

Cumberland Gap Reunion

JOHN ENDECOTT FAMILY ASSOCIATION

EDITOR'S NOTES

This is my last edition. Past president, Tom Meshek, will be the editor beginning with the next newsletter. I am happy that such an accomplished person stepped forward. This has been a labor of love and I've enjoyed serving you. As editor, I've also enjoyed working closely with our frequent contributor, William "Bill" Endicott, Cindy Lou Endicott Livingston, and Tom Meshek (Bill was elected president of JEFA at the Cumberland Gap Reunion). As a member of this association, I chose to spend some of my time advancing its objectives. I hope that when the association calls on you, that you will make the time, too,

Samuel Endicott, 11th Gen.
From the Joseph line

Table of Contents

ENDICOTTS IN WW I BY BILL ENDECOTT	1
REUNION MEMORIES	6
THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOHN ENDECOTT, BY LTC TED SANFORD	16
ENDICOTTS TAKE ON MOUNT EVEREST BY BILL ENDICOTT	19

ENDICOTTS IN WW I

By William T. Endicott

Since this Armistice Day, 11 A.M. on November 11, 2018 is the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, it seems appropriate to mention the Endicott connection to a war that dramatically changed world history and a war in which Endicotts played a significant role.

World War I hastened the decline of monarchy as the governing system of choice in the world -- a process that Americans had started in 1775 -- by toppling the monarchies of Russia, Germany, Austro-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire.

But it took another World War and a Cold War to decide what would replace monarchies. First, it took WWII to destroy fascism as a possibility. And then it took the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union to eliminate pure Communism as a possibility.

Endicotts were involved in all of this. But for now, we focus on WWI.

On April 6, 1917, two days after the U.S. Senate voted 82 - 6 to declare war on Germany, the U.S. House of Representatives endorsed the decision by a vote of 373 - 50, and the United States formally entered WWI. America's position in the world was changed forever because the US emerged from the war as

a world power.

When it was over on November 11, 1918, at least 56 American Endicotts had joined 16 Endicotts from Australia, 223 Endicotts from Britain, and 23 Endicotts from Canada, as soldiers on the Allied side.

They participated in all sorts of famous battles, such as the naval battle of Jutland, the ground battles of Ypres, Gallipoli, the Somme, and Arras, St. Mihiel, and the Meuse Argonne, and even a few aerial battles, to name a few.

A number of Endicotts were killed or wounded in combat and one, the American doctor Clayton Arthur Endicott, died in the great Spanish influenza epidemic that came right at the end of the war.

Two American Endicotts won Distinguished Service Crosses (DSC) in the war, second only to the Medal of Honor as the nation's highest award for valor. One of them, Burtis Alvin Endicott, won two of them.

Why We Got In

WWI started in Europe on July 28, 1914, but the US didn't enter it until after France, Russia, Canada, Australia, Italy,

(Continued on page 2)

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New Zealand and other Allied countries had lost millions of men. US President Woodrow Wilson, bowing to overwhelming public opinion, had pledged neutrality for the United States and kept us out of the war for several years.

But after a while, two things made neutrality impossible. The first was the fact that the Germans sank a number of ships with Americans on them, including most famously the British liner Lusitania, which saw 1,000 people killed, including 128 Americans. The Germans also sank at least ten US ships of various sizes and with varying US casualties.

The second thing was the Zimmerman telegram, fully verified on March 3, 1917. This was the secret German deal to give Mexico the states of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona if Mexico joined Germany in the event the US entered the war on the Allied side. US newspapers got wind of the deal and the US public was outraged.

About a month later, after the German submarine U-62 sank the SS Aztec, an American cargo ship, on April 1, Congress declared war on Germany on April 6.

It was just in time, too. In March 1917 the Russian revolution had begun, and by the end of the year Russia had been knocked out of the war. On top of that, starting in April 1917, half the French army would eventually mutiny in events that were hushed up for decades. Furthermore, Britain was staggering under the weight of unrestricted German submarine warfare.

It took until the end of 1917 before the

full weight of the US Army could be felt in Europe, but thereafter its no exaggeration to say that the US tipped the balance in favor of the Allies and caused the Germans to give up.

American Endicotts In The War

Prior to the US entering the war, two descendants of Governor John Endecott, Thorndike Howe Endicott, and David Endicott Putnam, joined the French forces. A medical school dropout, Thorndike was an ambulance driver for the French army, much as Ernest Hemingway was for the Italians. He was wounded when a shell fragment tore off the last two fingers of his right hand. He also won the Croix de Guerre for driving 27 straight hours in rescue work while under fire. He returned to the US in November, 1917.

David Endicott Putnam was a flying ace. He started out flying for France but later switched to the American side when the US entered the war. With 13 confirmed victories, he was America's leading ace in the war until he was shot down and killed in September, 1918. David was awarded the DSC.

Another Endicott, Colonel Francis Cassius Endicott, was a career Army officer, and a veteran of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine-American War before entering WWI. In WWI he won the Silver Star medal. Later he was on the executive Council of the National Rifle Association.

Another DSC winner was Burtis Endicott -- and he won two of them.

Burtis's Story

Burtis Endicott (September 1, 1896 - April 8, 1974) was a 7th generation descendant of Governor John En-

decott. He was born in Illinois.

Burtis enlisted in the Army on September 22, 1917 and was discharged February 21, 1919. He was a Private with Company C, 102nd Infantry Regiment, 26th Division, American Expeditionary Force (A.E.F.) -- the famed "Yankee Division." ¶

How did Burtis, a Midwesterner, end up in the "Yankee Division," which originally consisted almost entirely of National Guard troops from all the New England states? It was because thousands of replacements were sent to the Yankee Division from the 76th Division, and most of these men were from Western and Midwestern states.

The 26th was the first US National Guard division, and, in fact, the first full US division of any kind, to arrive in France. No other American division saw such long and continuous service at the front in WWI -- nine months of almost incessant fighting, much of it in adverse weather conditions. Because of this, President Wilson selected it for his 1918 Christmas visit to the troops.

While he was with the Division, Burtis participated in a number of battles in 1918 including the first US victory, the Battle of Seicheprey; the Aisne-Marne (Chateau Thierry) Offensive; the St. Mihiel Offensive; and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

Part of the Aisne-Marne Offensive was an action in two small French villages, Epieds and Trugny, that were packed with German machine guns. During this battle, Burtis won his first Distinguished Cross there and here is the citation:

Date of Action: July 22, 1918 ¶ Citation:

(Continued on page 3)

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☐The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Burtis A. Endicott, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Trugny, France, July 22, 1918. After five runners had been shot down trying to get through a heavy artillery barrage with a message to the battalion commander, Private Endicott volunteered to carry the same message over the same route and succeeded.

After the successful Chateau-Thierry campaign, the Yankee Division was moved up for the St. Mihiel offensive, where a major Allied attack began on September 12. After that, the Division participated in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, and a part of that was the attack on the town of Marcheville, in which Burtis got his second DSC, the citation for which follows:

Date of Action: September 26, 1918☐

Citation:☐The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Burtis A. Endicott, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Marcheville, France, September 26, 1918. While isolated from the rest of his platoon and under violent machine-gun and artillery fire, Private Endicott was wounded in the arm by a machine-gun bullet. After receiving first aid he returned to duty and continued in the fight until again wounded.☐ General Orders 87, W.D., 1919☐Home Town: Ridgway, IL☐Other Award: Distinguished Service Cross w/OLC (WWI)

According to Wikipedia, Burtis was one of only "several dozen" out of millions of American servicemen to receive two Distinguished Service Crosses in WW1. After the war, the 1920 US Census

shows Burtis working as a general farm laborer. He got married to Anna M. Endicott and they had three girls.

