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CALKINS WORLD

Dedicated to the memory of our immigrant ancestors,
HUGH and ANN CALKINS and their children, who came to America from
England in 1640 as part of the Welsh Company.

CALKINS FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWS

Searching the Past, Educating the Present, Preserving the Future

MAJOR EVENT! SUNDAY, SEPT. 7, 2025, 5PM ET

On Sunday, September 7, 2025, 5PM ET we will be hosting a "COUSIN CONNECTION EVENT" to present our new 5-year strategic plan. We encourage everyone to attend this meeting to learn about the new strategic plan for the Calkins Family Association. You'll be first to see our new logo and you'll hear exciting news about the Hugh Calkins History Center in Norwich. You'll also get inside information on other upcoming events. CFA membership is not required. Let's get 100 attendees!

Join the video call at: <https://tinyurl.com/32ffxd3>



New happenings at the Hugh Calkins History Center. Planning a trip to Connecticut? Stop by 232 West Town Street in Norwich. Tune in to the Cousin Connection (see above) to learn what you'll see there.

→ **CFA board meetings** are always open to the membership to attend. We meet virtually the 4th Tuesday, 7:00pm eastern. If interested send us an email for the link. hello@calkinsworld.org. Upcoming meetings Aug 26, Sept. 23, Oct. 28.

Welcome new members to the Board of Directors! Christine Bryant, Martin J. Calkins, and Mark Sioma have joined the CFA board. Along with that we welcome Matthew Stidman as our new webmaster. Watch for the rollout of the new look to our website the end of August. Tune in to the Cousin Connection (see above) to meet the new directors. See page 3.

📧 **Next newsletter** comes out in November. Deadline Oct. 31, 2025. Always seeking articles, stories, photos, and announcements. Email them to support@calkinsworld.org. See page 8 for mailing address.



Thank you for getting this newsletter electronically. This edition is longer with more photos than the printed version and the hyperlinks work directly. You may find past newsletters on our website under the members log in. Email us any time at hello@calkinsworld.org.

Vol. 32, Issue 3, Summer 2025 3rd qtr

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New Members to the CFA

Linda Heggstad Wilson; Lexington, MO
Barbara Kelsey Novak; Grand Rapids, MI
Vincent James Buck Hill; Georgetown, SC

Lifetime members:

Joe Kegley; The Dalles, OR
Kenny Calkins; Boise, ID

Senior member:

Charles E. Calkin; Fresno, CA



CALLING ALL CALKINS! We have a goal and you can make it happen. We want 100 cousins and friends to join in our next cousin connection meeting. **Sunday September 7, 5:00pm Eastern.** New items are on the horizon. We are working on a new look to our website, a new logo, and Mission & Purpose Statements to better reflect the Calkins family history in America. See you there! Join here: <https://tinyurl.com/32fffxd3>

My ancestors did what?

Snorted snuff. Your ancestor may have had an addiction to snuff. **Phebe (Abell) Calkins, (1693--1761)** was the wife of Hugh Calkins III. Phebe lived another 10 years after her husband Hugh's passing. This Hugh, along with their 5 sons, was responsible for building the Hugh Calkins House the CFA owns today. Among the many

household articles and clothing listed in the inventory of Phebe's estate, there was a snuff bottle. Snuff is finely ground tobacco which was inhaled into the nose for a nicotine- pleasing experience to the user. Snuff was a social ritual, a status symbol, and at the time, thought to have medicinal purposes. Snuff was stored in an ornamental box where it was accessed by a pinch of the fingers or stored in a glass bottle with a small spoon stopper. The 18th century was the height of snuff use among both women and men, mostly in the upper classes. Phebe, having a snuff bottle in her estate inventory, most likely meant that she indulged in this habit. While it could have been a leftover from her husband, it was probably hers. She and husband Hugh had 9 children, 4 daughters followed by 5 sons. Her grandson **Samuel Backus III**, son of Phebe's daughter, also named Phebe, inherited that from her estate. There were complaints about this habit. Attendees at meetings, churches, and other gatherings wrote about the coughs, sneezes, and loud nose-blowing that followed a snort of snuff. Imagine the noise a roomful of snuff users would make.



