



# General Society of Mayflower Descendants 2014–2015 Annual Report



# Joyce Lovina Garrison Parke's Extraordinary Gift

**D**URING FISCAL YEAR 2014–2015 the Mayflower Society received the final distribution of a \$2.2 million bequest given by the late Mrs. Joyce Lovina Garrison Parke of Westfield, New York, a descendant of Resolved White, son of William White. As she instructed, the bequest has been placed in endowment and designated the Joyce Garrison Parke Memorial Fund.

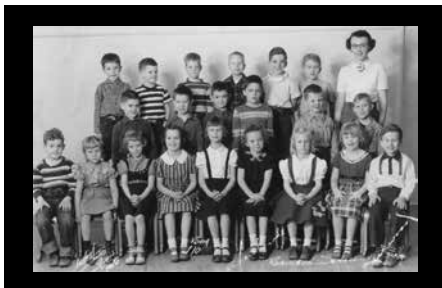


Joyce was born on 12 June 1928 in Silver Creek, New York, the daughter of the late Isaac Mark and Haizelle (Mix) Garrison. A native of Westfield, New York, she attended Westfield Academy, then completed a degree in Elementary Education at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. After graduation, she began a long career teaching at the Robinson Elementary School in Kirkwood, Missouri, from 1949 to 1975, where she is remembered with affection by many of her former students. Married to the late Earl Calvin Parke, the couple returned to Westfield in 1984 and settled into retirement.

In addition to the New York Society Buffalo Colony of GSMD, Joyce was a member of the Missouri Retired Teachers Association, the Abigail Fillmore Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Chautauqua County Historical Society, and the First Presbyterian Church and Society of Westfield. She was remembered by her pastor and neighbors as kind and generous, with a passion for American history and education of our youth, and intense pride in her Pilgrim ancestry.

Joyce died at her home on 12 December 2012 and was buried in a private ceremony at the Garrison family plot in Quincy Rural Cemetery, Ripley, New York. She is survived by a niece and two nephews, as well as her friends and neighbors in Westfield.

The extraordinary gift of the Joyce Garrison Parke Memorial Fund has allowed the General Society of Mayflower Descendants to create the full-time positions needed to expand and run the society effectively. Thank you, Mrs. Parke, for allowing GSMD to keep the story of our Pilgrim ancestors alive.



Miss Joyce Garrison's 1954 first grade class at Robinson Elementary School in Kirkwood, Missouri. Photo courtesy of GSMD member Leslie Vander Meulen Richards.

# Welcome from the Governor General



It is with great pride that the General Society of Mayflower Descendants presents its first Annual Report. A great debt of thanks goes to the membership of our fine society, the executive committee, our trustees, our national officers and GSMD committees, as well as our hard-working staff in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

In addition to the many accomplishments you will see in this report, there are additional projects on the horizon. Recent research indicates DNA will soon become an essential building block in lineage review, so we are working closely with geneticists to stay on the cutting edge of this technology. To keep our ancestors relevant into the future, we are publishing new and important works including *The Cry of a Stone* and the new *Mayflower Journal*. There are currently members in three countries actively working to establish new societies in the United Kingdom, Australia, and Germany, which will allow us to grow

internationally and welcome new members. As we approach the 2020 commemoration of the *Mayflower* voyage, projects worthy of national publicity will enhance our mission of education about our ancestors.

Growth means added cost and we have carefully followed our Strategic Plan while making sure money was budgeted before moving ahead. As our great society moves forward, we pledge to bring you added benefits while staying fiscally responsible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Lea Sinclair Filson".

Lea Sinclair Filson  
Governor General

# Welcome from the Executive Director



I am pleased to offer to you this Annual Report, which provides a summary of some of our many accomplishments this past year. Our national headquarters in Plymouth has never been busier, from a substantial growth and reorganization of staff to working with the executive committee of the GBOA to begin implementing the key initiatives of our recently adopted Strategic Plan.