By 1937, Burtis was working for the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) during the recovery and relocation of Shawneetown, Gallatin County, Illinois following the great 1937 flood. With damage stretching from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Cairo, Illinois, one million persons were left homeless, there were 385 dead and property losses reached \$500 million. Federal and state resources were strained to aid recovery, since the disaster occurred during the Great Depression and a few years after the Dust Bowl. When he filled out his World War II Draft Registration card in 1942, Burtis was still employed by the W.P.A. in Shawneetown.

Burtis died on April 8, 1974.

Spanish Flu

There is another Endicott connection to WWI, to a part of it that remains relatively forgotten today: the great influenza pandemic of 1918 -- 1919. Clayton A. Endicott, an Army doctor from Indiana, died of influenza before he could even get into the war.

He is, thus, symbolic of a tragedy on a par with the Black Plague because it killed far more people both in the US and world-wide than the war did. In the US it killed 500,000 - 675,000 people compared to 117,000 Americans who died in the war. World-wide, it killed 50 - 100 million compared to 16.5 million killed in the war.

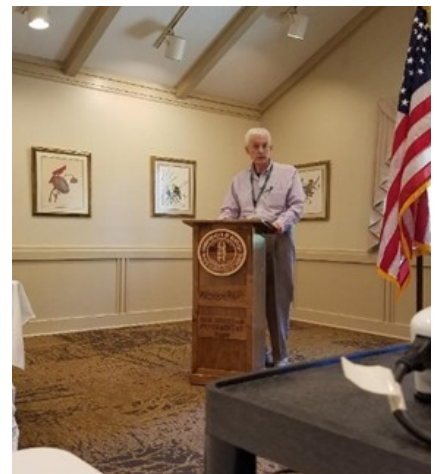
While called the "Spanish flu," it did not originate in Spain, but according to some, in a Kansas military base, not far from where Clayton lived. Then it got

transported to Europe with US troops, where it morphed into a particularly virulent strain and infected the whole world.

It was called Spanish flu because it first received widespread press attention in Spain. That was because Spain, being neutral in the war, did not have the press censorship that the combatant nations did, censorship that suppressed stories about the flu in order not to show weakness to the enemy.

Some argue that Spanish flu actually hastened the defeat of Germany because Germany suffered more flu deaths proportional to the population - between 168,000 - 186,000 soldiers and another 400,000 civilians -- than any of the Allied nations did and at a time when Germany could ill-afford such losses.

Although ranking as one of the world's worst pandemics, the Spanish flu remains largely forgotten in America today because of the press censorship at the time, the deaths being lumped together with the WWI deaths, and the whole episode transpiring rather quickly (the bulk of the deaths occurring over a nine-month period).



Author, JEFA President Bill Endicott

Reunion Memories



Bill and Abbie Endicott



Reenactors making Apple Butter



Reenactors answering our questions.



Appalachian Mountain Range beauty



Martin's Station, Virginia
(where the pioneers
would "fort up" during
Indian uprisings and last
chance for resupply
before the Gap



Martin's Station Encampment



Station was a pioneer term for "fort".



Reenactors at Martin's Station



A child reenactor at Martin's Station



Left: Blacksmiths at Martin's Station



Right: An idealized pioneer in Kentucky

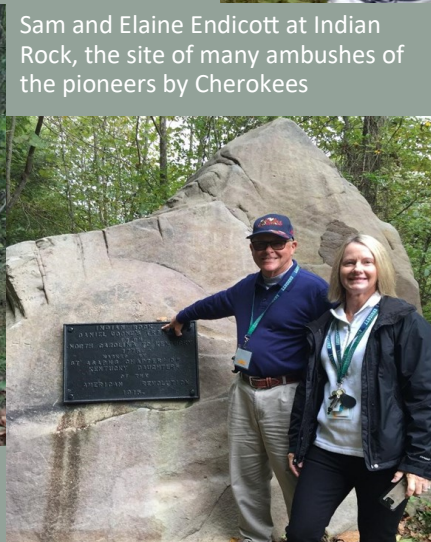


Abbie Endicott in the Cumberland Gap

Pam Endicott Ruiz in the Cumberland Gap



The Cumberland Gap, walked by Thomas and Sara Welsh Endicott in 1786



Sam and Elaine Endicott at Indian Rock, the site of many ambushes of the pioneers by Cherokees



Cindy Lou Endicott Levingston in the Cumberland Gap



Left: Alan & Cindy Lou Endicott Levingston enjoying the vista

Right: Bill & Carolyn Loue at The Pinnacle



From L – R, Bill & Abbie Endicott, Tom & Janet Meshek, Cindy Lou Endicott Livingston, author Laurie Endicott Thomas, and Ruth Endicott in front of the mural of pioneers walking through the Gap.



From L – R, Scavenger Hunt group – Bill Chester, Cheryl Mayo, Bill and Carolyn Loue, and Barbara Andrews

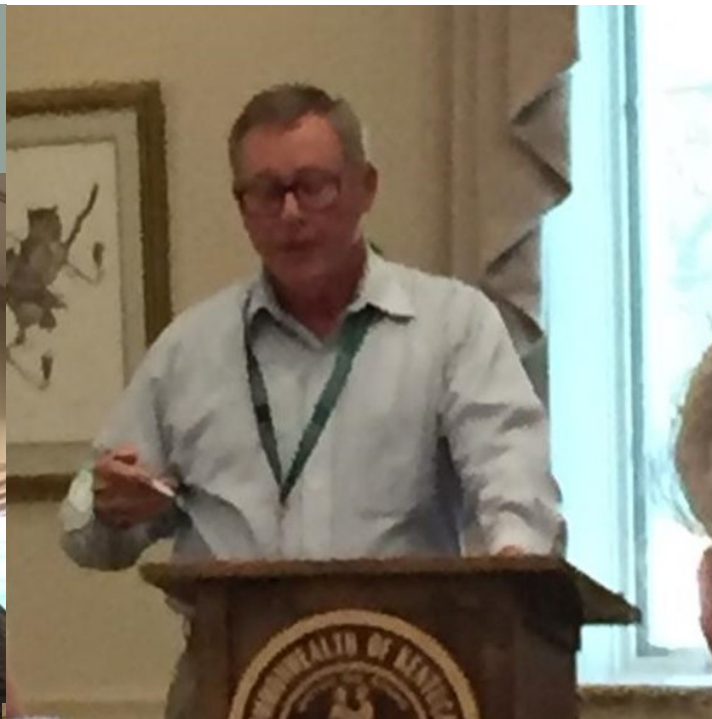


Reunion attendees viewing pioneer film in the Visitor Center Auditorium



Mural of pioneers walking through the Cumberland Gap. We can see our ancestors, Thomas, Sara, their eight sons, and three-year old, Nancy in the subjects hopeful faces.

Bill & Francis Chester of Haymarket, VA posing with Bill and Carolyn Loue of Lancaster, PA in the reunion meeting room



Sam Endicott presenting The Lives of Thomas and Sara Welsh Endicott

The Endicotts break bread together in the restaurant of Pine Mountain State Resort Park. Pattye Endicott Ramacciotti is on the front left with Abbie Endicott opposite her.