Source: Artist Louis-Leopold Boilly c. 1827 depicts snuff users. The Welcome Collection in London. (public domain)

President's Corner—by Melissa Calkins ☺

Hi Cousins! I hope your summers are going well!! We have some exciting events coming up. On September 7th at 5p.m. Eastern time, we will be having our quarterly membership meeting. We will be announcing plans for the Hugh Calkins History Center, so make sure you log on!! On October 5th, I will be hosting a Walktober Event at the house in conjunction with the Norwich Historical Society. If anyone is interested and in the area, please stop by!! On a personal note, my wife, Cathy and I will be moving to Maine on August 18th. I've taken new position with Hospice of Southern Maine as a Register Nurse Case Manager. I will still be going to CT to check on the house and see family every 4-6 weeks.

Introducing new members to the CFA Board of Directors.

Two members have recently retired from the Board of Directors. According to the by-laws, the CFA may have up to nine board members. Three individuals have stepped forward to fill the vacant seats for a full slate of nine. They are:

Martin "Marty" Calkins, Ph.D., M.Div., Th.M., M.I.M./M.B.A., B.S., was born in Cleveland and now lives in Florida. He is retired from tenured university teaching, department chairman, and senior associate dean positions in two prominent business colleges. He has authored more than thirty publications, including two business ethics books, and is an officer in several American lineage societies. He is an academic researcher concentrating on American history and ethics with forthcoming analyses of George Washington's ethical decision-making.

Mark Sioma: was born in Detroit and now lives in Florida. He retired after more than 40 years in executive management in the insurance industry in NYC and California. His specialties were underwriting, corporate strategy, and risk management. He now enjoys gardening, history, and traveling.

Christine Hansen Bryant is retired from her hospital lab job. She and husband Larry enjoy time at Priest Lake, Idaho year round, and enjoy time with their 6 grandkids. They enjoy taking their 24 ft motorhome to the Oregon coast and have been to California, Utah and Norwich CT with it for a Calkins reunion in 2021. She lives in Spokane, WA.

Saying Goodbye

Long time CFA member **Gary Griffin** of Puyallup, WA has passed away. His children Mark and Andrea wrote the following: "Dad was the coolest guy you would ever meet. He did it all. Became a pilot. Bought and rode countless motorcycles. Designed and built a pump station that supplied Seattle water in times of drought. Taught young apprentices in Local 32. Had the coolest beach house that actually got moved by a floating crane up a hill. Became a lifetime Mensa member. Served in the Army, especially enjoying his time in Germany. And so much more. He loved his family fiercely."

Gary will be laid to rest at Enumclaw Evergreen Memorial Park.



Gary Griffin



Diane Chappie Calkins

Diane Marie Chappie Calkins (1938-2025). Born in Cincinnati, OH, Diane was the beloved wife of James Lloyd Calkins for 63 years. Their children: Vincent, Rebecca, Monica, and CFA member Susanna Calkins. Diane was a voracious reader. A lover of cats and books, she worked for over 40 years as a librarian at the Free Library of Philadelphia, PA.

HAPPY HEADLINES



CFA member **Clint Armstrong** and **Priscilla Hollrah** are engaged to be married. A small wedding is planned this fall.



← **Brock Reade** graduated high school and will be attending Washington State in the fall. He is the grandson of CFA member Judie Schiel, and his great- great grandmother is Rminnia Calkins Plowman.



Andrew Tyler Calkins, is a Frederick County (MD) Fire & Rescue Academy graduate! Tyler graduated with a B.S. in Recreation & Sport



Andrew Tyler Calkins



Brock Reade; Class of 2025

Management and Business Administration from Coastal Carolina University in 2013 and decided to pursue career firefighting recently, starting at the Academy in January. He is engaged to be married to Jessica Noonan, with the wedding set for November this year. Tyler is the son of CFA member Tony Calkins.



← **David Calkins, Jr.** wins Greco-Roman Bronze Medal at U17 World Championships! [date July 30, 2025]. In Greco-Roman repechage at 92 kg, David Calkins, Jr. had a solid 4-0 victory in his bronze medal match over last year's U15 European Champion, Ionut Patru from Romania. It was a



David Calkins, Jr.



David Calkins, Jr. wins Bronze!

record third bronze medal collected by the U.S. Greco-Roman group. In a repechage round, athletes who lost in the first round compete against each other. The winners of these repechage heats then advance to the next stage of the competition, alongside those who won their initial heats. Repechage is commonly used in sports like rowing, wrestling, and other competition formats where a single loss doesn't necessarily eliminate a competitor from contention.

