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FALL 2024

## General Society of Mayflower Descendants

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#### THE MAYFLOWER QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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The Mayflower Society House Virtual Lecture Series covers a variety of Pilgrim related topics, including the Pilgrims' odyssey, their life and times, their maritime experience and, of course, genealogy. Please plan to join us for the next lecture topics highlighted below from the comfort of your home. These lectures are free and no pre-registration is needed. For more information visit: TheMayflowerSociety.org/ history/lecture-series.





October 10th - 7 pm (ET) Laurence Bergreen, Marco Polo

November 7th – 7 pm (ET) **Thomas Weaver, "The Electoral College:** Why it Endures Despite Two Centuries of Criticism"

November 14th – 7 pm (ET) Stephen Tomkins, "The Journey to the Mayflower"

> December 4th – 7 pm (ET) **Richard Stone, "Project Mayflower"**

**Cover Art:** Three bells that are part of the Meneely ten bell chimes that are located in the belltower of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse.

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#### **Deadlines for submission:**

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Spring Issue	Summer Issue

October 1: Fall Issue Winter Issue

**Submissions:** To submit to *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*, please e-mail MQMEditor@TheMayflowerSociety.org. All articles submitted should be sent as Microsoft Word documents; photographs submitted should be sent as 300 dpi resolution or higher. All articles must contain endnotes for researched material referenced in the article. The following is a link for Chicago Manual of Style where endnote formatting information can be found: www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/book/ed17/frontmatter/ toc.html.

Mailing 18 Winslow Street Address: Plymouth, MA 02360-3313 MAYFLOWER QUARTERLY

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 2024 fall issue of The Mayflower Quarterly *Magazine*. As I sit here writing in Plymouth, Massachusetts, during a hot and humid day in July, fall seems a distant contemplation. However, by the time this reaches you, we in the Northern Hemisphere will begin turning our thoughts to cooler weather, changing leaves and, of course, Thanksgiving.



There are several exciting

and interesting articles in this fall issue. There are updates on the Mayflower Meetinghouse project and the restorations being done on the Meetinghouse's ten bells. Inside is an article on the history of a Plymouth landmark: *Mayflower II*, and the announcement of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants scholarship winners. Peggy Baker has provided an insightful look at the differences and similarities between early Plymouth Colony and the Walloons in New Netherland. There is even an article about a Mayflower Society Member sailing into space!

This issue marks the beginning of my third year as The MQM editor-inchief. I have been blessed with an incredible team. I would like to give particular thanks to the copy editors, MQM Chair Della Regenold, and Beth Anderson-Godfrey. Without their expertise, skill and dedication The MQM would not be the excellent magazine it is. Likewise, without the amazing designers at Shields SGF and the team at Lane Press, The MQM would just be words on a computer. My gratitude for everyone's hard work and patience cannot be overstated.

And finally, I want to thank you, the reader, for all your kind words, encouragement and article submissions. You are the reason this magazine exists. Thank you.

I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving!



- Doug

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# Governor General's Message

GOVERNOR GENERAL LISA PENNINGTON

When you celebrate Veterans Day each November, remember that the Pilgrims were some of the first to form a militia in America, and the first in America to provide veterans benefits to their wounded soldiers.

On February 17, 1621, only two months after they landed at Plymouth, the Pilgrims created a militia to defend their small and vulnerable colony. They elected Myles Standish as their captain. He would prove to be a popular choice, as he was elected captain by the town every year until his death in 1656 at the age of 72.<sup>1</sup>

Standish provided important counsel on the placement of a small fort at the top of what is now Burial Hill.<sup>2</sup> This building would serve as the meetinghouse, where they worshipped, and the town house where they passed the first laws in America. It was a square, flat-roofed building with cannons mounted on the top level. Church services and town meetings were held below.<sup>3</sup>

Standish also helped design the layout of the first houses for maximum defensibility.<sup>4</sup> Recent archeological discoveries bear this out. In 2018, Dr. David Landon of the University of Massachusetts-Boston found a Pilgrim house near the current Mayflower Meetinghouse. This is believed to be Standish's house because it was nearest to the fort. It is a two-room house cut into the hill, which would have made two sides of it very defensible.<sup>5</sup> Standish also designed and instructed the men to build a palisade fence in 1622. The men were divided into four companies, with their own commander and given duties and positions in the event of attack.6 The Pilgrims feared attacks by Native Americans, but also worried about the Spanish and French who also claimed the land. The Spanish had massacred a French Huguenot settlement in Matanzas Inlet, Florida in 1565.<sup>7</sup> They knew that a fort, six cannons, a militia and nightly watches might be critical to their survival.

At the meetinghouse in 1636, the Pilgrims passed the first law in America granting veterans benefits to wounded soldiers. It is very simple, but it is the precursor to all later veterans benefit laws. It states:

"If any shall be sent forth as a soldier and return maimed, he shall be maintained competently by the Colony during his life."<sup>8</sup>



"The First Muster," a National Guard Heritage Painting by Don Troiana, courtesy the National Guard Bureau.

Today, we would agree that the Pilgrims were right. Men and women who risked their lives defending our country deserve our gratitude and support. This Veteran's Day, remember all our brave American veterans—and the Pilgrims, who were some of the first to remember their soldiers' sacrifices.

If you would like to help tell this story at the Mayflower Meetinghouse where the first American veterans benefit law was passed, you may donate in honor of your favorite veteran on our website at www. themayflowersociety.org, or send a donation to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 18 Winslow St., Plymouth, MA 02360.

I am donating in honor of Korean War Marine Lieut. John W. Pennington, my dad!

- 1. Nathaniel Philbrick, *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community and War,* (New York: Penguin Group, 2006), 88.
- 2. Philbrick, 84.
- **3.** Samuel Eliot Morrison, *William Bradford's Of Plymouth Plantation*, (New York: Modern Library, 1967), 152.
- 4. David Landon, "Pits, Posts and Palisades: The Archaeology of Patuxet and the 17th century Plimoth Colony Settlement." virtual lecture, April 11, 2024. https://themayflowersociety. org/history/lecture-series/.
- 5. Philbrick, Mayflower, 127, 129.
- **6.** Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs, *Strangers and Pilgrims, Travelers and Sojourners*, (General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2009), 663.
- 7. Christopher J.M. Boucher, "The Greatest Dissemblers in the World: Timucuas, Spaniards, and the Fall of Fort Caroline," (*Florida Historical Quarterly*, 2018), 97(2): 163-164.
- 8. David Pulsifer, ed., Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England, Volume 12: Laws 1623-1682, (AMS Press Inc., New York, N.Y., 1968).