Nearest, Lori Endicott Covey (Pryor, OK), Nanette Endicott Radke (Houston, TX), and Barbara Endicott (Hillsboro, OR) listen during the business meeting



Right: Pine Mountain birds of prey expert gives presentation



The Life and Times of John Endecott © (1588-1665) By Lieutenant Colonel Teddy H. Sanford Jr. (February 2018)

John Endecott, (1588-1665), regarded as one of the Fathers of New England, was also the longest serving Governor of Massachusetts. He served a total of 16 years including most of the last 15 years of his life. When not serving as governor, he was involved in other elected and appointed positions from 1628-1665 except for the single year of 1634.

For the general reader to be able to understand John Endecott, the first step is to understand his times. King Henry VIII split the English Church away from the Roman Catholic Church in 1533 and, through the Act of Supremacy, became the head of the Church of England the following year. This was the beginning of a conflict between religions, kings, and queens that would continue for the next 150 years. In about 1560, the Puritans emerged. These were persons in the Church of England who sought a more thorough reformation within the church than had been provided under Queen Elizabeth I and her Tudor predecessors. They were not united and included Anglicans, Separatists, and Congregationalists.

In 1584, the Separatist Robert Brown, published his "Treatise of Reformation without Tarrying for Any," This will become the basis for the society established in the Massachusetts Bay Colony some 48 years later. In 1590, Archbishop Whitgift arrested scores of nonconformist Puritans and Presbyterians and charged them with sedition. This was followed with the arrests of nonconformists who denied the royal supremacy and worshipped in independent congregations. A total of nine of

them were hanged. Finally, at the Hampton Court Conference convened by King James I in 1604, the pleas of the Presbyterians were all rejected and Archbishop William Laud began persecutions of the Puritans. This was the nature of the world as John Endecott experienced in the early seventeenth century and led to his growing belief that the Puritans needed to leave England and find a place where they could establish a society that more closely conformed to Puritan beliefs and practices. That would be the Massachusetts Bay Colony. While his defense of Puritan society may have later become over-zealous, there is little doubt that what he experienced in England from childhood on led him to his hatred for the King's government and the Church of England.

Ancestral History of the Endecott Family:

Over the first two decades of the 21st Century, a great deal of new information regarding the family of John Endecott has been discovered that overturn much of what was assumed to be true about his early life. These discoveries provide new insights into his life and times. They include the Church Wardens' Accounts of St. Michael's Church in Chagford, 1480-1600; an in-depth research effort into the search of family records held by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; a new interpretation of the work of Sir Roper Lethbridge, and on-the-ground research in the County of Devon spread over the period 1980 to 2013.

John Endecott, (1490-1562), the Great, Great Grandfather of Governor John En-

decott, (1588-1665), came to Chagford from his father's home in South Tawton and was living as a tenant with his wife at Throston (Drewston Manor) by 1515. All five of his children were born there. In his early years he became involved with the tin mining industry. In 1523, he served as a church warden alongside John Yoldon, the owner of Middlecott Manor which had its own tin works. In 1528, John Endecott purchased Middlecott from John Yoldon. Another church warden in 1526 was William Bennett who owned Drewston Manor. He sold it to John Endecott in 1630 and John gave it to his eldest son, Henry Endecott, (1515-1585). John then moved to Middlecott Manor. Henry Endecott was the Great Grandfather of Governor John Endecott.

By 1532, John Endecott (1490-1562) had achieved status and wealth in Chagford. In that year, he was serving as a Jurate for the Chagford Stannary at the Great Court held at Crockern Tor on 28 October 1532 and again on 25 September 1533. The Stannary of Chagford had been established by King Edward I (1239-1307) in 1305 along with two other towns. They were to receive and process tin as a monopoly and were shown exceptional favor through the establishment of Stannary Courts with jurisdiction over the civil and legal affairs of those involved in the mining operations. They also had membership in the Stannary Parliament. The mayor of each Stannary Town chose 24 Jurates who served as legislators and judicial magistrates at the Great Court. Membership came from miners, tin workers,

and those with financial interests in the tin industry.

John Endecott also continued to buy lands and properties in the Chagford area. Sir Thomas Denys, Knight and Kings Councilor, sold John all of his lands in Boadon, Little Cranbrook, Northwest Cranbrook, Cranbrook Downs, and Leigh Parkes in Morton Hampstead.

John Endecott continued to live at Middlecott Manor for the remainder of his life. When he died in 1562, he passed along a great fortune to his eldest son, Henry Endecott.

Henry Endecott (1515-1585) was the Great Grandfather of Governor John Endecott. While his father had moved to Middlecott Manor in 1530 after buying Drewston Manor for Henry, there was no move by Henry from Drewston for the next 34 years. He first appeared on the scene in Chagford in 1626 when he served as a Church Warden for a single day during the feast day of St. Crispus and St. Crispianus. He was 11 years old at the time.

During his life, Henry Endecott continued to maintain the wealth of the family and improve their social status even as commoners. He married the first time in about 1540, wife's name unknown, and there were three boys and two girls that came from this marriage. After the death of his first wife, he married Margery Hals. There were no more children from this marriage.

The eldest daughter of Henry Endecott was named Katherine and she had married John Downe who died. Then she married Edward Knapman, son of William Knapman and the fourth grandson of William Knapman of Throwleigh (c. 1500-1563). Edward Knapman had an older brother, Alexander Knapman (1545-1618) who married Anna, the daughter of Sir John Whiddon (1508-1576), Knight of

Throwleigh. The daughter of Alexander and Anna, Alice Knapman, married Robert Lethbridge of Nymet Tracy. These four families, Whiddon, Endecott, Knapman, and Lethbridge owned most of the tin-mining land in the Stannary of Chagford and were related by marriages. The Endecott family rose from its more humble social status and became regular associates of the local power elite.

In 1564, the eldest son of Henry Endecott, John Endecott (1541-1635) married Johanna (c. 1543-1637) in Chagford. As a wedding gift, Henry presented his son with Drewston Manor and moved to the family estate at Middlecott Manor. When Henry died in 1585, John inherited Middlecott Manor as well as the large tin mining properties in the area including the Cranbrook properties purchased by his grandfather. John Endecott was the Grandfather of Governor John Endecott.

John Endecott (1541-1630) and others in his family remained active in the affairs of St. Michael's Church in Chagford. In 1591, he was one of the head wardens, along with James Vogwil, as receivers of the charitable gifts for the poor and for the repairing and maintaining of the parish church. Late in the year, on 19 December, he and Vogwil "granted unto Barnabe Hore the 32nd part of a certain tinwork called Tawemarshe from the date hereof until the end and term that shall rise upon the 32nd part." John continued to serve the church for the remainder of the century and was a warden in 1593, 1594, 1597, and 1598. It is probable that John Endecott continued serving the church well into the next century since he lived until 1635 but the accounts for those years no longer exist.

John Endecott, (1541-1635), had a younger brother named William Endecott (1543-1630) who was also active in the church. He was a warden in 1570 and a Head War-

den in 1592. William will play a major role in the life of his nephew, Thomas Endecott (1566-1621), the eldest son of his older brother John Endecott. He will also be an important figure in the life of his great nephew, the future Governor John Endecott.

