREN COUSINS

### Origins

Lura N. Sellew was the engine behind the formation of The Warren Cousins in the early 1970s. Not long after the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower, Lura began contacting relatives and sent out a general mailing in November 1972. She used membership lists from state Mayflower Societies, and even phone books, to produce a list of hundreds of names of people who might have Richard Warren as an ancestor, or who might be interested in a Warren family society. A follow-up letter was sent out the following Spring along with a notice in the *Mayflower Quarterly*, yielding a total of 65 positive responses. All persons who applied for membership before 31 December 1973 were to be considered charter members; the total number in this category eventually reached 79.

### Newsletter

The first issue of The Warren Cousins newsletter was sent out in July 1973: early issues contained a section for reporting the activities of members, proposed projects, and genealogical queries. Since there were not yet any officers or a genealogist, members were asked to send in questions, answers, or information directly to Lura, who would circulate the information in the newsletter – what would later be called “crowdsourcing.” Many of the articles were taken from early issues of the *Mayflower Descendant*, the publication of the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. A recurring suggestion was the placement of a memorial marker to Richard Warren on Burial Hill, under the assumption that he was buried there given his early death in 1628. Although the newsletter was originally intended to be quarterly (early issues are identified as Vol. II, nos. 3-4, or Vol. IV nos. 2-3-4), because of problems in its time-consuming production, it almost never came out more than twice a year, and in many years it only came out once annually, announcing the upcoming annual meeting and presenting the minutes of the previous annual meeting. Starting in 2022, a “President’s Newsletter” took its place, and was distributed by e-mail to those who gave their addresses in order to save money. Returned newsletters and incorrect addresses were a constant headache, and not only in the early years.

The first meeting of The Warren Cousins was scheduled for the summer of 1975, at the time of the General Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in Plymouth. Proposed bylaws of a page and a half were circulated in the July 1975 issue of the newsletter (Vol. II, nos. 1-2). The first meeting took place in the Brewster Room of the Governor Carver Motel on 6 September. A brief business meeting was followed by a reception and dinner, with Claude Barlow, the Warren researcher for the Mayflower Five Generation project as the speaker. Sadly, Professor Barlow died several months later. Dues were initially set at \$3.00. At that meeting a nominating committee was named consisting of Gloria Denihan (New York), Robert Thurtle (Virginia) and Lura Sellew (Rhode Island). A full slate of officers was sent out to the membership in the November 1975 newsletter; members were asked to return the last page as a ballot. Because of problems with the mail, most ballots were not returned until the end of January 1976. Since the slate was unopposed, it is not surprising that the election was unanimous.

### 1976-1980

The second meeting was held in Plymouth at the end of August 1976. A visit to the “Widow Warren’s” house was announced, and while the visit had been planned several months in advance, the day before the scheduled visit, the then-owners of the house called

and said that they would not be able to allow visitors inside because the owners would be travelling to California that day. At least they left the curtains open so that people could walk around outside and look in through the windows. Robert Sherman, the director of the Five Generations project, addressed the group. The total membership had reached 140 by that summer.

At the suggestion of several members, the annual meeting was moved to earlier in the summer, and to a luncheon rather than a dinner. It appears that many, if not most, of those attending were local, and preferred not to drive at night.

The 1977 meeting took place at the Middleborough Historical Society Museum on 9 July; after a brief set of announcements, a picnic lunch was served on the museum's grounds. The following newsletter noted that "no one really wanted to devote any time to a business meeting, so we eliminated all of that." The curator of the museum, Elizabeth (Mrs. Lawrence) Romaine, spoke about Tom Thumb, and Mercy Lavinia Warren Bump (Mrs. Tom Thumb, a descendant of Richard Warren and the Billingtons), whom Mrs. Romaine had known as a girl.

The 1978 meeting took place at Careswell, the historic Winslow house in Marshfield, on the afternoon of 10 September. At this meeting the bylaws were amended to permit spouses to join The Warren Cousins as Associate Members, and the term of officers was extended to three years from the original annual election. Cynthia Krusell then spoke on connections between the Warrens and the Winslows.

The following year brought the Warrens to Duxbury, as the annual meeting took place at the Alden House on 28 July 1979; Jane Fiske spoke on Peleg Burroughs' journal she was transcribing.