# News from the Plymouth Office - Executive Director's Update

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARK SCHMIDT

There are some traits that we tend to share, and one of them is joy at knowing that hard work and perseverance have paid off. It is gratifying to see that the amount of time and energy that The Mayflower Society spent in doing necessary restoration work on the Mayflower Society House in Plymouth is paying off. People who live in the region, as well as those tourists from outside of Plymouth, have come to the recently-reopened Mayflower Society House (the "House") and been very pleased with what they have seen. The House has been utilized as a gathering space for local companies looking to have business meetings, to being the venue for a local poetry celebration, to a location for another nonprofit to do a grant presentation on opioid prevention, and as the location for the annual children's Teddy Bear Tea. The House has proven to be popular, as business and government leaders become mesmerized by its grandeur. The craftsmanship, attention to detail and overall splendor of the House add a level of sophistication not often found in historic houses in New England. Society members should be very proud of what they have accomplished.

Because of that success, The Mayflower Society members should be very confident that the restoration of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse (the "Meetinghouse") is in good hands. Although the COVID-19 pandemic slowed progress on the Meetinghouse workload, momentum is very strong to get the project fully funded and perhaps even completed by the end of 2026. The Mayflower Society has been diligently fundraising and raising awareness for the project, emphasizing that, when completed, the Meetinghouse will provide an educational facility that will allow visitors to better learn the story of the Mayflower passengers and their subsequent impact on world history. The Meetinghouse will include interactive exhibits and

The Mayflower Society House Solarium set up for the 2024 Teddy Bear Tea.

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experiences that will bring the story to life, leaving an indelible impression upon those who come through its doors.

But, before we get there, we need to continue to raise funds. If you would like to be involved with this restoration project, please go to our website: www.TheMayflowerSociety.org to make an online donation. We can do great things together!

I would also like to thank everyone who provided their ideas for programs and lectures as part of our Virtual Talk series. We want to get into historical topics so that we can educate, inform and entertain our members and non-members alike. We want you to be proud of the organization to which you belong, and hopefully to learn something interesting along the way. I hope you can join us in the future for these programs and you can always email me with other program ideas if something strikes your fancy....

Thanks, as always, for your engagement and participation.



## National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse Bell Restoration Project

MARK SCHMIDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During the week of June 3 through 7, 2024, the Verdin Bell Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, came to Plymouth to begin the restoration process of the Meneely ten bell chimes that are located in the belltower of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse. The bells, originally forged in 1921, need to undergo extensive restoration and repair efforts due to their proximity to ocean air. Over time, the hardware used to hold the bells aloft has corroded. Some of the bells weigh as much as 3,000 pounds apiece. Additionally, the metal ringers inside the bells, as well as their leather straps, have not aged well.

Verdin will take the components back to their headquarters where they will refurbish and restore as much as they can. If there is a need for new hardware, they will install that as well. The process takes at least six months to complete, so the company hopes that the bells will be ringing by Christmastime. The bells themselves stayed in Plymouth, due to their size and weight, but they will be rehabbed upon Verdin's return. When the work is completed, the ten bell chimes will be able to play at least 200 different songs. The amount of material is determined by how much music has ten or fewer notes. These songs will be pre-programmed into a computer and can be played at different times of day. Additionally, a keyboard will be installed inside the Meetinghouse so if a non-programmed song wants to be heard and can be played, a musician will have the ability to play the song on the bells.

If you would like to support the bell restoration, or simply want to assist in the fundraising efforts for the Meetinghouse, you can join the Governor General's 1620 Club by logging onto https:// themayflowersociety.org/support/donate/ governor-generals-1620-club/ or go to https:// themayflowersociety.org/give/the-mayflowermeetinghouse-project/. Passing the Torch

BETH LAMBRIGHT, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Nearly all of us of an older age or generation carry a longing to pass the torch to the younger generations in our family. Yet—how do we do it? US schools today do not teach as much Colonial History as they used to. A recent study found that less than ten percent of American eighth graders are proficient in US history. With so many of our youngsters glued to screens in the twenty-first century, how do we pass on this important legacy that they are a part of and will inherit?

I have heard so many of my General Society of Mayflower Descendant (GSMD) cousins say "my children are just not interested in our Mayflower family history." I wonder if we just need to be a bit more creative in the way we present that history. As a former school teacher, I have often noticed that enthusiasm is caught, not taught. If I value my Mayflower lineage, perhaps the younger generation would want to catch it!

When our grandchildren were little, we lit candles on Thanksgiving before our family feast and called out the names of our Mayflower ancestors with our children. At first they were confused, but... children LOVE lighting candles! It became a family ritual of sorts as we participated yearly.

When our eldest child, a daughter, was in fifth grade and taking US history for the first time, we saved our vacation dollars and took both kids to Plymouth, Massachusetts. They were able to climb on the *Mayflower II*, see Plymouth Rock and visit Plimoth Plantation Museum, now known as, Plimoth Patuxet Museums, where I took a picture of the kids with their tenth-great-grandmother, Hester Mahieu Cooke. Our eldest child got it. These Pilgrim people were our people—our family! At the end of that school year she was the only Oregon child in her classroom who knew where Plymouth Rock was and what happened there. Seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling are the most powerful ways to learn—and can be the most fun! Can you make a Plymouth recipe, like cornbread made with grain ground at the Plimoth Grist Mill? Then they can taste 1620! Can you grow some herbs in your garden that our ancestors used? It will smell like 1621! Or maybe you can plant tulip bulbs from the Netherlands and talk about your ancestor who lived there, or burn a bayberry candle



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or pick some Sasafrass if it grows locally. Collecting clam shells at a beach near you can be a lesson in the purple of those shells that the Wampanoag used for wampum. Even purchasing some mussels at your local market and serving them for dinner can inspire a conversation about how our ancestors lived.