When John Endecott (1541-1635) married Johanna (1542-1637) in 1564, they moved into Drewston Manor where all five of their children were born. The first child was Thomas Endecott (1566-1621) followed by Robert, William, Richard, and Wilmott. As the children grew up, they moved from their father's residence at Drewston. Thomas Endecott apparently moved into Middlecott Manor which was also the home of their father's younger brother William.

Thomas and his unnamed wife married in 1587 and she soon was pregnant. Against all of the stories and legends surrounding the mother of the future Governor John Endecott, she died in childbirth or shortly thereafter. A list of deaths in Chagford during 1588 include the following entry, "Paid for the shroud for Thomas Endecott's wife 3 shillings 4 pence."

During this same period, William Endecott, (1543-1630), the uncle of Thomas Endecott, (1566-1621), had just married Anne Ellis (d. 1637). They lived at Middlecott Manor and Anne possibly was called on to assist in the delivery of the future Governor. At this point it would seem natural for Anne to have become a surrogate mother to raise the baby. Within two years, William and Anne had children of their own. Jane Endecott was born in 1590 and Henry Endecott was born in 1591. It appears that Thomas Endecott also remained at Middlecott Manor for a number of years before starting another family. The three children might have grown up together in this extended family, and received a good education.

They could read and write in English and they could speak French as well.

John Endecott's Life in England:

After growing up together at Middlecott Manor, John Endecott (1588-1665) and his two cousins went their own way. His cousin Jane Endecott (1590) married John Currie on 23 September 1611, while cousin Henry Endecott (1591-1655) met and married a girl named Helmet in Stoke-in-Teignhead in 1611. This would have been a major family event and John Endecott, along with his father, Thomas Endecott, would certainly have been in attendance. A local well-to-do widow, Alice Blackaller Andrew (1573-1643), was probably also in attendance given the small number of people living there. This was probably when she and Thomas Endecott met for the first time. They found each other agreeable.

On 17 July 1612, Thomas Endecott married Alice Blackaller Andrew at St. Andrews Church in Stoke-in Teignhead. At the time of her second marriage at St. Andrews, Alice was the mother of seven children including her adopted son, Gregory Andrew. Thomas Endecott was the father at that time of only one child, the future Governor John Endecott. Between 1613 and 1616, Thomas and Alice had two more children. They were Margaret Endecott (1613-1637) and a second John Endecott (1616-1683). They were half-sister and half-brother to the future Governor, John Endecott.

Meantime, John Endecott was now a mature man and, at some point, he had taken up the Puritan cause, a dangerous step to take at the time due to the ongoing persecutions of Puritans. In 1615, Reverend Samuel Skelton, an ardent Puritan, became the curate in Semstringham, Lincolnshire, and soon after was the spiritual advisor to John Endecott who said that he received "much good" from his ministry

and considered Skelton his spiritual father.

Two years later, on 2 November 1617, John Endecott was one of five men who witnessed and signed the sealing and delivery of a deed between Sir Edward Coke, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and Sir John Villiers, brother of the favorite of King James I, which settled the marriage for Sir Edward's daughter, Francis Coke and Sir John. Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634) is considered to be the greatest jurist of the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras. He later entered Parliament and was instrumental in passage of the Petition of Rights, one of the three crucial legal documents of England. He also wrote the statute of Monopolies which restricted the King to grant patents. This is considered one of the first actions in the conflict between King and Parliament that led later to the English Civil War. John Endecott, at the young age of 29, was part of a very important and influential group.

Meanwhile, John Endecott's father, Thomas Endecott, (1566-1621), was well settled and living with his wife and children in the village of Rocombe Cadhughe just outside of Stoke-in-Teignhead. In 1618, his wife, Alice Blackaller Andrew Endecott renewed leases on two houses, outbuildings, meadows, and nine parcels of land that was part of her late husband's estate. While this was evidently sufficient to their needs, Thomas appears to have had little of his own. Even though he was the first heir apparent to the Endecott fortune, his father, John Endecott (1541-1635), was still the head of the family and living at Drewston Manor.

The year 1621 was a momentous one for John Endecott (1588-1665) and the Endecott family. First, on the 26th of November, John Endecott married Jane Francis at the parish church in Bridford, barely 10 miles from Chagford. This happy occa-

sion was soon overshadowed, however, by the death of his father, Thomas Endecott (1566-1621) in Stoke-in-Teignhead. He was only 55 years old. Alice Blackaller Andrew Endecott brought her husband's body back to Chagford where he was buried. She then returned to Stoke-in-Teignhead. The half-sister of the future Governor, Margaret Endecott (1613-1637), was just eight years old and her brother, John Endecott (1616-1683), was only five. The future Governor John Endecott became the heir to the fortunes of the Endecott family, but his grandfather, John Endecott (1541-1635) was still alive.

Over the next seven years, a number of important events occurred that resulted in John Endecott leading the Puritans out of England. First, the Plantation at Cape Anne, the Dorchester Company, was established in 1624 in New England, but was not an economic success. The overseer of this venture was Thomas Gardner. He was a nephew of Reverend John White. In 1627, Roger Cognant and his small band of "Old Planters" move to Naumkeag in the Massachusetts Bay.

About this same time, John Endecott would have been looking for the funds needed to purchase a share of the Massachusetts Bay. He needed look no further than his grandfather. Since the work by Sir Roper Lethbridge regarding the ancestry of Governor John Endecott in the early 20th Century, the story has circulated that John Endecott, (1541-1635), the grandfather, was at odds with John Endecott, (1588-1665), the grandson and had nearly disinherited him in his will. The passage in Lethbridge says, " – including 40 shillings to John, the eldest son and heir of his deceased eldest son, Thomas, who was thus practically disinherited, and who subsequently disputed the will in Chancery." None of this is true. The John Endecott who received 40 shillings was the half-brother of Governor John Endecott. He

was not in the line of succession, and most of the estate of the grandfather went to Governor John's younger brothers including Robert, William, and Richard. Why was the future Governor not mentioned at all? He likely received the funds needed to purchase a sixth share of the Massachusetts Bay from his grandfather; needed nothing else for his inheritance; and thus was removed from the will. While there is no proof that can ever prove this theory of events, it appears most likely given what is now known about the family relationships.

In regard to the suit filed in 1636 against the estate of the grandfather John Endecott (1541-1635) by John Endecott, the grandson, there is no question that the John Endecott (1616-1683) who made the filing was the younger half-brother of the Governor who describes himself as John Endecott, yeoman, of Stoke-in-Teignhead. The Governor had left England eight years before the filing and was heavily engaged in the religious, political, and military affairs of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Governor would have never identified himself as a yeoman (farmer) and he never lived at his father's home in Stoke-in-Teignhead. The most important result of the filing was that the younger John Endecott (1616-1683) proved his lineage back to his Great-Great grandfather, John Endecott (1490-1562). In so doing, he also proved the lineage of his older half-brother, Governor John Endecott.

On 19 March 1628, John Endecott, Sir Henry Roswell, Sir John Young, Thomas Southcott, John Humphrey, and Simon Whetcomb, six religiously motivated persons, representing "The New England Company," purchased a patent for the territory of Massachusetts Bay from a corporation styled the "Plymouth Council for New England. John Endecott was selected as a "fit instrument to begin the wilder-

ness work," and granted full powers to take charge of the plantation at Naumkeag. His new life in America was about to begin.

John Endecott Found the Massachusetts Bay Colony:

On 20 June 1628, Captain John Endecott; his wife Jane Francis; and thirty settlers, "The New Planters," boarded the Abigail in Weymouth harbor, and said goodbye to England for the last time. They sailed westward for two months and sixteen days, and landed at a location the Indians called Naumkeag, later changed to Salem, in the Massachusetts Bay on 6 September 1628.

