

## Ancestry

10-16-23



Home from my first year in college, I mentioned the name of the leader of my UU College age group, Edward Doty. My grandfather casually mentioned that I was probably related to him as we were descended from an Edward Doty on the Mayflower. That was news to me! How had I never heard that before? He said that there was a book, written in the 1890's titled The Doty – Doton Family in America. He remembered the author had visited his Aunt Josie (Josephine) when he was a boy and that he should have been the youngest person in the book as this was before his brother Harvey was born. His grandmother's name was Julia Ann Doty. (I was never able to find him in the book however. Maybe the author thought he might not amount to anything of importance to the family. I should check again to see.) I never saw my college acquaintance again as he had graduated from Harvard by that time, so I was never able to compare notes on family with him.

Fairly recently I've looked into that heritage, especially during the long days home during the Covid pandemic. I learned that Edward (the 17<sup>th</sup> century one) was a London lad in his teens when he rode on the Mayflower, not as a pilgrim, but as an indentured servant to Steven Hopkins.

At a church circle dinner, a group of us got talking about our heritage and my friend Barbara Chatterton said her progenitor came over on the Mayflower. His name sounded familiar. Steven Hopkins! - The very Steven Hopkins who had held the indenture on Edward Doty.

Of course, there just weren't that many Europeans living in New England in the 17<sup>th</sup> century so you are bound to be linked, if not related, to many people who trace their lineage back that far. Barbara's cousin is the genealogist in her family. He decided to look for both of us on the Porter line and discovered that we are 9<sup>th</sup> cousins once removed, going back to John Porter of Salem. (Yes – THAT Salem.) Since we already knew that we had lived parallel lives, somehow this was not a surprise. We both go back to Boston and Syracuse. She and her former husband attended the First Universalist Church in Syracuse, the church of my childhood, before they

moved here. I wondered why in the world they stood up to introduce themselves when they first came to Prairie UU because they looked so familiar to me. I was the presider that day since I was president of the congregation at the time and the two of us had a conversation over the heads of everyone there. Such a small world. I had seen them at the Syracuse church when I was visiting my mother. Barbara even thinks our parents worked together in the same area of the huge GE plant at Electronics Park in Syracuse where my mother was a draftsman and her father in charge of photography. Of course, we can't go back now and check with them. There was an article written about my mother with a picture in the company bulletin so, if I can find that, there might be a credit on the photo.

Probably the most interesting tidbit I learned from studying the genealogy was the witch connection. One great, great – how many? greats grandfather and his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife were hung as witches. I don't think it was actually in Salem, but at that same period of time. In another Salem thread, John Porter was a large land owner in the Salem area. I was relieved to learn that he fought against the

trials. On the down side of the Porters, they were in the shipping industry and held at least a couple of slaves. I guess you get the good and the bad when you dig into the past.