The Warren Ancestry

By: Bob Alford 2010

If you are descended from Frank Randel Hathaway, or any of his Hathaway ancestors dated back to Isaac Hathaway (1704-1749), then you have a direct ancestor who sailed on the Mayflower and was a signer of the Mayflower Pact. His name was Richard Warren, and he was the great, great grandfather for Rebecca Warren, who married Isaac Hathaway and was the mother of Isaac Hathaway, Jr., our ancestor. He was also the great, great, great grandfather of Phoebe Bailey, who married Isaac Hathaway Jr. It is possible, but not certain, that Rebecca Warren did not know that she and her daughter-in-law, Phoebe Bailey, were related.

Between them, Richard and John Warren have literally millions of descendents in America today, and as a result he has been heavily researched and written about. Unfortunately there is a lot of misinformation out there as a result, and many people continue to copy data that was disproved decades ago.

This is the story of the Warren ancestry as it relates to my Hathaways.

The relationships are shown on the next page. This chart requires some explanation.

- Rebecca Warren's father was Joshua Warren. He was the grandson of John Warren who came to the new world in 1630 and settled in Watertown, Massachusetts. There is no evidence that he was related to Richard Warren, the Pilgrim, even though some genealogies report they are brothers. (See next section.)
- Richard Warren's daughter, Elizabeth Warren, married Richard Church. Two of their sons are our ancestors.
  - Caleb Church married Joanna Sprague. Their daughter, Rebecca Church, married Joshua Warren. They were the parents of Rebecca Warren, who married Isaac Hathaway.
  - Joseph Church married Mary Tucker. Their daughter, Mary Church married John Wood. Their daughter, Mary Wood married Thomas Bailey. Their son, Thomas Bailey, Jr. married Mary Bennett. They were the parents of Phoebe Bailey, who married Isaac Hathaway Jr.
- Isaac Hathaway Jr., and Phoebe Bailey’s son, Bailey Hathaway, married Margret Bolles.
  - Their daughter, Phoebe Bailey Hathaway, married Henry Skinner.
  - Their son, Henry Bolles Hathaway, married Hetty Cornelia Sands.
- Bailey John Hathaway, the son of Henry Bolles Hathaway and Hetty Cornelia Sands, married his first cousin, Margaret Skinner, who was the daughter of Phoebe Bailey Hathaway and Henry Skinner. Frank Randel Hathaway was their second son.
The Warren Ancestry of Frank Randel Hathaway
The relationships shown in this chart are well documented and accurate. What is not clear is the ancestry of John and Richard Warren. Early genealogies reported them to be brothers, and the children of Christopher Warren and Alice Web. Many personal genealogies on the Internet still carry this misinformation. However, in an article published in 1901 on page 71 of volume 55 of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, this was discredited. The article shows that Christopher Warren and Alice Web did exist in England and did have two sons named John and Richard, but they were not our John and Richard Warren, who were born more than thirty years earlier than Christopher and Alice’s children. The relative portion of the article is shown below:

There is in fact strong evidence that they were not brothers, no evidence that they were even related. Warren was a very common surname, and has its roots in Normandy. William de Warenne arrived in England with William the Conqueror, but there were other Warren families as well. There were three unrelated Warren settlers in early New England:

- Richard Warren, the Pilgrim. He came from London.
- John Warren, who settled in Watertown in 1630. He came from Suffolk.
- Peter Warren, who came to Boston in 1650.

Between the three of them they have literally millions of descendents in America. Amateur genealogists, and even some professionals, have gotten them confused over the years, leading to a real tangled web of misinformation both on the Internet and in printed material. We can safely say however, we are descended from two of them, and they were not related.

Richard Warren

Richard Warren was born sometime around 1578 in England. He was a passenger on the Mayflower and a signer of the Mayflower Compact. He was one of ten in the first landing party with Miles Standish at Cape Cod on November 11, 1620. He was one of the 19 out of 41 that survived the first winter. He had luckily left his wife and family in England. They joined him in Plymouth three years later.
As you read the following, keep two things in mind. First; this is history, not a story. These things really happened. Second; these were our great, great .... great grandparents. We are here today because of them. Their blood runs through our veins and their spirit is in our souls.