"On making known to the planters who had preceded him that he and his associate patentees had purchased all the property and privileges of the Dorchester partners, both at Naumkeag and Cape Anne, much discontent arose. Endecott, and his Puritan Council viewed with no favorable eye the raising of tobacco, believing such a production, except for medicinal purposes, injurious to both the health and morals, while they insisted on abolishing the use of the Book of Common Prayer. The wise enactments of the company's court in London did much toward allaying these and similar disputes."

To protect themselves against the Indians, a military company was organized by the settlers and John Endecott was placed in command. His attention was next called to the illegal trading and sinful ways of the settlers at Mount Wollaston, or Merry Mount, now Quincy. He personally conducted an expedition to the site and "rebuked the inhabitants for their profaneness", and admonished them. In the purifying spirit of authority, he then cut down the maypole on which Thomas Morton, their leader, had published his satires on the Puritans, while his followers made merry around it in the carousals from

which they sold arms and ammunition to the Indians in order to get their supplies." He also changed the name of the settlement to Mount Dagon.

Simultaneously during 1629, the purchasers of the patent to the Massachusetts Bay still in England, along with others such as John Winthrop, came together to create the Cambridge Agreement of 26 August 1629. This agreement laid out the plan for the mass migrations of Puritans out of England to the Massachusetts Bay. They also provided a copy of a charter to be forwarded to John Endecott that defined the establishment of a government in the Massachusetts Bay and made him Governor in the Massachusetts Bay Colony while Mathew Craddock was named the company's Governor in London. John Endecott's deputy governor was Roger Ludlow who becomes his brother-in-law in the year ahead.

On 4 May 1629, the Reverend Samuel Skelton answering a request from Governor Endecott, left England along with the Reverend Francis Higginson, and journeyed to Naumkeag in the Massachusetts Bay. The six ships in this voyage were known as the Higginson Fleet. Along with them on the ship, George Bonaventure, was Samuel Sharp who brought a copy of the charter. On the 6th of August, Reverend Skelton was installed as the first pastor of what would become the First Church of Salem in the years ahead.

The winter of 1629-1630 was particularly brutal and many of those living in Salem died. Among those was Jane Francis, wife of Governor John Endecott. For nearly two centuries, scholars have mistakenly identified the first wife of the governor as being Anne Gower. This error was first recorded in Charles M. Endicott's "Memoir of John Endecott (1847)," and appeared that same year in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Volume I,

1847. In fact, Anne Gower did marry a John Endecott, but it was Dr. John Endecott, (1657-1695), the oldest grandson of the Governor. They were married in London at St. Olave Church on 20 August 1688, 23 years after the death of the Governor.

Governor John Endecott continued to exercise authority over the colony until 12 June 1630 when John Winthrop arrived with the Royal charter by which government of the colony was entirely transferred to New England. He became Governor and John Endecott, who was chosen one of his council of assistants, gave a cordial welcome to the new governor, and a friendship began which continues while they both lived.

A New Life with a New Wife:

One of the passengers aboard the ship Mary and John in 1630 was a widow named Elizabeth Cogan Gibson (1607-1676). She was the eldest daughter of Philobert Cogan and his wife Ann Marshall. One of Elizabeth's younger sisters, Mary Cogan, was the wife of Roger Ludlow who was Governor Endecott's deputy. Elizabeth was soon introduced to Governor Endecott and they were married by Reverend Skelton on 17 August 1630. They had two sons. The first son was John Endecott (1632-1667). John married Elizabeth Houchin on 9 November 1653. The couple had no children. The second son was Zerubbabel Endecott (1635-1684). He was a doctor and married Mary Smith in 1654. They had ten children.

On 3 July 1632, the Court of Assistants granted John Endecott 300 acres of land situated between and three miles to the North of the main settlement at Salem. This was afterwards known as the Orchard Farm. This is also possibly the year that John planted a pear tree on the property that continues to live into the 21st Century and is the oldest cultivated fruit tree in

North America.

In 1634, John Endecott was nominated to be one of the seven military commissioners for the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In September, a rumor reached the colony that the King was demanding the charter in an attempt to force them to celebrate the ceremonies of the Church of England. Endecott, a staunch Puritan, was moved by the rumor, and, inflamed by the fiery eloquence of Roger Williams, publicly cut out the Cross of St. George from the colony banner with his sword. He stated that the cross in the banner "—savored popery." Given the deteriorating conditions between Puritans and the Crown in England, the colony and Winthrop were not in a position to ignore the act, and brought action in the General Court, the colony's legislature, against Endecott where he was admonished and denied public office for one year. Endecott made his apologies that same day and retired from service for a year. Two years later, Endecott's removal of the cross from the flag was vindicated. Many of the militia had refused to serve under the flag, and the Military Commission finally ordered that the cross be left out.

First Major Conflict with Native Americans:

In 1636, the first major conflict between the new colonists and a Native American tribe occurred. The hostilities were precipitated by the killing of a trader, John Oldham. Governor Henry Vane called on John Endecott in August to lead a 90-man force to seek justice from the Pequot tribe. He was assisted by Captain John Underhill who was a professional soldier who had arrived with Governor John Winthrop in 1630. He had been a Puritan exile in the Netherlands as a child and had served as a cadet in service to Prince William, the Prince of Orange.

John Endecott and his men proceeded to

Block Island where they spent two days destroying villages and claiming that fourteen Indians were killed. The force then marched to Saybrook, a settlement at the mouth of the Connecticut River, and took its militia with them before attacking a Pequot village at the mouth of the Thames River. The Indians escaped but their village and food stores were either destroyed or confiscated. With this accomplished, John Endecott returned with his force to Boston while the Saybrook militia under Lion Gardner were left to remove the Pequot crops. The Pequot reformed and attacked. Under great pressure, the Saybrook militia was able to retire. John Endecott played no further fighting role in the war which ended with the Treaty of Hartford in 1638. The surviving Pequot members were dispersed among the other tribes.

To better pursue the war, the militia in Massachusetts was organized into three regiments on 13 December 1636. The South Regiment was commanded by Colonel John Winthrop, Sr. with the assistance of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Dudley. The North Regiment was commanded by Colonel John Haynes and his deputy was Lieutenant Colonel Roger Harlakener. Colonel John Endecott was commander of the East Regiment with the assistance of Lieutenant Colonel John Winthrop Jr. In 1644, during the second term of John Endecott as governor, the militia was reorganized once again. The title of "Colonel" was abolished and the regimental commanders became "Majors". The chief military officer in the colony was given the title of "Sergeant Major General" and Thomas Dudley became the first "Sergeant Major General of Massachusetts." This old title was soon modified to the modern form of "Major General."

On the 6th of June, 1639, John Endecott was granted 500 acres by the General

Court. Later that year, the Court granted an additional 550 acres upon the Ipswich River. This is the land where he began to mine for copper in 1648 at a place called Blind Hole and which later became the Topsfield Copper Mine. It was the first copper mine operated by Europeans in North America but was never a great success financially.