We have heard from you about the importance of providing more support for membership, improving our website, increasing funding for Silver Books research and publication, archiving and offering our *Mayflower Quarterly* digitally, and working towards making the Society House more accessible for use by members. We are increasing public awareness of the Mayflower Society, including our continuing support of Pilgrim Progress and the efforts of Plymouth's 2020 planning through Plymouth 400, Inc. As we enter fiscal year

2015–2016, challenges remain, but the society has never been stronger, or had greater potential to expand its membership and programs. All of that has only been possible because of your interest, commitment, and generosity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Walter L. Powell".

Walter L. Powell, PhD  
Executive Director

# About the Mayflower Society

## Mission Statement

**T**HE GENERAL SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS, GSMD, is committed to education and lineage research on the journey of the Pilgrims aboard the *Mayflower* in 1620 and their lineal descent. The Society provides education and understanding of why the Pilgrims were important, how they shaped Western civilization, and what their 1620 voyage means today.



## Vision Statement

GSMD has demonstrated over a century of dedicated effort to raising public awareness to the ideals and traditions established by the Pilgrims in order to ensure public commitment. As the preeminent authority on the legacy of the Pilgrims, GSMD will continue to play a crucial role as the best source of information and education to raise public awareness and increase public understanding of the importance of the Pilgrim's lives and legacies. In so doing, GSMD will:

- Preserve, protect, and interpret the Mayflower Society House property, its surrounding gardens and a sizable collection of decorative arts, antiques, and artifacts of historic significance relating to the Pilgrims and their descendants;
- Collect and maintain research materials relating to the history, culture, and genealogy of the Pilgrims and their descendants housed in the GSMD Library facility located on the grounds of the Mayflower Society House property, which is open to genealogists, historians, and other researchers;
- Publish historical and genealogical research by professional genealogists and historians to establish authoritative biographical, genealogical, and historical information relating to the Pilgrims and their descendants;
- Actively participate throughout the world in local community planning and coordination with other non-profit organizations, that have similar missions and goals;
- Provide active participation with member society organizations, established in accordance with GSMD standards, and with the approval of GSMD. Each chapter shares the mission and vision of GSMD and membership is limited to individuals who can establish a direct lineal descent from a *Mayflower* passenger in accordance with standards and procedures established and administered by GSMD;
- Solicit financial support of donors;
- Enhance public awareness and support through educational publications, programs, historical tours, logo sales, scholarships, and initiatives to encourage GSMD chapters in similar efforts;
- Maintain financial and organizational independence;
- Administer revenue producing programs, such as tours of the Mayflower Society House, the retail sale of publications and other program-related merchandise and membership dues paid by each constituent organization.

## Statement of Values

GSMD is committed to: fulfilling its mission; embodying the highest standards in all of its endeavors and maintaining its role as a leader in the world genealogy community; promoting new scholarship, research, and publications; encouraging a passion for history; offering the content of its unique collections in ways that ensure it is intellectually accessible and broadly and freely available; creating programming that engages a broad and intellectually curious audience; encouraging the establishment of additional state and foreign membership societies which share GSMD's mission and vision; ensuring an institutional culture that reflects respect for staff and its work and for GSMD's history and traditions; ensuring GSMD's financial strength.



# Highlights from A Year of Progress

## Historian General's Office and Lineage Department

- Processed 1,689 applications in total; 1,328 new member applications and 361 supplemental applications
- Throughout fiscal year 2014–2015, the largest amount of lineage applications filed was for the following *Mayflower* passengers: Howland (158); Alden (144); Brewster (127); Hopkins (120); Bradford (109); and Warren (100)
- Established decreasing turnaround time for applications as “top priority”
- Successfully transitioned to an elected volunteer historian general
- Extended member outreach through professional genealogical conference attendance and community events
- Assimilated donated book collections from Connecticut and Massachusetts Societies into GSMD Library for use by researchers and genealogists
- Completed training of staff and three new verifiers to review applications in a timely and consistent manner
- Established regular communication with over seventy-five society historians

Right: GSMD verifiers in the Plymouth office diligently review each application for membership.



