

Chapter 48

Richard More – Another of My Ancestors Who Came to America on the *Mayflower*

[Originally written 25 June 2020]

Introduction

I recently have started using the Geni.com website for building my family tree. The folks at Geni.com have taken a unique approach to building a family tree – it is what could be called the “World Family Tree”. Unlike Ancestry.com, where everyone has their own complete family tree, Geni.com is having its users collaboratively build just a single family tree that everyone is a part of. On Ancestry.com, there can be one thousand or more duplicate entries for the same person – and they often have conflicting information. On Geni.com, there should only be one entry on the entire website for any given person. Individual users on Geni.com can add one of their ancestral lines until it connects with a person already in the “World Family Tree”. And then their line immediately becomes part of this enormous family tree. I believe that there now are over 150 million people in the “World Family Tree” on Geni.com.

Here is the first part of my pedigree on Geni.com:



I should emphasize that I didn't have to add all these people myself. Most all of them were already in the "World Family Tree". For example, here is the entry for my great-grandmother Hannah Mariah Miller:

Hannah Mariah Miller

Gender: Female

Birth: October 01, 1838
Portage, Livingston, NY

Death: July 19, 1925 (86)
Quincy, ADAMS, IL

Place of Burial: Quincy, ADAMS, IL

Immediate Family: Daughter of Ezra Marvin Miller and Jane Kershaw Wells
Wife of Aaron Burr Oakley
Mother of Charles William Oakley and Ray Miller Oakley
Sister of Mary Jane Miller; Ezra Allen Miller; Jonathan Tripp Miller; James Fritz Miller; Charles Phillip Miller and 3 others

Added by: Eliyahu Neiman on October 8, 2018

Hannah Mariah Miller was added by Eliyahu Neiman. I have no idea who this person is – all I know is that this entry was already there when I started using Geni.com. [It turns out that Eliyahu has added a number of the Quincy Oakley family members to Geni – no idea why.]

With lots of time on my hands due to self-quarantining during the coronavirus pandemic, I've been looking at various medieval royalty who are already in the "World Family Tree" to see if any of them were my ancestors (don't knock it – it keeps me at home, it uses up a lot of time, and it is somewhat interesting). I was able to find a dozen or more kings from whom I am descended – going back as far as Charlemagne. One of these ancestors was Philip II Augustus (1165-1223), who was the King of France:



Philip Auguste MP

English (default): Philip, French: Philippe II Auguste, roi de France, Russian: Филипп Август, II, Norwegian: Filip August, II

Gender: Male

Birth: August 21, 1165
Château de Gonesse, Gonesse, Val-d'Oise, Île-de-France, France

Death: July 14, 1223 (57)
Mantes, Yvelines, Île-de-France, France

Place of Burial: Abbaye royale de Saint-Denis, Saint-Denis, Seine-Saint-Denis, Île-de-France, France

<https://www.geni.com/people/Philip-II-Augustus-king-of-France/600000000425008069>

Philip II Augustus was my twenty-fourth great grandfather, as shown in the following chart:



My line back to Philip II Augustus goes back through my great-grandfather Aaron Burr Oakley (1835-1906), and then five generations of his mother's Darling line. At the end of the second row of this chart, it goes through Captain Richard More, "Mayflower" Passenger (in the red rectangle).

Huh? I thought I knew all my ancestors who were on the *Mayflower*. But apparently I missed this line. Richard More was born in England in 1614 and went to America as a young boy on the *Mayflower* in 1620.

I should add that the rest of the line back to King Philip II Augustus goes through my sixteenth-great grandfather Sir Walter de Lucy (1387-1444), who was an English Knight. It wasn't until my twenty-first-great grandmother Blanche of Artois (1248-1302) that the line was in France.

The rest of this narrative will be about Richard More – and there is quite a lot to write about this man!

Richard More, "Mayflower" Passenger

To tell the story of Richard More, I first need to start with his parents. Richard More's mother was Katherine More. Katherine's father, Jasper More, was the owner of Larden, a 1000-acre estate in Shropshire, England.¹ Katherine, age twenty-five, was the last unmarried daughter of Jasper. In an arranged marriage, she wed her cousin, seventeen-year-old Samuel More. The marriage papers contained the unusual mention of "without tabling", allowing Samuel to live at his own estate or elsewhere. At the time of their marriage, Samuel's father bought the Larden estate from Katherine's father.