The English Civil War and the Ascension of John Endecott:

In 1641, 1642, and 1643, John Endecott was chosen as Deputy Governor, and in 1642, he was also an Overseer of Harvard College. This was happening in the midst of the 1st English Civil War which pitted Royalist Forces against Parliamentary Forces. While John Endecott had held many offices in the years after his first governorship in 1629-1630, his stringent Puritanism had prevented his being elected to the governorship again as Winthrop and others had their hands full trying to rein in some of his more radical views on the Crown and the Established Church of England. However, in 1643, Parliament introduced the "Solemn League and Covenant" by which they undertook to introduce the full Presbyterian system with its "doctrinal rigidity and exacting discipline." Now with this new formation of society and the King's forces on the run, John Endecott came to the fore and was elected governor in 1644. When John Endecott completed his term in 1645, he was appointed Major General of Massachusetts and he held this position until 1649. He also was elected as an assistant and one of the commissioners of the province.

In 1648, the 2nd English Civil War erupted but was short lived. The King was captured and put on trial. He was convicted of high treason, and executed. The winning Parliamentarians proclaimed the Commonwealth of England and the disestablishment of the Church of England.

Their Puritan-based lifestyle in England was fully implemented.

The Glorious Decade of Puritanism in New England:

Upon the death of John Winthrop on 26 March 1649, John Endecott again was chosen governor. He maintained this office in annual elections until his death except for 1650 and 1654 when he was the Deputy Governor. Now released from the constraints of the King and with England adopting the Puritan lifestyle, Governor Endecott was free to move rapidly to order the colony more completely on Puritan principals. In 1649 he issued a formal proclamation against wearing long hair "after the manner of ruffians and barbarous Indians."

The colony made rapid progress during his terms from 1655 to 1660 and was part of the Glorious Decade (1650-1660) for the Puritans, but religious tolerance became a crime. As the head of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, responsible for its spiritual and temporal welfare, John Endecott felt a duty to scourge, banish, or hang the unorthodox. He was particularly opposed to the Quakers who were coming into the colony in numbers after 1650. Their beliefs were not as rigid as the Puritans who saw them as a threat as they attempted to convert Puritans. Over time, Governor Endecott had many of them banished, imprisoned, beaten, or even executed. William Robinson and Marmaduke Stephenson of that sect were executed on 27 October 1659, and Mary Dyer was hanged the following spring in 1660. A fourth Quaker, William Leddra, was the last to be executed. He was hung in Boston on 14 March 1661.

With Puritans now in charge in England, Governor Endecott wrote a letter in 1651 to the Corporation for the Propagation of the Gospel Amongst the Indians and they responded by sending money to the colo-

ny to carry on the good work. The Church Wardens' Account in Chagford lists the sixty-two subscribers who contributed which include a number of relatives of the governor. Included were John Noseworthy, Mary Noseworthy, and John Nosworthy, Jr. who were related to the governor through his aunt, Wilmot Endecott Noseworthy. Also on the list was Henry Hooper and his son Henry Hooper. The elder Henry was one of the administrators of the estate of John Endecott (1541-1635), the Governor's grandfather. There also was Henry Endecott (1591-1655), cousin to the Governor, who probably grew up with him at Middlecott Manor. These contributors demonstrate that Governor Endecott kept in touch with some of his family decades after his departure from England.

Even in the early colonies there was a need for money, and John Endecott established a mint in 1652. This was against existing English law, but in the new Commonwealth, John was in no fear for his actions. Coins continued to be minted until the abrogation of the charter in 1685, long after Governor Endecott's death. John also continued to increase his landholdings. In 1658, the General Court, thankful for his long service to the colony, granted him a fourth of Block Island.

Puritanism Falter and Governor Endecott Dies:

After the death of Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector of England, in 1659, the Commonwealth of England began to crumble. Royalists were successful in restoring the monarchy under King Charles II in 1660. In 1661, the struggle began in Massachusetts to save its royal charter and its local government. Governor Endecott drew up a petition to the King in the name of the General Court of Boston. It asked for the King's protection and a continuance of those privileges and liberties which the

colony enjoyed. The capital blasphemies of the Quakers and their contempt of authority were also set before the King. King Charles returned vaguely favorable answers which asked Governor Endecott to seek out villains such as the regicides Edward Whaley and Thomas Goffe, and ordered all condemned Quakers to be sent to England where they would be dealt with.

In 1662, the King expressed his willingness to take the colony into his care provided that all laws made during the "late troubles" derogatory to the King's government be repealed. He also asked that the oath of allegiance be duly observed, and that the administration of justice take place in the King's name. He went on to suggest that the principal end of the charter was liberty and conscience, and that the Book of Common Prayer and its ceremonies might very well be used by those desirous of doing so.

Commissioners were sent to the colony in 1664 where they sat in judgment of the Governor and the General Court. Governor Endecott addressed a strongly worded protest against this attempt to override their privileges to Secretary William Morrice on 19 October 1664. In his response, Morrice complained of Endecott's disaffection and stated that the King would be happy to see someone else elected to lead the colony.

Before the next election, John Endecott died in Boston on 15 March 1665 at the age of 77. His long service to the colony was recognized when he was buried on 23 March 1665 in the Granary Burial Grounds in Boston in Tomb 189. In spite of many grants of land to the Governor over the years, he died land poor in that he was often without liquid assets and in debt. In the "Diary of John Hull," the Mint Master and Treasurer of the Colony of Massachusetts, he comments on the death as fol-

lows, "Our honored Governor, Mr. John Endecott, departed this life – a man of pious and zealous spirit, who had very faithfully endeavored the suppression of a pestilent generation, the troublers of our peace, civil and ecclesiastical, called Quakers. He died poor as most of our rulers do, having more attended the public than their own private interests. It is our shame, though we are indeed a poor people, yet might better maintain our rulers than we do. However, they had a good God to reward them.

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ENDICOTTS TAKE ON MOUNT EVEREST

By

President Bill Endicott

On May 16, 2018 at 11:22 a.m., Oliver Endecott, stood at the summit of Mount Everest, altitude 29,029 feet. Here is the story of how that happened.

Experienced Climber

Oliver, age 30, is an experienced mountaineer, having already climbed four out of the “Seven Summits” (the highest mountains on each continent): Denali, Kilimanjaro, Aconcagua, and Mont Blanc (as well as the Matterhorn and Petit Pi-

ton). So naturally, he wanted to add Mount Everest to the list. (Eventually he plans to climb the final two: Mt. Vinson in Antarctica and the Carstensz Pyramid in Papua, New Guinea). He also wanted to use the

expedition to raise money for the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys in Washington, DC, and he succeeded in raising \$10,000 for them (having raised over \$8,000 for the school previously with his Denali ascent).

Go With an Experienced Team

To climb Mount Everest the best way to increase the odds you’ll get to the summit and make it out alive is to go with a team led by an experienced guide, someone who’s done multiple ascents before, and

critically, with support of Sherpas who manage all of the complicated logistics and supplies, including the oxygen.

You can go by yourself if you want to but it’s a good way to die. Records show that

to date there have been 297 deaths on Everest, most of them due to avalanches, injuries from falls, ice collapse, exposure, frostbite, or health problems related to conditions on the mountain.

Jagged Globe

Oliver went with a five-member climbing group with representation from the USA, the UK, Ireland and Belgium organized by a British company called Jagged Globe.

The group was led by David Hamilton who had summited Everest 8 times before and the group was supported by a rotation of seven Sherpas who ferried loads between

the camps on Everest for the group. Four Sherpas accompanied the group to the very top.