The first meeting outside of Massachusetts took place on 26 July 1980 at the Chace-Cory House in Tiverton, Rhode Island. It is unclear how well attended these meetings were, although the report of the 1980 meeting announced that there was a record-breaking group of twenty-seven people who attended, which may reflect on the attendance at the previous meetings. The program after the luncheon was a slide show of historic sites in the area.

## **1981-1990**

Returning to Plymouth, the 1981 meeting took place at the Harlow Old Fort House on Sandwich Street. After a tour of the house, the well-known historian Eugene V. Stratton spoke on some antiquities discovered on the site of the Mayflower Society House.

The 1982 meeting took place at Plimoth Plantation on 21 August. The highlight of the day was a behind the scenes tour of the Education Centre and Library, with a presentation by the costume department.

The Mayflower Society House was the setting for the 13 August 1983 annual meeting, followed by a tour of the Library and then a short walk up to Pilgrim Hall. Although the luncheon was supposed to be in the garden, because it had been raining for several days, the meeting and luncheon was moved to the Historian General's apartment in the Mayflower Society House. Warren Cousin Mrs. Ruth (Bowker) Hall, the curator of the Mayflower Society House for over twenty years, coordinated the meeting.

1984 being a year for the Triennial Congress of the General Society, the annual meeting took place on 8 September at the Chiltonville Church – and the meal was changed back to

a dinner. A report on the Warren volume of the Five Generation project was given, and Ruth Walsh spoke about the Mayflower Society House 1550 sword.

The 1985 meeting took place on 10 August in Little Compton, Rhode Island at the Brownell House, with a special talk by George F. Sanborn of the New England Historic and Genealogical Society on sources for researching the life of Richard Warren. This meeting was followed by another meeting in Rhode Island, as the Cousins had a full day at the Bristol Historical Society on 26 July 1986. Special emphasis was placed on the architectural work in the area of Russell Warren, a Warren Cousin who was particularly active in the early nineteenth century and noted for his Greek Revival style. This was also the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

The Church of the Pilgrimage on Town Square in Plymouth hosted the 12 September 1987 annual meeting, with several reports on ongoing research about the Warrens, followed by dinner and a talk by Eugene Stratton. Attendance had increased to fifty-seven. The preliminary first part of the Warren Mayflower Families (called the *Mayflower Families in Progress* or the “pink books” after their hue of mayflower) arrived the day before the meeting, and were sold for \$4.75.

Down the street at the Howland House, the 1988 annual meeting was held on 10 September. R. Lacey Corbett spoke about whether his house in Plymouth was the “Widow Warren’s” House, and how that could be proved.

Plimoth Plantation hosted the 1989 annual meeting on 29 July. After fifteen years, annual dues were raised from \$3.00 to \$5.00, and life membership was introduced for a one time payment of \$50.00. Where a spouse was an associate member, the combined dues were \$8.00. At this meeting, Sidney K. Smart spoke on Genealogical Societies – what they were and why one should join them. This was also the first joint meeting with the Robert Bartlett Society. It was noted that this was the first time that The Warren Cousins had as many as four officers in attendance at a single meeting.

The following year’s meeting took place at Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth on 8 September 1990. The director, Laurence Pizer, spoke about the Pilgrim Society and its work. The usual per person cost for these meetings rose substantially over the years: for the first several years in the 1970s, the cost was below \$5.00, which may account for the picnic preferences. In the 1980s it rose to \$8.00; in 1990, it more than doubled to \$21.00 per person (for baked stuffed chicken). The evening began with a welcome from the inimitable Peter Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard Divinity School and Pusey Minister at Harvard’s Memorial Church.

## **1991-2000**

The 1991 meeting took place on 29 June at the Bradford House in Kingston; this coincided with the arrival of a shallop from Plymouth up Jones River, followed by a musketry and cooking demonstration.

The following year, the Cousins returned to the Isaac Winslow House in Marshfield on 27 June 1992. The meeting and luncheon was followed by a tour of Daniel Webster’s law office and carriage house.

The ladies’ guild at the Chiltonville Church once again hosted The Warren Cousins’ annual meeting on 11 September 1993, just before the Thirty-Third triennial General Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. The after-dinner speaker was, appropriately enough, “Richard Warren” from Plimoth Plantation, “who will tell of his life

and times and will entertain questions.” Lodging was particularly challenging this year because of the Congress, and for the first time the newsletter contained information about where to stay.

