



March/April 2026

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Newsletter:
Number 128

BONNES NOUVELLES

Learning about DELANO history and genealogy



The DELANO KINDRED is a Society, incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, organized exclusively for educational and charitable purposes to perpetuate the memory and genealogy of the ancestors and descendants of Philippe de Lanoy, the progenitor of most DELANOs in the Americas, who arrived at Plymouth in 1621 on the FORTUNE.

President’s Message – Tom Delano

Greetings, Delano Kindred members.

This month, we have several excellent articles that tell the stories of Delano descendants. The first tells about Hester Dewsbury, of whom little is known. As many of you know, Hester was the first wife of Philip Delano. Thanks to the Rev. Dr. W. Becket Soule for his excellent research and writing on Hester Dewsbury. The second article

from Terry Delano is about Jabez Delano and his candles. The newsletter starts off with the details of the Delano Kindred Annual Meeting and Reunion on Sept. 18 & 19, 2026. We hope to see many of you at this meeting!

Tom Delano
President

Delano Kindred 2026 Annual Meeting and Reunion
September 18 & 19, 2026
The New Alden Barn in Duxbury, MA

Our 2026 Delano Kindred Annual Meeting and Reunion will be held on September 18th and 19th at the new Alden Barn. Many of you may remember from past years that the Delano Kindred was the second-highest family society donor (after the Alden Kindred, of course) to the barn project. There will even be a display of early Delano family history in the new barn. As with past Annual Meetings/Reunions, meals and refreshments will be provided over the two days.

We have reserved 10 rooms at the Fairfield Inn (Marriott) in North Plymouth for the attendees who will need a room close by. If you would like a room there, please contact Jamy Saade, the Director of Sales, at Fairfield Inn at 508-503-6699. Please let her know you are with the Delano Kindred. To get your discount, please give her this Corporate Code: 560029430. The Fairfield rate includes a full breakfast, also. Should the Fairfield be filled up, they have an agreement with the Hampton Inn (Hilton) right next door to the Fairfield at the same rate.

We hope to open the Annual Meeting registration in early June, and it will run through Labor Day. We will have more of the meeting details as we get closer to the meeting dates.