Mom Comes Too

Accompanying the group on the hike to Everest were 5 “Everest Team Trekkers”

who hiked in with the group but who didn’t make the climb up Everest. One of

them was Eve Endicott, age 70, Oliver’s mother!

Big Commitment

Training for Everest takes years and preparation begins in earnest one year out. It takes a lot of specialized mountain climbing gear to make an attempt on Everest. Then there’s the cost of flying there, pay-

ing for a permit to climb, living there for two months, and paying for Sherpas and guides. Altogether you have to raise upwards of \$60,000 to make the climb. Oliver was fortunate to have a very generous

boss (at the law firm where he previously worked) who sponsored his climb financially and granted him extensive leave.

Getting to Everest

So it was that on March 26, Oliver and mom Eve Endicott flew to Kathmandu in Nepal. (There are two starting points for climbing Mount Everest, Nepal and China, but Nepal is consistently the most popular). They then flew from Kathmandu to Lukla, Nepal, on March 28. Lukla is re-

peatedly ranked among the most dangerous airports in the world, due to its short, inclined runway and setting in a windy valley at approximately 9,380 feet.

The group then hiked for nine days from Lukla to Mount Everest Base Camp, via Namche Bazaar, the capital of the Sherpa

region in the Himalaya, overnighing in so-called “tea houses” (which are actually lodges accommodating up to 50 people and in some cases more than that) along the way. On the way Eve climbed Kala Patthar with the group, reaching a height of 18,514 feet, her personal elevation rec-

ord. After reaching Everest Base Camp and Godspeed, she retraced her steps with the Blanco, also made the trek to Base Camp, wishing Oliver and the other climbers other trekkers. Oliver's girlfriend, Emily meeting Oliver upon his descent.

Acclimatizing

One big reason to hike in like this is to slowly acclimate to increasing altitude. A gain of about 300 meters per day is considered safe, with a rest day between moves advised. This process cannot be rushed. Certain medications, like Diamox and Ibuprofen can help aid the process. But the other reason for moving slowly is to enjoy the beauty of the Himalayas and learn something about the local culture. Starting on April 8, having acclimatized to their quarters in Base Camp over the previous week, the four climbers, their leader, and the Sherpas began to "lay siege" to Mount Everest. You don't just show up at Mount Everest one day, climb it the next and then go home.

Siege Strategy

Instead, as a part of the siege strategy, you do "rotations" (training climbs) up and down at increasingly higher altitudes in order to get acclimated to the problems of climbing at such heights and become familiar with the technical features. Oliver made about a dozen such preparation climbs, which means 12 trips through the Khumbu icefall, the unstable glacier area laced with crevasses (often crossed with crampons on rickety aluminum ladders) and looming "seracs" as big as buildings (which, when they fall, are often deadly). Unfortunately, a few days after arrival to Base Camp, Oliver and the Irishman in the group both came down with a serious case of food-borne illness, resulting most likely from a plate of vegetables washed in contaminated water. Oliver was put on oxygen and antibiotics. He became extremely dehydrated and took four days to recover. Thankfully, the team had arrived a week early to arrange logistics on the mountain, and Oliver's summit attempt was spared. Food safety and overall hygiene were critical, daily concerns given the close quarters of the climbers and lack of proper sanitation.

2014 and 2015 Disasters

There have been two recent disasters on Everest, in 2014 (icefall avalanche) and 2015 (earthquake) in the area. The 2014 avalanche claimed the lives of 14 Sherpas but that route was quite relevant to the route that Oliver's team needed to take through the icefall, so, they wanted to do rotations in that area. However, out of respect for the slain Sherpas, no one climbed on April 18, the exact date of the 2014 disaster. That is a new tradition that Oliver doesn't ever see changing.

Making the Climb

The jet stream courses directly over the summit of Everest about 50 weeks of the year with winds of around 100 miles an hour. That means there is usually an optimum "window of opportunity" for summing Everest that comes in mid- to late May, when the jet stream nudges north of the Himalaya. And May 16 was determined to be the day Oliver and his group would go for it. To climb Everest, you do it in seven stages, reaching one stage and then recuperating there for a while before moving to the next stage. Here are the stages, their altitudes, and about how long it takes to get from one to the other (but not including rest times at each):

Base Camp — Altitude 17,600 — Hike in 9 days

Base Camp is like a little town of 1,000 people, with an atmosphere alternating between festive and funereal. Satellite phones buzz in international languages as people in tents phone home. Journalists and families and climbers exchange "war stories." Information of varying qualities on weather and rescues creates sweeping rumors and valuable intel in equal parts.

Camp 1 — Altitude 19,350 — 5 to 8 hours

This is in a vast crevassed platform of endless snow and glacier, prone to avalanches. Camp 1 is the gateway to the highest valley on Earth, known both as the Valley of Silence and the Western Cwm. George Mallory, an early Everest pioneer, named the valley the Cwm in 1921, and it is Welsh for bowl-shaped valley. To reach it you must navigate the aforementioned, treacherous Khumbu Icefall, a cascade of broken ice suspended over a frozen river that extends at a 50 degree angle from Base Camp up to the flanks of Everest.

Pounding headaches and respiratory infections, the “Khumbu cough,” can often plague you and don’t let up for the rest of the trip. This year, British Olympian Victoria Pendleton (2012 Olympic Champion) abandoned her climb early here after suffering from hypoxia following an acclimatization schedule deemed too rapid by Oliver’s guide, David Hamilton. David and his team’s Sherpa Sirdar

Camp 2 — Altitude 21,325 — 4 to 6 hours

This is a rocky strip nestled in the Cwm, from a couple of feet to a hundred feet, under the looming buttress formed by and depths of upwards of 300 feet. Camp Everest’s sheer, 7,900-foot southeast face. 2 represents the last place to get a real meal and, more importantly, offers the last opportunity for helicopter evacuation. Due to the effects of solar radiation on the highly reflective glacial slopes and cold drainage, temperatures here vary drastically and can range between -50° and +95° Fahrenheit.

Camp 3 — Altitude 23,362— 4 to 6 hours

This camp is carved by Sherpas into an ice shelf halfway up the 5,000-foot Lhotse Face. Lhotse, at 27,939 feet, is Everest’s eastern neighbor and the fourth highest mountain in the world. It’s so close to Everest, though, that their bases connect and to climb either one, the first part of the trip is the same. Only later do you switch to climb Everest specifically. Lhotse’s south face, the part in common with Everest, is a mile-high wall of blue ice that is the source of the Khumbu icefall and the Dudh Kosi river, the highest river in the world, which flows along the trekking route. To reach Camp 3, you must “front point” on and ascend with ropes over complex, overhanging ice features. means driving the two special teeth on the front of the crampons into the ice. You don’t want to lean too far forward or backward or you will lose either your footing or balance. The sane will start using supplemental oxygen from here on out!

Camp 4 (South Col) — Altitude 26,246— 8 to 10 hours

The final camp sits on a plateau or Col between the summits of Everest and Lhotse. This is a moonscape, pocked by 400 million year-old granite that used to rest on the floor of the Indian Sea. The cluster of windswept tents here straddle the border between Tibet and Nepal and sit below the summit pyramid of Everest proper. The sky is a dark, limitless blue—because you are as close to space as you can get on earth. Upon arrival at the South Col, you have entered the “death zone,” a threshold that begins around 26,000 feet, where the body literally starts to die from lack of oxygen. So you need to spend as little time there as possible, even if you are breathing supplemental oxygen.