At some point after their marriage, Samuel began working in London as secretary to Lord Edward Zouche, privy councilor, diplomat and courtier. And Katherine remained living on the Larden estate. Over the course of four-plus years, Katherine had four children. There were all baptized at St. James Church, Shipton, Shropshire:

1. Elinor or Ellen, baptized on May 24, 1612
2. Jasper, baptized on August 8, 1613
3. Richard, baptized on November 13, 1614
4. Mary, baptized on April 16, 1616

¹ This estate in Shropshire, England, was very close to the town of Bishop's Castle, on the Welsh border, where my Oakley ancestors first took the family name in the 1200's.

In 1616, Samuel More accused his wife of adultery and devised a plan to rid himself of Katherine and the children. He was living in London (a long way from Shropshire) and she had four children in four-plus years. Katherine's adultery was supposedly committed with Jacob Blakeway, a young man near in age to Katherine who lived close by and whose family had been More tenants for several generations. Apparently Katherine's young children looked a lot like Jacob Blakeway, and not much like Samuel More. Not at all surprising....

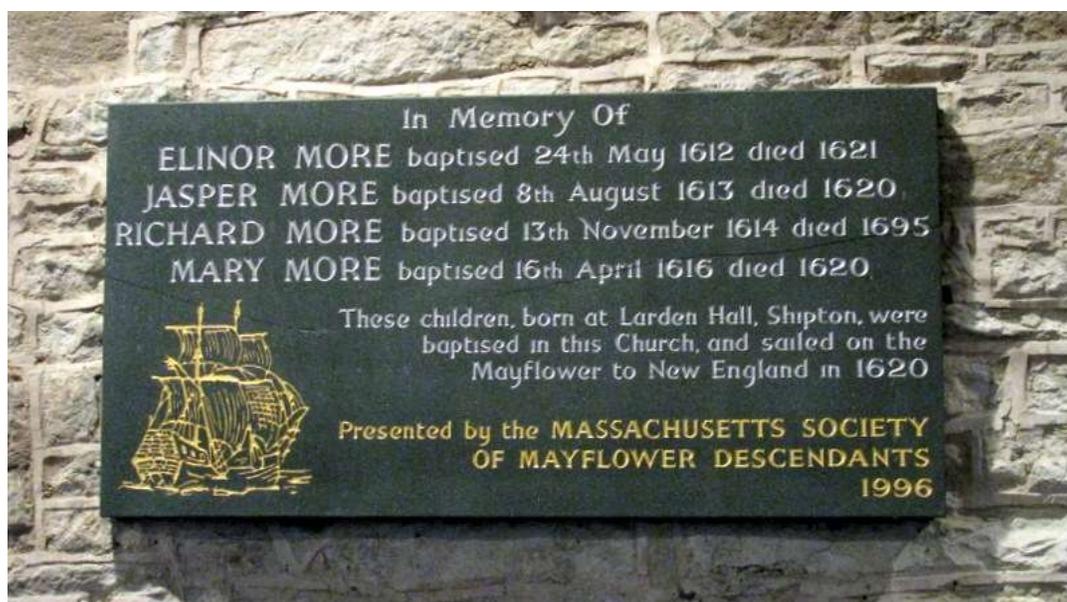
Samuel More then proceeded to divorce Katherine on grounds of adultery. He eventually received custody of the four children. Samuel went to his employer and a More family friend, Lord Zouche, Privy Counselor, to draw up a plan for the "disposition" of his illegitimate children.

Zouche had been an active member of the Virginia Company and in 1617, he invested £100 in an expedition to the colony of Virginia, which is where the *Mayflower* was supposed to have landed. It was his actions that were instrumental in putting the More children on the *Mayflower*. At that time, children were routinely rounded up from the streets of London or taken from poor families receiving church relief to be used as laborers in the colonies. Any legal objections to the involuntary transportation of the children were overridden by the Privy Council, namely, Lord Zouche. Most people thought it a death sentence and indeed, many children did not survive either the voyage or the harsh conditions in America for which they were ill-prepared.

Samuel More paid to have his illegitimate children shipped off to America with some "honest and religious people" (the Pilgrims on the *Mayflower*), where they could avoid the "great blots and blemishes" that would fall on them if they remained in England.