**From the Delano Kindred Website:
DID YOU KNOW?**

by Muriel Cushing

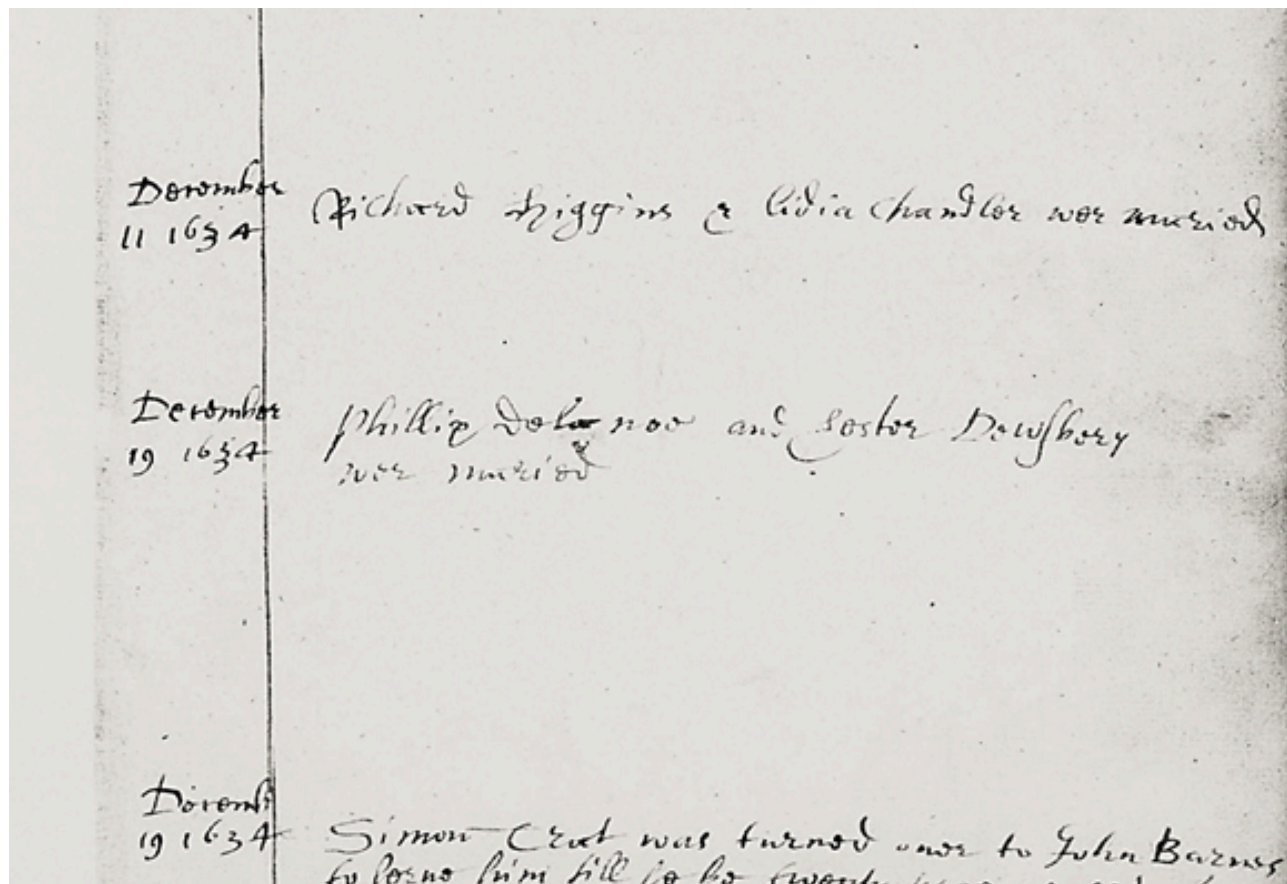
Did you know that, in the mid-1800's, the best source for lighting in the home was whale oil? One of the premier suppliers of whale-oil candles was Jabez Delano, Jr., in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Get the full story on our website, here: <https://www.delanokindred.us/blog/candles>

The Search for Hester Dewsbury

By the Rev. Dr. W. Becket Soule

All investigation can be described as movement from the known to the unknown: simply staring at a question mark does not answer the question. These statements are not only truisms, but may also be the key to finding out about who Philip Delano's first wife was. To start with the known: "Phillip Dela noe and Hester Dewsbury were married" on Friday, 19 December 1634 (in the [old style] Julian calendar; it was 29 December in the Gregorian calendar).

This occurs in a chronological listing of marriages and other events in the Plymouth Colony Records (Shurtleff and Pulsifer, *Records of the colony of New Plymouth in New England*. Boston: William White, 1856, Vol. 1: Court Orders 1633-1640, p. 32).



This is the only reference that gives the maiden name of Philip's first wife.

On the same day, the court recorded "Simon Trat was turned ouer to John Barnes to serue him till he be twenty three yeares of age, and then the sayd John, his heires, or asignes to giue him a cow calfe, at least 8 or ten weekes old, liue like, and to perform what else is expressed in his indentures."

The next meeting of the General Court took place on 1 January; at this meeting, William Bradford was elected Governor (Thomas Prence had been governor during the previous twelve months).

In the previous week (11 December), Richard Higgins and Lidia Chandler were married. Richard Higgins' origins are unknown; he first appears in the records of 1632; Lydia Chandler is presumed to be the daughter of Edmund Chandler from Leiden, Holland, who also arrived in 1632.

The entries in the court records are spaced far apart, suggesting that they were made contemporaneously with the events they record, or the entry of other records were anticipated at a later date.

No parents are listed for Hester, or, for that matter, for any other married couples in the 1634 records of marriage; neither is any age given for Hester or anyone else.

