

Meet the New Deputy Governor

For Dick Fuhrman, our newly-elected Deputy Governor, family history has been a lifelong hobby: He still has the notes he took while interviewing each of his grandmothers when he was age 10. These days, Dick tells his family and friends how lucky we are to be living in the *Golden Age of Genealogy*.

Dick's paternal grandmother, Anastasia (Leonard) Fuhrman, was the next-to-youngest of 10 children and lived to age 102, passing in 2004. She believed throughout her life that all of her ancestors were German. When Dick asked her once whether her family ever discussed their ancestry, she said, "You don't understand. In those days, we lived in Hell's Kitchen and were too busy just trying to stay afloat. The older kids took care of the younger kids. Until I was age five, I thought that my eldest sister was my mother!"

Ann's maternal lines were indeed solely German, but Dick discovered that her paternal lines were English, Scottish, and Protestant Irish, instead. In 2002, he finally traced one of her lines back to Harriet (Gritman) Williamson (1802–1875), the wife of Theophylect Lispenard Williamson (1796-1833), a gold beater. The Williamsons lived and worked on Spring Street in Lower Manhattan. Harriet was a direct descendant of Edward Doty through his son Isaac, who had migrated to Oyster Bay, Long Island. Harriet—the heroine of her family in the nineteenth century—is identified in the "Mayflower Families" series (Volume 11 / Part 3) as a member of the sixth generation.

As for Dick, he was raised in upstate Ravena, NY (near Albany), graduated from Columbia University and Hofstra University School of Law, and resides in Great Neck, Long Island with Hillary, his wife of 40 years. Their daughter, Meredith, a blossoming family historian herself, lives in Cambridge, MA, where she is an account manager for Google. Dick spent his career in financial services, and currently he is a financial adviser with MetLife.

Dick has been a member of our Society since 2005, and is a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the Nassau County Historical Society. He thinks that our Society is an engaging, hospitable, and worthwhile group, and he looks forward to serving on the Board of Assistants to help keep us moving forward.

Please join us in welcoming Dick to his new duties as Deputy Governor of The Pilgrim Edward Doty Society. We are very honored to have him serve on our Board.