In 1994, The Warren Cousins joined the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants for their annual “Peregrination Day” on 11 June. There was no question which Mayflower passenger was going to have the most descendants when the roll was called: Richard Warren had the most by a margin of 11!

The 1995 meeting broke new ground when the Cousins had their annual meeting at breakfast at the Harlow Old Fort House on 2 July. The meal was simple, and that did keep the skyrocketing costs down.

Once again the Chiltonville Church hosted thirty-four members of The Warren Cousins at the annual meeting on 7 September 1996. This is the third time the Church had done so, which is appropriate, since it is built on land originally owned by the Warrens. The Reverend Richard Howland Maxwell, a member of the team ministry at the Chiltonville congregation and Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, spoke after the dinner. The main event was Mrs. Eleanor Mason’s presentation. Eleanor had played Mary Brewster for a number of years at Plimoth Plantation, and delivered, and demonstrated, an entertaining talk on colonial New England dress.

#### **Lura N. Sellew (1921-1997)**

Lura Carolyn (Newton) Sellew was born in Pawtucket, RI, on 9 December 1921, the daughter of Herbert and Edith (Horton) Newton, and died on 14 May 1997. When Lura was 4, her family moved to East Providence, RI. Lura received her bachelor of science degree in art education at the Rhode Island School of Design and a master of arts degree at Brown University. She accepted a teaching position in Montpelier, VT, in 1944. During her second year there she married Clinton Sellew in Boston, where he was serving in the Navy. When Clint’s tour of duty ended, they returned to East Providence. Lura retired in 1986, her teaching career having spanned 40 years. She was elected to the East Providence High School Hall of Fame in 1993, an honour bestowed on those teachers who gave outstanding service to the community and as a teacher.

Lura was active in many organizations, including the Rhode Island Education Association, East Providence Education Association (past treasurer), Providence Art Club (50+ years as an artist/member), East Providence Historical Society (charter member and secretary), Rhode Island Historical Society (library committee), Rhode Island Genealogical Society (awards committee chairman), East Bay Retired Teachers Association, Old Slater Mill Association (Pawtucket, RI), founder and president of The Warren Cousins, secretary of the Pilgrim John Howland Society and the Plymouth Historical Alliance. The East Providence Historical Society has named their gardens “Lura’s Garden,” and the Pilgrim John Howland Society, whose secretary she served as for 11 years, named their award for exceptional service and achievement the “Lura Sellew Award.”

A descendant of Pilgrims John Howland, John Tilley, Richard Warren, Francis Cooke and George Soule, Lura joined the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Rhode Island in 1967. She became very active in local Mayflower Societies and served for 15 years as historian, before becoming deputy governor and then governor of the

Rhode Island Society. Always energetic and willing, Lura took on more jobs than she should and seemed to enjoy them. Her many Mayflower activities included being the founding president of The Warren Cousins, secretary of the Pilgrim John Howland Society, chairman of the insignia and awards committee and chairman of copyright for the Five Generations Project. In 1995, she served as chairman of the Board of Assistants Meeting in Warwick, RI. Her background in art proved helpful: she designed the award certificates for Rhode Island and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

### **Clinton Waldron Sellew (1918-2010)**

Lura's Husband, Clinton W. Sellew, died on 24 July 2010. He was well known for his expertise as a professional genealogist and historian. He was a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, the RI Society of Mayflower Descendants, the RI and East Providence Historical Societies, the RI Genealogical Society, the Pilgrim John Howland Society, The Warren Cousins (serving as Vice President), the Rumford Historical Association in North Woburn, MA, where he was a Trustee, the Huguenot Society of America and the Yawgoog Boy Scout Camp Alumni Association.

With Lura Sellew's death in 1997, The Warren Cousins went into hibernation. Lura had been the newsletter writer and editor, as well as the President of The Warren Cousins for over twenty years, since its foundation. On Saturday, 11 September 1999, before the start of the Thirty-Fifth triennial General Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, twenty-five members of The Warren Cousins gathered in Plymouth to take stock and reorganise. At that point there were about 150 members, a third of whom were life members; the treasury had \$6,000 in the bank. Most of the offices were filled by volunteers from those present, although no one stepped up to take on the responsibility of President. The decision was made that in the years in which General Congress did not meet in Plymouth, The Warren Cousins would meet jointly with the Pilgrim John Howland Society. Since many Warren Cousins were also Howland descendants, it was felt that this would provide for a larger attendance. Jay Lucas sent a letter out on 30 September 1999 to the membership, a mailing made all the easier because the membership list had been computerised by this time. This was both an announcement and an appeal for someone to step forward and take over the helm as President.

