

Notable *Mayflower* Descendants: William H. Macy

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In 1996 the film *Fargo* was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture. The film was a fictionalized characterization of events surrounding an actual murder in Minnesota almost a decade earlier. With relatives in Fargo, North Dakota, and throughout nearby northern Minnesota, I felt a special connection to the film and hoped it would win. Unfortunately, it lost to *The English Patient*, but it also introduced me to an actor I still enjoy watching.

William H. Macy's role as Jerry Lundegaard in *Fargo* also led to an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor. Over four decades, he has starred in numerous films and television series and received several Primetime Emmy and Screen Actors Guild Awards. He has received two of these latter awards for his role as Frank Gallagher in Showtime's ongoing comedy-drama *Shameless*.

In fall 2017, Macy appeared on an episode of PBS's *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*, which explored some of his Puritan and southern ancestors. What the program did not explore was his descent from *Mayflower* passengers John Tilley, Joan (Hurst) (Rogers) Tilley, Elizabeth Tilley, and John Howland. This descent is documented below.

1. **JOHN TILLEY** married **JOAN HURST**.¹
2. **ELIZABETH TILLEY** married **JOHN HOWLAND**.²
3. **DESIRE HOWLAND** married **JOHN GORHAM**.³
4. **SHUBAEL GORHAM** married **PUELLA HUSSEY**.⁴
5. **LYDIA GORHAM** married **JOSEPH WORTH**.⁵

¹ *MF5G*, 1, Howland (1990), 3.

² *MF5G*, 1, Howland (1990), 1–7.

³ *MF5G*, 1, Howland (1990), 6, 9–12.

⁴ *MF5G*, 1, Howland (1990), 11, 30–33.

⁵ *MF5G*, 1, Howland (1990), 32, 149–50.

6. **ANNA WORTH** married **ABRAHAM MACY**.⁶

7. **ABRAHAM MACY [JR.]** was born at Nantucket,⁷ Massachusetts, 7 October 1739,⁸ and died at Ghent, New York, 30 June or 1 July 1820.⁹ He married at Nantucket 3 December 1761, **PRISCILLA BUNKER**,¹⁰ born at Nantucket 14 June 1745, daughter of Samuel and Priscilla (Coleman) Bunker.¹¹ Priscilla died at Ghent 25 or 27 July 1819.¹²

8. **PHEBE MACY** was born at Nantucket 4 January 1763,¹³ and died at Ghent 4 June 1848 or 1849.¹⁴ Phebe married at Nantucket 5 March 1794, **JOHN MACY**,¹⁵ a cousin, born at Nantucket 17 or 28 March 1748, son of Robert and Abigail (Barnard) Macy.¹⁶ John died at Ghent 23 November 1838 or 1839.¹⁷

⁶ MF5G, 1, Howland (1990), 149, 586–87.

⁷ First settled in 1659, Nantucket was known as Sherborn/Sherburn(e) until 8 June 1795.

⁸ *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988*, “The Town’s Book of Records for to Enter Births, Marriages & Deaths, By order of Town of Sherborn on Nantucket,” image at Ancestry.com, handwritten record gives Abraham’s birth date as “ye 7th Day of ye 8th mo. 1739” indicating a date of 7 October 1739 according to the Julian calendar; *Vital Records of Nantucket, Massachusetts to the year 1850*, 5 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1925–1928), 2:260, record transcription gives this birth date as “7th, 8mo. 1739.”

⁹ *Vital Records of Nantucket*, 5:412, which indicates both a death in New York on 30 June 1820 (citing the William C. Folger genealogical records at the Nantucket Historical Association), and a death date of 1 July 1820 (citing a copy of a manuscript kept by Isaac Coffin, Judge of Probate, at the Nantucket Atheneum); Silvanus J. Macy, *Genealogy of the Macy Family from 1635–1868* (Albany: Joel Munsell, 1868), 109, gives 30 June 1820.

¹⁰ *Vital Records of Nantucket*, 4:150, marriage on “3d, 12 mo., ‘called December, 1761,” citing a Society of Friends church record. The British colonies adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752; Macy, *Genealogy of the Macy Family*, 150.

¹¹ *Vital Records of Nantucket*, 1:157, birth as “14th, 4 mo. 1745,” citing a Society of Friends church record; Macy, *Genealogy of the Macy Family*, 150.

¹² *Vital Records of Nantucket*, 5:429, which states that Priscilla possibly died in New York 27 July 1819 (citing the above-mentioned William C. Folger genealogical records), and that the same Priscilla died 25 July 1819 (citing the above-mentioned manuscript of Judge Isaac Coffin); Macy, *Genealogy of the Macy Family*, 150, gives death date as 27 July 1819.