Into family history? Here are a few *free* genealogy sites to consult:

FamilySearch familysearch.org A good place to start. Best for vital records and census searches.
Chronicling America <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> a site for old newspapers. Lots of fun articles and ads.
Find A Grave <https://www.findagrave.com/> for burial and cemetery research
Cyndi's List <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/> For genealogy resources, both free and subscription.
Family Search Centers, part of the LDS Church, free in-person help <https://locations.familysearch.org/en>
Conference Keeper <https://conferencekeeper.org/> a list of genealogy events, many virtual and free.
Roots Web <https://home.rootsweb.com/> An online genealogy community.
Ellis Island <https://heritage.statueofliberty.org/passenger> for U.S. immigrant ancestors 1820-1957.
WikiTree <https://www.wikitree.com/> where genealogists collaborate.
Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness <https://raogk.org/> A global volunteer organization.
Hathitrust for old books and periodicals. <https://www.hathitrust.org/>
Google Books -- search for older books that are in the public domain <https://books.google.com/>
Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center <https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>
Or contact the CFA. **Judie Schiel** and **Melissa Calkins** are willing to help. See page 10 for contact info.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

We'd like to thank you for donating to the Calkins Family Association:

Peter Calkins

Kenny Calkins

Marjorie Calkins Edwards in memory of "my dad, Willis D. Calkins Jr."

Landmarks & Legends

Caulkins Courtyard at Yale University at 135 Prospect Street; part of the McDougal Graduate Center. Students can mingle and relax on patio chairs on the Swenson Terrace and in the expanse of a tree-dotted lawn known as **Caulkins Courtyard**. It's located in the rear of Founders Hall where the annual fall dean's reception and the graduate school's commencement receptions takes place. (Thanks to **Patricia Cousins** for this submission)



Landmarks: We're collecting all things with the Calkins name. Do you know of a street, a building, a business, a natural landmark of some sort with the name Calkins attached? No matter how you spell it, Caulkins, Corkins, Calkin, etc. YOU BELONG! Email us at support@calkinsworld.org

Do you have a story to tell? A photo? An announcement? Send that to support@calkinsworld.org

How do you spell that? At least 29 different spellings of the name Calkins have been found according to Kenneth W. Calkins, editor of *Calkins Family in America*. The most popular being Calkins, Caulkins, Corkins, and Cawkins. The spelling can vary within documents! The addition of an S at the end is American. The British write CALKIN.

OUR PEOPLE, OUR STORIES—TALES FROM THE FAMILY TREE

Hervey Chittenden Calkin -- Businessman, Congressman, Inventor

Hervey Chittenden Calkin designed a lifeboat. He submitted a model instead of just drawings of his life-raft (pictured) when he applied for a patent on Nov. 28, 1871; patent number 121275. The model boat is part of the Smithsonian Institution's collection.

Between 1790 and 1873, the U.S. Patent Office granted 163 patents for an assortment of life-preserving boats, rafts, and other gear including clothing. Clothing? Yes, even a buoyant hat was patented.

"The object of this invention," Hervey Calkin wrote, "is to produce a life-raft that will always be ready for use in any emergency; that can be launched and used in the roughest seas; that can be cheaply made, and yet, from the peculiar manner of its construction, cannot be separated or torn apart by the elements so as to entirely destroy its buoyancy." Hervey designed his raft symmetrically so "that it can be launched into the sea either side up." He suggested the cylinder floats be made of commonly available riveted boiler iron, divided into compartments in case of damage, and watertight boxes under the decks to hold provisions.



Life-raft by H.C. Calkin 1871

If you're familiar with the story of the sinking of the RMS Titanic which happened on April 15, 1912, Hervey's lifeboat of 1871, which worked either side up, would have been a better design than the 4 small collapsible lifeboats onboard. Titanic's collapsible lifeboats A and B were launched in great haste that night. The sides of Lifeboat A were not extended up and the boat filled with water, making the wait for rescue for

those in it unbearable. Lifeboat B was launched upside down, forcing nearly 30 survivors to spend the night standing on its overturned hull, struggling to maintain their balance and stay afloat. It is not known if Hervey's boat was ever commercially produced.



Hervey Chittenden Calkin

Hervey Chittenden Calkin (1828-1913) was born in Malden, New York, son of **Judson H. and Sara (Fiero) Calkin**. At age 19, he moved to New York City, where he worked at the Morgan Iron Works as a dealer in metals. Hervey Calkin's many job titles included a coppersmith and a dry goods merchant. His business dealings included connections to shipping. He married **Violetta Adeline Brant** in 1852 and had two children **Freeman Brant** and **Mary Violetta**. He served one term in the U.S. House of Representatives (1869-71), elected as a Democrat from New York to the Forty-first Congress. Not running for reelection, he returned to his former business pursuits in New York City, retiring in 1904.