Because we know the date of Philip's baptism in the Walloon Church in Leiden, we can estimate his age at his first marriage as about **31**, which is somewhat older than usual.

We do not know the date of Hester's death, although we know that it had to be before 1653, when Philip Delano signed a deed along with his (second) wife Mary. Mary is

listed as “Mary Glasse, widow” in her father’s inventory dated 4 March 1652[3], showing that she had not married Philip Delano as of that date (see Plymouth Colony Wills and Inventories: *Mayflower Descendant* 11 (1909): 93). They married between 4 March 1652-53 and 17 January 1653/54

While there may have been some need for Philip Delano to marry a second time, since he had seven children with years of birth between 1635 and 1648, there was not the same reason for marriage the first time. If we estimate Hester’s age at marriage between 20 and 25, this will put her year of birth between about 1609 and 1614 – although it could be earlier, since she would be marrying an “older” man, but it would probably not be substantially later.

And that is everything the documents will tell us directly.

There are no passenger lists for *any* of the ships that came to the Plymouth Colony in this period – not even for the *Mayflower*, for whose passengers we must rely on William Bradford’s list placed as an appendix to his *Of Plimmoth Plantation* in 1651 (a full 30 years after the voyage), and the 1623 land division (where the ship is first referred to as the *Mayflower*).

There is no record of anyone else in the Plymouth colony with the surname Dewsbury (or any variants of it) except for Hester.

Note that the clerk who wrote the marriage entry in the Plymouth records is simply recording an event: he is not copying another document, and so he is probably simply writing down what he was told, and is certainly not having either of the parties sign or fill out a form. So he is doing his best to write down what he was told.

Dewsbury, like de Lannoy, is a toponymic (place) surname - adopted by people who moved from a place of that name, often nearby. Dewsbury is a town in west Yorkshire (some 40 miles from Scrooby and Gainsborough, where John Robinson and some of the *Mayflower* Saints came from).

It would have been unheard of, even scandalous, for a young woman to travel alone across the Atlantic, so Hester must have had *some* connection with someone either on a voyage across the Atlantic, or else someone who was already in the Plymouth Colony. This leads us to Elizabeth Shown Mills’ famous FAN club – friends, associates, and neighbours.

Who were Philip Delano’s connections? Did Philip meet Hester only after she arrived in Plymouth or Massachusetts Bay, or did he know her or her family in Holland or in England? And if she was from Holland or thereabouts, was her name Dewsbury?

After all, a number of early colonists had their names anglicised: Edouard Bompasse became Edward Bumpas, Moses Simonson may have been the son of Simon Mosesz, and, of course, Philippe de Lannoy quickly became Philip Delano. So perhaps we should not be looking for Dewsbury, but a name that sounds like it.

Philip Delano was placed in the cattle division of 1627 with Francis Cooke and his wife Hester, along with Moses Simonson and four other unmarried men. Francis Cooke was a witness or sponsor at the 7 November 1603 baptism of Philiipe de Lannoy in Leiden. At the time, Philippe's father was given as Jan de Lannoy and his mother as Marie Mahieu, so that Philip Delano was probably Hester (Mahieu) Cooke's nephew.

Philip Delano was granted 40 acres in what is now Duxbury in 1637, so that in between 1627 and 1634 he likely was in Plymouth. Actually, Philippe was granted the Duxbury land in June 1627, and he sold his 1 acre in Plymouth to Stephen Dean, recorded in August 1627. Historians believe those with land in what would become Duxbury began settling around 1627, so Philippe's sale likely indicates a change in his work focus to Duxbury. While it probably took a couple of years to become full time residents there, Bradford writes about how the settlers have spread outward by 1632 and that Duxbury residents had sued to be dismissed from the Plymouth Church. In January 1632-33, Philippe was admitted to the new Duxbury church. The 1637 date is when the town of Duxbury was finally surveyed, land grants were officially recorded for the land people already lived on and the town of Duxbury officially became the second town in Plymouth Colony.