¹³ *Vital Records of Nantucket*, 2:297, birth date given as “4th, 1 mo. 1763;” Macy, *Genealogy of the Macy Family*, 149.

¹⁴ *Vital Records of Nantucket*, 5:429, death as “4th, 6 mo. 1849 [dup. 1848], a. 85 y. 5 m., in Ghent” also citing the William C. Folger genealogical records; Macy, *Genealogy of the Macy Family*, 137, death date as 4 June 1848.

¹⁵ *Vital Records of Nantucket*, 4:162, marriage date as “5th, 3 mo. 1794;” Macy, *Genealogy of the Macy Family*, 137.

¹⁶ *Vital Records of Nantucket*, 2:282, birth date as 17 March 1748 (citing Society of Friends church record), and as 28 March 1748 (again citing the William C. Folger genealogical records); Macy, *Genealogy of the Macy Family*, 92, gives birth date as 28 March 1748.

¹⁷ *Vital Records of Nantucket*, 5:422–23, with John’s death date as “23rd, 11 mo. 1838 [dup. 1839 written above 1838]” (again citing the William C. Folger genealogical records), and a death date of 23 November 1839 (citing a copy of a list of deaths at the Nantucket Atheneum); Macy, *Genealogy of the Macy Family*, 92, with a death date of 23 November 1838.

9. **JOHN I. MACY** was born at Ghent 19 January 1810 or 1811,¹⁸ died at Hudson, New York, 8 February 1888; and was buried there at Hudson City Cemetery.¹⁹ John married at Ghent 13 September 1832, **JANE HALL**,²⁰ born at Little Broughton, Cumberland, England, 12 November 1809, daughter of Isaac and Abigail (Richardson) Hall.²¹ Jane died in 1882 and was also buried at Hudson City Cemetery.²²

10. **WILLIAM HENRY MACY** was born at Hudson 27 November 1845,²³ died at New Castle, New York, 14 November 1920;²⁴ and was buried at Hudson City Cemetery.²⁵ William married, first, probably in New York, about 1876, **EMILY DE LA MONTAGNIE**,²⁶ probably born in New York about December 1849,²⁷ daughter of William de la Montagnie, Jr. and Cornelia McMullen.²⁸ Emily died in 1909 and is buried alongside her husband.²⁹ William Henry Macy married, second, at Chappaqua (New Castle), New York, 20 August 1913, **MARTHA ELIZABETH (SCOFIELD) DOUGLAS**, widow of Hugh Douglas, and daughter of John and Rebecca (Mosher) Scofield. Martha was born

¹⁸ *Vital Records of Nantucket*, 2:283, birth date as “19th, 1 mo. 1810, in Ghent,” (again citing the William C. Folger genealogical records); Macy, *Genealogy of the Macy Family*, 137, with birth date as 19 January 1810; gravestone at Hudson City Cemetery, Hudson, New York, image at FindAGrave.com, posted by “Janet Reasoner” (memorial #58581092), with only a birth year of 1811.

¹⁹ *New York, Death Index, 1880–1956*, online at Ancestry.com, citing 1888 Death Certificate of John I. Macy, No. 4767; Gravestone at Hudson City Cemetery, Hudson, New York, image at FindAGrave.com, posted by “Janet Reasoner” (memorial #58581092).

²⁰ Macy, *Genealogy of the Macy Family*, 225–26.

²¹ *England Births and Christenings, 1538–1975* (FHL #815965, image #151); Macy, *Genealogy of the Macy Family*, 226, incorrectly gives a birth date of 11 November 1810.

²² Gravestone at Hudson City Cemetery, Hudson, New York, image at FindAGrave.com, posted by “Janet Reasoner” (memorial #58581155), Jane’s tombstone has a death year of 1882, but an incorrect birth year of 1810.

²³ Macy, *Genealogy of the Macy Family*, 225, gives William’s birthplace as Greenport, New York; *New York, County Marriages, 1847–1848, 1908–1936*, image of marriage license at FamilySearch.org, gives Hudson instead. Greenport was established in 1837 from part of Hudson.

²⁴ *New York, Death Index, 1880–1956*, online at Ancestry.com, citing 1920 Death Certificate of William H. Macy, No. 68856.

²⁵ Gravestone at Hudson City Cemetery, Hudson, New York, image at FindAGrave.com, posted by “Janet Reasoner” (memorial #58580888).

²⁶ 1900 U.S. Census, Cornwall, Orange County, New York, Enumeration District 3, sheet 12B, family 263, number of years married 24.