Find us on Social Media

-The CFA has an Instagram account. Follow us: [calkinsfamilyassociation](https://www.instagram.com/calkinsfamilyassociation)

-Find us on Facebook and 'like us'. <https://www.facebook.com/CFA1603>

-Join the *CFA Private Member's Group* on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cfaprivate>

-We have a youtube channel: search for Calkins Family Association

-Our website: www.calkinsworld.org. Read past newsletters, see the lending library list, fun information, etc.

Giant skeleton hinted at legend of pirate treasure

Thanks to **Vaughn MacKenzie** for submitting the following story. Vaughn writes: “many Calkins moved to Oregon because of free land offered if it was settled and homesteaded. I know when my Calkins lineage came west there was a very large group of my immediate family that came to Oregon between 1900-1902 and then settled in various areas of the state, mostly Portland area except my great grandfather John and family settle in lone OR. Elmer, I believe, is 5th cousins to my great grandfather.”

Printed April 29, 2012 by Finn J.D. John | **Cascade Head, Lincoln County, Oregon; 1930's.**

ON FEBRUARY 20, 1931, a former Lincoln County commissioner named **Elmer Calkins** looked behind his horse team at the plow he was pulling — and saw human bones strewn out along the furrow behind it. Calkins was working up a patch of land near the mouth of the Salmon River so that it could be flattened out into a smooth, park-like landscape for the summer camping resort he was building there. The new Roosevelt Highway — Highway 101 — was mostly built, and car-tripping tourists from the Willamette Valley were starting to make beach trips part of their summer plans. Calkins hoped a few of them would come camp at his place so they could play on the nearby beach, a lovely secluded sandy strand beneath Cascade Head in north Lincoln County known as Three Rocks Beach (see photo next page).

The field he was smoothing out was uneven for a reason: It was peppered with shellfish middens, basically miniature landfills used by Native Americans for disposal of clam and mussel shells, fish bones, and the odd worn-out whalebone club or stone knife. It was in one of these that, unexpectedly, human bones had turned up. Calkins stopped, got a shovel, and dug up the rest of the body. It was, he immediately noticed, enormous. Most accounts say it was around eight feet tall, and that the skull was over two-thirds of an inch thick in its beefiest spot, with unusually big cheekbones and forehead. A bit more digging turned up a second, more normal-sized skeleton, the skull of which had been pierced by an arrow and bashed in with something like a stone ax. **Did this mean the legend was true?**

Calkins and his neighbors at first thought they'd simply stumbled across a Native American burial. But the more they talked about it, the less sense that made. The Native Americans would no sooner have buried a body in a shellfish midden than we would toss one in a landfill today — unless it were the body of a deadly enemy.

Also — there was an old story still being told along the Salmon River estuary, an old Indian tale. According to the story, a “winged canoe” had foundered just inside the mouth of the Salmon, possibly having mistaken it for the Siletz or the Nehalem in the fog. This would have been a fatal error, since it's sometimes possible to walk across the mouth of the Salmon without getting one's shirt wet.

The crew, more than 20 men, had rowed ashore with a heavy chest of the type one would fill with pirate loot. This they buried, and then, leaving two of their number behind, set out east over land, never to be heard from again. The two they left behind, according to the legend, were a gigantic black man and a regular-sized white guy. These two didn't last long before they made the natives angry enough to kill them.

