

Deaf Culture Question of the Week - Nov. 23 - 27, 2009

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A bit of a "Thanksgiving/Pilgrims" connection in the Deaf Culture Question of the Week.

Which famous Deaf Artist is a direct descendant of the leader of the Pilgrims' voyage on the Mayflower and settlement in the Americas?

- a. Betty G. Miller, painter
- b. Sandi Inches Vasnick, fiber artist
- c. Susan Dupor, painter
- d. John Brewster, painter

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer: "d" John Brewster - Is a 7th generation descendant of William Brewster (pilgrim) who was the leader of Mayflower voyage to America of the first pilgrim settlers in the new world.

“John Brewster Jr. (May 30 or 31st, 1766 – 1854) was a prolific, deaf itinerant painter who produced many charming portraits of well-off New England families, especially their children. He lived much of the latter half of his life in Buxton, Maine, USA, recording the faces of much of Maine's elite society of his time.

According to the website of the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, NY, "Brewster was not an artist who incidentally was Deaf but rather a Deaf artist, one in a long tradition that owes many of its features and achievements to the fact that Deaf people are, as scholars have noted, visual people."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Brewster,_Jr.

Many Deaf families can trace their lineage to William Brewster (who was not himself deaf). He did however have several deaf members in his ancestry and deaf children and grand children. Read more about William Brewster and his descendant John Brewster in the book "Deaf Artists in America: The Worlds of John Brewster" by Harlan Lane