When the Mayflower arrived at Cape Cod there was some dissention as they had agreed to and expected to land in Virginia. As a result, before they went ashore, they entered into a new agreement that is today referred to as the Mayflower Compact. Richard Warren was a signer of this compact.

The following account is from the writings of William Bradford, the first Governor of Plymouth Colony. It is found in his account of the early settlement: William Bradford’s Of Plymouth Plantation, 1620-1647.

"I shall ... begin with a combination made by them before they came ashore; being the first foundation of their government in this place. Occasioned partly by the discontented and mutinous speeches that some of the strangers amongst them had let fall from them in the ship: That when they came ashore they would use their own liberty, for none had power to command them, the patent they had being for Virginia and not for New England ... And partly that such an act by them done, this their condition considered, might be as firm as any patent, and in some respects more sure.

"The form was as followeth : IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, etc. Having undertaken, for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the First Colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together into a Civil Body Politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini 1620."

On Wednesday December 6th, 1620, it was decided that a party led by Captain Miles Standish would set out to explore what is now called Cape Cod Bay. In addition to some of the ship’s company, ten men were chosen to go.

1. Captain Miles Standish
2. Master Carver
3. William Bradford (the same of quoted above and below)
4. Edward Winslow
5. John Tilley
6. Edward Tilley
7. John Howland
8. Richard Warren (our ancestor)
9. Stephen Hopkins
10. Edward Doten

The following is from the writings of William Bradford. It describes their first encounter with Native American Indians. Keep in mind that this is the true account reported by one who was there, and try to imagine yourself in the shoes of our great, great grandfather.

"... the 6th of December [1620] they sent out their shallop again with ten of their principal men and some seamen, upon further discovery, intending to circulate that deep bay of Cape Cod. The weather was very cold and it froze so hard as the spray of the sea lighting on their coats, they were as if they had been glazed. Yet that night betimes they got down into the bottom of the bay, and as they drew near the shore they saw some ten or twelve Indians very busy about something. They landed about a league or two from them ... they made themselves a barricade with logs and boughs as well as they could in the time, and set out their sentinel and betook them to rest, and saw the smoke of the fire the savages made that night. When morning was come they divided their company, some to coast along the shore in the boat, and the rest marched through the woods to see the land, if any fit place might be for their dwelling. They came also to the place where they saw the Indians the night before, and found they had been cutting up a great fish like a grampus ...

"So they ranged up and down all that day, but found no people, nor any place they liked. When the sun grew low, they hasted out of the woods to meet with their shallop ... of which they were very glad, for they had not seen each other all that day since the morning. So they made them a barricade as usually they did every night, with logs, stakes and thick pine boughs, the height of a man, leaving it open to leeward, partly to shelter them from the cold and wind (making their fire in the middle and lying round about it) and partly to defend them from any sudden assaults of the savages, if they should surround them; so being very weary, they betook them to rest. But about midnight they heard a hideous and great cry, and their sentinel called "Arm! arm!" So they bestirred them and stood to their arms and shot off a couple of muskets, and then the noise ceased. They concluded it was a company of wolves or such like wild beasts, for one of the seamen told them he had often heard such noise in Newfoundland.

"So they rested till about five of the clock in the morning; for the tide, and their purpose to go from thence, made them be stirring betimes. So after prayer they prepared for breakfast, and it being day dawning it was thought best to be carrying things down to the boat ...

"But presently, all on the sudden, they heard a great and strange cry, which they knew to be the same voices they heard in the night, though they varied their notes; and one of their company being abroad came running in and cried, "Men, Indians! Indians!" And withal, their arrows came flying amongst them. Their men ran with all speed to recover their arms, as by the good providence of God they did. In the meantime, of those that were there ready, two muskets were discharged at them, and two more stood ready in the entrance of their rendezvous but were commanded not to shoot till they could take full aim at them. And the other two charged again with all speed, for there were only four had arms there, and defended the barricade, which was first assaulted. The cry of the Indians was dreadful, especially when they saw their men run out of the rendezvous toward the shallop to recover their arms, the Indians wheeling about upon them. But some running out with
coats of mail on, and cutlasses in their hands, they soon got their arms and let fly amongst them and quickly stopped their violence ...