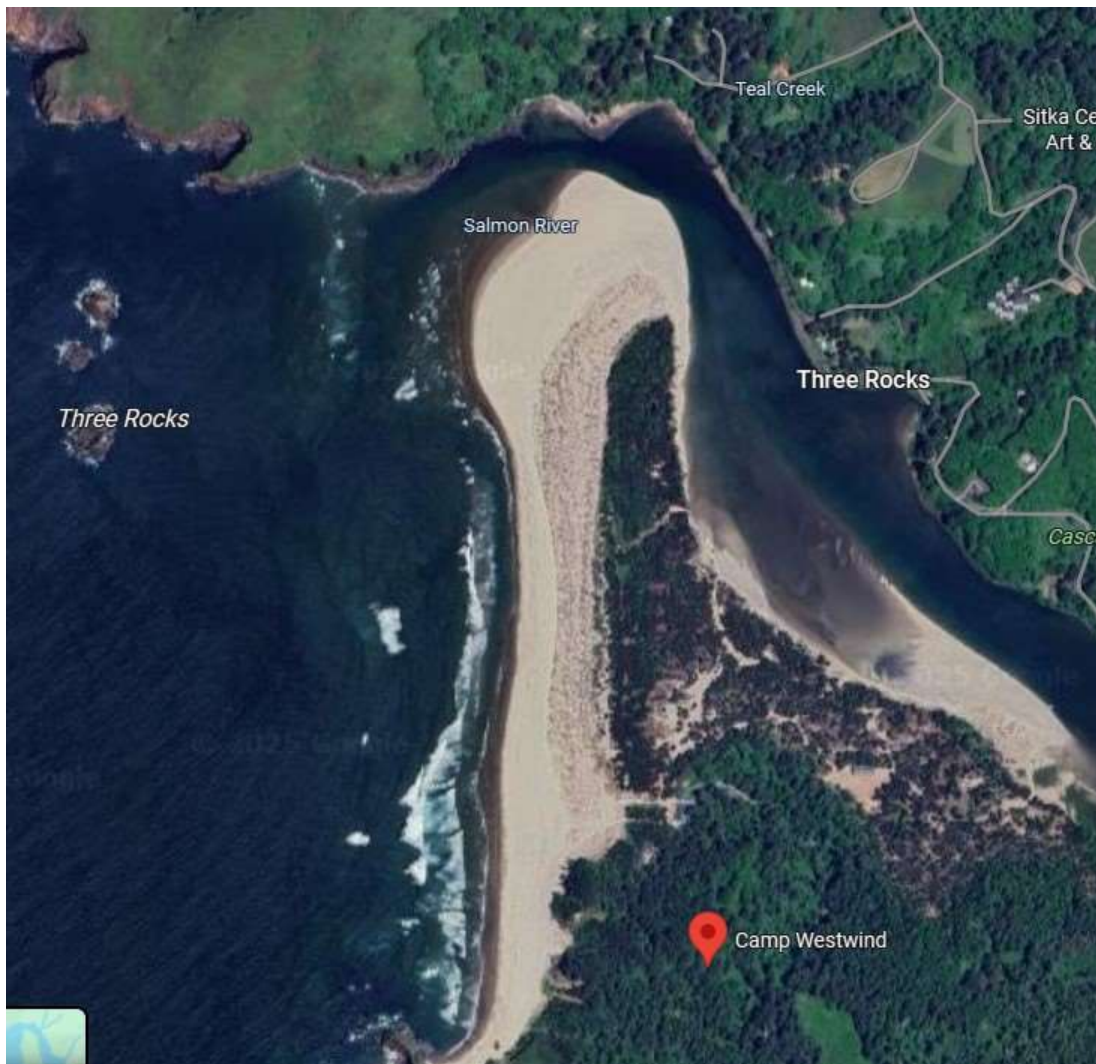
Now, most of the neighbors thought this story was entirely made up, or perhaps had been “borrowed” from the legend of the buried treasure on Neahkahnie Mountain, just a couple dozen miles up the coast. But Calkins thought there might be something in it, because he'd frequently snagged his fishing nets on a wreck a little way inside the mouth of the river. Knowing the legend, he'd been curious enough to investigate it one day, and confirmed it; it was in about 12 feet of water, the ribs sticking up and rotting away. Calkins contacted Oregon historian Dr. John Horner of Oregon State University (then named Oregon Agricultural College) and Dr. F.M. Carter, a physician with an established practice among the remaining coastal Native American tribes in the area. Carter confirmed the pedigree of the legend as having come from the tribes and being very old, and after reassembling the skeletons gave his professional opinion that the large one was of African descent — although how he was able to be sure of this, given the body's unique and freakish size and shape, is not clear. It's certainly possible that, mindful of the legend, he was expecting to see Africa in it from the outset.

The presence of gold or buried treasure in any story has an immediate corruptive influence on its truthfulness, and this effect seems to have kicked in on this story very early in the process. According to accounts from the 1950s, Horner took the bones back to OSU and actually wrote a paper on the find. However, the bones later (cont.)

mysteriously disappeared from the university, and there's no sign of the paper having been published. Moreover, Horner died in 1933, so by the time these accounts were published, he couldn't exactly be asked about it. The newspapers of the 1930s don't mention Horner at all — or Carter either, for that matter.