The betrothal information for Philip Delano's parents indicates that the Mahieu family came from the area around Lille. Hester's sister Jenne Mahieu is described as from Armentières (and so – I can't resist – she was mademoiselle from Armentières), a village near Lille, in her betrothal to Jan de la Roche, from Rheims, on 4 May 1602. Another sister of Hester was Anthonette Mahieu, from Houpelyne (Houplines) near Armentières, who was betrothed to Guillaume de Renquyre, a wool comber, on 27 April 1605.

But Hester Mahieu was probably born not in French-speaking Flanders in the Spanish Netherlands, but in Canterbury, England, between 1582 and 1588, the daughter of Jacques and Jenne/Jeanne Mahieu (Jenne's maiden name is unknown), Walloon refugees from the area around Lille. Hester Mahieu was admitted to communion in the Walloon church in Leiden by a confession of faith on 1 June 1603, about a month and a half before her marriage to François Coeck (clearly and easily anglicised as Francis Cooke).

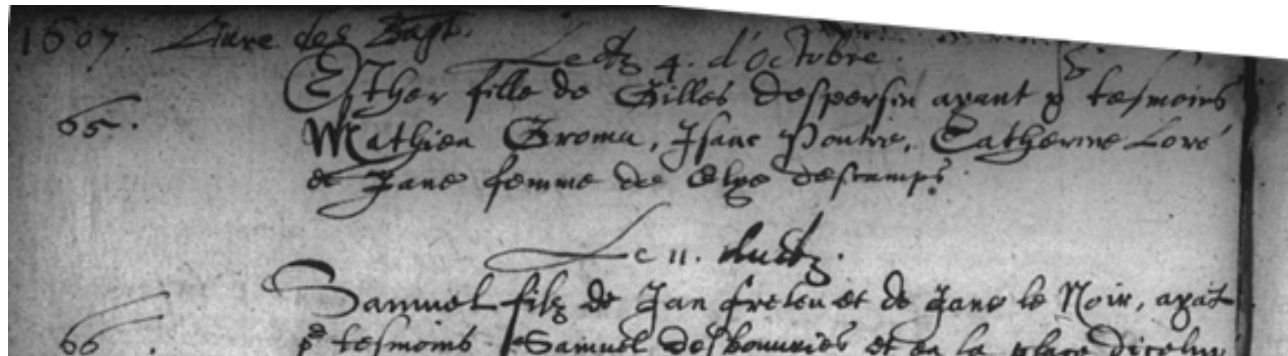
The Walloon Church records in Canterbury do not contain references to the Mahieu family, but the Cooke-Mahieu family left Leiden for Norwich in East Anglia in August 1606 (the date of their letters of transfer from the Walloon Church). The Cooke family went back and forth between Leiden, and Norwich several times before they left. Francis and John Cooke left to come to the New World in 1620.

Walloon refugees from the Spanish Netherland and France formed congregations in several English cities, with Calvinist services in their own languages.

From the preserved lists of people who took communion in the Leiden Walloon congregation between 1600 and 1620, 192 people joined the congregation with testimonial letters of transfer from the Walloon congregation of Norwich, 127 joined with letters of transfer from the Walloon church in Canterbury, and 63 joined with letters of transfer from the Walloon church in London. This points to a great deal of movement and suggests communication among the various dispersed refugee groups.

Looking at the records of the Walloon congregations may be of help, because not only are parents' names given, but also their place of origin. And it is here, in the register of the Walloon or Strangers Church in Canterbury, that the baptism on 4 October 1607 of Esther des Persin, the daughter of Gilles Despersin (fol. 47v, Baptisms and marriages 1590-1704, FHL 2054 [DGS 8004263] image 153) is recorded.

The cover sheet names the chapel as "The Walloon congregation or French Protestant Church being of the Episcopal Church, at present, denomination, situate in the Undercroft of Canterbury Cathedral in the county of Kent," while the records say "en L'Eglise Walone de Canturbery"; the original record is in the Public Records Office in London.



