

VINING FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

Know Your Board Members

John Vining, Website Manager



My Vining ancestry in the United States goes back to the John Vining born in Wincanton, England, in 1636, who arrived in Weymouth, Massachusetts. From there, my Vining ancestors went to Connecticut, to Ohio, and finally to Kansas.

I was born in Los Angeles, California. I went to St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, and studied the Great Books. After college and a year spent in Washington, D.C., I moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where we live now.

Know Your Board Members

John Vining (continued)

I work remotely as a software developer and act as the Vining Family Association's website manager. I am able to fix any issues that arise on the site.

Last summer, my wife, Clare, and I had our first child, Nell.

Mike Henry Smith, Member At Large, with wife, Lynn Deidrie (Crandall) Smith



Mike was born in Fremont, Michigan, on October 23, 1946, to Henry Herr and Helena Mae (Vining) Smith, the first of 5 children (2 brothers and 2 sisters). Mike's siblings are Mark Murray, born in 1949, Cheryl Kay, born in 1959, Paul Lynn, born in 1956, and Deborah Jeanne, born in 1957. Paul passed in 1980 and Deborah passed in 2020. Helena's parents were Simeon Frank and Maggie Lena (Farrow) Vining of Flint, Michigan. Henry's parents were Carl Anderson and Susan (Axtell) Smith of Portland, Michigan.

Know Your Board Members

Mike and Lynn Smith (continued)

Lynn was born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, on July 27, 1947, to William Henry and Hazel Theresa (Rocheleau) Crapper of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. She was the first of 3 children (1 brother and 1 sister). Lynn's siblings are Randolph Cameron, born in 1949, and Susan Joy, born in 1951. Hazel's parents were Noe and Marie Rose (Pare) Rocheleau, also of Windsor. William's parents were William Henry, Sr., and Annie (Dewar) Crapper, again of Windsor.

Mike grew up and went to high school in Gaylord, Michigan, where his father was the school principal and his mother was a teacher; he graduated in 1964. Lynn's parents emigrated to the US in 1952 and settled in Dearborn, Michigan. They were naturalized as American citizens and changed the family name to Crandall. Her father, Bill, was first a tool and diemaker for Chrysler and later a salesman for the Amplex Division. Hazel, or Terry as she wanted to be known, was a full charge accountant for a charity. Lynn graduated from Edsel Ford High School in 1965.

Mike and Lynn both went to the University of Michigan, where Mike earned a Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering and Lynn earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business. They were married on August 10, 1968, in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. After graduation in 1969, they moved to Wichita, Kansas. Mike worked for Cessna Aircraft Company and Lynn earned her Certified Public Accountant's certificate. In 1985, Mike next took a job with Northrop Grumman Corporation and they moved to Camarillo, California. Northrop posted Mike to a position in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1995 where they lived until returning to Lakewood, Illinois in 2000. Mike retired and returned to Michigan in 2005, building a lakeside house in the Huron National Forest near Tawas, Michigan. In 2017, they added a winter home in Nokomis, FL, and in 2019 they moved the Michigan home to Hamburg Township near Brighton.

Know Your Board Members

Mike and Lynn Smith (continued)

Mike's maternal grandfather, Simeon Frank Vining was born in Elmer, Michigan, in 1893 to Murray and Lily (De Lille) Vining. Mike's maternal grandmother, Maggie Lena Farrow, was born in Brant, Ontario, Canada, in 1884 to George Henry and Sarah Agnes (Baker) Farrow and emigrated to the Flint, Michigan, area with her parents in 1896. Simeon and Lena, as she preferred to be known, were married in Flint in 1914. They had 3 daughters: Agnes in 1916, Joyce in 1918, and Helena (Mike's mother) in 1922. Simeon's family were farmers in Sanilac County, Michigan, but Simeon became a machinist and tool and diemaker working for Marvel Carburetors in Flint. Simeon had 1 older sister, Edna, 4 younger sisters: Sarah, Maude, Bernice and Lillian- and 2 younger brothers, Glidden and Roy. Lena was a homemaker. She had 1 older brother: Asa, 2 younger sisters – Mary and Dorothy - and 1 younger brother, Curtis.

From here we will concentrate, for obvious reasons, on the Vining line.

Thanks to Dorothy Vining Barnes' fine book, we have the entire Vining branch of my family tree laid out from Robert and Mary of Wincanton through John all the way to yours truly. To save you the trouble of looking that up, I will reproduce just the direct line here:

John Vining, b. 1636 Wincanton, England, d. 1685 Weymouth, MA, m. Margaret Reade b. 1636 Weymouth, MA, d. 1659 Weymouth, MA, parents of:

George Vining, b. 1679 Weymouth, MA, d. 1723 Weymouth, MA, m. Hannah Judkins b. 1676 Boston, MA, d. 1720 Weymouth, MA, parents of:

Thomas Vining, b. 1703 Weymouth, MA, d. 1753 Weymouth, MA, m. Hannah Randall b. 1708 d. 1767 Weymouth, MA, parents of:

Josiah Vining, Sr., b. 1729 Weymouth, MA, d. 1774 Weymouth, MA, m. Hannah Abigail Dawes, b. 1729 East Bridgewater, MA, d. 1794 Massachusetts, parents of:

Know Your Board Members

Mike and Lynn Smith (continued)

Ebenezer Vining, b. 1754 Abington, MA, d. 1843 Rochester, NY, m. Abigail Arends Eason, b. 1757 Norton, MA, d. 1832 Ellicott, NY, parents of:

Salmon Vining, b. 1797 Chesterfield, MA, d. 1879 Nissouri Twp., Ontario, Canada, m. Mariah Bodwell, b. 1799 Barre, Vermont, d. 1855 Nissouri Twp., Ontario, Canada, parents of:

Glidden Bodwell Vining, b. 1820 Sweden, NY, d. 1881 Mariette, MI, m. Rebecca Gleason b. 1830 Nissouri Twp., Ontario, Canada, d. 1879 Mariette, MI, parents of:

Murray Vining, b. 1868 Ontario, Canada, d. 1946 Flint, MI m. Lily De Lille, b. 1876 Michigan, d. 1918 Flint, MI, parents of:

Simeon Vining, who married Lena Farrow, parents of my mother, Helena Vining, and so on.

