

**ARE A NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHO
WILL BE DROPPED AFTER THIS
NEWSLETTER. PLEASE RENEW, WE
DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU!!!**

Send checks payable to: **The Elder William
Brewster Society** to:

Mrs. Jane Cobb, Treasurer
Elder William Brewster Society
604 Mallow Scrub Way
Sebastian, FL. 32958

Respectfully,

Jane Cobb, Treasurer
Bwater1@comcast.net

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

There are 34 New Members this cycle.

1. **Madalyn R. Williams**
Mashpee, MA
2. **Rebecca S. Percell**
Naples, FL
3. **Devon J. Dougherty**
Golden Valley, MN
4. **Larieta K. Byer**
Fishers, IN
5. **Paul M. Savery**
Sandwich, MA.
6. **Jude B. Cobb**
Panama City, FL
7. **Mackenna R. Cobb**
Panama City, FL.
8. **Wesley H. Smith**
Ventura, CA
9. **Jeanne E. Reel**
Portsmouth, VA
10. **John F. Reel**
West Union, OH
11. **William G. Reel**
West Union, OH
12. **Samuel A. Reel**
West Union, OH
13. **Laura E. Reel**
West Union, OH
14. **Robert H. Roether**
Saline, MI
15. **Anne E. Agura**
Arlington, TX
16. **Charles G. Spice, Jr.**
Lodi, CA
17. **Joshua D. Wyatt**
Troutman, NC
18. **Deana J. Hinson**
Blacksbury, VA
19. **Mary H. Sheek**
 Mooresville, NC
20. **Eric Scanlon**
Pleasanton, CA
21. **Shirley Greene**
Staples, MN
22. **Jeffrey M. Welch**
Springfield, VA
23. **Penny B. Clark**
Sun Prairie, WI
24. **James W. Cook**
Houston, TX
25. **Dorothy R. Hull**
University Place, WA
26. **Ronna B. Topper**
Glens Falls, NY
27. **Julies Newhouse**
Shelbyville, IN
28. **Lynn D. Fergusson**
Yardley, PA
29. **Mark T. Stevens**
New Market, AL
30. **Christopher Hall**
Westerville, OH
31. **Ruth H. Morhard**
Chardon, OH
32. **Carolyn Handy**
Putney, VT
33. **Nancy W. Koverman**
Brunswick, OH

34. **Mary N. Davidson**
Valley View, TX

The Brewster Society will publish death notices of our members if you send them to us. Please send obituary notices to:

Benita Stuart Towle
98 East Broadway Apt. D
Milford, CT 06460

Remember, that the Elder Brewster Press is published in May and October of each year, so when the obituary will be published will depend on when it is received, and how much space is available in the next outgoing publication.

BREWSTER INSIGNIA

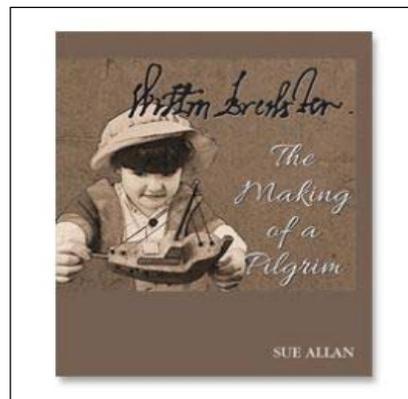
It has arrived! The Brewster Society insignia. This beautifully designed insignia, created by our member William Warner of CT, celebrates our pride to be a descendant of the Elder William Brewster who came aboard the Mayflower in 1620. Wear it in pride to your Mayflower Society or other Genealogical or historical Societies that you may belong. These pins can only be purchased by current members of the Elder William Brewster Society and eligibility will be checked at time of purchase. There are a limited amount of them available and they make great Christmas gifts to our members. **There are a limited number left.** They can be purchased for \$35.00 each with \$5.00 postage and handling. Mail all requests to:

Gregory Evan Thompson
17 David Drive
East Haven, Ct 06512-1125



New book about William Brewster

We are very pleased to announce the newest book by Sue Allan of the United Kingdom titled: ***William Brewster – The Making of a Pilgrim***



This is a fascinating book written by Pilgrim author Sue Allan of England and tells the

story with a lot of new unknown facts about his life in England and what helped him make up his mind to bring a group of people over to the New World. To purchase the book, go to this website at: www.domtom.co.uk and then click on non-fiction. Not only will it take you to this book which you can order (about \$34.00 including shipping in U.S. dollars) but also to her other books: “In *Search of Scrooby Manor*”, “*James Brewster/ Bantry Chapel*”. All these books are well researched and makes fascinating reading.