1607. Livre des Bapt. Le 4. d'Octobre

65. Esther, fille de Gilles Despersin avant des tesmoins Mathieu Groma, Isaac Poutre, Catherine Lowe, et Jane, femme des Elye Deschamps.

There is a high probability that there is only one Gilles des Persin in this congregation; there are a variety of other records connecting Gilles to other family members: Gilles Despersin, son of the late Jan, married Marie de Lespau, daughter of Jacques, in Canterbury on 5 June 1598; both Gilles and his wife are listed as natives of Turcoing. Their daughter Marie des Persin was baptised on 22 March 1600, and a son Jan des Persin was baptised on 25 July 1602. Marie de Lespau, wife of Gilles Despersin, died in 1603, and was buried on 21 October 1603.

On 3 April 1604, the marriage contract was filed between Gilles Despressiens, accompanied by Jacques de Lespaul "son beau pere," Jean de Lespaul, "son beau frere," Bastien Lepoutre [Poltre], his uncle, and Jacques Lespaü, "son beau frere"; and Sarra Loré, accompanied by Matthieu Gromason, her brother-in-law, Judith Loré, her sister, Jacques Lisytt [Lisy], and Jean de Hecque.

Mention was made of Jean, Jeanne, and Marie Despressiens, Gilles' children by the late Marie Lespaul. The witness was M. de Bourges. (Vol. ii., No. 227).

Gilles des Persin, widower, "native de Turcoin," married Sara Loré, widow of the late Adam Vasseur, native of Nasoumont, on 24 June 1604.

Judith des Persin was baptised on 4 March 1605, followed by Esther des Persin on 4 October 1607.

There is a record of a marriage between Sara Loré “vefue de feu Gilles Despercin, natifue de Monsimo[n], et fille de feu Jan Loré,” and Jan Monnier, son of Bastien, native of Canterbury, in Canterbury on 1 November 1614; Gilles must therefore have died before November 1614.

Marie Des Persin “native de Canturbery” married Pierre Coilleau from Turcoing on Easter Monday 1629.

The marriage contract filed on 14 February 1628/9 listed Pierre Coilleau, widower, assisted by Jean Pouchain, his friend, and Vincent Ferret, his master; and Marie des Persin, daughter of the late Gilles, assisted by Jean Monnier, her step-father, Jacques des Lespau, her uncle, Jean Keux and Jacques Noble, her cousins (Vol. iii, n. 268).

Note the name “Jean Keux,” which could easily be John Cooke. Pilgrim Francis Cooke had a son John Cooke, a *Mayflower* passenger in his own right, who was born probably in Leiden in 1606, and would have been about 23 in 1629, although there is no record of his returning to England. He married Sarah Warren, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth (Walker) Warren in Plymouth in 1634. It is also possible that Francis Cooke’s father was named John (see MF 12:27). It is much more likely that this was Jan le Keux, the son of Anthony, who married Marie de Lespau, daughter of Jan, on 1 April 1616.

One of Esther’s sponsors at her baptism was “Jane, wife of Elye Deschamps.” Elye Descamp of Sandwich married Jane “du Bois” of Canterbury on 9 April 1604. This marriage is *also* recorded in the parish register in Sandwich: the bride’s name is listed as Jane Woods, the daughter of James Woods.

Another sponsor, Isaac [le] Poutre, son of “Bastien” (or Sebastian), married Sara Veruelour in Canterbury on 9 November 1606; both Isaac and Sara were listed as natives of Canterbury. Another sponsor, Mathieu Groma, “filz de Felip, natif de Tagny près d’Amians,” married Judith Loré, daughter of Jan, “natifue de Nans au Mont,” in Canterbury on 31 August 1595. The connection is not only one of affinity or consanguinity; the fact that all of these marriages occurred within about a decade of each other suggests that they were roughly the same age.

Another intriguing possibility, and it is no more than that, is the record of the “two servants of Mr. Perce” who were given land in the 1623 land division. There are no passenger lists for the *Fortune* or the *Anne*, but these two servants were probably on the *Anne* or the *Little James* and arrived in 1623.