Martin Beerman took over production of the Newsletter, and in April 2000 sent out the renewed missive after a three-year hiatus. Headlining this issue was a tribute to Lura Sellew by Robert Allen Greene, the former Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Harold F. Ordway, Jr., stepped in as President, and Carolyn Bingham, the new Warren Cousins Genealogist, wrote about the revision in the application process for both the Mayflower Society and The Warren Cousins. Dues were raised to \$10 a year for an individual and \$15 for a couple, with \$100 being asked for a life membership: arrears for 1997 through 1999 were forgiven.

A general membership meeting was held on 26 August 2000 at the Isaac Winslow House in Marshfield; the speaker after the dinner was an interpreter portraying Elizabeth (Mrs. Richard) Warren, and all who attended were given a commemorative trivet for the twenty-fifth anniversary of The Warren Cousins. Revised bylaws and the new slate of officers were presented and approved unanimously.

### **2001-2010**

The 2001 annual meeting was held at Bert's Cove in Plymouth on 25 August. 18 new members had joined in the last year since the reorganisation. Peggy Baker of the Pilgrim Society spoke on "the Seventeenth century woman," noting that Elizabeth Warren was one of the only women to appear in the governance records of the Plymouth Colony.

The Warren Cousins, Inc., were incorporated under the laws of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations as a Non-Profit Corporation in 2001; the certificate of the Secretary of State was issued on 1 May 2001, the same date as the Articles of Incorporation. The purpose for the corporation was given as, "An educational, genealogical, historical society constituted for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of Richard Warren, Mayflower Pilgrim, and his wife Elizabeth; to collect, preserve, and publish information relating to them and their descendants; and to aid research activities relating to them."

Coordinating with the Pilgrim John Howland Society and the General Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, The Warren Cousins met on 7 September 2002 at the Radisson Hotel (formerly the Sheraton Inn). Richard Bartlett of Plimoth Plantation was the speaker. The new, hardback, copies of three parts of *Mayflower Families* Vol. 18, the volume for the Richard Warren family, were presented at this meeting. Previous research had been published in the soft cover, "pink book" format – Richard and Elizabeth Warren had now become "silver." The first part of Volume 18 had been published in 1999, while the Society had been reorganising. The Warren Cousins' recognition by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit organisation was also announced. Suggestions were made that The Warren Cousins have a lapel pin to encourage greater identification, and that the meetings be held jointly with the Brewster Family Society.

The officers of The Warren Cousins now began to meet apart from the general membership to transact business more efficiently and in a more timely manner; the first meeting of the board took place on 26 October 2002 in the Mayflower Society Library, with seven officers in attendance.

"Richard Warren" spoke to The Warren Cousins again at their 2003 meeting at the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth on 23 August. Attendance increased significantly when meetings were held in a hotel, instead of an historic building or at a restaurant, and when it was coordinated with another family society; this year the dinner was held jointly with the Pilgrim John Howland Society. Following the previous year's practise, the board met in Plymouth at the Mayflower Society Library on 22 November to plan for the following year's meeting and transact routine business.

### **Richard Howland Maxwell (1936-2003)**

The Reverend Richard Howland Maxwell died on 21 November 2003 at the age of 67. Dick was born in Medford, Massachusetts and educated in the Medford Public Schools and Boston University, where he earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Divinity degrees. In 1961, he graduated from seminary, was ordained a Methodist minister, and married Marilyn Griffith of Plymouth, a fellow Boston University graduate who later became a Professor of English at Massasoit Community College in Brockton, Massachusetts. Over the next 20 years, Maxwell served pastorates in Fall River, East Bridgewater, and Falmouth, Massachusetts. Maxwell has always given high priority to communication, not only in his ministry, but also in the various organizations to which he has belonged. He was known as an outstanding preacher and public speaker. He worked in radio, hosting religious news programs and

classical music broadcasts. For many years, he participated actively in a church related professional theatre company called *The Fisherman's Players*.