This last spring, an opening occurred in the busy schedule of our youngest grandson, a seventeenyear-old in high school. He had nothing planned for spring break. So—in spite of cold weather and even some snow, we brought our Pacific Northwestern grandchild (and his mother, our daughter) out to Boston and Plymouth to see a part of the country he knew nothing about, and catch a glimpse of this other family history he had in New England. The first couple of days were awkward. Everything was so different. Our grandson asked, "you mean we are going to be looking at cemetery gravestones and talking about dead people?" Well, yes, some of that... but he also heard church bell chimes keep time in some places in New England. This does not happen in the Pacific Northwest, and our ancestors certainly were familiar with that in England and the Netherlands. When we visited Plimoth Patuxet Museums, the interpreters there let him try on the armor and touch the elements of daily living in each house in the English Village. At the end of that day, our grandson was owning this "family experience." "I can't believe how often our family names are listed out here!", he said. Yes, Nathan, yes. This Mayflower legacy is YOURS. This national story is personal for us-we have come from these roots of people who risked everything to live a different way. Their Governor William Bradford said, "one candle lights a thousand" when describing New Plimoth and its effect upon the whole country. Perhaps in your generation the candle that is YOU will also light others and teach them what happened here at Plymouth. After all, Governor Bradford also wrote, "We have rather noted these things, that you may see their worth, and not negligently lose what your fathers have obtained with so much hardship."

The rest of our week had a different tone. Our grandson eagerly discovered much more of his country's history and his very own family history. The torch had been passed!

## Pilgrims in Space: A Mayflower Descendant Takes Flight!

LISA PENNINGTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL

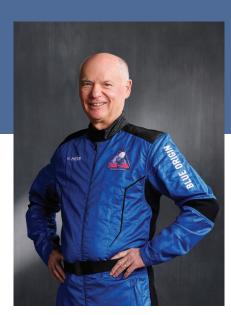
When our Pilgrim ancestors set out on the *Mayflower* in 1620, they knew they were sailing into an unknown world and were facing physical dangers they had never encountered. A little over 400 years later, a rocket ship, Blue Origin's New Shepard Flight NS-25, named after Alan Shepard, a Mayflower descendant, sailed into the frontier of space. This May 19, 2024, flight was the seventh human space flight using this rocket system and it carried into space Mayflower descendant Kenneth Hess. Like the Mayflower, conditions were cramped, and help was far away.

Ken became one of a few hundred people in the world who have traveled to space when he sailed into the space frontier on New Shepard Flight NS-25. Five professional astronauts are Mayflower descendants: Alan Shepard, Story Musgrave, Brewster Shaw, Peggy Whitson and Alfred Worden,<sup>1</sup> but, to our knowledge, Ken is the first non-professional descendant in a growing number of people who experience space travel. Ken said, "Roughly half of the passengers are adventure travelers and half are space nerds, and I'm one of the space nerds." He grew up during the Space Race when the world was fascinated by space travel. He closely followed every rocket launch into orbit and all the Moon landings. Ken never lost his fascination with space travel.

He had signed up years earlier for a seat on a Virgin Galactic flight, but he was very far down on the waiting list. When the opportunity presented itself to fly with Blue Origin, Ken took it.

Although there was no special preparation required, Ken was trained as an engineer and wanted to prepare for some of the physical demands of the flight. By experiencing the forces beforehand, he could go into the flight much more relaxed. He knew that the passengers would experience three to five and one-half Gs of force, so Ken said, "I decided to do a training session at NASTAR near Philadelphia, where they have a high-G, human centrifuge." He experienced some chest compression, but said the compression was not at all unbearable. He also flew on a couple of zero-gravity flights, which Ken described as pure fun!

Ken's flight into space took place at the Blue Origin site near Van Horn, Texas. The flights are entirely robotic, and the six passengers sailed into space alone. There were some manual emergency mechanisms. Ken said "I was in Seat number 1, and I was told that I had to push a certain button if the capsule caught fire." After two days of training, including extensive emergency preparedness drills, they were strapped in with a five-point harness, and the rocket took off. Ken was surprised by the smoothness of the ascent phase. He likened it to, "going up in a glass elevator." Each of the six passengers had a huge window where they could watch their ascent and landing. The passengers crossed the Karman line (considered the edge of space), and could see the Earth and the coal blackness of space. Most surprising to Ken was his view of the Sun from outside the frame of reference of the Earth and the effects of its atmosphere. It was so huge and bright that the Sun was impossible to even glance at. Ken said "if I ever go back up again, I'll take eclipse glasses so I can look directly at the Sun."



▲ Kenneth Hess.



▲ Ken Hess in front of the New Shepard Flight NS-25 capsule.



The personal mission patch designed by Ken Hess for the trip. After engine cut-off, the capsule coasted in zero gravity for a couple of minutes, and several of the passengers enjoyed floating in the small compartment. Ken focused on taking a video of the Earth. Then they began to descend, and the velocity was slightly faster than the takeoff because the capsule was going with gravity rather than against it. Later, one of the three parachutes did not deploy, and the final velocity was a little faster than usual. The capsule is designed to only require one parachute, so the Blue Origin passengers were not in danger. The time of the entire flight was almost ten minutes.

Ken said, "It was an amazing experience." He hopes that through his non-profit organization, Science Buddies, his trip will inspire students to study STEM and be a small step towards encouraging more non-professional travel into space. He mused that it may take centuries, but he expects that humans will eventually live and work in space and on other planets.

Ken remembered his pioneer ancestors and the technology pioneers of his Dad's family. Ken also thought of his Mayflower ancestor, Richard Warren, and what he must have felt as he set sail across the ocean. But Ken may have felt some of the same exhilaration that William Bradford did when he rejoiced that they had crossed over the vast and furious ocean to land, their proper element.<sup>2</sup>

Ken was able to design a personal mission patch for his trip into space which is particularly meaningful to him, and to us—a picture of the *Mayflower* flying into the new frontier of space.

In addition to being a space pioneer, Ken was also a pioneer of sorts in the software industry, developing several products, but most notably, Family Tree Maker. Family Tree Maker created online genealogy and revolutionized the genealogy industry. This author actually found her Mayflower ancestors in 1998 on a Family Tree Maker CD and is forever grateful to Ken for inventing it!

**1.** "Space Family Trees and Famous Kin," accessed July 25, 2024, https://famouskin. com/category.php?cat=18+space.

This Christmas, give a gift that blends history, architecture, and functionality in an exquisite fusion. These exclusive trays, crafted from the very slate tiles that sheltered the 1897 church, are more than mere decorative pieces; they are tangible connections to a storied past.

By contributing \$500 to the Mayflower Meetinghouse restoration project, you are not only claiming a remarkable keepsake for yourself, or as a gift, you are also playing a pivotal role in bringing the Mayflower Story to life for generations to come.

Your generosity will help transform Plymouth's Town Square with a rejuvenated Meetinghouse, featuring immersive, multimedia experiences that transport visitors back to the days of the Pilgrims. From the breathtaking stained-glass windows to a sanctuary enveloping guests in a 360-degree embrace of history, every corner of the Meetinghouse will resonate with the spirit of the Mayflower journey.