This branch of the Vining tree ends with Simeon, as he had only daughters.

That's my story!

Some anecdotes:

Ebenezer (1754-1843) fought on the rebel side in the American War for independence. After the war, he became a Baptist minister, the only occupation open to him other than farming at the time. His son, Salmon, my 3rd great grandfather, stayed in the family business and emigrated to Nissouri Twp. (near London), Ontario, Canada where he established a church. There is still standing a Vining Cemetery near the reputed location of that church that contains several (51?) Vining family members.

In researching my wife's family line, I learned that her 3rd great grandfather was a lay minister in the Catholic Church in – Nissouri Twp., Ontario. I doubt they were fast friends but considering that Nissouri Twp. was a small farming community, then it's very likely that they knew each other.

Know Your Board Members

Mike and Lynn Smith (continued)

Salmon eventually emigrated to a farm in the tiny community of Snover, Michigan, where my great grandfather Murray and grandfather Simeon were born. We have uncovered no family history of their experiences in the 1881 Thumb Fire on September 5 of that year. Salmon had passed by then but Murray would have been living on the farm near Snover at the age of 13. The fire was a major conflagration that burned over a million acres and killed 282 people in 4 counties in less than a day. We don't know how my great grandfather survived, but there are eyewitness reports of families, surviving by climbing down into their water wells. Entire families and all their possessions, including buildings and livestock were wiped out. There's no record of anyone in Murray's family being killed, and my grandfather never mentioned the event as a part of the family history. I suspect his father never brought it up, although he must have been through it. The culprit: Spanish influenza. On October 4th his wife Lily had a child that was either stillborn or lived only a few minutes – the family named him Roy, but the cemetery where he's buried shows the name John, and the death certificate has no given name, simply using "infant." She was treated by a doctor that has been heavily involved in treating Spanish influenza throughout the area, and she died of the flu, on October 22. Their eldest daughter, Edna, died two days later, their son Edward died on the 25th and their youngest son Glidden Bodwell died on the 26th. Simeon had moved to Flint and married 4 years earlier and thus missed being infected. Murray left the farm and lived in the Upper Peninsula with a brother's family for several years, finally returning to Flint in the later years.

Know Your Board Members

Mike and Lynn Smith (continued)



Mike, Debbie, Henry, Mark, Cheryl, Helena.



Helena, Agnes, Simeon, Lena and Joyce, 1972.

Know Your Board Members

Mike and Lynn Smith (continued)



Simeon and Lena's wedding, 1914.



Simeon and Lena on their 40th anniversary, 1954.

Know Your Board Members

Mike and Lynn Smith (continued)



Helena and Henry, 1943.



Helena.

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Mike and Lynn Smith (continued)



Lena Farrow about 1920.



Joyce, Lena, Helena, Agnes May.

Know Your Board Members

Mike and Lynn Smith (continued)



Lily De Lille, about 1900.

Know Your Board Members

Charlotte W. Vining, Member At Large

I am excited to join the Vining Family Association Board. Dad often encouraged me to remember the Vining name stands for integrity – both personal and professional, good works and strength of character. I am proud to be a Vining!!

A bit about myself, I reside in Texas; however, I am a Hoosier at heart! I work in the investment industry and enjoy photography, musical theatre, playing the piano and organ, travel and motorsports. On that note, John Vining, my nephew, is an engineer with the NASCAR Team 23XI Racing, owned by Michael Jordan and Denny Hamlin. At present, he is the race engineer for Tyler Reddick, 45, and can be seen in the pit box sitting next to the crew chief. Yep, a Vining and we are so proud of John!!

I encourage you to take time to record your family history. Being children of parents who were both the youngest in their families meant that our grandparents were older when we became adults. As a young adult, I didn't think to do so. Looking back, I wish I had known the importance of keeping a record of thoughts and memories as told by older relatives.

Recently, letters were shared with me penned by SGT Jack L. Vining, who gave his all on Triangle Hill during the Korean conflict. I was born several years after his death so never had the privilege of meeting him. These letters are so precious as they have created a connection for me with Uncle Jack, Dad's oldest brother.

With all the technology that surrounds us, it is easy to record family members as they simply converse with us. There are even transcribing applications. Please take time to learn the intimate details about your heritage from the older generations. The rising generation needs foundations and we, as members of previous generations, can help build it with memories.

Know Your Board Members

Charlotte W. Vining (continued)

A few fun genealogy facts:

Did you know that if you trace your family tree back 8 generations, you will find yourself with 256 relatives?

The longest family tree in the world is said to have approximately 2,000,000 members and belongs to Confucius.

The father of genealogical research in the United States is John Farmer who first systematized research in the early 19th century.

If I can help you in your research, feel free to contact me. I may not know the answers but will certainly do my best to help!

Newsletter submitted by Judi A. Vining, President, Vining Family Association