After 1979, Maxwell served as a member of a team ministry to the Chiltonville Congregational Church in Plymouth, where The Warren Cousins had several annual meetings, while simultaneously pursuing other interests. He retired from that position and the parish ministry after serving a total of 41 years. For his final eleven years, he operated a desktop publishing firm called *Pilgrim Type & Design*. In addition to his Mayflower Society activities, he was a Trustee and a Fellow of the Pilgrim Society, a Trustee at Large of Plimoth Plantation, and a member of the Plymouth Historical Alliance, the Plymouth Antiquarian Society, the Pilgrim John Howland Society, the Pilgrim Edward Doty Society, and held several elected positions in The Warren Cousins. He was a life member of the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants and served it as elder, deputy governor, and governor. He descended from Richard Warren through Mary Warren Bartlett, and he also has lines to Francis Cooke, Francis Eaton, Edward Doty, and Stephen Hopkins.

The annual meeting returned to the Isaac Winslow House in Marshfield on 28 August 2004, with Plymouth historian James W. Baker speaking on the history of the Pilgrims. The board met on 23 October 2004 at the Mayflower Society Library and decided to add the immediate past president of The Warren Cousins to the board.

The Warren Cousins moved back to the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth for the annual meeting on 10 September 2005. The meeting boasted a record attendance of 71, probably owing to the joint attendance of many Bartletts and Bradfords: 40 Warren Cousins members were recorded. Caroline Lewis Kardell, former Historian General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, spoke about the use of DNA in genealogical research. The Warren Cousins decided to undertake the identification of any all-male lines going back to Richard Warren to support continued research into Richard's English origins.

The 2006 annual meeting took place at Bert's Cove/Stoneforge Steakhouse in Plymouth on 26 August. Alicia Crane Williams, genealogist for the Alden Kindred and Assistant Historian General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, spoke after the dinner. The total membership of The Warren Cousins had reached 190. The next annual meetings were held at the same location on 25 August 2007 and 8 September 2008. Paulette Holbrooke, the manager of the colonial wardrobe and textiles department at Plimoth Plantation, spoke to 30 members in 2007 on the upcoming Plimoth Plantation exhibit "Personal Adornment," and in 2008 Scott Atwood, an interpreter at Plimoth Plantation, spoke on the family life of the Pilgrims.

Richard Pickering, then Associate Director for Corporate and Foundation Relations at Plimoth Plantation, headlined the 2009 annual meeting at Stoneforge Plymouth on 22 August. Special announcements were made about the Richard Warren DNA project by Michael Warren. Richard Pickering also spoke to 22 members at the 2010 annual meeting at the East Bay Grille in Plymouth on 21 August, recounting "The Crossing Trails of Elizabeth Warren and Girls in 1623." Richard led a special tour of Plimoth Plantation for The Warren Cousins in attendance later that day. The treasurer's report submitted at this meeting noted that the Cousins' balance had grown to \$12,500.

## **2011-2020**

The 2011 annual meeting was held at Plimoth Plantation on 9 September; the 2012 annual meeting was held at the same location on 24 August. All subsequent annual meetings have been held at Plimoth Plantation. Many members missed the 2011 meeting because of a hurricane; at the business meeting, dues were raised from \$10 to \$15 for individual members, and from \$100 to \$150 for life members. Caleb Johnson and Simon Neal spoke at the 2011 meeting on their research in Henlow, particularly the Tilleys and Walkers. A substantial bequest from the estate of Clint Sellew was acknowledged, and commemorative bricks were authorised for Lura and Clint Sellew on behalf of The Warren Cousins in the Mayflower Society House garden. The 2012 speaker was Michael Farber, of the Cornerstone Project, which investigates original boundary markers from the original Plymouth Colony surveys. At the 2012 meeting, the motion was made to have all subsequent meetings jointly with the Pilgrim John Howland Society. The board was also charged with managing the Clint Sellew bequest.

At the 23 August 2013 annual meeting, the membership voted to expend \$40,000 from the Sellew bequest on the proposed new Warren House at Plimoth Plantation. Richard Pickering, now Deputy Director of Plimoth Plantation, spoke of the new features to be incorporated in this project: the construction cost was estimated to be \$175,000, and the entire project cost was given as \$475,000. The speaker at this meeting was Derek Wheeler on the Howland archaeological digs.

The 2014 annual meeting took place on 5 September; the speaker at the following dinner with the Pilgrim John Howland Society was Darius Coombs, Associate Director of Plimoth Plantation's Wampanoag Indigenous Program.