Katherine fought in court to get custody of her children. Her appeal was denied on 8 July 1620, and the children were transported to London by a cousin of Samuel More and eventually delivered to Thomas Weston, who worked to find the children "guardians" among the *Mayflower* passengers. Within several weeks of the More children's arrival in London, and without their mother Katherine More's knowledge or approval, they were in the care of others on the *Mayflower*, bound for the New World.

Researchers have traced Katherine More's ancestry back to Scottish royalty, making Richard More and his siblings the only *Mayflower* passengers to have a documented royal ancestry.



The *Mayflower* set sail on September 6, 1620, from Plymouth, England, and arrived at Cape Cod Harbor on November 21. At the time of the *Mayflower* sailing, the More children were between four and eight years old and were classed as indentured servants. Although Virginia was their destination, winter weather and seas forced the *Mayflower* north to the tip of Cape Cod Harbor.

Richard More and his sister Mary ended up in the household of Elder William Brewster; older sister Ellen went to the Edward Winslow family, and older brother Jasper went to the John Carver family. Richard's three siblings all died the first winter – Jasper died even before the Pilgrims were finished exploring Cape Cod. Recall that of the eighteen married women on the *Mayflower*, thirteen died that first winter. Only three of thirteen children perished (the More siblings), probably because mothers were giving their share of food to the children.

Richard More, age six, was one of the children who survived. He worked as a servant of William Brewster. He resided with the Brewster family until about mid-1627, when his term of indentureship expired. This is about the time that his name appears, at age fourteen, in a census as a member of the Brewster family, in what was called then 'New Plimouth'. By 1628, Richard was in the employ of Pilgrim Isaac Allerton, who was engaged in trans-Atlantic trading.

Richard More married Christian Hunter in 1636 in Plymouth and moved very shortly thereafter to Salem. Richard More became a seaman and ship captain, and made trips to England, Nova Scotia, West Indies, Manhattan, and Virginia. Richard became a well-known sea captain who helped to deliver to various colonies the supplies that were vital to their survival. He travelled over Atlantic and West Indies trade routes and fought in various early naval sea battles.

In February and March 1642/3, he joined the church at Salem and had his two children baptized there; all the rest of his children would be baptized there as well, through his last child Christian, baptized in 1652.

His wife Christian died on 18 March 1676, at the age of 60. Richard More then married a widow, Mrs. Jane Crumpton; she died in October 1686 at Salem, aged 55. In 1688, the Salem Church recorded: "Old Captain More having been for many years under suspicion and common fame of lasciviousness, and some degree at least of inconstancy ... but for want of proof we could go no further. He was at last left to himself so far as that he was convicted before justices of peace by three witnesses of gross unchastity with another man's wife and was censured by them."

Much more about Richard More on Wikipedia at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_More_\(Mayflower_passenger\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_More_(Mayflower_passenger))

Richard More was buried in "The Burying Point" burying ground in Salem, Massachusetts:

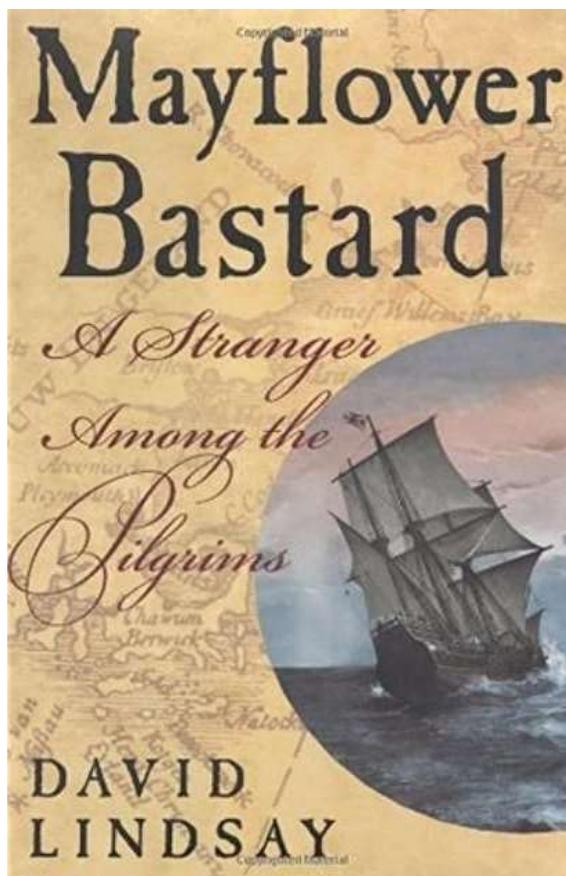


Here is his gravestone:



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/3543/richard-more>

There is an historical novel about Richard More, entitled *Mayflower Bastard – A Stranger Among the Pilgrims*. This book was written by David Lindsay and was published in 2002.