Preserve a cherished landmark and pave the way for an innovative museum experience that educates, inspires, and leaves an indelible mark on all who walk through its doors. As a token of gratitude, this exclusive serving tray will serve as a constant reminder of your role in this extraordinary legacy.

Make this Christmas unforgettable with a keepsake that is as meaningful as it is unique. Visit www.TheMayflowerSociety.org and click Give or send your contribution to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 18 Winslow St., Plymouth, MA 02360.

Together, let us ensure that the Mayflower Story continues to shine brightly for centuries to come!

## Make Christmas Historic with your Own Piece of the Mayflower Legacy!

#### MARTIN "MARTY" BEERMAN. SECRETARY GENERAL



Step into history with your own piece of the remarkable Mayflower legacy! Imagine gathering around your holiday table, adorned with a unique and captivating

serving tray that once graced the rooftops of the iconic Mayflower Meetinghouse—the very site where the Pilgrims first gathered over 400 years ago.

Each tray, with its serving handles and distinctive measurements, promises to add a touch of elegance and intrigue to your holiday gatherings for years to come. Picture the joy and fascination this extraordinary piece will bring to your loved ones as they learn about its unique origin.

## Mustard

ALEXANDRA CERVENAK. MEMBERSHIP AND SALES MANAGER

#### TO MAKE MUSTARD DIVERS WAYS

Have good seed, pick it, and wash it in cold water. drain it. and rub it drv in a cloth very clean; then beat it in a mortar with strong wine-vinegar; and being fine beaten, strain it and keep it close covered. Or grind it in a mustard quern, or a bowl with a cannon bullet.

#### Makes about 6 ounces of mustard.

#### Mustard base:

- 2 tablespoons yellow mustard seeds
- 3 tablespoons brown mustard seeds
- ¼ teaspoon salt

#### MUSTARD OF DIJON. OR FRENCH MUSTARD

The seed being cleansed, stamp it in a mortar, with vinegar and honey, then take eight ounces of seed, two ounces of cinamon, two of honey, and vinegar as much as will serve, good mustard not too thick, and keep it close covered in little oyster-barrels.

Beer mustard:

• 1 tablespoon apple

cider vinegar

• <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup beer

1 teaspoon

sugar

## **OTHERWAYS**

Make it with grape-verjuyce, commonverjuyce, stale beer, ale, butter, milk, white-wine, claret, or juyce of cherries.

> - Robert May, The Accomplisht Cook<sup>1</sup>

## Dijon mustard:

- ¼ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ cup honey
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup apple
- cider vinegar

Mustard was a common provision on seventeenth-century ships because of its longevity, and equally popular on tables at home in England. The simplest mustard was made with just the seed and vinegar, but like today, there were many different varieties and regional variations. Herbalist John Gerard wrote that "The seed of Mustard pound with vineger, is an excellent sauce, good to be eaten with any grosse meates either fish or flesh, because it doth helpe digestion, warmeth the stomacke,

**Basic mustard:** 

wine vinegar

• <sup>3</sup>⁄<sub>4</sub> cup white

These mustard recipes are inspired by the ones found in Robert May's The Accomplisht Cook. May trained in France and served as the cook for many aristocratic English households throughout his career. The book was first published in 1660 with recipes divided into twenty-four sections, such as "Boiling," "Frying," "Fruit" and even "Heads." The 1685 edition expanded to include about two hundred illustrations.

A provision list for those coming to New England thought to have been penned by Mayflower passenger Edward Winslow counts among its necessary victuals "mustard seed. a dishe and bullet."<sup>3</sup> Both the "dishe and bullet" and the guern Robert May mentions could be used as simple hand mills to grind the seeds, similar to a mortar and pestle. Though unlike what Winslow and May suggest, you can make mustard at home today without a "cannon bullet" - all you need is a blender.

- Robert May, The Accomplisht Cook, or, the Art and Mystery of 1. Cookery (Totnes: Prospect Books, 1994).
- "The herball or Generall historie of plantes. Gathered by John 2. Gerarde of London Master in Chirurgerie very much enlarged and amended by Thomas lohnson citizen and apothecarye of

1. Begin all variations with the mustard base. In a blender or food processor add mustard seeds and salt (and any dry spices, if using). Pulse to combine.

**Cherry mustard:** 

cherry juice

• <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup honey

• ¼ teaspoon

ground ginger

• ½ cup tart

- 2. Pour in desired liquids and blend until mustard seeds begin to break apart and mixture thickens slightly. If you want a smoother mustard, blend until seeds have broken apart completely.
- 3. Put mustard into an airtight nonreactive container and seal. Keep mustard in the refrigerator at least overnight, but ideally two to three days before use. This will allow the flavors to meld, and the seeds to absorb liquid (if your mustard seems loose when first blended, don't worry, this is when it will thicken). Store in the refrigerator.

#### For beer mustard:

- 1. Blend mustard base until desired consistency is reached, then transfer to a bowl.
- 2. Warm beer, sugar and vinegar over low heat for several minutes. Stir until sugar is dissolved.
- 3. Pour beer mixture over mustard base, and stir to combine. Let cool before putting it into an airtight container. Allow mustard to sit at room temperature for several days for flavors to mellow and to thicken before putting it into the refrigerator.

London." In the digital collection Early English Books Online. https://name.umdl.umich.edu/A01622.0001.001. University of Michigan Library Digital Collections. Accessed June 27, 2024.

Caleb H Johnson, ed., The Brewster Book Manuscript (Hingham, 3. MA: Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2019).

# Reclaiming Your Mayflower Heritage

LAURA SMITH. DVM INDIANA GOVERNOR

I had the distinguished honor of working on the Indiana Society's first membership application using DNA and I wanted to share that experience with all our members.

In December 2018, I received an email from Rita McNabb saying she was the family genealogist and had discovered her husband Jim had a family line to William Bradford through his birth father. Jim was given up for adoption at birth and she asked if it would be possible for Jim to become a member of the Indiana Society using DNA. After I checked with the staff in Plymouth, I let Rita know that her husband could pursue submitting a membership application to The Mayflower Society.

Over the next couple of years, Rita sent lineage documents to me and I gave her recommendations for further research and suggested lineage documents as any Historian would do for any applicant. Jim had originally made the decision to seek out his birth family because there were some potential health issues and knowing his biological family's medical history was important. Jim was able to have his adoption records unsealed and he learned his biological mother's name. Rita then began researching her and found she had passed away, but Jim had three half-siblings who were willing to have a relationship with Jim and his family.