#### **Harold Frank Ordway, Jr. (1924-2014)**

Harold F. Ordway, Jr. passed away on 18 February 2014 at his home in Canton, Ohio, at the age of 90. Born in Revere, Massachusetts, Harold was raised in Saugus, graduating from Saugus High School. He went on to earn his BS from Benjamin Franklin University in 1951 and his MBA from Dartmouth College Graduate School of Credit and Financial Management in 1974. Seaman Ordway served in US Navy during WWII, and thereafter in the US Naval Reserve and the Retired Naval Reserve for 35 years before retiring in 1984. Ordway worked as the Director of Credit for the Houghton Mifflin Company in Boston for 27 years before retiring in 1989.

Harold was an active member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendant, the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, the National Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the National Society Sons of the American Revolution, the Boston Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, the Order of the Founder and Patriots of America, Sons and Daughters of the First Settlers of Newbury, MA, Piscataque Pioneers, The Baronial Order of Magna Charta, The Flagon and Trencher Society, and the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne. He was the 7th great grandson of Susanna North Martin, hanged as a witch in the Salem Witch Trials on 19 July 1692, as well as being a descendant of 14 signers of Magna Charta and 11 passengers of the *Mayflower*. Harold stepped forward in 1999 after the death of Lura Sellew to serve as the second President of The Warren Cousins.

#### **George Walter Chandler Bingham (1925-2014)**

George Walter Chandler Bingham was Warren Cousins Registrar from 2000 through 2013, and died peacefully at his home in Belmont, Massachusetts, on 13 June 2014,

following a lengthy illness; he was 89 years old. He had an abiding interest in both European and American history. He was a long-time member and Deputy Governor of the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants and volunteered for more than ten years as Registrar for The Warren Cousins, and for many years with the Alden Kindred of America. He was also a member of the Pilgrim John Howland and Fuller Societies plus the Sons of the American Revolution and the American Legion (Commander of Legion Post 281, Boston 1974-6 and 1985-1992), and several historical societies, including that of Belmont. He graduated from Belmont Hill School in 1943, and attended Dartmouth College as part of the the V-12 military program. He served as a US Navy Aviation Ordinanceman in California from 1943-46. After the war he did two more years at Dartmouth, and went on to graduate with a B.A. in History from Gettysburg College in 1950, where he attained membership in the national history society, Phi Alpha Theta. He then moved to New York, where he would begin his career after postgraduate study in business and advertising at Columbia University. A Television Pioneer, he worked all over NYC from 1951-56, including at CBS Television on the Ed Sullivan show. He moved to Boston in 1957, where four years later he founded his own company, New England Spot Sales (NESS), which sold advertisers times slots on radio stations across the continent but mostly in his New England backyard. He was a founding member of the National Association Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS) Boston/New England Chapter, Broadcast Pioneers International Radio/TV Society, New England Broadcasting Association (NEBA) and NH and Maine Associations of Broadcasters. He was married to Warren Cousins Genealogist Carolyn (Webb) for almost 47 years and he helped her to process hundreds of lineage papers.

During the following year, the President of The Warren Cousins, Debra Mina, resigned for health reasons, a situation not anticipated in the Bylaws. At the annual meeting on 14 August 2015, Richard Gilmore, the sitting Vice President, was nominated and elected as President for a full three-year term. Upon taking office, he noted that the Bylaws had not been updated in many years, and this was a situation that needed to be addressed. Discussion was made about giving an addition \$10,000 to Plimoth Plantation for the proposed Warren House, but it was considered inadvisable after the previous year's \$40,000 donation. After the dinner, Paula Marcoux, the author of *Cooking with Fire: From Roasting on a Spit to Baking in a Tannur, Rediscovered Techniques and Recipes That Capture the Flavors of Wood-Fired Cooking*, spoke.

The 2016 annual meeting took place on 30 September 2016. Richard Pickering gave an update on the new Richard Warren House, and The Warren Cousins approved an additional restricted donation of \$7,000. to Plimoth Plantation to support the further development of this project. The treasurer's report noted a balance of \$17,454 in the society's accounts. Joseph Pereira and Steve Carter spoke after the dinner on "Pirates Ashore!"