“Perce” would more probably be “Pierce” or “Peirce,” but there is no one with that surname on the *Mayflower*, the *Fortune*, or the *Anne*. Could this be a form of (des) Persin? And why were the servants listed, but not their master?

If this Esther des Persin is Esther Dewsbury – and the names do sound similar, realising that the anglicisation of a name is principally phonetic rather than letter for letter – she would have been about 27 when she married Philip, and thus the age difference would not have been as great as if she had been born a decade later.

Her family would undoubtedly have known the Cookes, even if Esther was born after they left for Leiden, and she had a cousin named John Cooke. The proximity of Lille, Turcoing and Armentières in **French-speaking Flanders in the Spanish Netherlands**, and the shared refugee status at the Walloon or Strangers Church in Canterbury, suggests connections with the Cooke, de Lannoy, Mahieu, and des Persin families.

We know that Philip Delano (perhaps his name was already anglicised) was in England in June 1621, because he boarded the *Fortune* in London, on very short notice. He had a few connections in Canterbury, either people who were from his parents' or grandparents' hometowns in France, or members of the Walloon congregation with connections in the Reformed churches of Leiden.

Esther would have been about 14 at the time, and thus not really of marriageable age, and certainly not to a young man who was headed across the ocean in a matter of days. But it raises speculation about why Philip waited so long to marry, when there were an increasing number of marriageable women in Plymouth.

DNA, alas, will be of little use, given the number of generations that have passed, and the difficulty of finding an all-female line to use mtDNA. Hester and Philip had only two daughters together: Mary Delano married John Dunham, but they had no children; Esther Delano married (1) Samuel Samson and (2) John Soule. Esther's marriage with John Soule produced only sons, but her marriage to Samuel Samson may have had a daughter Mary Samson (who married Richard West/Waste and had daughters Susannah [marr. Ephraim Cole] with three daughters and Mary [marr. Joshua Chandler] with one daughter, although I can find no female lines from any of those four daughters).

Questions, of course, remain. Why did Philip wait until he was in his mid-thirties to marry?

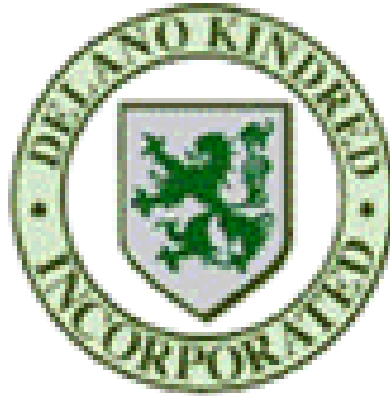
Is Esther des Persin the same as Esther Dewsbury Delano?

Did Philip and Esther know each other before she came to Plymouth? When did she cross the Atlantic, and with whom – since she certainly did not come alone?

Scientific proof is, of course, impossible – my physics teacher in college liked to say that any hypothesis or conclusion is only good until the next experiment, when it may stand or fall. Scientific "proof" isn't absolute, but provisional, always open to refinement or overturning by new evidence from future experiments, reflecting science's iterative nature of testing, questioning, and building better explanations, not finding final, unchanging answers. It's about increasing confidence in current knowledge until contradictory data emerges, leading to paradigm shifts, like Newtonian physics giving way to relativity. The same holds for genealogy: our understanding is the best explanation *given current evidence*, not a final truth. But this is intriguing, and pieces are falling into place that have not previously fit together, leading on some new paths. And, as Philip would have said, merci de me citer dans vos sources quand c'est le cas et n'hésitez pas à me signaler les erreurs ou incohérences éventuelles.

1. Philippe¹ de Lannoy (Philip Delano), the son of Jan and Marie (Mahieu) de Lannoy, was born in Leiden, Holland ca.1602, and was baptized in the Walloon Church of Leiden on 7 December (or 6 November)

1603. He died between 22 August 1681, the date of the memorandum serving as his will, and 4 March 1681/2, the date of the inventory of his estate. His burial place and those of his wives are unmarked.