## Mayflower Society House and Garden

- Welcomed over 1,500 visitors for tours of Mayflower Society House and Garden
- Hosted over 500 delegates during Triennial Congress in September 2014
- Hosted lecture by historical novelist Amy Belding Brown in July 2014
- Hosted elementary school students and school administrators from our sister-city of Plymouth, England, in November 2014
- Hosted a successful Christmas Open House in December 2014
- Hosted a lecture by William Brewster Silver Book author Barbara Lambert Merrick in April 2015; the lecture was filmed and can be seen on the GSMD YouTube channel
- Hosted and co-sponsored a family-friendly “Pirates Ashore” weekend in May 2015, which reenacted the spring of 1646 when eighty English pirates arrived in Plymouth Colony
- Completed renovation to the Society House apartment, installed a new sewer line, and repaved and repainted the parking lot

Right: Docent staff at Mayflower Society House and Garden. From left to right, Back: Marti Finnegan, Janette Somerville, Sue Fournier, Donna Olsson. Front: Patty Besser, Mary Murray, and Head Docent Judy MacDonald.



# Highlights from A Year of Progress

## Publications Sales

- Bade farewell to Sales Manager Carolyn Doyle, who retired after more than thirty years with the Mayflower Society
- Published two new Silver Books, including the long awaited *William Brewster* (Volume 24, Part 1) and *Ruth Alden Bass* (Volume 16, Part 4)
- Published *Mayflower Families in Progress* George Soule...*Four Generations* (7th edition)
- Published *Philip Delano of the Fortune* (Part 5)
- Reprinted *Strangers and Pilgrims* by Jeremy Bangs
- Expanded inventory at Society House Gift Shop and added credit card sales capacity
- Added new insignia items to online shop as well as a new Kid's Cabin section featuring gifts for kids and grandkids
- Strengthened and expanded publication sales outreach to our community partner organizations and potential new retailers



## Communications

The Mayflower Society has used this year to move forward in our increasingly digital age by building our web presence and improving communications with members and the general public. This has involved expansion into new social media pages, developing an email newsletter, and striving to post engaging content across our social platforms. To that end, we have:

- Developed a sharp new logo that gives the organization a recognizable brand
- Developed a corresponding website redesign that went live in March 2015
- Created the first electronic issue of the *Mayflower Quarterly* in December, posted on the Members Only section of the GSMD website
- Unveiled “featured articles” on the website—the public can now access one story from each issue of the *Mayflower Quarterly* at no charge
- Expanded features in the Members Only section of our website to include past and current issues of the *Mayflower Quarterly*, GSMD Directory, GSMD Donors, and more
- Registered over 2,000 members in the Members Only section of our website and established active Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube accounts that are gaining new followers daily
- Established our first email list in September 2014, which has grown from 0 to over 1,200 subscribers and is increasing daily
- Created a fresh new format for the *Mayflower Quarterly* by redesigning it into a magazine that will bring much more society information and activities to members



# *Highlights from* **A Year of Progress**

## **Fundraising**

As part of the current Strategic Plan to create growth by providing enhanced services to current and future society members as well as engaging the general public, we recognize the need to be more intentional in generating earned and contributed revenue to help support these ambitions. With that in mind:

- The Governor General established a “1620 Club” at Congress in September 2014 for those that contribute \$1,620 or more to GSMD; the “1620 Club” is now at thirty-seven members
- Launched an Annual Appeal that realized over \$100,000 in donations
- Created gifts of appreciation to encourage annual giving
- Continued and reorganized Garden Walkway Brick program
- Obtained a \$20,000 grant for a Historic Structures Report from the Cultural Facilities Fund of the Massachusetts Cultural Council
- Budgeted a fundraising consultant for fiscal year 2015-2016 to establish a structured permanent development program