It is available today in multiple formats, including Kindle. The first part of the book was digitized by Google and is available online at:

https://www.google.com/books/edition/Mayflower_Bastard/POS866grfygC?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover

And to think that Richard More was my eighth-great grandfather!

Connection with George Darling, the Scottish Prisoner

Here once again is my line back to Philip II Augustus, King of France:



This line goes back through John Darling (1657-1719), who was my sixth-great grandfather. John's father was George Darling II (1614-1693) – I wrote about George earlier:

<http://www.burksoakley.com/QuincyOakleyGenealogy/4A-DarlingGenealogy.pdf>

George Darling was born in Scotland. He was a member of the Scottish army that was defeated by the English at the Battle of Dunbar on 3 September 1650.

George was taken prisoner, marched to London, and sold as an indentured servant. He and other prisoners were sent by ship to Massachusetts, and he ended up working at the Saugus Iron Works in Lynn, Massachusetts. Toward the end of his period of forced servitude, he married a woman named Katherine. And that woman was Richard More's daughter! How cool that George Darling, who went to America against his will, ended up marrying the daughter of Richard More, who also went to America against his will.

I should note that there was a great deal of argumentation in the past about Katherine's parentage – see:

<https://www.geni.com/people/Katherine-Darling/6000000008066541874>

The final word on Geni.com about her parentage is as follows:

The determination that the maiden name of Katherine, the wife of George Darling, was "More", is based on a deposition in 1713 by Thomas Darling, son of George and Katherine, in which the maiden name of his mother was stated. An earlier hypothesis that she was Katherine Gridley, the daughter of Richard Gridley, has been clearly debunked, as explained under the companion profile Katherine Unknown.

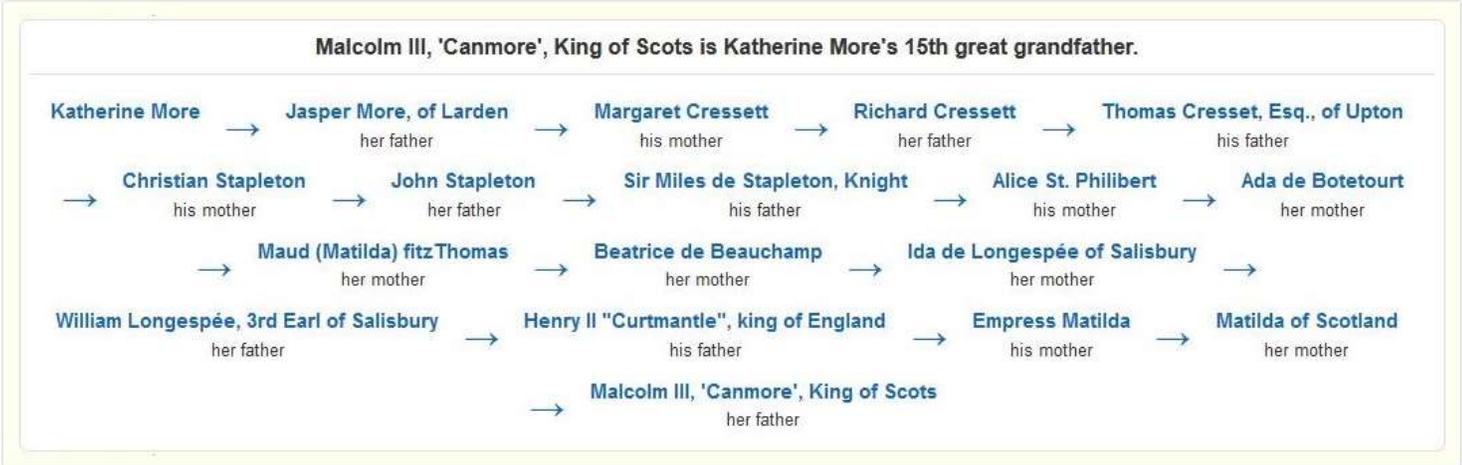
I assume that this is why I missed this line earlier – since I had her in my family tree as Katherine Gridley. I'll have to take the word of the editors and curators on Geni.com that she really was Katherine More.