18 August 2017 brought that year's annual meeting. At the business meeting, the Registrar was authorised to issue certificates of membership. While it was noted that The Warren Cousins now have a Facebook page, the possibility of having a website was discussed. The President, Richard Gilmore, had been attending quarterly meetings in Plymouth regarding the upcoming ten day long 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September 2020. He also noted that although he had been elected to a full three year term last year, the current Bylaws stated

that the terms of officers coincided with the triennial General Congress of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and thus if he were to continue for the rest of his term, the office of President would perpetually be out of sync with the other officers; he also indicated that he did not wish to remain as President. Margaret Bobertz, the sitting Vice President, was nominated for the President's position, and Richard Gilmore was nominated as Vice President; the slate of officers was elected unanimously. The speaker at the following dinner was Hilary Goodnow, Museum Program Administrator at Plimoth Plantation, who spoke about the lives of Seventeenth century women.

In 2018 the annual meeting took place on 10 August; because of the many changes in officers over the past couple of years, much of the work over the previous year had been organisational; a committee was also appointed to revise the Bylaws. Richard Pickering joined the meeting to update the Cousins about the Warren House and to receive the \$7,000 donation voted in the 2016 annual meeting; he was joined by a summer intern at Plimoth Plantation who has been developing a play about three generations of Warrens in Plymouth. The speaker after dinner was Whit Perry, Director of Maritime Preservation and Operations at Plimoth Plantation.

The 2019 annual meeting was held on 9 August. Richard Pickering gave updates on the Warren House, which will be a post and beam two story saltbox. He spoke of various projects that have been carried out by Plimoth Plantation that related to the Warren family, which includes Mary (Warren) Bartlett and her children. All appearances in the records of Warren family descendants for three generations have been put into a database. A map had been created showing the lands held in Plymouth by Warren family members, and a play had been written around the life of Elizabeth (Walker) Warren, illustrating how prominent and important she was in the life of the colony, especially during her 43 year widowhood, and showing how her actions were responsible for the prominence and prosperity of the various branches of the Warren family. Pickering was then presented with membership certificates for him from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, the National Society of Old Plymouth Colony Descendants, and the Robert Bartlett Society. The speaker for the evening was Peter Arenstam, Executive Director of the Pilgrim John Howland Society, who spoke about early ship arrivals at the Plymouth Colony, and about building the Howland Society's shallop, the *Elizabeth Tilley*.

Because of restrictions arising from the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 annual meeting, and almost all events associated with the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of the *Mayflower*, were cancelled.

## **2021-2024**

The 2021 annual meeting was held at the Indian Brook Association Clubhouse in Plymouth, jointly with the National Society of Old Plymouth Colony Descendants, as well as the Robert Bartlett Society. Because there was no annual meeting in 2020 to elect officers, a slate of officers was presented and elected at this meeting to serve until the 2023 annual meeting, and revised Bylaws to replace the 2000 Bylaws were approved. Peggy M. Baker, now Director *emerita* of the Pilgrim Society, spoke on the Brewster teapot.

The Warren Cousins' new website debuted in the fall of 2021 at [www.TheWarrenCousins.com](http://www.TheWarrenCousins.com). In the first year, the site saw 3,725 unique visitors who generated 4,406 visits. The *Homepage* was visited most, with 3,945 visits, followed by *How to Join* at 1,871 visits and *The Warren Family* with 710 visits. The average number of visitors each month was 310.

The 2022 annual meeting returned to Plimoth Plantation on 12 August, and featured a special presentation by Plimoth Patuxet Museums' Deputy Executive Director Richard Pickering, who shared an update on the new Warren House to be constructed next year and other initiatives planned at the Museum to highlight the Warren Family; the Cousins also voted to support the Alden Kindred of America's proposed Alden Center for Living History. The dinner speaker was Randall Charlton, son of *Mayflower II* builder Warwick Charlton, and the author of *The Wicked Pilgrim: The True Story of the Englishman Who Gave Mayflower II to America*. The Warren Cousins annual meeting weekend also included a private tour of the Mayflower Society's Mayflower Meetinghouse.

Family Tree DNA in 2022 created the Elizabeth (Walker) Warren mtDNA Lineage project, parallel to the Richard Warren Y-DNA project. The Warren Cousins commissioned a permanent memorial for Richard and Elizabeth in St. John the Baptist Church in Great Amwell, Hertfordshire, where the couple married on 14 April 1610. The church dates to the 11th Century and is essentially structurally unchanged since the 1610 wedding. The memorial is approximately 26" wide 30" tall and carved on dark grey Welsh slate. It hangs prominently near the front of the church on the right side of the nave.