²⁷ 1900 U.S. Census, Cornwall, Orange County, New York, Enumeration District 3, sheet 12B, family 263, with Emily’s birth date as Dec. 1849.

²⁸ 1850 U.S. Census, New York Ward 7, District 1, New York, New York, p. 396, family 2712; 1865 New York State Census, Brooklyn, Kings, New York, p. 109, family 854; 1870 U.S. Census, Brooklyn Ward 10, Kings, New York, p. 248, family 2147; 1900 U.S. Census, Cornwall, Orange County, New York, Enumeration District 3, sheet 12B, family 263.

²⁹ Gravestone at Hudson City Cemetery, Hudson, New York, image at FindAGrave.com, posted by “Janet Reasoner” (memorial #58581006).

at Rye, New York, July 1843, and died at White Plains, New York, 6 January 1923.³⁰

Emily's mother, Cornelia McMullen, was married twice. Cornelia's first husband was William de la Montagnie; they married at the Market Street Church in New York City 24 September 1840.³¹ Emily appears with her family in New York City in the 1850 U.S. Census, where her father is called a boat builder.³² William de la Montagnie died at New York City 5 September 1853,³³ and was buried at the Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.³⁴

The 1865 New York State Census lists Emily and her two sisters with their widowed mother Cornelia (McMullen) de la Montagnie in Brooklyn.³⁵ By 1870 Cornelia had married, second, William R. Hall. Emily also appears in Brooklyn with her mother and stepfather, called a produce merchant, in the 1870 U.S. Census.³⁶ William R. Hall died at Brooklyn 28 August 1885,³⁷ and was buried at the Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn.³⁸ In the 1900 census, Cornelia (McMullen) (de la Montagnie) Hall lived with her daughter Emily's family in Cornwall, Orange County, New York.³⁹ Cornelia died in 1912 and was buried at Green-Wood Cemetery.⁴⁰

³⁰ *New York, County Marriages, 1847–1848, 1908–1936*, images of William and Martha's marriage license, certificate, and entry in marriage record book at FamilySearch.org; Martha is buried with her first husband at Quaker Cemetery in Chappaqua (image at FindAGrave.com, posted photograph by "Polly Cooper Chapter, NSDAR" [memorial #181243768]); Martha married Hugh at Manhattan, New York, in 1866 (Cert. no. 4894); New York State Death Certificate of Martha E. Macy, 1923, no. 3496.

³¹ *U.S., Newspaper Extractions from the Northeast, 1704–1930*, online at Ancestry.com (citing *Christian Intelligencer of the Reformed Dutch Church*, 10 October 1840).

³² 1850 U.S. Census, New York Ward 7, District 1, New York, New York, p. 396, family 2712.

³³ *U.S., Newspaper Extractions from the Northeast, 1704–1930*, online at Ancestry.com (citing *New York Evening Post*, 6 September 1853).

³⁴ Gravestone at Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York, image at FindAGrave.com, posted by "Bob Collins" (memorial #124087468).

³⁵ 1865 New York State Census, Brooklyn, Kings, New York, p. 109, family 854.

³⁶ 1870 U.S. Census, Brooklyn Ward 10, Kings, New York, p. 248, family 2147.

³⁷ 1885 Brooklyn Death Certificate of William R. Hall, No. 10795, FHL #1323805.

³⁸ Gravestone at Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York, image at FindAGrave.com, posted by "Wallace G. Lane Jr." (memorial #140628468).

³⁹ 1900 U.S. Census, Cornwall, Orange County, New York, Enumeration District 3, sheet 12B, family 263.

⁴⁰ Gravestone at Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York, image at FindAGrave.com, posted by "Wallace G. Lane Jr." (memorial #140628609).

11. **ALBERT HALL MACY** was born at Goshen, New York, 8 November 1895,⁴¹ died at La Vale, Maryland, 11 October 1966, and was buried at Frostburg Memorial Park in Frostburg, Maryland.⁴² Albert married at the First Presbyterian Church, Lonaconing, Maryland, 25 June 1919, **ELIZABETH C. SOMMERVILLE**,⁴³ born in Maryland 17 July 1887, daughter of John and Clementine (McLeyne) Somerville.⁴⁴ Elizabeth died at Medford Leas, New Jersey, 9 February 1978.⁴⁵

12. **WILLIAM HALL MACY** was born at Lonaconing, Maryland, 29 January and baptized there at the First Presbyterian Church 16 April 1922.⁴⁶ He died at Grantsville, Maryland, 13 July 2007.⁴⁷ William married at the First Methodist Church, Pascagoula, Mississippi, 9 October 1945, **LOIS ELIZABETH (OVERSTREET) MERRILL**,⁴⁸ born at Cleveland, Ohio, 20 April 1920, daughter of Clement and Mary Lois (Everitt) Overstreet. Lois Elizabeth died at Gainesville, Florida, 2 September 2001.⁴⁹ Lois married, first, **FRED MERRILL** who was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star in 1945.⁵⁰

⁴¹ *New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917–1919*, image online at Ancestry.com; *U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942*; 1900 U.S. Census, Cornwall, Orange County, New York, Enumeration District 3, sheet 12B, family 263, with Albert's birth date as Nov 1895; *U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, with Albert's birth date incorrectly given as 1896.