Katherine More – Of Royal Descent

I mentioned earlier that researchers have traced Katherine More's ancestry back to Scottish royalty, making Richard More and his siblings the only *Mayflower* passengers to have a documented royal ancestry. Her ancestor was Malcolm III, 'Canmore', King of Scots (1031-1093):

	Máel Coluim Iii mac Donnchada, III  Lithuanian: Malkolmas III, Škotijos Karalius, French: Malcolm III Ceanmor, Roi d'Écosse
Gender:	Male
Birth:	March 26, 1031 Dunkeld, Perthshire, Scotland (United Kingdom) 
Death:	November 13, 1093 (62) Slain Alnwick Castle, Alnwick, Northumberland, England (United Kingdom) (killed in battle near Alnwick, Northumberland) 
Place of Burial:	Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland, United Kingdom

For completeness, here is Katherine's line back to Malcolm III:



Malcolm III was her fifteenth-great grandfather.

Here is my line back to Katherine More:



The strangest thing is that when I went to display MY line back to Malcolm III, Geni.com calculated a different pathway:



This second pathway goes through Lucy Ann Eunice Darling's mother Lucy Lyon, whereas the first line went through her father, Samuel Darling. The first line involved Richard More, who sailed on the *Mayflower*, while the second line didn't.

This really doesn't mean anything – just that Lucy Ann Eunice Darling was descended from the Scottish King Malcolm III on both sides of her family!

Summary

In this narrative, I discussed the Geni.com website, and its approach to building a single “World Family Tree”. I showed how once connected to this tree, a user can find relationships going back to medieval kings (and beyond).

One of my lines that goes back to Philip II Augustus (1165-1223), who was the King of France, went through my eight-great grandfather, Richard More (1614-1692). Richard, who was born in England in 1614, came to Massachusetts in 1620 on the *Mayflower*. This was new to me – I didn’t know previously that I was descended from Richard More.

I presented some details about how Richard ended up being on the *Mayflower* – and this story involved adultery, divorce, and a mean-spirited husband. It is important to note that due to all this, Richard More wasn’t a Puritan going to the New World on the *Mayflower* for religious freedom.

By all accounts, Richard More led a full life as an adult, becoming a ship captain, and making trips over Atlantic and West Indies trade routes. He became a well-known sea captain who helped to deliver to various colonies the supplies that were vital to their survival.

Fascinating to learn that I am one of his descendants!

Appendix – My Mayflower Ancestors

For some time now, I have known that I had ancestors who came to America in 1620 on the *Mayflower*. I thought it would be good to put all of this in one place, and also to use my ancestral lines from the “World Family Tree” on Geni.com.

The first ancestor is Richard Warren, my ninth-great grandfather:



More about him at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Warren

The next ancestors on the *Mayflower* were Francis Cooke and his son John Cooke:



Francis and John were my ninth-great and eighth-great grandfathers, respectively.

More about Francis Cooke at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Cooke

Note that the Warren and Cooke lines connect through my third-great grandmother Hannah Tripp through her mother Anna Mosher.

The last set of ancestors are William White, plus his wife Susanna and their son Peregrine White:





Recall that William's wife Susanna gave birth to their son Peregrine White on November 20, 1620, on board the *Mayflower*, shortly after the ship arrived at Cape Cod. Peregrine was the first English child born to the Pilgrims in America.

More about Peregrine White at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peregrine_White

The White line connects through my third-great grandmother Hannah Tripp through her father Benjamin Tripp. So Hannah had *Mayflower* ancestors on both her mother's side and her father's side.

Finally, I note that the Richard More line described in this narrative is completely different than the lines going through Hannah Tripp and connects through my Darling ancestors – recall that Lucy Ann Eunice Darling married Amzi Oakley. Their son was Aaron Burr Oakley, who married Hannah Mariah Miller.



Wow! This means that my grandfather, Ray Miller Oakley, had *Mayflower* ancestors on both his mother's side and his father's side. Cool!