## **Operations**

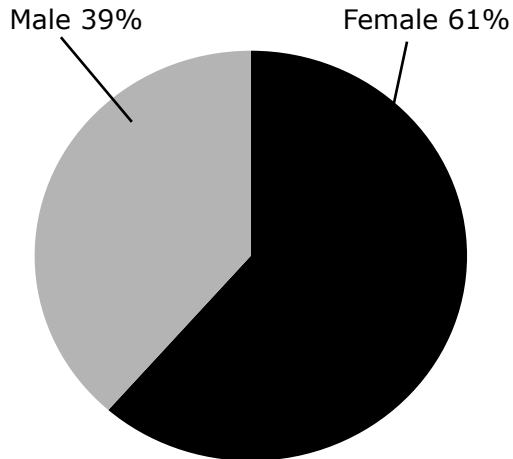
The GSMD staff in the Plymouth office is the primary source of contact and services for our member societies and the greater Plymouth community, and consistent with our recently adopted Strategic Plan, our priority has been to strengthen staff capacity and the development and delivery of quality services and public outreach. To achieve these goals, the following actions have been undertaken:

- Hired a full-time Director of Genealogy and Research Services
- Hired a full-time Administrative Assistant to process incoming membership applications
- Hired a full-time Publications Sales Director
- Hired two new verifiers at the GSMD Library to assist with research and review of membership applications
- Expanded library hours to Saturdays during the summer
- Increased community outreach in Plymouth