"Thus it pleased God to vanquish their enemies and give them deliverance; and by his special providence so to dispose that not any one of them were either hurt or hit, though their arrows came close by them and on every side [of] them; and sundry of their coats, which hung up in the barricade, were shot through and through. Afterwards they gave God solemn thanks and praise for their deliverance, and gathered up a bundle of their arrows and sent them into England afterward by the master of the ship, and called that place the FIRST ENCOUNTER."

Richard Warren was reported to have been a merchant from London who joined the Mayflower party there. However extensive research by professional genealogists has not identified who he was or where he came from. Many genealogies reported that he was of noble blood and traced his ancestry back to William the Conqueror. This appears to be wishful thinking. In the 1800’s it was very popular and considered prestigious to claim that you were descended from a Mayflower Pilgrim, or from European Nobility. Descendents of Richard Warren claimed both. The nobility part however was incorrect. It relied on a false identification of his parents, one that simply cannot possibly be true.

Richard married Elizabeth Walker in Great Bramwell, Hertfordshire, England on April 14, 1610. The following is from the Plymouth Hall Museum:

"An article by Edward J. Davies in the April 2003 issue of The American Genealogist gives evidence that Elizabeth Warren may have been the daughter of Augustine Walker. An Elizabeth Walker, daughter of Augustine Walker, married a Richard Warren in Great Amwell, Hertfordshire, on April 14, 1610. The will of Augustine Walker, dated April 19, 1613, refers not only to his daughter Elizabeth Warren but also her 3 daughters: Mary, Ann and Sarah. These three Warren daughters correspond to three of the Warren daughters who were passengers on the Anne in 1623."

Richard and Elizabeth Warren had seven children in all; five girls that were born in England and two boys that were born in Plymouth, Massachusetts. We are descended from Elizabeth Warren, who married Richard Church. She was born in 1615 and was eight years old when her mother brought her and her four sisters to Plymouth in 1623 to join their father.

The following is from the New England Historical and Genealogical Society profile of Richard Warren:

1. Mary was born about 1610. She married Robert Bartlett about 1629 and had eight children. He died between September 19 and October 29, 1676, in Plymouth. She died on March 27, 1683, in Plymouth.
2. Ann was born about 1611/2. She married Thomas Little on April 28, 1633, in Plymouth and had nine children. He died shortly before March 12, 1671/2, in Marshfield. She died after February 19, 1675/6.
3. Sarah was born about 1613. She married John Cooke on March 28, 1634, and had five children. He died on November 23, 1695, in Dartmouth. She died after July 15, 1696.
4. Elizabeth was born about 1615. She married Richard Church by 1635/6 and had eleven children. He died on December 27, 1668, in Dedham. She died on March 9, 1669/70, in Hingham.
5. Abigail was born about 1619. She married Anthony Snow on November 8, 1639, in Plymouth and had six children. He died in August 1692 in Marshfield. She died after January 3, 1692/3, in Marshfield.
6. Nathaniel was born about 1624 in Plymouth. He married Sarah Walker on November 19, 1645, in Plymouth and had twelve children. He died between July 16 and October 21, 1667, in Plymouth. She died on November 24, 1700, in Plymouth.
7. Joseph was born by 1627 in Plymouth. He married Priscilla Faunce about 1653 and had six children. He died on May 4, 1689, in Plymouth. She died on May 15, 1707, in Plymouth.
In the records of William Bradford in Of Plymouth Plantation [1620-1643] are the following entries:

"The names of those which came over first, in the year 1620, and were by the blessing of God the first beginners and in a sort the foundation of all the Plantations and Colonies in New England; and their families ... "Mr. Richard Warren, but his wife and children were left behind and came afterwards."

And this:

"...it was resolved to dismiss her [the Speedwell] and part of the company, and proceed with the other ship [the Mayflower]. The which (though it was grievous and caused great discouragement) was put into execution. So after they had took out such provision as the other ship could well stow, and concluded both what number and what persons to send back, they made another sad parting; the one ship [the Speedwell] going back for London and the other [the Mayflower] was to proceed on her voyage. Those that went back were for the most part such as were willing so to do, either out of some discontent or fear they conceived of the ill success of the voyage, seeing so many crosses befall, and the year time so far spent. But others, in regard of their own weakness and charge of many young children were thought least useful and most unfit to bear the brunt of this hard adventure; unto which work of God, and judgment of their brethren, they were contented to submit."