Unfortunately, Jim's biological mother did not list Jim's father on any of the adoption records. DNA became the only way for Jim to find his biological father. Jim took an autosomal DNA test at multiple companies, such as AncestryDNA, Family Tree DNA, 23 and me, and My Heritage, which look at all sides of your family tree. He also took a Y-DNA test from Family Tree DNA. A Y-DNA test looks at your patrilineal line (your father's, father's, father's, father for many generations). Jim had multiple matches to men with the same last name so Rita looked for autosomal matches that had that same name in their online tree.

Fortunately, there was a high match at one of the companies that led to the most likely candidate for Jim's biological father. Unfortunately, Jim's biological father had also passed away but Jim had a half-sister named Elaine. Jim and Rita reached out to Elaine and she was also willing to have a relationship with their family. With DNA kits in hand, Jim and Rita tested two of his maternal half-siblings and his paternal half-

and provoketh appetite."<sup>2</sup>

sister Elaine. As expected, Jim shares approximately twenty-five percent of his DNA with each of his halfsiblings. Jim and Rita have



Sitting: Rita and Jim McNabb, IN Gov. Laura Smith. Standing: Elaine Peters.

also developed deep relationships with his biological family on both sides and they are incredibly thankful his biological family was willing to form a family relationship.

With all of the documents and the DNA results in hand, the next step was to write a proof argument. Because I was the Indiana Society Historian and I have a special interest in DNA, Jim and Rita allowed me to write the argument for them. The goal of the DNA proof argument was to use the primary record documents in combination with the DNA to make a case that Jim is a child of his biological parents. It was also important in the proof argument to attempt to prove that Jim's biological parents were in the same place when Jim was conceived to make the case stronger. I went back to Rita and had her do some additional research and there were several documents we could use to help prove Jim's biological parents likely knew one another and were in the same area at the time of Jim's conception.

We then sent both Jim's and his sister Elaine's membership applications to Plymouth and the applications were approved on 15 December 2023. As soon as I got the email that Jim and Elaine were approved Mayflower members, I called Rita and we were all ecstatic. I told them it was an early Christmas present from the Indiana Society.

At the spring 2024 Indiana Society meeting, Jim, Rita, and Elaine were my special guests. I made sure they had seats at my table and during my Governor's message I told the Society their story and how important it was to the future of our Member Society. Allowing adoptees to become members through their biological parents allows them to reclaim their heritage. I am so honored to have been a part of Jim, Rita and Elaine's journey. I look forward to continuing to get to know them because they are wonderful people who are a part of our Mayflower story.

## Easy App Generator is Ready to Sail!

CHRIS SCHLOSSER, MEMBER-AT-LARGE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Easy App Generator is a new tool to help Member Society Historians find prior approved applications that closely match the applicant's line. And then generates an application containing names, dates, places, and citations filled in. But, we need more application information to improve the results!

The indexing program to digitally capture the life events of every generation, from verified Mayflower applications and the life details of our Mayflower ancestors for 400 years, is going strong!

We need your help in getting more applications indexed so that the Generator is most useful in finding a close match for prospective members or for those looking for additional supplementals.

The good news is, we have indexed over 12,000 applications; however, with over 90,000 applications, plus thousands of supplementals still to index, we need a big crew of indexers.

#### WHAT DOES A MAYFLOWER INDEXER DO?

View a previously approved application on a desktop computer or laptop, via the Internet using Google Chrome, Apple Safari, Microsoft Edge or Mozilla Firefox. Then, the Indexers enter that data in a form on the indexing platform specifically designed to mirror our applications for easy data entry.

An Internet connection is necessary for any device as this is a web-based tool. Nothing will reside on your laptop/desktop. Due to small screen size, indexing on smartphones and tablets is not possible.

Indexers will be assigned applications starting with the most recent applications as these have the most accurate, up-to-date information.

All applications will be indexed by two volunteers with a third "arbiter" making a final determination if there are discrepancies between the two indexers; therefore, Mayflower Indexers can do the best job they can, knowing more eyes will be reviewing the indexed data.

## WHEN CAN A MAYFLOWER INDEXER INDEX?

Indexers can volunteer in their homes at times convenient to them for as much time as they want.

The indexing platform will be open for business and available to Mayflower Indexers 24/7. You can do as little or as much as you have time for. Some indexers may complete one per week while a few are aiming to complete 200 per month.

### WHAT TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED TO MAYFLOWER INDEXERS?

A User Guide is available providing detailed instructions on how to capture all critical information from every generation. Note that the applications have changed over the years, so although we have tried to establish "rules", there are often exceptions. Historian General Allie Golon and Member-at-Large Chris Schlosser are available to answer questions. We will also periodically host a group Zoom call to help address questions and common indexing issues.

#### WHO CAN BE A MAYFLOWER INDEXER?

Only Mayflower Society members are eligible to participate. To ensure the confidentiality of application data, all indexers are required to sign a Nondisclosure Agreement (NDA) form prior to starting the project.

## WHY ARE MAYFLOWER APPLICATIONS BEING INDEXED?

The current system of accessing data from prior applications is mostly a manual process. Building new applications is entirely a manual process. Fully digitized applications and documentation and fully indexed applications will enhance access for Member Society Historians and Research Center staff and at the same time further preserve our treasure trove of Pilgrim descendants' historical data.

#### HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS PROJECT?

Once complete, the Mayflower Generations Index will fuel the Easy App Generator that will populate new Mayflower Society member or supplemental applications with data that has previously been approved. When fully implemented, Easy App Generator will improve the application process for applicants, Member Society Historians, and Research Center and Verifier teams.

In addition, the creation of a comprehensive applications index and automated applications are

a huge leap forward for The Mayflower Society. And Mayflower Indexers will have the honor of knowing they have propelled The Mayflower Society to a new level in the digital age—at the same time preserving the lineages of generations of Mayflower descendants.

## Why I Joined The Mayflower Society

### VICKI MAY

When my daughters were grown, I decided to pursue my interest in genealogy. When my daughter and son-in-law decided to visit his relatives in Massachusetts, they invited me to come along so I could visit Plymouth and further explore the life of our Pilgrim ancestor William Bradford. While visiting the Mayflower Society House in Plymouth, the docents told me of the plans for the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrims landing in Plymouth and that I needed to apply right away to be able to be a part of The Mayflower Society celebrations. The anniversary was two years away, but I needed to get my documents together to apply. I was very motivated and hastened to send my application with the required documents. In March 2019, I was admitted to The Mayflower Society.