# Overview of New Members

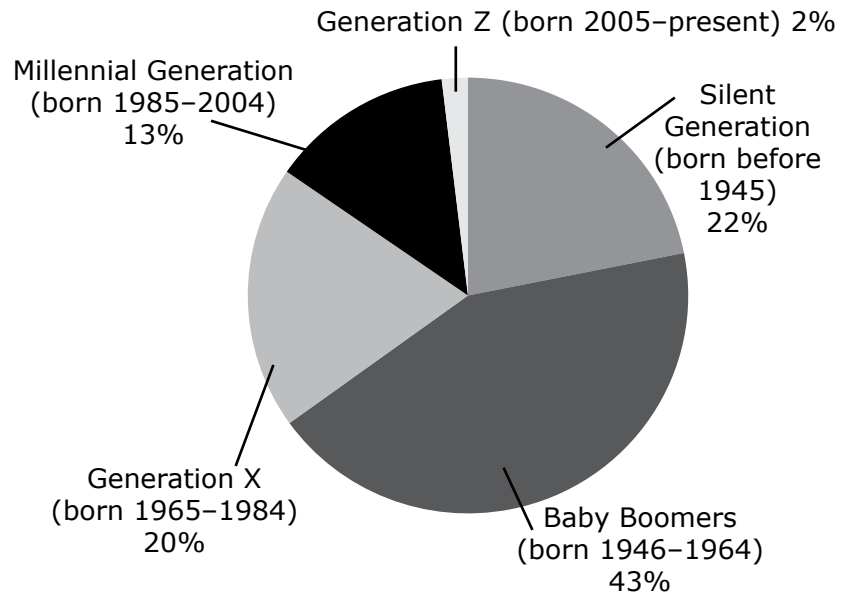
## New Members by Gender

1 July 2014–30 June 2015



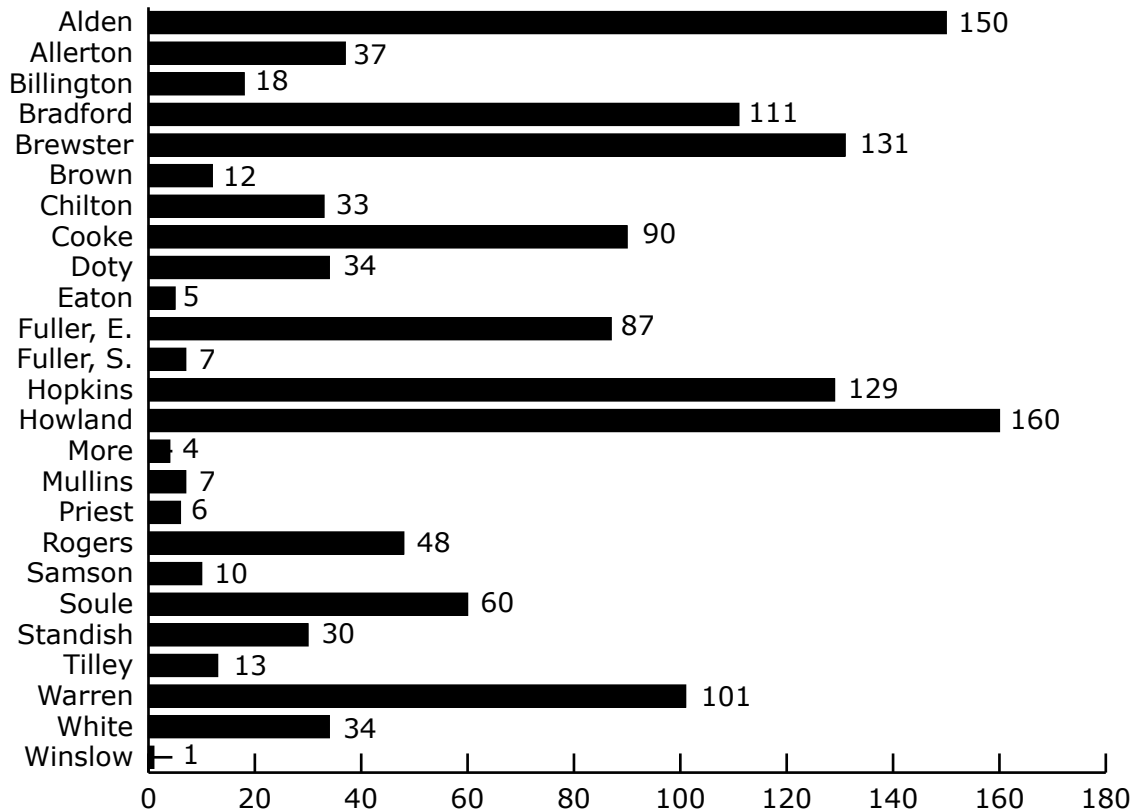
## New Members by Generation

1 July 2014–30 June 2015



## New Members by Ancestor Family

1 July 2014–30 June 2015

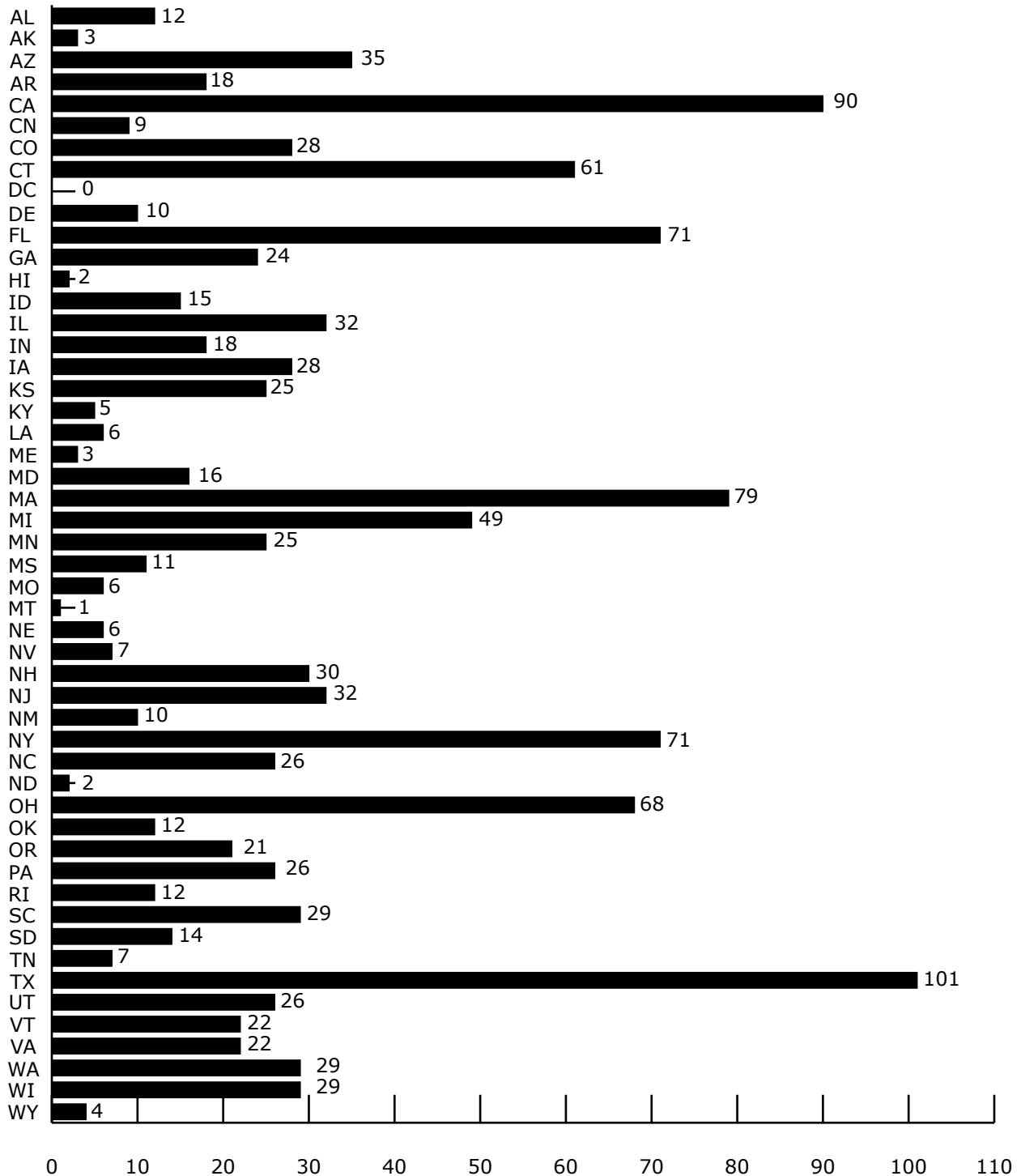




# Overview of New Members

## New Members by Society

1 July 2014–30 June 2015



# Financial Profile

## Consolidated Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2015

(With Comparative Totals at 30 June 2014)

	2015	2014 (Comparative Totals)
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 326,142	\$ 224,572
Grant Receivable	20,000	-
Inventory	143,084	134,215
Investments	9,614,969	8,379,328
Beneficial Interest in Charitable Trust	63,668	63,120
Bequest Receivable	-	1,200,000
Other Assets	22,506	26,770
Property and Equipment, Net	205,293	214,242
Collections	-	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 10,395,662</b>	<b>\$ 10,242,247</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 32,388	\$ 24,779
Accrued Expenses	29,527	22,945
Deferred Revenue	9,650	-
Deferred Meeting Fees	13,220	29,153
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>84,785</b>	<b>76,877</b>
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	4,124,270	4,156,425
Temporarily Restricted	558,282	719,992
Permanently Restricted	5,628,325	5,288,953
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>10,310,877</b>	<b>10,165,370</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 10,395,662</b>	<b>\$ 10,242,247</b>

The complete financial statements of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants have been audited by the firm of Damon, Topham & Co., LLC and are available to members upon request.