Richard’s wife and their five children may well have been on the Speedwell and among those that returned to England when the ship was found to be not seaworthy. We will never know if that was the case, or if Richard and Elizabeth had wisely decided in advance of Richard’s departure that they should wait in England, but either way it is very fortunate that they did. With few provisions and no shelter, less than half of the original Mayflower passengers survived the first winter in Massachusetts. Had the children come with Richard on the Mayflower, and had their daughter Elizabeth succumbed to the hardships of that first winter, none of us would be here today. She was one of our great, great ..... great grandmothers.

Plymouth Colony was originally organized in a very socialistic fashion where all were expected to contribute according to their abilities and all would share according to their needs. This was probably natural for a small group of pioneers, far from home and dependent on one another. The problem was that like all socialistic societies, few people were willing to make a real effort when the fruits of their labor would be taken from them and distributed to all. In 1623 it was decided to divide the land that had previously been held in common and allow every family to work their own land. In the words of Governor Bradford:

“And so assigned to every family a parcel of land, according to the proportion of their number, for that end, only for present use (but made no division for inheritance) and ranged all boys and youth under some family. This had very good success, for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than otherwise would have been by any means the Governor or any other could use, and saved him a great deal of trouble, and gave far better content. The women now went willingly into the field, and took their little ones with them to set corn; which before would allege weakness and inability; whom to have compelled would have been thought great tyranny and oppression.”

In the Plymouth Colony Records of Deeds 1627-1651, which starts with the Division of Land in 1623, it is written in the handwriting of Governor William Bradford that the land assigned to Richard Warren were among those designated as “Their grounds which came first over in the May Floure (Mayflower), according as their lotes were case.”

While the land was divided in 1623, the livestock was still held in common. This did not work either. Caring for publically owned animals is at best a duty and a chore. Caring for your own animals is an investment and in some cases an act of love. In 1627 it was decided to divide the livestock as well. The Plymouth Colony Records and Deeds contain the following entry:
"At a publique court held the 22th of May it was concluded by the whole Companie, that the cattell wch were the Companies, to wit, the Cowes & the Goates should be equally devided to all the psonts of the same company ... & so the lotts fell as followeth, thirteene psonts being pportioned to one lot ...


Richard Warren died in 1628. His death is documented in the Plymouth Records as follows:

"This year died Mr. Richard Warren, who hath been mentioned before in this book, and was an useful instrument ; and during his life bore a deep share in the difficulties and troubles of the first settlement of the plantation of New Plimouth."

We do not know where Richard Warren is buried.

His wife, Elizabeth Warren, lived for forty-five years after Richard died. There are many entries in the Plymouth Colony records in which she is referenced. She died October 2, 1673 and was over ninety years old when she died. Her death is recorded in the Plymouth Records as follows:

"Mistris Elizabeth Warren, an aged widdow, aged above 90 yeares, deceased on the second of October, 1673, whose, haveing lived a godly life, came to her grave as a shocke of corn fully ripe. Shee was honorably buried on the 24th of October aforsaid."

John Warren

Our other great, great ... great grandfather named Warren was John Warren who sailed with John Winthrop to the new world and landed in Massachusetts in 1630. Somewhat less famous than Richard Warren, he was no less a pioneer and a founder of the new world. As previous discussed there is no evidence that he was related to Richard Warren or that they knew of each other.

John Warren was born May 1, 1585 at the Warren Estate in Nayland, Suffolk County, England. He was the oldest son of John Warren (1555-1613) and Elizabeth Scarlett.

In the late 1500's and early 1600's this area of England was a hotbed for the Puritan movement. John Winthrop lived just a little north on Nayland in Groton Manor, the family home of the Winthrop's.