The San Diego Colony welcomed me and let me know of all the activities I could attend. I enjoyed cutting straw flowers for our 2020 Rose Parade float and I also volunteered to be a docent, standing by the float where it was parked after the Parade in what they call the "Showcase of Floats" event in Pasadena, California. I wore my hand sewn Pilgrim outfit and felt so proud to represent my Pilgrim ancestor and inform the attendees about the Mayflower story. I continue to attend as many events as I can to learn more about the *Mayflower*. I truly enjoy meeting and talking with my many Mayflower Society cousins!

#### SKIP OTWELL

As the year 2020 approached, the 400th Anniversary of the landing of the *Mayflower* was also approaching. With grandchildren in school, I thought they may like to share our lineage if they had the chance.

During my youth I received a copy of the lineage from John Alden to my grandfather and accepted the document as proof of descendancy from John Alden.

Growing up in Plymouth, Michigan, reminded me of our family pilgrim heritage. The hotel in Plymouth was aptly named the Mayflower Hotel. Our high school athletic teams were the "Rocks" (great for football, not so for the swim team).

#### HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT JOINING THE MAYFLOWER INDEXERS?

To volunteer, or to ask questions about volunteering, please contact Ms. Chris Schlosser, Member-at-Large and Technology Committee Chair, at **GSMDCertify@ TheMayflowerSociety.org.** 





 Vicki May at the 2020 Rose Parade.

A new subdivision was constructed on the edge of town in the 1950s, named Plymouth Colony Subdivision. The streets were Governor Bradford, John Alden, etc.

Many documents were needed to prove my connection to John Alden. Fortunately, two previously approved lineage papers were on file from John Alden to my fourth-great-grandfather, Stith Meade Otwell, born in Georgia in 1805. I hoped for luck as all the generations between Stith and me were male Otwell's which could make the document gathering easier.

After collecting the required documentation, my application was submitted in October 2019. Because The Mayflower Society staff was remote working, the application approval process proceeded slowly, eventually gaining approval in May 2020.

My wife and I enjoy the spring and fall meetings of the Michigan Society. I have since become a life member. Part of the activities at the meetings is the attendance competition with the John Alden group leading or near the top every time.

Our son John and his wife named their son Alden completing a circle back to John Alden in 15 generations.

#### JAMES PELHAM

When I was a child, my grandfather would relate stories of our family's Mayflower history. His Mayflower lineage ran through the maternal side of his family. Unfortunately, his mother died young and much of our family ancestry information was lost; however, my grandfather passed along to me the stories he remembered.

He was especially proud to be a descendent of Peregrine White, although he had no documented lineage to him. When my grandfather passed away suddenly, I didn't have any solid foundations to begin my research into my lineage to Peregrine. We had a family chart that went back at most six generations. Then came the Internet and Ancestry.com. I created an account and started my research.

After almost thirty years of researching, I have yet to find a line to Peregrine White, but I have found multiple other Mayflower lines and a rich history of generations of my family. I have found thousands of ancestors in the process and histories of patriots, war heroes, religious figures and a couple of scoundrels. It has been a wonderful journey thanks to my grandfather imprinting on me a rich love of history and family.

I very much enjoy trips to Plymouth where I can view the historic sites and occasionally walk through a graveyard to view the final resting spots of my ancestors. My Mayflower connections were a great research starting point, and joining The Mayflower Society was a culmination of years of research and a way to document our family history for my family and future generations.

I remain a member of The Mayflower Society because I support its mission to preserve the rich history of the brave men and women who persevered and established the roots of this great country.

"Why I Joined The Mayflower Society?" is a human interest article for *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* that the members of The Mayflower Society may participate in. Members of The Mayflower Society are invited to write and submit an article that shares stories of how they discovered their Mayflower ancestry, why they joined The Mayflower Society, and why they continue their membership.

The article should be approximately 300 words in length in Word format. Please email your submission to MQMEditor@ TheMayflowerSociety.org and put MQM Submission in the subject line of your email. You may submit a couple of photographs with the article, but please attach them separately to the email. The photographs should be 300 dpi resolution or higher. Please include with your submission, your name, contact information, title if any, and your Member Society. Submissions will be published in each issue depending on available space. The submission deadline for the winter issue of The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine is October 1.

# Scholarship Winners 2024

CHERIE LAWSON. SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the 2024 scholarship winners. Cherie Lawson, Scholarship Chairman and Committee Members, Cathy Bambenek, Nancy Harrison, Lorrie Link, Della Regenold, and Collier Wiese worked together to select the 2024 winners.

#### FIRST PLACE:

#### Liam Patrick Brennan. \$6.000



Liam is from Cockeysville, Maryland. He is an active member of GSMD; his Mayflower ancestors are John Alden and William Mullins.

Liam is planning to major in anthropology with an emphasis in cultural anthropology. In high school he was a member of the National Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, and Magna Cum Laude on National Latin Exam. During his honors capstone he spent his summer visiting libraries, courthouses, and other sites researching his family history. When challenged by his school librarian he wrote a twenty-five-page book about his history.

#### SECOND PLACE:

#### **Connor Patrick Curtis, \$5,000**



Connor is from Livonia, Michigan. His Mayflower ancestor is William

Bradford. Connor will be attending Michigan State University; his course of study will be a Bachelor of Science through the Department of Computational Mathematics, Science and Engineering. Connor will be a member of Michigan State Honors College. At Livonia High School he was on the Summa Cum Laude Honor Roll, and on the Class Council. In addition. he served as the Track and Field team captain, and the Varsity Cross Country team captain, and he also participated in soccer and swimming.

#### THIRD PLACE:

#### Maddox Christian Lingo, \$4,000



Maddox is from Sunrise Florida. His Mayflower ancestor is William Brewster. Connor plans to attend Florida International University to study Business Administration and Management.

In high school at Broward Home Education, Connor was on the honor roll with a 3.71 GPA. His teachers described him as a person who brings valuable ideas to class discussions and is a leader of his peers.

