

Internet/Website Committee Report for 2021

In a trend we started two years ago, we continue to make increased use of the data in our website database to contact our members. ***It's important that we have your correct contact information, especially your email and mailing address information.*** Please keep this information up to date by logging on to our website, www.delanokindred.us, and updating your user profile. Every DELANO Kindred member has logon credentials to access the website, even those members without an email address; if you do not know what those credentials are, please access the website and use the "Contact Us" option to request access. If you do not have an email address, a telephone number will do and we can call you with instructions for logging on. In today's pandemic environment, and to combat increasing costs for reproduction and mailing of reports, increasing reliance on the Internet and electronic communication facilities is mandatory.

We added a few important new features to the Delano Kindred website this year: our merchandise store is now completely online with inventory level control and a PayPal payment option; a DONATE button has been added to the front page; and an online registration system for our Annual Meeting and Reunion with an immediate PayPal payment option has been included as well. This feature is programmable and is designed to be used for other events or registrations as well.

Our site still has a public section and a private section, the private section being restricted to DELANO Kindred members in good standing, and includes major additions to the Reference section. Among the items available in the Reference section are the searchable full text of the GHAARD (downloadable, if you wish to do so), the Plymouth Colony Records volumes (read-only, cannot be downloaded due to copyright restrictions) published by Dr. Jeremy Bangs and partially funded by the Kindred, Sally Aldrich's presentation on *The Dartmouth Propriety Prior to 1800* she gave at our 2018 Annual Meeting as well as her entire Honors Thesis upon which that presentation was based.

As of August 4, 2021, there are 251 active members in the Kindred, up from 233 in 2020; this a combination of returning members and new members. We had 246 members in 2019 and 237 in 2018; only 73 members have logged on to access the private section of the website this year compared to 68 last year, but that's still down from 113 in 2019 and 98 in 2018. We need to work on increasing those numbers by increasing the content and usefulness of the site.

The public section of the website includes information about the Delano Kindred, interesting factoids, information about our annual reunions, and an introduction to the latest newsletter. It also has links to send inquiries and information about becoming a member. The private section contains our up-to-date Membership Directory, Bylaws, current list of officers and directors, the Reference section, all of our newsletters and other items of interest to our members.

The budget for website support includes funding for the following items:

- Fees for ownership of the URL names www.delanokindred.org and www.delanokindred.us
- License fees for using the website software (from WHMCS)
- Hosting fees (the computer systems our website runs on, from BreeSoft)
- Software support (support for all the custom features in our website software, from BreeSoft)
- Software enhancement (development of new features for our website, from BreeSoft)

We still have much to learn about all the reports and options our website software makes available to us for managing the Kindred. Our primary focus for the coming year will be on archives and document storage, ensuring preservation of records as well as making them accessible to all members. If you have some thoughts or suggestions for website improvement, please don't hesitate to share them with me.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry DELANO, 04 Aug 2021