# How Pilgrim Edward Fitz Randolph Jr And His Descendants Helped Build America

When we think about the founding of America, names like George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson often come to mind. However, there are many other unsung heroes who played a significant role in shaping the history of this great nation. One such family is the descendants of Pilgrim Edward Fitz Randolph Jr, whose contributions can still be felt to this day.

#### The Journey of Edward Fitz Randolph Jr

In 1623, a young man named Edward Fitz Randolph Jr embarked on a journey that would change the course of his life and the destiny of a nation. Born in Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, England, Edward was a member of the Separatist movement known as the Pilgrims. Seeking religious freedom, he set sail aboard the ship Anne along with several other Pilgrims.

After a treacherous journey across the Atlantic Ocean, the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Colony in present-day Massachusetts. Edward Fitz Randolph Jr's resilience and determination were immediately evident as he helped establish a settlement in the new world. He played a crucial role in building the infrastructure of the colony, constructing houses, clearing land for farming, and establishing trade routes.

Unfaltering Trust: How Pilgrim Edward Fitz
Randolph Jr. and His Descendants Helped Build

**America** by Roy Ziegler(Kindle Edition)

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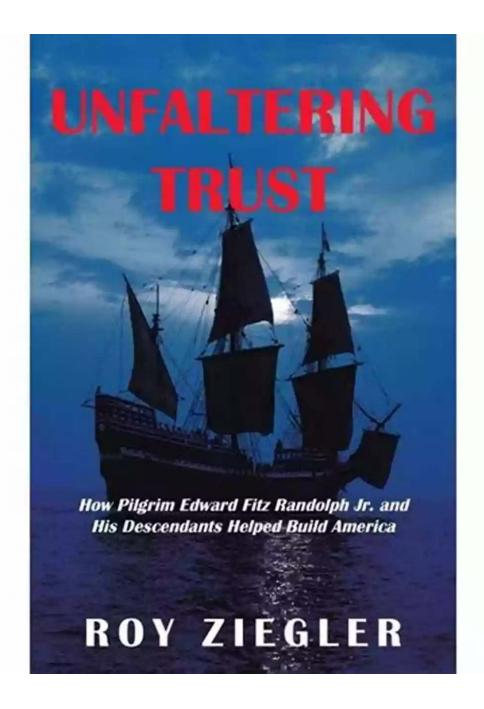


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#### The Contributions of the Fitz Randolph Family

Edward Fitz Randolph Jr's commitment to the growth and prosperity of America was passed down through generations. His descendants went on to become prominent figures in various fields and played a vital role in nation-building.



One notable descendant of Edward Fitz Randolph Jr is his greatgrandson, Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, who served as a captain in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. He fought alongside George Washington and played a key role in several decisive battles, including the Battle of Valley Forge.

Another prominent member of the Fitz Randolph family was Theodore Fitz Randolph, a lawyer and politician who served as the

governor of New Jersey in the early 19th century. He implemented progressive policies that helped shape the state's development and economy. Theodore's forward-thinking approach laid the foundation for New Jersey's industrial growth.

Edward Fitz Randolph Jr's descendants continued to contribute to various sectors, including education, science, business, and the arts. From founding schools and universities to developing groundbreaking inventions, they were instrumental in shaping America's cultural and intellectual landscape.

#### **A Lasting Legacy**

The legacy of Edward Fitz Randolph Jr and his descendants extends beyond their individual achievements. Their collective contributions helped shape the very fabric of America and its values. They exemplify the spirit of perseverance, innovation, and dedication to the principles upon which this great nation was built.

Today, the Fitz Randolph family continues to honor their ancestors' legacy by actively participating in philanthropy and supporting causes that promote education, equality, and social progress. Their commitment to making a positive impact on society reflects the values instilled by Edward Fitz Randolph Jr, generations ago.

In the narrative of America's history, it is essential not to overlook the often unheralded contributions of individuals like Edward Fitz Randolph Jr and his descendants. Their tireless efforts in shaping America's early development played a crucial role in forging the nation we know today. From fighting in wars to driving innovation, the Fitz Randolph family's legacy continues to shape the progress and prosperity of the United States.

Next time you think about the founding fathers, take a moment to appreciate the impact of lesser-known figures like Edward Fitz Randolph Jr and his descendants. They are a testament to the countless individuals who helped build America from the ground up.



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When he left England in 1630 in search of religious freedom and opportunity during the Great Migration to the New World, pilgrim Edward Fitz Randolph Jr. could never have imagined the vast impact his descendants would have on the creation of America.

Originally settling in Plymouth Colony, he later moved his family to New Jersey after the Puritan theocracy denied the very freedom he had sought. In 1669 the Fitz Randolphs became a founding family of New Jersey. Edward and his sons were farmers and major landowners who quickly became leaders in the development of the province, holding offices in both the local and provincial governments. Some Fitz Randolph family members were Quakers and early

leaders of the movement to abolish slavery in the pre-Revolutionary War period. Another helped establish Princeton University.

During the Revolutionary War some were heroes on the battlefield. Afterwards Fitz Randolphs were vanguards of the Industrial Revolution. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries they were architects, prominent physicians, bankers, social activists, judges, authors and members of Congress. Four relatives of Edward Fitz Randolph Jr. and his wife, Elizabeth Blossom, became presidents of the United States. Other Fitz Randolph family members transformed a mid-nineteenth-century manufacturing company into a ten-billion-dollar corporation by the beginning of the twenty-first century.

In Philadelphia, Captain Edward Randolph, a hero at the Battle of Paoli, became a prominent entrepreneur after the Revolutionary War. His firm, Coates and Randolph based on 2nd Street was a major shipping and grocery enterprise in early Philadelphia history. His son, Dr. Jacob Randolph, a brilliant surgeon, succeeded Dr. Philip Syng Physick, "Father of American Surgery," as Chief Surgeon and lecturer at Pennsylvania Hospital—the first hospital in the nation.

Captain Randolph's daughters, Julianna and Rachel, were founders of the Western Association of Women for the Relief an employment for the Poor—probably the country's first job training program in America. Thousands of Pilgrims migrated to the New World seeking religious freedom and opportunity in the seventeenth century. Millions of immigrants followed over the next four centuries. Unfaltering Trust tells the story of one pilgrim family whose heroism and leadership helped forge—and over the course of nine generations have helped develop—a new nation. In these faltering times their story is an inspiration for all immigrants seeking refuge and hope in America today.



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