Camp 5 (Balcony) — Altitude 27,500 — 7 hours

Camp 6 (South Summit) - Altitude 28,700 — 3 hours

Camp 7 (Summit) - Altitude 29,035 — 1.5 hours

Descent to Camp 4—Altitude 26,246 — 8 hours

Group Leader Hamilton maintained a blog about the whole adventure which you can access at <https://www.jagged-globe.co.uk/news/blog.php?id=61#i921>. I followed this blog during much of the whole trip. And then on summit day, it was possible to follow Oliver personally by looking at his GPS readings online almost hour by hour. It was incredible! By looking at how long it had taken previous groups to do the different stages it was possible to calculate when Oliver should reach each stage and then the summit. Everything seemed to be going according to schedule except for the final part of the climb, from the South Summit to the Summit. Normally this should take a little more than an hour. But an hour went by, and then two, and Oliver still was not there. Uh, oh. Finally, after three hours the GPS showed Oliver was at the top!

After that the GPS showed him making a fast descent. Later we learned the reason it had taken so long to do the final stage was because Oliver and his group had to wait for an hour and a half at 28,500 feet, just below the Hillary step, while an earlier group navigated the southeast ridge to the summit. The final climb passes through a narrow, vertical bottleneck and Oliver had to wait for many other people to go through first.

In fact, it turned out that on that day a

record 140 people summited Mount Everest! This is testimony to the fact that what was once seen as virtually unimaginable has now become imaginable if you know what you are doing and are really prepared with the right equipment and support.

Later, group leader Hamilton said that compared to his eight previous trips to the top of Everest, this time:

- The weather was ideal on climbing day and was so good that people

were able to summit for 10 consecutive days.

- But there was more snow than he had ever experienced before, which actually makes climbing easier in most places.

And there were more people than ever before, which was the biggest problem. The final push had taken Hamilton about 14 hours in the past but this time it took 20 hours because of all the people.

Consequences

Even though more and more people are summiting Everest you can still die there and during the period Oliver was there five people died, but none from his group. However, one of Oliver's team members, again the Irishman, unfortunately did have to abandon his climb at Camp 2 after coming down with pneumonia. (He also had to abandon a previous attempt in 2015, having been injured in the Everest avalanche mentioned above.) The rest summited.

But one of the ones who summited experienced Deep Vein Thrombosis (i.e. a blood clot in the leg) on the ascent but didn't tell anyone about it. He went to the top and back anyway figuring he'd never get another chance to do it. Later, when they got him to the hospital, his blood was so thick they couldn't drain the wound right away. But he survived. If he had had a stroke during the climb, which certainly was possible, it would have been up to the climbing team to deal with it—maybe even causing them to abandon their ascent.

And Oliver himself didn't emerge entirely unscathed—he got Grade 1 frostbite on his big toes.

On a previous, preparatory expedition to Denali in Alaska, (formerly known as Mount McKinley) North America's highest

peak, Oliver had gotten low-grade frostbite on his toes on his seventeen-hour summit day. Like many alpine ailments, once you have had frostbite, that area of the body is more susceptible to future frostbite.

As a result, Oliver was deeply concerned about his feet on the Everest summit attempt. Every year there are amputations of extremities due to frostbite and 2018 was no exception.

Oliver's summit bid began at 11:00 p.m. on May 15th, meaning that he would be climbing through the coldest part of the night in order to reach the summit in the morning and have time to descend to the

South Col by the traditional 2:00 p.m. turnaround time.

He was concerned in the early morning hours that his feet were getting too cold in the -30° Fahrenheit temperatures and was considering turning around. His Sherpa, Rakesh, assured him that if he could keep blood flowing to his feet by stomping his feet and swinging his legs until 5:00 a.m. when the sun would rise he would be OK.

Rakesh was right, and Oliver continued to the summit. However, after the climb Oliver did receive the news that he had gotten Grade 1 frostbite on his big toes, but no permanent damage.



Eve and Oliver at Base Camp (Oliver is 6'5")

Here are Eve's overall impressions of her trip:

* It was wonderful to spend two weeks with my younger son in a beautiful place doing what I most love to do – long-distance walking -- before I “lose” him to grown-up obligations (he has just started business school at Georgetown). Fortunately, I had no problems with the altitude or the trek itself. I very much enjoyed getting to know the two Sherpas who accompanied us and glimpsing their culture.

* The walking was challenging – like climbing up and down endless sets of steps, since the trail has been “hardened” for much of its length – but even at 70 I was not the oldest trekker in the group. Good boots and going slowly are the key!

* Gradual acclimatization, lots of water, and daily ibuprofen helped keep me from suffering any altitude sickness, but susceptibility is highly variable with the individual.

* If someone isn't going with a climbing team, he or she should consider less popular treks in the Himalaya than the Everest base camp trip such as the Gokyo circuit. I most enjoyed the less crowded side paths we sometimes took.

* Only by doing the trek and reading books like Jon Krakauer's “Into Thin Air” (along with two other accounts from 1996, the IMAX Everest film and Jamling Norgay's book “Touching My Father's

Soul”) could I have understood what Oliver and his teammates accomplished. It is not just the climbing that is challenging: it is climbing while sick, alternately hot and freezing, and sleep- and food-deprived (Oliver lost 30 pounds over the course of the expedition). In Krakauer's words: “Above the comforts of Base Camp, the expedition in fact became an almost Calvinistic undertaking. The ratio of misery to pleasure was greater by an order of magnitude than any other mountain I'd been on....climbing Everest was primarily about enduring pain.” I am as proud of Oliver's determination as of his achievement. Must be that Puritan blood!

Here are Oliver's overall impressions of climbing Mount Everest:

* Some say that they climb “because it is there,” but I climb for the existential peace, opportunity for contemplation, and natural challenge that mountaineering provides me. In my small estimation, there are few better ways to travel, exercise, or see the world. Not to mention meet interesting people, encounter new cultures, or spend time with the most important women in my life, my mother Eve and girlfriend, Emily.

* I have compressed a lot of mountaineering and summits into the past six years, but I see the Seven Summits as a lifelong quest. Mount Vinson (Antarctica) is a peer to Denali and Everest and is going to take just as much preparation as Everest did. Carstensz Pyramid (Papua, New Guinea) is a fascinating mountain that is incredibly remote and is the most technical of the seven, so I have my work cut out for me.

* I could not have made it an inch above Camp 2 without the partnership of Sherpas Pem Chirri and Rakesh Lama. They are two of the strongest men I have ever met. This is the Sherpas' mountain, at least the

Nepalese side is, and they know it better than anyone.

* Climbing, and life, for me, is best as a team sport. I have done some solo climbing, but the camaraderie and bonding I have experienced with old friends and strangers alike are a big driver of why I continue returning to the mountains.

* I spent 30 minutes at the summit and sat there stunned with both a profound sense of gratitude and an incredible, visceral sense of how miniscule we all are and how fragile life is. Coming down was an order of magnitude scarier than going up, despite it taking 1/10th of the time. 60 percent of accidents are on the descent.

* My father was the

first in our family (that I know of) to visit Nepal in 1974, and he introduced me to climbing. He wasn't able to join us this time around unfortunately, but I will end on his belief that everyone should visit Nepal and the Himalaya if possible. The Sherpa are some of the friendliest and most inspiring people you will ever meet, and the Himalaya contain the most beautiful and stark natural landscapes I have



Oliver (with mask) and his Sherpa, Rakesh Lama, on the summit of Mount Everest