BREWSTER STORIES

I received the following letter from Mr. Francis D. Robinson, of West Yarmouth, Massachusetts and also articles he wrote about the family of Jonathan Brewster which will follow.

“Hi Greg:

I’m responding to the recent articles in the Brewster Press concerning the land given to Jonathan Brewster by Uncas and the Brewster Neck Cemetery. Also, I would appreciate learning of the progress made by the group writing a new biography of Jonathan Brewster.

My interest in these important endeavors stems from my Brewster family history. Seventeen of my grandparents, starting with Jonathan and Lucretia, settled on, were born on, or married into the family, and all but three lived out their lives on the farm. My great-great grandparents James Avery, Jr. and Hannah Pride were given only life tenancy of the farm. Consequently my great grandparents Hulda Avery and Clark Hill migrated to Marlborough, NH when my

great-grandmother Hulda Josephine Hill was about 6 years old. (1858-1946).

Status of current property ownership and my recollection of property sales and transfers. The property sold to the Mohegan Indians in December 1997 consisted of the house and remaining farm buildings on 20+/- acres of land on the riverfront. While ownership of the large tract of land consisting of 600 or more acres, which included the two cemeteries and buildings of the Norwich State Hospital, remained with the State of Connecticut. Attempts to sell the land for mega millions failed.

Within the past 10 years the state transferred this property to the town of Preston, Ct and city of Norwich. The boundary line for these two towns went through the farm when those towns were incorporated.

The great majority of the land, including the two cemeteries and the Norwich State Hospital, went to the town of Preston, while a much smaller portion went to Norwich. Most of the large multistory brick hospital buildings have been demolished, but to date no economic development projects have emerged. “

I found the above information to be fascinating and felt I should share it. Below now, is an article that Mr. Robinson has written about Jonathan Brewster.

JONATHAN BREWSTER (1593-1659) “HISTORY SPEAKS OF HIS ACTS”

The basic facts of Jonathan’s life are well documented. He was born 12 August 1593 at Scrooby Manor, Nottinghamshire,

England, the eldest son of William and Mary Brewster. Following the travails and fortunes of the Elder William, Jonathan accompanied them to Leiden in 1609, where he became a ribbon maker and engaged as an exporter/importer. The Pilgrims were involved in trade shortly after their arrival in Leiden and the activities of buying and selling finished products were not regulated by the guilds.

In 1617, Jonathan and Thomas Brewer formed a mutual trading company, “agreeing to carry on all their future trade jointly” (Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs, *Strangers and Pilgrims, Travellers and Sojourners; Leiden and the Foundations of Plymouth Plantation. GSMD: 2009, 140*). Although there is evidence that Brewster was engaged in trade before the agreement. Brewer was a wealthy businessman who later became one of the Adventurers. There is speculation that the company may have imported raw wool, tobacco and wine casks especially designed for shipping contraband books.

Not only did Brewster manufacture ribbon and braid, but managed production large enough to export shipments to England. He probably presided over an enterprise that engaged other Pilgrims and child labor. Forced by poverty, young children worked long hours on small looms to weave ribbon and when older and bigger, they wove on larger looms. (Ibid, 438-442)

Jonathan’s name appears in Leiden records as a witness to the betrothal bans of several couples in 1617 and 1618 as well as business contracts indicating that he was able to speak and understand Dutch. Jonathan became a Dutch citizen 30 June 1617. In 1618 he served as a witness for the

betrothal bans of Edward Winslow. Some historians speculate that he married and has a son, both of whom died while in Leiden, but others including Jeremy Bangs disagree, leaving a question mark. He remained in Leiden to care for his sisters after Elder Brewster embarked on the *Mayflower* for the New World.

In 1621, Jonathan sailed on the *Fortune* to join his parents in Plymouth and in 1623 was granted land. On 10 April 1624, he married Lucretia Oldham in Plymouth. The daughter of William and Philippa Sowter Oldham, she arrived on the *Anne* in July 1623. Lucretia was well respected, able to serve as a witness to wills and other important transactions, would assist the sick or dying as a nurse or midwife, and was referred to with praise and honor; “ A Noble specimen of an enlightened, heroic Christian gentlewoman. (Inscription on monument erected by descendants in the Brewster Cemetery, in 1855)

Jonathan and Lucretia settled first in Duxbury in 1630 where he engaged in costal trade and was “master and probably owner of a small vessel plying from Plymouth along the coast of Virginia” (Frances Caulkins, *History of New London*, pg 65-6, 276) During the summer of 1633, the Plymouth Colony constructed a trading post on the Connecticut River to compete with the Dutch, locating it a mile or two upstream to enable them to greet the Indians first when they came down the river with canoes loaded with furs. Jonathan was left in charge of the trading post possibly because of his ability to speak Dutch.