The memorial was dedicated on 3 September 2023, during the first Warren Cousins tour, from Sunday, 27 August through Monday, 4 September. The tour was developed to focus on sites of special interest to Warren, Bartlett & Cooke descendants, highlighting Elizabethan and Jacobean England at the time of the *Mayflower* Passengers.

### **Elsie Drew Buffum**

Longtime Member & former Warren Cousins Treasurer Elsie Drew Buffum died peacefully in East Providence on 14 April 2023 at the age of 99. Elsie was born in Providence, RI, on 24 June 1923, daughter of Benjamin and Dorothy (Stone) Peck of Barrington. Elsie was married to the late Timothy N. Buffum. She was previously married to the late A. Richmond Peirce. She was predeceased by her siblings, Benjamin T. Peck and Marilyn Jespersen. Elsie grew up in Barrington, RI, and graduated from the Lincoln School and from the Pierce School in Boston. A lifelong Rhode Island resident, she was also a member of the First Unitarian Church of Providence, the John Howland Society, the Roger Williams Society, and the DAR, as well as the Providence Art Club and Hamilton House. Loyal though they were to Rhode Island, Elsie and Tim were avid and intrepid travellers who saw a lot of the world, including Kenya, Panama, Thailand, and Alaska during their marriage.

The 2023 Warren Cousins annual meeting was Friday, 8 September, at Plimoth Patuxet Museums in Plymouth, with featured speaker Richard Pickering, who presented an update of the Museum's Warren House project. In the previous year, a total of 84 new members were added to the rolls. After the business meeting, The Warren Cousins joined the Robert Bartlett Society and the officers of the Delano Kindred to break ground for the new Warren House. The Cousins joined the Pilgrim John Howland Society for a banquet, followed by guest speaker Len Travers, Professor *Emeritus* of History at UMass Dartmouth, who spoke about his latest book, "*The Notorious Edward Low, Pursing the Last Great Villain of Piracy's Golden Age*."

## THE WARREN COUSINS

79 persons who submitted memberships before 31 December 1973 were counted as charter members. First meeting held on 6 September 1975 at the Governor Carver Motel, Plymouth; Bylaws proposed in July 1975. Officers were elected annually until 1978, when the constitution was amended to provide for three year terms.

### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	
Lura N. Sellew	1975 – 1997
Harold F. Ordway, Jr.	1999 - 2004
Debra Mina	2004 – 2015
Richard S. Gilmore	2015 – 2017
Margaret Bobertz	2017 – 2021
Martin W. Beerman	2021 -
VICE-PRESIDENT	
Dwight S. Cushman	1975 – 1987
William Muir	1987 - 1989
George F. Sanborn, Jr.	1990 - 1993
Harriett Muroney	1993 – 1996
Richard F. Morton	1999 – 2000
Richard H. Maxwell	2000 - 2003
Clinton Sellew	2004 – 2010
Richard S. Gilmore	2011 – 2015
Margaret Bobertz	2016 – 2017
Richard S. Gilmore	2017 – 2023
George P. Garmany, Jr.	2023 -
SECRETARY	
Leslie A. Cavic	1975 – 1999
<i>The office of Secretary was divided into Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary in 1999; the positions were recombined in 2004.</i>	
RECORDING SECRETARY	
Debra K. Mina	1999 – 2004
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	
Barbara M. Adams	2004 – 2007
Gail Ann Adams	2008 -
TREASURER	
Sandra N. Calverley	1975 – 1982
Robert Robinson	1982 – 1987
Elsie D. [Peirce] Buffum	1987 - 2017
G. Steven Brown	2018 – 2023
Keith Kammenzind	2023 -
REGISTRAR	
Louise H. Kelley	1975 – 1999
George S. Bingham	1999 – 2013

Marcus Hatch	2013 – 2014
Judy Elfring	2014 – 2017
Deborah L. Shea	2018 – 2021
Margaret Bobertz	2021 -
	HISTORIAN
Mary Elizabeth Jones	1975 – 1992
G. Steven Brown	1993 – 1994
	GENEALOGIST
Carolyn S. Bingham	1999 -
	COUNSELLOR
Glen J. Church	1975 - 1997