New Delano Kindred Members

Philip Gregory, Woodside, CA
Michael Delano, St. Louis, MO (with children Estelle and Genevieve)
Terry Thompson, Novato, CA

2026 Key Delano Kindred Meeting Dates

Board of Directors' Meetings (All Times at 12:00 PM Eastern Unless Noted)

2nd Quarter: May 2nd at 12Noon Eastern Daylight Time. **Other 2026 quarterly board meeting dates to follow after the next board meeting**

Dates for the 2026 Annual Meeting and Reunion

While the dates of the next Annual Meeting haven't been voted on by the board, We expect the dates will be Sept. 18 & 19, 2026. These dates immediately follow the GSMD Annual Meeting in Plymouth, MA.

Membership Renewal

For those of you whose memberships have expired, it's not too late to renew! All you need to do is log into the website (www.delanokindred.us) with your email ID and password and pay the outstanding invoice. If you still have one of the renewal emails that were sent to you earlier, there is a link in those emails to take you directly to the invoice for payment. Thank you for your past membership, and we sincerely hope you will decide to renew your membership again.

Don't Forget - The Delano Kindred Facebook Page

The Delano Kindred Facebook page is now up to over 162 users, which is a good increase. For those of you who have not checked out our Facebook page, please do so. If you are already a member of the Delano Kindred Facebook page, please tell other family members about it. The recent posts have been excellent, and you will learn a lot about the Delano family history both in Europe and here in North America.

To find this page on Facebook, please search for "Delano Kindred" in Facebook, and WELCOME!

Here is a direct link to the Delano Kindred Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551863466059>

See you on Facebook!

A Note for All Members -

If you change your email address, please use the "Contact Us" option on the Delano Kindred website to let us know. Your email addresses are tied to your logins for using the website, and you cannot use it or reset your password without a current email. Thank you, and let us know of any questions!

DELANO KINDRED 2024-2025

Elected Officers and Directors, Appointed Committee Chairs and Members, and Other Appointees

For complete contact information, refer to the Membership Directory in the members' section of www.delanokindred.us.

OFFICERS (terms expire 2025)

President Thomas DELANO tom.delano@gmail.com	Vice President Matthew DELANO mattyd1980.md@gmail.com	Secretary Margaret L. DELANO mldelano@verizon.net	Treasurer Paula DELANO pauladelano@yahoo.com
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DIRECTORS (terms expire 2026)

Jackie DELANO jbrew13@gmail.com	William English, CBE williamenglish1@icloud.com	Eric Thraikill e.thraikill@gmail.com	
Carolyn Marcinkowski momcarolvn@comcast.net	Eugene Marcinkowski fermel@comcast.net	Terri Sorensen terri.sorensen@malad.us	Rev. Dr. W. Becket Soule wbsoule1620@gmail.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Paula DELANO, Chair (term exp. 2024) pauladelano@yahoo.com	Pam Pettengell (term exp. 2026) pampettengell26@gmail.com	Carolyn Marcinkowski (term exp. 2025) momcarolvn@comcast.net
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APPOINTED/VOLUNTARY POSITIONS

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Educational Programs Jonathan DELANO (Chr.) Thomas DELANO William English, CBE George B. DELANO (Chr. Emeritus)	Librarian Terri L. Sorensen	Credentials George (Terry) DELANO, III	Audit Committee Mary L. DELANO (Chr.)
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Research Committee Rev. Dr. W. Becket Soule (Chr.) Terri Sorensen Thomas DELANO Frederic D. Grant Jonathan DELANO	Reunion 2026 Committee (TBD)	Merchandise Chair Michael DELANO delanoaz@yahoo.com
	Historian (open)	European Ancestry Group Carolyn & Gene Marcinkowski (C) William English, CBE Judy Law-Torok lawtorok@aol.com Connie DELANO conniedelano@gmail.com Thomas DELANO

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