John married Margaret Bayley Fowle, widow of William Fowle in 1615. She was the daughter of William and Ann Fowle of Westbury, Gloucestershire, England.
John and Margaret had four children, all born in England:

1. John – born in 1622. He was made a Freeman on May 18, 1645. He married Michal Boylas.
2. Mary – born October 30, 1642. She was baptized September 12, 1624 in Nayland, Suffolk County, England. She was married to John Bigelow. She died October 19, 1691 in Watertown, Massachusetts.
3. Daniel – born 1628. He married Mary Barron on December 10, 1650 in Watertown, Massachusetts. Daniel and Mary are our ancestors.

In April of 1630 the first five of eleven ships in the fleet that brought John Winthrop and his party to the new world sailed from Yarmouth, Isle of Wright. John Warren and his family were on board the flagship, the Arbella, with John Winthrop. The other ten ships were:

1. The Ambrose
2. The William and Francis
3. The Talbot
4. The Hopewell
5. The Jewel
6. The Whale
7. The Charles
8. The Success
9. The Mayflower
10. The Trial

Altogether the ten ships brought about 700 passengers to America. The Arbella arrived in Salem on June 13, 1630. All of the other ships had arrived by the end of July.

John and his family traveled first to Charlestown and then to Watertown, Massachusetts where he settled down. There he took the Freeman's oath on May 18, 1631. He became a prominent citizen and served as Selectman between 1636 and 1640.

In England John's parents were very wealthy. It is assumed that he brought some of that wealth with him as he became a wealthy land owner. He owned at least ten parcels of land, including a 162 acre farm.

John Warren died in Watertown December 13, 1667 at the age of 82. His wife Margaret died before him on November 6, 1662. He left a large estate. His will was dated November 30, 1667 and proved December 16, 1667. A transcript of the will is included on the next page.
The Will of John Warren

"[I]John Warren Sr. "being aged & weake in body" bequeathed to "my son Daniell Warren the p[ar]cell of land that he now lives on being about the quantity of sixteen acres with all the apurtenances"; to "my son John Warren & my son Daniel Warren my dividend and all my remote meadow with another p[ar]cell of remote land...in Watertown...[to] my two sons equally"; to "my son Daniell Warren my best flock bed with my green rug...and two of my four pewter platters"; to "my daughter-in-law Mary Warren wife to my son Daniell one pewter porringer"; to "my daughter Mary Begalow a p[ar]cell of remote land being the quantity of 16 acres...already in her possession"; to "my daugther Mary Begalow one small pewter dish"; to "my daughter Elizabeth Knape plow land lying on the further plain in Watertown w[hich] her husband James Knape hath formerly been possessed of"; to "my aforesaid daughter Elizedbeth a book called the plaine man's pathway to heaven"; to "my grandchild Daniel Warren Son to my son Daniell Warren one of my cows"; to "my grandchild Mary Begalow a lined box that was my wife's"; to "Michael Bloyse daughter to Richard Bloyse deceased one pewter plate"; to "all of my grand children to each of them the sum of 2s. 6d."; residue "to my beloved son John Warren making and ordaining him my whole and sole executor."

The inventory of the estate of "John Warren Senior late deceased of Watertown" was taken 13 Dec 1667 and was untotaled, but included £123 in real estate: "one tenement of houses and ten acres of upland and three acres of meadow £60"; "sixteen acres of waste land £8"; "sixty acres of divident land £15"; "thirteen acres of meadow £10"; "farm land one hundred and fifty acres #30." Inventory of the estate was taken December 16, 1667 by John Coolidge, Henry Bright, and Henry Freeman and amounted to £167.4.0. Among the interesting things found in his inventory were "one musket, one sword, one halberd," valued under 15s. and "one silver spoon, two Bibles and other books", valued at £1 10.

Further Research and Documentation

The Warren ancestry is a fascinating one and worthy of much further research and documentation. Both John and Richard have been extensively researched in the past and there is a lot of material to work from. It is important to carefully sort and verify this information however as much misinformation has been generated and propagated by well meaning but ill-informed people. In particular the English Ancestry is worth exploration. While Richard's ancestry is probably lost forever, John's parents are well known and were upper class. It may be possible to verify their ancestry back many generations. Much more detail is also available on our Warren ancestors descended from Richard and John down to Rebecca Warren and Phoebe Bailey. These are also our ancestors and worthy of further research and documentation.