

# HILDRETH HIGHLIGHTS

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## NEW BRANCHES ON OUR FAMILY TREE



The Hildreth brothers. From left, Richard, Jr., James and John

The *Hildreth Highlights* of January 1984 states that it is not necessarily the case that all Hildreths in the USA are descended from the 1635 Hildreths, Richard<sup>1</sup> of Massachusetts or Thomas<sup>1</sup> of Long Island. Indeed, this article is about three Hildreth brothers, James, John and Richard, who came to the USA in the 1980's. (But one look at their eyes reveals that they are related to the 1635 Hildreths somewhere along the line.) Almost 200 years ago in Northallerton, Yorkshire, England, Richard Hildreth (a school master) and his wife, Mary Wheatly, had six children. Three of the children were boys, James, John and Richard, Jr. These boys were born 1 year and 5 months and 1 year and 4 months apart! (Can you imagine a newborn, a 17 month old, and a not quite 3 year old all at the same time? Mary Wheatly Hildreth must have had her hands more than full!)

**J**ames Hildreth, born 1826. Before he came to the USA, James Hildreth was the head waiter in a London restaurant. While he was still in England, James married Ellen Otley. When he came to the USA (in 1869), he founded the Hildreth Varnish Company in New York City. The Hildreth Varnish Company produced, among other things, the green paint for Pullman railroad cars. James Hildreth had four children, Mary Jane Hildreth, Ann Elizabeth Hildreth, James Hildreth, Jr. and George Otley Hildreth. Mary Jane died young. Ann Elizabeth married Franklin P. Mason. James, Jr. never married. He was a salesman for the Winchester Repeating

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## New Branches On Our Family Tree Continued

Arms Company. George O. married Kate Elizabeth Evans. He became involved with the Hildreth Varnish Company (along with Ann's husband, Franklin Mason). Ann Hildreth, Franklin Mason, George Hildreth and Kate Evans have many descendants, of which the author is one.

**John Hildreth, born 1827.** John Hildreth was a bookkeeper in an iron works in Middlebrough, Durham County, England. When he came to the USA (in 1879), he became a cloth inspector. John married Mary A. Farlan in England and had eight children, four boys and four girls. One of the boys died young. The other three were Richard, John and James (repeating the names of the previous generation). Richard was a musician, John was a blacksmith, James assisted Richard with his music. The girls were Mary (also called Polly), Jane, Margaret and Clara (also called Nellie). John Hildreth's children have many descendants throughout the USA.

**Richard Hildreth, Jr., born 1828.** Before he came to the USA, Richard Hildreth, Jr. was engaged in the textile business in Bradford, England. When he came to America (in about 1870), he became the head of one of the departments at the Farr Alpaca Company in Holyoke, MA. Richard married Martha Wood in England and had one child, John Hildreth. John married Kate B. Story. He followed his father to America and eventually became the head of another department at Farr Alpaca Company. Because of bad health, however, John had to leave the mill. This was probably the best thing that could have happened, because he took up the study of law, was admitted to the bar and, in time, became quite a famous judge in the Holyoke District. John Hildreth had five children, the most notable of whom was Ellison Story Hildreth. Ellison Hildreth was a minister and a missionary to China. (Much of the information in this article is taken from letters written in the 1930's from Ellison Hildreth to the Hildreth Family Association.) According to the January 1984 issue of *Hildreth Highlights*, one or more of Ellison's grandchildren, by the name of Ballou, are living in South Royalton, VT.

If you are a descendant of one of the three Hildreth brothers described here or if you know of anyone who is, I would love to hear from you. I have a lot more information on this branch of the Hildreth family tree, including photographs, that I would be glad to share. Actually, I have gone back two more generations than the family tree indicates. That brings this Hildreth line back to about 1730. I only have 100 years (!) to go to tie this line into the 1635 Hildreths, Richard<sup>1</sup> and Thomas<sup>1</sup>.

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## GENEALOGIST'S DISEASE: NO KNOWN CURE

**Warning:** Genealogy Pox (very contagious to adults). **Symptoms:** Continual complaint as to need for names, dates and places. Patient has a blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses. Has compulsion to write letters. Swears at mailman when he doesn't leave mail. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins and remote, desolate country areas. Makes secret night calls, hides phone bills from spouse and mumbles to self. Has strange, faraway look in eyes. **Treatment:** Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. Patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be alone. **Remarks:** The unusual nature of this disease is the sicker the patient gets, the more he or she enjoys it!

## DUES ARE DUE

As of July 1st, over 200 cousins will have to renew their memberships. In order to cover our costs, it was necessary to slightly increase the dues to \$12 for 1 year or \$30 for 3 years. This is the first increase in many years. If at all possible, please renew for 3 years since our association will save both time and money. Please send your check today, payable to the Hildreth Family Association, to: Mrs. Betty Ball, 159 Jennings Avenue, Patchogue, NY 11772.

We are so fortunate to be able to trace our Hildreth heritage in America (and England) back to 1635 and to have 5 volumes of books to record this information. In fact, Volume VI will have an estimated 20,000 names on the computer including Hildreth daughters and their "female lines". We will continue to add names for each future generation.

In 1915, the *Colonial Magazine* reported that the Hildreth Family Association has "gathered a membership from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Lakes to the Gulf". This is more true today since we are now having our annual reunions "from the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam".

**PLEASE DON'T LEAVE US.** Your lineage will be a "special gift" to your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc. If we lose you, we might not be able to find "your descendants" in future years. **GOD BLESS THE HILDRETHS AND GOD BLESS AMERICA!**

## DEATHS

Opal May Fagan passed away on March 18, 1996 in Storm Lake, IA. Her husband of more than 60 years, Leonard Leroy Fagan, preceded her in death on September 7, 1995. She is survived by two daughters, Madge of Dallas, TX and Mary Ann of Riverside, CA. Also survived by three brothers, Everett Hildreth of Hemet, CA; Eldon Hildreth of Lake City, IA; and Dean Hildreth of Fonda, IA. Opal Hildreth Fagan was descended from Richard<sup>1</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>3</sup>, Hosea<sup>4</sup>, Nathaniel<sup>5</sup>, John Parker<sup>6</sup>, William M.<sup>7</sup> and Emory Madison Hildreth<sup>8</sup>.

Joan Hildreth died on March 2, 1996 following a large operation which did not fulfill its expectations in spite of the skill and devotion of the local hospital. She is survived by her husband, Cyril L. Hildreth, who resides at 25 Keats Close, Stevenage, Herts, SG20JD, England. He is hoping to attend our Arizona reunion.

Gertrude Hill died on April 27, 1996 in Auburn, NY. She was previously married to Hartwell<sup>9</sup> Alonso Hildreth, son of the former Minnie Downtley and Robert Taylor Hildreth. Her survivors are James<sup>10</sup> Hartwell Hildreth and Merritt<sup>10</sup> Calvin Hildreth, nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

## HILDRETH HIGHLIGHTS

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