During his time in Duxbury, Jonathan was Deputy to the General Court of Plymouth Colony in 1639 and again in 1641-1644. He

is credited as being one of the principal men in the formation of its settlement and establishment of the church. Sometimes he practiced before the courts as an attorney and is “styled as a gentleman.” (History of Duxbury, by Justin Winsor, pg 235)

Records indicate that Jonathan served as a surveyor and laid out highways. He was military commissioner in the Pequot War in 1637 and on a committee to raise forces in the Narragansett alarm of 1642. He was a member of Captain Myles Standish’s Duxbury Company in the military enrollment of 1643. He established a ferry service to transport passengers and cattle across the North River that he sold in 1641. It proved to be unprofitable for the new owners.

Elder William Brewster died 5 June 1644 intestate and leaving behind 400 books valued at 43 pounds. On August 7, Jonathan and younger brother Love were appointed administrators. On the 18 June 1644, records indicate that Jonathan sold several books listed in the inventory of his father’s library for 12 shillings. He agreed to split land and property equally with his brother although he was the eldest and entitled to more.

In 1649, Jonathan and Lucretia removed to Pequot colony, later called New London. With others from Plymouth, Jonathan had actively engaged in trade with the Indians of Long Island Sound and the Connecticut River. Those voyages probably carried out in a sloop or Shallop brought him into contact with Governor John Winthrop Jr. founder of New London. Jonathan found employment as a recorder or clerk of the Pequot plantation and many of the early deeds are in his handwriting.

In November 1650, Brewster, along with a dozen others, met with Winthrop to establish a mill to grind corn and delegate the task of making the dam needed for the mill. He recruited John Rogers to be the miller who in time became the second richest man in the colony. John Rogers founded the Rogerene Quakers in 1674. The movement was never in any way affiliated with the Quakers or Friends, but while it shared some of their beliefs, it was more similar to those of the Baptists. (Francis and Dorothy Robinson manuscript, 2013)

Jonathan was admitted as an inhabitant of Pequot 25 February 1659-1660, settling in the part of town around Poquetannuck Creek that later became known as Norwich-Preston with his farm straddling both towns. He was Deputy to the General Court of Colony of Connecticut in 1650 and 1655 to 1658. This may have been the time when he turned his business over to his son Benjamin. With Jonathan’s coastal shipping, he undoubtedly was already familiar with Pequot Harbor. He established a trading house with the Mohegans on the east side of the Thames River opposite to their principal settlement. (The area now called Brewster’s Neck).

The deed to the land was given to Jonathan by Uncas (Sachem of the Mohegans) where he laid out a large farm.

“25 April 1650, I Uncas of Mauhekon, do give freely unto Jonathan Brewster of Pequot, a tract of land being a plane of arable land, bounded on the south side with a grave cove called Pocatannocks, on the north with the old Poccatauck path that goes to the Trading Cove, for and in consideration thereof, the said Jonathan

Brewster binds himself and his heirs to keep a house for trading goods with the Indians. (Signed by the Sachem and witnessed by William Baker and John Fossiker.”

In setting up the trading post without the authority of the local government, he was censured, but the deed was confirmed by the town 30 November 1652 and boundaries determined. It comprised of 600-800 acres and Brewster was given the option to have his farm included within the bounds of New London or Norwich: he chose to belong to the later.

“Whereas, Mr. Jonathan Brewster hath set up a trading house at Mohegan, this court declares that they cannot but judge the thing very disorderly, nevertheless considering his condition, they are content he should proceed therein for the present and till they see cause to the contrary” (from General Court Records, Hartford, Ct May 1650).

Narragansett Indians were a threat to the trading post and nearby farms. In March 1659, there was an incident when 12 Narragansett’s hid among the bushes near the Brewster house and suddenly rushed Lucretia who was in the fields with two of her servants and a Mohegan Indian who was also a servant. The Mohegan Indian “ran to Mrs. Brewster and held fast about her, the other Indians pulled him by force from her and presently killed him, cut off his hands and fled away.” (Gov. John Winthrop papers, MA Historical Society) The incident was documented in a letter sent to the Governor of Massachusetts to acquaint him with this matter and warning that there may be many similar “insolences.”