# Financial Profile

## Consolidated Statement of Activities for Year Ended 30 June 2015

(With Comparative Totals for Year Ended 30 June 2014)

	2015	2014 (Comparative Totals)
<b>Support and Revenue</b>		
Member Assessments and Fees	\$ 519,435	\$ 443,708
Contributions	534,764	572,724
Grant	20,000	-
Sales		
Less: Cost of Sales	219,997	139,164
Investment Return designated for current operations	335,000	240,000
Museum House Revenues	12,909	8,858
Deaccession Sales	83,014	-
Other	5,880	6,336
<b>Total Operating Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,730,999</b>	<b>\$ 1,410,790</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program Services:		
Genealogy Validation	\$ 402,249	\$ 276,961
Genealogical Research and Publications	183,317	149,963
Museum House Operations	202,689	153,073
Member Services	185,800	147,319
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>981,055</b>	<b>727,316</b>
Supporting Services:		
Management and General	237,322	286,547
Fundraising	61,780	124,351
<b>Total Supporting Services</b>	<b>299,102</b>	<b>410,898</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,280,157</b>	<b>1,138,214</b>
Change in Net Assets from Operations	450,842	272,576
Other Changes: Investment return reduced by amounts designated for current operations	(305,335)	708,356
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>145,507</b>	<b>980,932</b>
<b>Net Assets—beginning of year</b>	<b>10,165,370</b>	<b>9,184,438</b>
<b>Net Assets—end of year</b>	<b>\$ 10,310,877</b>	<b>\$ 10,165,370</b>

The complete financial statements of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants have been audited by the firm of Damon, Topham & Co., LLC and are available to members upon request.

# *Thank you* to our Generous Donors

We are profoundly grateful to the thousands of donors in fiscal year 2014–2015 who responded to our Annual Appeal or contributed designated gifts. Among those meriting special recognition are the following:

## **The Governor General's 1620 Club—Donations of \$1,620 or More**

Susan Abanor and Harold Wooley—New York	Christine Schlosser—Wisconsin
Judie Allen—Texas	Ellen I. Sinclair—Illinois
Matthew and Meili Brady—Kansas	Grace Smith, PhD—Michigan
C. Richard Denham—Texas	Diane Sonneck—Michigan
W. Herbert Doty—Minnesota	Brianna May Steakley—Texas
Ruth Ann Fay—Florida	Carol Steakley—Texas
Lea Sinclair Filson—Louisiana	Danica Segan Steakley—Texas
Colonel Albert T. Fisher—Virginia	Marilyn Jeanne Steakley—Texas
Florida Mayflower Society	Judith H. Swan—California and Canada
Elizabeth Gaudreau—Colorado	Tennessee Mayflower Society
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Bart Henson—Texas	Linda K. White—Arkansas
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Rick and Patti Moore—Louisiana	
Lisa Pennington—Texas	
Rev. C. Corydon Randall—Indiana	
Carla K. Rigby—Maine	
Susan E. Roser—Canada	

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## *Bequests:*

Dr. Ronald Hamilton Estate—Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
Gertrude Rouse Hammond Estate  
Raymond James Charitable Trust (for Margaret A. Pasha Foundation and Joseph Pasha Foundation)  
Betty M. Styer Charitable Trust

# *Executive Committee*

## 2014–2017

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Louisiana

**Historian General**

Marjorie “Midge” K. Hurtuk  
Connecticut

**Surgeon General**

Naomi S. Mann, MD  
Louisiana

**Assistant Governor General**

George P. Garmany Jr., MD  
Colorado

**Counsellor General**

Richard S. Gilmore, Esq.  
Massachusetts

**Member-at-Large**

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Massachusetts

**Secretary General**

Susan E. Roser  
Canada

**Elder General**

Kenneth R. Whittemore Jr.  
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**Treasurer General**

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**Captain General**

Reynolds P. Cushing  
Florida

**Member-at-Large**

C. Richard Denham  
Texas

## GSMD Plymouth Staff

**Operations**

Executive Director Walter Powell, PhD  
Business Manager Robert Hassey  
Communications Manager Megan Cassidy  
Publications Sales Director Debbie Sirois