## FOURTH PLACE:

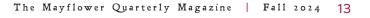
**Owen Matthew Bell. The Mary Chilton Winslow** Scholarship \$2,400

Matthew is from Taylors, North Carolina. His ancestor is Samuel Fuller. Matthew is enrolled in Clemson University to study Chemical Engineering, with plans to go into the pharmaceutical field to design, research, and engineer new medications. In high school, Owen was on the "A" Honor Roll all four years and he was in the National Honor Society from 2022 to 2024, serving as Secretary from 2022 to 2023. In addition, Owen served on the Student Body Council as Secretary from 2022 to 2023 and Vice President from 2023 to 2024.

#### NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP:

### Nathan Robert Potter, \$2,600

Nathan is a member of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aguinnah. He is a political Science major with Pre-Law concentration at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Nathan has achieved Honor Roll three times and has been on the Dean's list and Chancellor's Scholar list two times while at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. He is also on the baseball team and is on the tribal youth council for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah.











#### ADVERTISEMENT

## In Memoriam

Stuart Tuthill Hall of Alfred, Maine, passed away on February 18, 2023, at the age of 93. Mr. Hall was a former Captain General on the Executive Committee for the General Society of Mayflower Descendents and also served on the Board of Assistants as Deputy Governor General-Maine and Assistant General-Maine. In addition Mr. Hall was a past Governor of the Maine Society and was also a life member of the Massachusetts Society. He was a descendant of Mayflower passenger John Alden. Mr. Hall is survived by his wife Karen Hall and two daughters, Deborah and Sandra.

Robert Richardson Dow of Nahant, Massachusetts, passed away on December 25, 2023, at the age of 95. Mr. Dow served as a former Assistant Treasurer General for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and served as a former Deputy Governor General-Maine and a former Assistant General-Maine on the GSMD Board of Assistants. In addition, Mr. Dow serve the Maine Society in the capacities of Governor and Deputy Governor. He was a descendant of Mayflower passengers Francis Cooke, John Howland, and Richard Warren. Mr. Dow is survived by his two daughters, Amy Dow and Candace (Dow) Wilusz.

Christine Hadley Bonnett Crossan of Bear, Delaware, passed away on April 26, 2024, at the age of 74. Mrs. Crossan served the Delaware Society as Governor from 2007 to 2009, Secretary from 2000 to 2006 and Assistant Secretary from 1995 to 2000. She was a descendant of Mayflower passenger George Soule. Mrs. Crossan is survived by her husband Robin A. Crossan, children Sally Lerman, John Crossan, David Crossan and Mary Criscuolo and seven grandchildren.

Dr. Grace Elizabeth Bliss Smith of Macomb, Michigan, passed away on June 19, 2024, at the age of 80. For a number of years, Mrs. Smith served on the Board of Assistants for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants as Deputy Governor General-Michigan and Assistant General-Michigan. She also served as the Michigan Society Governor from 2016 to 2022 and Deputy Governor from 2010 to 2016. Mrs. Smith was a descendant of Mayflower passengers John Billington, Elinor Billington, Francis Billington, John Howland, Joan (Hurst) Tilley, John Tilley, Elizabeth Tilley, and Richard Warren. Mrs. Smith is survived by her children Stephanie (Smith) Throne and Andrew Smith, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. Stuart Otis Denslow of Tulsa, Oklahoma, passed away on July 3, 2024, at the age of 89. Dr. Denslow served the Oklahoma Society as Elder from 2012 to 2014 and as Governor from 2014 to 2016. He was a descendant of Mayflower passenger Edward Doty. Dr. Denslow is survived by his wife, Dr. Orriene First Denslow, their son, Mark Stuart Denslow and five grandchildren.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants remembers those who have served on the board of a Member Society or as a General Society officer. If a past or present officer of your Member Society has passed away, please complete the In Memoriam Form located in the Members Area of the GSMD website under Society Resources, and email it to Elder General Rev. Michael R. Denney at the following email address: ElderGeneral@TheMayflowerSociety.org



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Mayflower Meetinghouse, Plymouth







## MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

#### AUSTRALIA

## So how did Mayflower Descendants end up in Australia?

In Australia, our schools do not stress the importance of the *Mayflower's* arrival in Plymouth in 1620, so we have been trying to understand the factors that brought Mayflower descendants to Australia over the last 200 years. We see this as a means of alerting potential members to their Mayflower Heritage.

In primary school, we learned about the American element in the first settlement of Australia. Convicts were sent to Sydney in 1788 only because those unreasonable Americans did not want to take convicts from Britain anymore after they gained independence; however, some of the earliest Mayflower descendants arrived from Massachusetts on whaling boats and decided to stay.

Some ninety-two American citizens were transported as convicts to Tasmania following their participation in the Lower Canadian Rebellion of 1837-1838. They had all crossed the Niagara River from New York State and had been led to believe that they would be awarded land in Canada following a successful uprising. Instead, they were quickly captured by British and Canadian forces. After their arrival in Hobart, the American consul in Hobart pleaded the case for these Americans and eventually they were each given a Ticket of Leave in 1845 and their departure was arranged on the American ship Belle. However, Hiram Sharp (a descendant of Thomas Rogers) while due to travel back to the United States, met a widow in Sydney, jumped ship, and settled in southern New South Wales. Some of his descendants have become members of The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants Inc. since its foundation in 2020 and other applications are pending.

Many Americans came to Australia from the California goldfields after gold was discovered in Victoria in 1851. There were multiple finds of gold over the following years all over eastern Australia

attracting more Americans. One of the difficult tasks is to explain to potential members that while their great-grandparents may have been born in Australia, they may still be Mayflower descendants through ancestors who arrived in the 1850s or 1860s. My own family contributed Freeman Cobb from Brewster, Massachusetts, who having worked for Wells Fargo, shipped two stagecoaches to Melbourne in 1851 and began a transport company to the goldfields. Cobb and Co. had a major impact in developing transport in Australia and continued operating stagecoaches to distant parts of the country until 1923. There are numerous Cobb and Co. museums across Australia. Freeman Cobb was my great-great-grandfather's first cousin; however, he did not leave any descendants in Australia and returned to Brewster to enter politics.

My grandmother Esperance Freeman (daughter of American Presbyterian missionaries in northern Thailand) was undertaking postgraduate library studies in Madison, Wisconsin, when she met my Australian grandfather who was working on a PhD in Madison, sponsored by the Queensland State Government. They married in mid-1927 and spent eighteen months traveling around the world before arriving in Brisbane in early 1929.

Other Mayflower families came to Australia after the Second World War. Our Treasurer David Magee, though born in Australia, likes to say his ancestors never moved more than 500 yards from where they came ashore in Plymouth until his father served in Australia during the Second World War, and decided to settle in Brisbane a couple of years later. Several other members in Australia are American citizens who have moved here for work or other purposes.