Treasure hunters move in. In any case, the story touched off a wave of trouble for Elmer Calkins, who found himself having to deal with tourists of the wrong sort — tourists who, rather than coming with money and expecting to leave a week later with less, come with no money and hoped to leave a week later as millionaires. Squatters became a problem. One nervy fellow asked permission to set up a fishing camp, and then pitched an enormous tent and started digging for the treasure underneath it; Calkins figured it out when he saw dirt spilling out from beneath one of the walls.

In the 1970s, Calkins's son, Edward, mounted an expedition to try and retrieve the old "pirate ship" from the bottom of the Salmon, where it had been more or less covered with sand and silt. The younger Calkins claimed he had a special underwater metal detector that only picked up gold and silver and that it had told him, as the Oregonian put it, that there was "booty in the bilge" of the sunken wreck. If anything came of this, the newspapers were silent on it.



← Today, the site Elmer Calkins was plowing up for his tourist camp is known as Camp Westwind (see photo left). Westwind is a YWCA camp that holds a special place in the hearts of tens of thousands of former campers — few if any of whom know that it is entirely possible, if not particularly likely, that somewhere on its rustic, oceanside grounds there lies a giant box of pirate loot. Granted, it's only slightly less likely that the Tooth Fairy lives in a tree house nearby. Still, it's a fabulous bit of Oregon Coast folklore.

(Sources: *Portland Oregonian*, "Large skeleton found," 2-21-1931, "Finding of old skeleton hints at early tragedy," 4-05-1931, and "Buried treasure sought," 5-19-1974; Hult, Ruby. *Lost Mines and Treasures*. Portland: Binford, 1957)

My visit to Chepstow by *Eric Hastings*



Outer curtain wall of Chepstow Castle, Wales

Like many other children of the 1970's, I landed in the protective custody of my paternal grandparents, Pat and Ruby Hastings. Also living with my grandparents was my paternal great-grandmother, **Mildred Lillian Calkins Morris** (1906-1994), who we very lovingly called grandma 'Grumpy'. Throughout my growing years, Grumpy and I would discuss her life's various chapters, from the sinking of the Titanic to the Great Depression and more! To me, she was a living history book and I wanted to discuss as much as possible with her! One aspect of life she was very proud of was her



Gatehouse, Chepstow Castle

being a Calkins. She was adamant the Calkins family immigrated to the new world from Wales and were aboard The Mayflower. Sadly, we lost my great grandmother in 1994, but her life made an overwhelming impact on every surviving member of our family. In 1992, I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in a high school exchange program in the north of England. Last August I celebrated my fiftieth birthday, and so I made it a goal to return back to the UK and extend my explorations. So over the course of three weeks in April 2025, I brought my birthday wish to fruition and included a stop to Chepstow, Wales where I had the opportunity to sit with a local genealogist named Sue. Sue is a very nice lady who has dedicated her life to genealogy, almost to the point of having an obsession. After some light digging into the Calkins tree, she indicated "because the **Calkins-Blinman** group departed from Chepstow, Monmouthshire, one of the border counties between Wales and England, many writers have been led to conclude that Hugh (Calkins) and his family were born in Chepstow. However, searches of the Parish Registers and Bishop's Transcripts of the area around Chepstow have been unsuccessful in finding any indication that Hugh or members of his family were born there." Instead, Hugh was born and christened in nearby Waverton, Cheshire, England. (cont.)



Walking up Moor St. towards the Town Gate



Eric Hastings meets with Sue

Additionally, it had been revealed the Calkins-Blinman group made the trans-Atlantic voyage in 1640, not in 1620 aboard The Mayflower as previously thought. Although this may seem as common information to most Calkins descendants, it was surprising to me as I had always been told otherwise. Despite receiving such news, I had a very strong sense of being brought full circle. I imagined Deacon Hugh Calkins and me walking the same streets, looking at the same sights, smelling the same air. The feeling was almost overwhelming. Additionally, the people of Wales were very kind despite my strong American accent. In closing, there is no question that I will ever return back to the UK, but when I do return I will most definitely visit Chepstow. 🎵

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



Chepstow Town Gate or Town Arch

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We are a 501(c)(3) organization. EIN: 26-2807518. Donations are gratefully accepted online through our website.

JOIN US! Anyone with an interest in family history and genealogy may join us. Annual Membership dues begin January 1 and are delinquent after April 1. MEMBERSHIP in the Calkins Family Association is \$30 annually but only \$20 with auto renewal and electronic newsletter delivery. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$350. SENIOR MEMBERSHIP is complimentary for those reaching 90 or better. Please let us know if you or any family member qualifies. [checks payable to CFA].