**Mayflower Society House and Garden**

Head Docent Judy MacDonald  
Docent & File Clerk Patty Besser  
Docent Marti Finnegan  
Docent Sue Fournier  
Docent Mary Murray  
Docent Donna Olsson  
Docent Janette Somerville

**Historian General's Office  
and Lineage Department**

Director of Genealogy and Research Services  
Margaret “Marti” Bobertz  
Assistant Historian General Todd Holden  
Verifier Biz Chase  
Verifier Chris Cook  
Verifier Die Hoxie  
Verifier Cynthia Ricciardi  
Verifier Judith Towne  
Librarian Carolyn Travers  
Membership Services Manager Georgi Hess  
Administrative Assistant Laura Stagliola





# GSMD Committees

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David L. Grinnell—OH & CA

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FSG Roger L. Young—TN  
John R. Payzant—NH

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Sandra St. Martin—OH  
Gretchen Harvey—NE  
Mary Tabor Griswold—NV  
Linda L. Hill—TX

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Noel H. Kuhrt Jr.—DE

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Alice C. Teal, MQ Editor—NJ

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Dennis Klotter, RN—TN  
James Egan, MD—MD

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Laurie A. Sutherland—NY  
Jack P. Hailman, PhD—FL

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FMAL Benjamin G. Proctor Jr.—MD  
Mary F. Brown—CT  
FMAL Priscilla G. Usher—RI  
Sharon A. Wiese—SD

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Grace B. Smith—MI  
Jane Hurt—KS  
Scotti Sawyer-Kershner—PA

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Franklin N. Horton—NC  
Michael C. Keleher—NC  
Mary Lee Merrill—MN  
Gregory E. Thompson—CT

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AGG George Garmany Jr., MD—CO  
SG Susan E. Roser—CN  
TG Donald T. Studley, CPA—CT  
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Jack P. Hailman PhD—FL  
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Sally K. Johnson—CA  
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Laura Sharpe Brock—FL

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AHG Todd M. Holden—RI  
SG Susan E. Roser—CN  
Beverly Spooner—CO

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SG Susan E. Roser—CN  
Gregory E. Thompson—CT  
Ron Dailey—FL  
Andrea “Annie” W. John—DC

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**Endowment Fund and Pilgrim Fund**  
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Benjamin G. Proctor III—MD  
FGG Judith H. Swan—CA & CN  
Mark T. Cox IV—VA  
GG Lea S. Filson—LA

## **2020**

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Ralph L. Moore—IL  
Mary F. Brown—CT  
Noel H. Kuhrt Jr.—DE  
Jane Schleinzer—IL  
Elwood M. Porter II—WY  
Carolyn Crist-Schwab—NC  
FCnG Kenneth R. Callison—IA  
Deborah A. Yingst—NJ  
Muriel C. Cushing—FL  
Robert Dempster—CA  
John J. White—MA  
Joe Lillis—NY  
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Muriel C. Cushing—FL  
EG Kenneth R. Whittemore Jr.—CA & DC  
Carolyn L. Adams, Esq.—CT  
Judie Allen—TX

# *GSMD National Officers*

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AG Ann R. Ferguson

### **ALASKA**

DGG[vacant]  
AG Carol J. Ross

### **ARIZONA**

DGG Roberta E. Wilkinson  
AG Dianne Cobb

### **ARKANSAS**

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AG Linda K. White

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AG Kenneth R. Whittemore Jr.

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AG George R. Nye

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AG Beverly Spooner

### **CONNECTICUT**

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AG Mary F. Brown

### **DELAWARE**

DGG Noel H. Kuhrt Jr.  
AG Robert J. Hanson Jr.

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AG Timothy C. Finton, Esq.

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AG Muriel C. Cushing

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AG Arthur E. Chapman

### **HAWAII**

DGG Elbridge W. Smith  
AG [vacant]

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AG Deborah Lasher-Hardy

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AG Linda D. McGlothlin

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### **KENTUCKY**

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AG Fay Charpentier-Ford

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