At his trading post, Jonathan set up a small laboratory for amateur chemical experiments and exchanged books with Governor John Winthrop, Jr. and together they compared notes. Lucretia wrote Winthrop in August 1659 stating that her husband was gravely ill, suggesting that he come and visit Jonathan during his last illness, which she knew would give him great comfort and “restore his health.” Jonathan died 7 August 1659. No probate papers have been found but bills of sale recorded in 1658 conveying all property in the town plot, house land at Poquetannuck, movables, and cattle including 12 cows, 20 swine, 8 yearlings, and 1 ox to his son Benjamin and son-in-law Picket. He had kept a record of the family genealogy in a manuscript referred to as the Brewster book in his own handwriting providing future generations with a resource. Lucretia who had the prefix of honor of Mrs. or Mistress, died in 1678. The property at Brewster’s Neck (Preston, Ct.) remained in the family for 348 years until it was sold to the Mohegan Indians in March 1998.

Jonathan and Lucretia are buried in the Brewster Neck Cemetery, Preston, Ct. along with many of their descendants. A committee, including Captain John Brewster, was selected to raise money to erect a monument in memory of Jonathan and Lucretia by their descendants. The granite ten feet high obelisk was completed in 1855. Jonathan’s small footstone of red sandstone inscribed with the words “Mr. Jonathan Brewster” and a harp now is leaning against the modern monument. Jonathan’s original headstone was broken and disappeared years ago.

Phoebe Brewster Lewis raised money in 1903 to rebuild the wall around the

cemetery and add an iron gate. Today many of the old stones are deteriorating.

THE BREWSTER CEMETERY PROJECT

As mentioned in the previous article, the Brewster Neck Cemetery is in a state of disrepair. In the last issue of the *Elder Brewster Press*, we mentioned that we have embarked on a project with renowned cemetery restorer and Brewster Society member, Mr. Fred Burdick of Stonington, Ct to begin the tedious and costly chore of repairing and resetting stone, particularly moving the current sandstone monument of Jonathan Brewster onto the large ten foot obelisk in the cemetery. Fred offered to raise and create new bases for the two stones in front of Jonathan's obelisk at his own time and expense, but in order to move Jonathan's sandstone monument onto the obelisk will cost about \$2,000.00. The Brewster Society has at this point in time collected \$620.00 toward the cost but we need to collect much more in order to complete the project. We are asking all of our members to help us with this project. We really would not like to see the cemetery or the stones deteriorate any further. We thank all of the following members so far that have graciously and generously donated funds for the project.

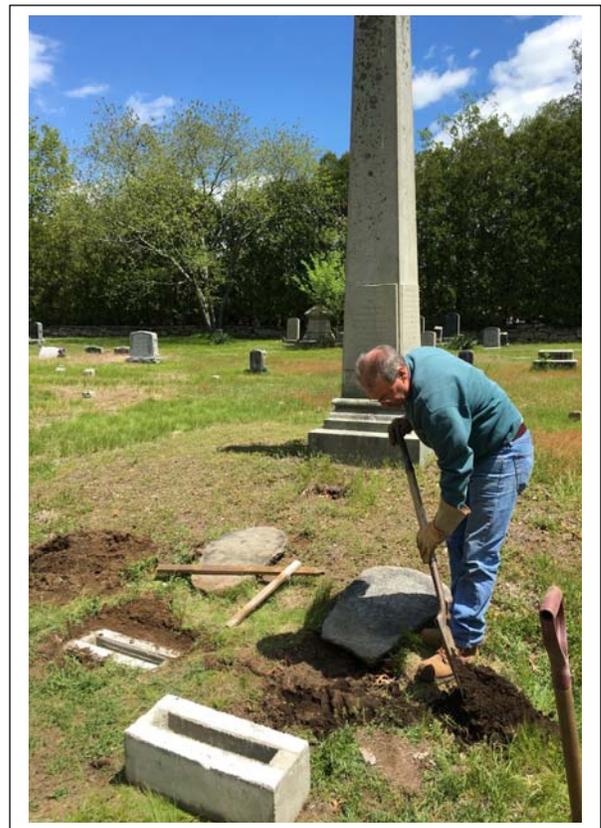
The Following members who contributed are:

- Ronald E. Miller**
- Wallace C. Paprocki**
- Muriel P. Owen**
- Joyce B. Bayless**
- Rae V. Meiser**
- Frederick E. Burdick**
- Francis D. Robinson.**

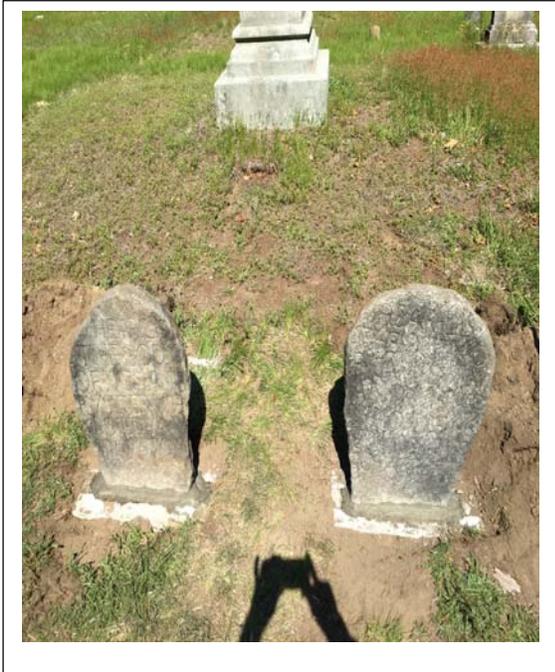
We have also included the Ct. Society of Mayflower Descendants, and at the Annual Meeting of that Society I made an announcement asking for donations, but at this point, nothing from them has been received.

Please make all checks payable to the Elder William Brewster Society and mail to the treasurer listed on page one. Please note on the check that the funds are for the cemetery project.

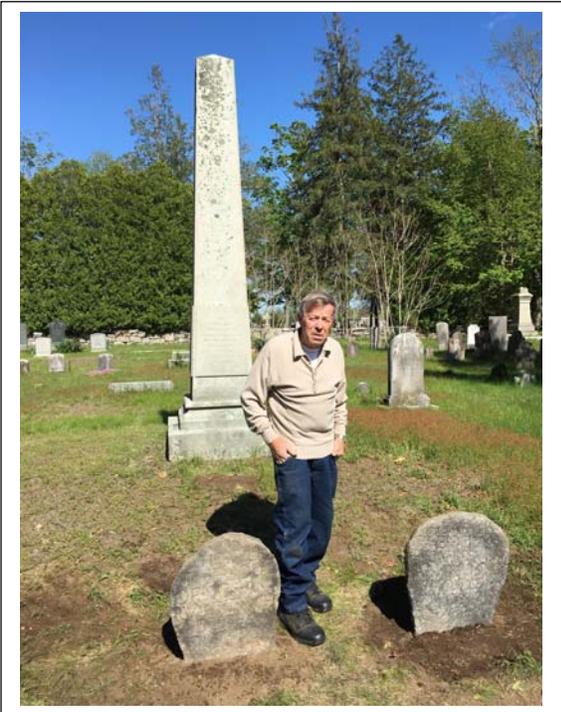
Below are some photos of the project at the present time.



The above picture shows the bases that were made for the first two damaged stones. These are descendants of Jonathan Brewster.



Here we show the first two stones where new bases were made and the stones are now properly set. Hopefully these will last another couple hundred years.



Here we have Fred Burdick standing next to the first two stones that were re-set and

behind him is the obelisk where we want to have the sandstone monument of Jonathan Brewster placed. Special drilling and sand blasting will need to be done in order to accomplish our goal.

**PLEASE HELP US SAVE OUR CEMETERY
ANY AMOUNT IS WELCOME!**

FUTURE PUBLICATION

NEW JONATHAN BREWSTER BOOK

Gregory Evan Thompson, the Historian of the Elder William Brewster Society is in the process of writing a new book on Jonathan Brewster as part of the celebration ceremonies that the CT. Society of Mayflower Descendants is having in 2020 for the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620. Jonathan as we well know, set up one of the first trading posts here in Ct and has also been involved in a lot of other important milestones. We hope to have the book completed and published by 2018.

Register your family members.

For those of you who are members, it is quite easy to give membership to family. All they need to do, is prove their relationship to the current member. Plus, a birth certificate of the perspective member will be needed. You will not have to fill out an application. If you are interested, please contact the historian:

Gregory Evan Thompson
17 David Drive
East Haven, Ct 06512-1125

Recollections about Long Farm, Brewster Neck and Captain Absalom Pride. By Francis D. Robinson.

