



# THE DODGE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1981 by Col. Robert Livingston Dodge,  
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*From the desk of Faith Dorothy Dodge Nelson  
November/December 2009*

Thanksgiving Day has come and gone. For the first time ever, the Nelson family was missing a couple of members at the table. My two oldest children didn't come home for Thanksgiving, but spent the holiday with family in Denver. In their absence, we invited several friends over and we still had a lovely day enjoying some of God's good gifts, friends and food. After dinner, my ten-year-old son, Seth, read to us an account of the Pilgrims, their experiences in the New World, and the first Thanksgiving.

When ever I think of the Pilgrims, I naturally think of my own ancestors, Richard and William Dodge, who arrived in the New World just a few short years later. I don't think those of us living today can fully understand the hardship and deprivation these courageous people suffered in order to worship God as their consciences dictated, to be able to own their own land, and to have the opportunity to work hard and lead a better life than the one they knew in England. Imagine them going to the shores of a distant land with none of the conveniences we know today. No hotels where they could stay while their own homes were being built, no heavy machinery with which to build those homes, no stores to buy supplies and food, no washing machines to do the laundry, no phone calls or even mail to contact those back home, no internet for instant updates. They had nothing but their own hands, the few tools they had brought with them, and a determination to work hard. I suppose they were already accustomed to struggle since these early Americans were almost entirely from the poor and working classes, but the few creature comforts they had known before were gone and nothing was left for them but hope and the prospect of hard toil.

And toil and struggle the Pilgrims did! Not only were they building homes in a wilderness, but they began this undertaking during the inauspicious month of December. Brutal cold and sickness were their constant companions in those early weeks. Cutting down trees, they built small shelters which became shared housing for those building, and then for the sick and dying. And die they did! By spring, half their number had been buried secretly at night, lest enemy eyes should see how greatly their numbers were depleted, sense their weakness, and attack. With half the colony dead, by today's standards such an undertaking would be deemed a failure. But surely the spring brought new hope, with warmer temperatures and the promise of food to be planted and harvested, the possibility of survival against all odds. Especially so, the day an Indian walked into their camp and uttered the words, "Welcome, Englishmen." That introduction and the set of circumstances which followed--the befriending of the Pilgrims by Samoset and Squanto--proved nothing short of providential and enabled the little band not only to survive, but also to prosper in their first harvest, and fostered a peace between Pilgrims and Wampanoags which lasted for 50 years.

We have come a long way since those early days of our country. Unfortunately, the prosperity and ease which permeates our land also creates a feeling of entitlement. Things that are blessings and good we now view as our birthright. I know that I am no better than my friends; I don't like to struggle either. I want things easy, convenient, and comfortable. So when I face hardship, inconvenience, and discomfort, I bristle. Some mornings, before I get out of bed, I just lay there, dreading the hard work or difficult situations that I know that I will encounter. Of course I won't be faced with back breaking physical labor, tending to sick or dying family and friends, wondering how I will feed my family, or enduring a constant threat of attack. My struggles are mainly within myself. Will I require myself do what I know I should do even when I don't want to? Will I speak patiently and kindly to those in my family, even if they annoy me or behave selfishly? Will I work hard to serve them knowing that no one else may notice or value what I do?

This much I have learned in my life: when I struggle, I become a better person. I am compelled to act against my own sloth. I am forced to clarify what I truly value. That which I achieve becomes more significant to me because I struggle for it. As you struggle in your life, be encouraged as you remember your Dodge predecessors. To struggle simply means that you are still alive.

*Faith*

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From the left: Ray Preston of Offerton, Ted Bates, Artist, Abigail and Don Lawton of Portland, R, Earl and Barbara, of Lakewood, CO, and Laura Losefsky of Hill NH. Both Earl and Laura are now gone.

Upper right: the front of the painting which is up for auction. The painting is protected by a glass front (the reflection is visible in the photo).

Lower right: back of painting.

The starting bid for the painting is \$100, which includes shipping the picture in the frame.

Bidding closes at the end of December 18th. This should give you at least 2 weeks to bid on it, but we suggest that you bid right away, so there's time to increase your bid if someone else offers more.

To bid by U.S. Mail, send your bid to The Dodge Family Association, 10105 W. 17th Place, Lakewood, CO 80215 OR Telephone us at: 303-237-4947. If we are not in when you call, an answering machine will be there to take your name, phone number and bid and we will return your call letting you know the status of your bid.

To bid by email, send your bid to [barbdodge@dodgefamily.org](mailto:barbdodge@dodgefamily.org).

Along with your bid please let us know if you want to be notified if you're outbid. If so, and if you bid by U.S. Mail, please include your phone number so we can notify you immediately.

We look forward to finding a home for this beautiful watercolor painting of Halliday Hill House, the Dodge Ancestral Home in Offerton, Stockport, England.

Dear Dodge Family:

- ◆ I wish to bid on the Halliday Watercolor Painting. My bid is: \_\_\_\_\_
- ◆ I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ copies (2 volumes each) of the new *Tristram Genealogy*. I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$110 per set including shipping VIA MEDIA MAIL)
- ◆ I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ to bring my dues up to date.
- ◆ I am enclosing \$20 for a gift membership for: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_