Ocean Born Mary Descendant Wed Amid Family Traditions

WHITTIER — At St. An-drew’s-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church, Mrs. Hugh Gates Dugan of Hinsdale, Ill., and Robert R. Patterson of Snowville, formerly of Ann Arbor, Mich., were married during the First World War. In 1917 he was shot down in a “dog fight,” landing back of the German lines, was captured, and was a prisoner of war until 1919. Mrs. Patterson has two children, James William Dugan of Newport Beach, Calif., and Elizabeth Whitehead of Hinsdale, Ill.

There are five grandchildren.

Mr. Patterson, also a World War I veteran, whose wife, Nora died two years ago, is a great-great-great-grandson of Ocean Born Mary who was born at sea July 28, 1720 at a time when the ship was boarded by pirates.

The ship was left free by the pirate captain on condition that the boy be named Mary in memory of his deceased wife.

Mary’s father had a land grant in Londonderry. In 1775, when Ocean Born Mary’s daughter Elizabeth Wallace was to be married to Lt. Thomas Patterson of the New Hampshire Militia, she knitted a pair of white linen stockings to be worn by him at the wedding.

These stockings have been worn by every male Patterson on his wedding day since then and were in evidence at Whittier. They, together with other Patterson and Wallace articles, are on permanent loan to the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Among those attending the intimate wedding were the bride’s sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Locke. Her twin sister, Mrs. Donald McLean; her grandson, Christopher Whitehead; and granddaughter, Martha Whitehead; for the bridegroom, Mr. and Mrs. William Patterson and son, Tim; Mr. and Mrs. James Simonds of Snowville (Mary Patterson’s niece), and three of their children.

There were seven direct descendants of “Ocean Born Mary” present. An interesting note was the arrival for the following day of a family tradition of wearing the white linen stockings knitted by his great, great, great grandmother, Ocean Born Mary, Robert R. Patterson of Snowville recently wed to Mrs. Hugh Gates Dugan of Hinsdale, Ill., displays the stockings to his bride. These stocks have been worn by every male Patterson on his wedding day since 1775 when they were knitted. (Photo by Dick Smith)
private matters than had Squire Wallace, as he was known for so many years. His life was one of great usefulness, and he endeared himself to all who knew him as a man of integrity and purity of principle and purpose. His reputation as an advisor and counsellor was state-wide and his services were often called into requisition in different parts of the state to act as a magistrate.

His death was very sudden and was a great shock to his family and the public generally. He received a severe wound whilst felling trees in what was then and now known as Wallace swamp, several miles from his home, was conveyed to his home and soon passed away. As with his brother, the Judge, so with him, the whole people of the town were mourners at his death. He died March 22, 1824, survived by his widow, a most estimable woman and like her three sisters who lived as neighbors, was noted for her education, refinement and rectitude. Of their 11 children none are now living. A few grandchildren survive.

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