Captain Absalom Pride commanded merchant vessels among them the brig *Friendship* and *Charlotte* in which he made a career of successful voyages to the West Indies, England and Ireland. In *the History of Norwich by Caulkins*, there is a reference to one of Captain Pride's voyage. "1795 March 25 cleared Dublin, brig *Friendship* with potash, planks, hides staves, trunnels, and horn-tips." Another log indicates "the ship *Young Eagle* (returned from Liverpool in August) sailed Sept 19 1797 for the West Indies, under Absalom Pride with no contraband goods whatever aboard. She was over taken by a French privateer, carried into port and condemned solely upon the plea of not being furnished with a role d'equipage or registry of the crews. The vessel was however redeemed by Captain Pride. A tradition handed down in the family states that the French government

paid the U.S. government for the vessel, but Captain Pride received nothing.

Captain Pride had four daughters and at his death divided the land between them. One daughter, Clarissa, married Cephas Stodder, who purchased this farm from Pride soon after his marriage. Their daughter Emma married Charles Henry Wheeler of North Stonington. They were the parents of Clara Wheeler who inherited the property. The other children were: Minnie, Charles Henry, Jr., Amos Billings Wheeler, and Frank Wheeler (of Hartland Road). Charles Henry Wheeler took over the place in 1870. It was a prosperous dairy farm.

The house had a beautiful location on the Thames River, but the railroad was very close. Clara Wheeler recounted that Captain Pride as a seafaring man detested railroads and was upset when this one was built. "This is a delightful house – its atmosphere, its location and its marvelous view. One can easily imagine Captain Pride in the basement office overseeing the collection of cargo and the loading of his ship." Clara once remarked, "If only this old place could talk."

Over the years the house had a great deal done to adapt it to the succeeding generations, but many details showed its great age. The house had been enlarged at various times east and north. In Stodders' day the old stone chimney was torn down to the ground and another built. A jog in the ceiling showed an addition to the south side of the house. In the early days the house had a gambrel roof, the slope towards the river being long and low; that to the east shorter and steeper leaving a long low attic space. The gambrel roof was raised by Charles Henry Wheeler, Sr. in the 1890's.

When the roof was raised this became a long narrow hallway. The purlin at the break in the roof was exposed running at the top of the plank wall, which divided the hall from the rest of the house. This timber is hewn as is the post supporting it, which was not squared. Old planks would seem to indicate that the back stairs led to the loft. This hall must have had a small window at each end. The roof was raised to put in full sized windows in the front rooms and in the large bedroom beyond.

Many of the ancient details of the dwelling were still evident such as a very early wainscoting in the kitchen and front hall. A very wide front door (at least four feet) was sheathed on the side, paneled on the inside with four panels tenoned and pegged. Very long handcrafted hinges, an ancient latch and a handsome knocker were probably all original hardware. An "Indians Bar" was still in place. A specimen of the earliest made key lock was on the door between the living room and hall with a fascinating iron latch with brass handle.

The cellar was a colonial jewel. One end is paved with what used to be an ancient English ballast brick and had been a hatchway opening toward the river through which the boat cargoes could have been carried and stored there. The wall was chocked up with very small bricks. On the riverside is seen where a hatchway has been bricked up. A very wide heavy door lead into the south end. It was constructed of two very wide boards and hinges 36 inches long. The hinges and latch were ancient. An ancient door lead into the shop with an old hand wrought.. There was a huge fireplace here with a stone lintel and high mantel. A beehive oven on the side had very old hardware.

When the old chimney was removed the stairs apparently were changed. Instead of going up beside the chimney as they did originally, they now go up along the southwest room wall. The original spindles were square and the handrail molded on the outside with inside rounds. The handrail on the last stairs was rounded on both sides, the spindles are delicate and turned with an attractive pattern. The stairs are not steep and threads a fair width. Underneath the stairs, was a rectangular paneling, forming doors for a group of cupboards, which utilized every inch of the space.

(The above house is referencing the Home on the Original Jonathan Brewster Property)

Are you a writer? Do you want to be?

We are always looking for family articles to include in the *Elder Brewster Press*. You may mail articles by snail mail, or email them to the editor for possible inclusion into the newsletter.

Mail to:

Gregory Evan Thompson
17 David Drive
East Haven, Ct 06512-1125

Elder William Brewster Press

98 East Broadway, Apt D

Milford, CT 06460