⁴² Obituary for Albert H. Macy, *Cumberland Evening Times* (Cumberland, Maryland), 12 Oct. 1966 (Newspapers.com); *U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014*; Gravestone at Frostburg Memorial Park, Frostburg, Maryland, images at FindAGrave.com, posted by "Byron" (memorial #87310044).

⁴³ *U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701–1970*, online at Ancestry.com (citing Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: *Church Registers, Register 1893–1920*).

⁴⁴ 1900 U.S. Census, Lonaconing, Allegany County, Maryland, Enumeration District 111, sheet 6B, family 108; *U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014*.

⁴⁵ Funeral Notice for Mrs. Albert C. Macy, *Cumberland Evening Times* (Cumberland, Maryland), 10 Feb. 1978 (Newspaperarchive.com); *U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014*.

⁴⁶ *U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701–1970*, online at Ancestry.com (citing Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Church Registers); *WWII Draft Registration Cards*.

⁴⁷ Obituary for William H. Macy, Sr., *Gainesville Sun* (Gainesville, Florida), 31 Aug. 2007, (GenealogyBank.com); *U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007*; *U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850–2010*, online at Ancestry.com (citing *Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem [BIRLS] Death File*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).

⁴⁸ *Daily Herald* (Biloxi, Mississippi), 8 October 1945, engagement announcement published the day before the wedding (GenealogyBank.com).

⁴⁹ Obituary for Lois Merrill Macy, *Gainesville Sun* (Gainesville, Florida), 5 Sept. 2001 (GenealogyBank.com); *U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007*.

⁵⁰ "Bronze Star Award," *Daily Herald* (Biloxi, Mississippi), 23 July 1945 (GenealogyBank.com).

13. **WILLIAM HALL MACY JR.** was born at Miami, Florida, 13 March 1950.⁵¹ He married, first, at Plainfield, Vermont, 14 July 1972, **REBECCA LYNNE BORGMAN**, born in Maryland 24 January 1950, daughter of Vincent H. and Sarah (Raygor) Borgman.⁵² William and Rebecca were divorced at San Francisco, California, March 1975.⁵³ He married, second, at Aspen, Colorado, 6 September 1997, actress **FELICITY [KENDALL] HUFFMAN**, born at Bedford, New York, 9 December 1962, daughter of Roger Tallman Maher and Mrs. Grace Valle (Ewing) Huffman.⁵⁴

RICHARD HALL is a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Illinois and a descendant of *Mayflower* passenger John Alden. He is also founder of the genealogical website FamousKin.com and can be reached at richhall@famouskin.com.

⁵¹ “William H. Macy—Biography,” Biography.com, A&E Television Networks, LLC., accessed 18 November 2017.

⁵² *Vermont, Marriage Records, 1909–2008*, online at Ancestry.com, 1972 Marriage Certificate of William H. Macy and Rebecca Borgman, Cert No. 02976; Rebecca Lynne Borgman m. (2) at Duxbury, Vt. 21 Aug. 1982 (cert. no. 03450), Harry Frank Grabenstein; and m. (3) Burlington, Vt., 16 April 1988 (Cert. No. 88-000682), Timothy John Brookes.

⁵³ *California, Divorce Index, 1966–1984*, online at Ancestry.com, divorce of William H. Macy and Rebecca Borgman, case 6871757, file #034763.

⁵⁴ Liz Smith, “Macy’s Memorable Weekend,” *The Los Angeles Times*, 9 Sept. 1997, (Newspapers.com); Maria Carter, “The Unconventional Path That Felicity Huffman and William H. Macy Took to Wedded Bliss,” *Woman’s Day*, 7 Sept. 2017, article online at womansday.com; *Who’s Who in America 2015, 69th Edition* (New Providence, N.J.: Marquis Who’s Who, 2014), 1:2024. Felicity is registered as the daughter of Moore Peters and Grace Valle (Ewing) Huffman, but the biological daughter of Roger Tallman Maher, see *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*, season 5, episode 2, “Mystery Men,” featuring Felicity Huffman and Michael K. Williams, premiered January 15, 2019, on PBS.