The better we understand the process of Americans coming to Australia at different periods of our history, the better we are at locating potential members and assisting them in making membership applications.

#### Submitted by: Bill Elliott, Governor and DGG

#### INDIANA

#### Indiana Society Enjoys Program at Spring Luncheon

At the April 13, 2024, Spring Membership Luncheon of the Indiana Society of Mayflower Descendants (ISMD), members enjoyed a program presented by Guest Speaker Kevin Stonerock, an Indiana native, musician and master storyteller. Mr. Stonerock's repertoire includes historical figures, such as a Hoosier pioneer, a Union Civil War soldier, a mid-18th century French fur trader and Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins.

The Indiana Society sponsored Stonerock in 2006 to attend a Plimoth Plantation (now known as Plimoth Patuxet Museums) program where he learned how to accurately portray Stephen Hopkins, and he then presented a program as Stephen Hopkins for the ISMD November 2006 Membership Meeting. To bring his Hopkins portrayal full circle, a photo was taken at

#### LOUISIANA

## Louisiana Presents to the Sons of the American Revolution



🔺 Louisiana Governor David

Historian Margo Moffatt.

Green and Louisiana

To begin the spring season and promote growth, our Governor, David Green, and our Historian, Margo Moffatt, received an invitation to present the Mayflower pilgrim story to the Philemon Thomas Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

After enjoying a Louisiana seafood luncheon, Governor Green shared some of the background information that prompted the Separatists' decision to leave England and the Netherlands, to begin a



Kevin Stonerock as Stephen Hopkins with Indiana descendants. Photo credit: Laura Smith, Governor.

our April 13, 2024, meeting of Stonerock as Steven Hopkins with his Indiana Hopkins descendants. Stonerock also spoke to the ISMD about ten years ago as the early Colonial French fur trapper.

Submitted by: Diana Soule McDowell, Corresponding Secretary

new life and colony in America. Next, our Historian, followed with a presentation on the General Society of Mayflower Descendants' Patriots to Passengers List.

The approximately fifty SAR members, together with members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in attendance, then asked thoughtful questions and expressed great satisfaction with the knowledge shared and gained from our presentation. The SAR members conveyed a keen interest in pursuing their family history in the hopes of a *Mayflower* connection.

In addition, the newly elected State President Russ Godwin of the Louisiana SAR and a member of the Louisiana Society of Mayflower Descendants, will share the contents of the presentation with all the state chapters of the DAR and SAR.

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

#### Submitted by: Margo Moffatt, Historian

#### FGG Hurt Signs the "Great Book"

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in Ohio held its annual meeting in Cleveland on April 26-27. 2024. The guest speaker was Former Governor General (FGG) Jane E. Groves Riddell Hurt. FGG Hurt's program presentation focused on ways the members can honor their Pilgrim ancestors by telling the "story" and by updating the attendees on the activities taking place in Plymouth and the General Society. The Mayflower Meetinghouse renovations and plans for an educational center to tell the "story" were also shared. Members were encouraged to continue researching ancestors beyond what we have already done to help tell the story to our families, schools, and communities.

Brady J. Crytzer, author of The Whiskey Rebellion: A Distilled History of an American Crisis, spoke to the Ohio Society about how the Whiskey Rebellion was part of the settlement of Western Pennsylvania and the Western Reserve in Ohio. "Two centuries later the Whiskey Rebellion stands as the second largest domestic rebellion in American History, only outdone by the Confederate States of America in 1861."1



From an historical perspective, on Friday, May 26, several of us had the honor to be present at the Western Reserve Historical

> Beth Anderson -SMDOH Governor. Jane E. Groves Riddell Hurt - FGG, and Ann Sindelar - Curator, Western Reserve Historical Society.



Front row right to left: Cindy Kettler, Beth Anderson – SMDOH Governor, Norah McDaniel, Jane Hurt - Former Governor General, Mary McDaniel, Betsie Gricar -SMDOH Deputy Governor, Rose McIntvre, Carolyn Chevereine, Vicky Heineck - Cleveland Colony - Lt. Governor, and Sheron Jensen. Back row: Robert Coltrin and Eric McDaniel.

Society, where Curator Ann K. Sindelar led us through the history of the "Great Book," A Confutation of the Rhemists Translation Glosses and Annotations on the New Testament,... The book was written by Thomas Cartwright and published by the William Brewster Press in 1618. After the presentation by Ms. Sindelar, those of us in attendance witnessed FGG Hurt sign the "Great Book."<sup>2</sup> The first Governor General to sign the book was Addison Pierce Munroe who served from 1924-1930.<sup>3</sup> FGG Hurt signed the book 100 years later. As a memento of the event, the Cleveland Colony gave FGG Hurt a special pen to use when signing the book. FGG Hurt told us later that she was honored to sign the book printed by William Brewster.

#### Submitted by: Beth Anderson, Governor

- 1. Brady J. Crytzer, The Whiskey Rebellion: A Distilled History of an American Crisis (Westholme, 2023).
- 2. Thomas Cartwright, A Confutation of the Rhemists Translation Glosses and Annotations on the New Testament (William Brewster Press, 1618).
- **3.** Meredith Bright Colket Jr., "A Rare Leyden Imprint in the Western Reserve Historical Society," The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine, vol. 50, no. 3, August 1984, 113-16, https://ohiomayflower.org/history.

Esther's professional career as a Registered Nurse spanned over four decades, from her training during World War II in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps in her hometown of Urbana, Illinois, to tuberculous wards in South Dakota and Illinois, to hospital obstetrics in Denver, Colorado. Esther and her husband, Rudy, settled in Colorado in 1950, living in the small mountain town of Evergreen where they raised their three children, Norma Maron Hughes (current Governor of the Oklahoma Society), William R. Maron of Evergreen, Colorado, and Marguerite Maron Butzow of St. Joseph, Illinois.

With a shared, life-long interest in genealogy, she and her sister, Norma Waters Mackey researched their early American roots and proved their lineage to join several lineage societies. It was while researching for a supplemental line in another organization that they discovered their link to Stephen Hopkins. With her daughters, Esther visited Plymouth and Cape Norma Maron Hughes, Oklahoma Society Governor and Cod, as well as western Massachusetts, Rhode Island Esther Waters Maron. and Connecticut. While viewing headstones in the Twining Family Cemetery between Tolland and Otis, as any avid genealogist is always looking for Massachusetts, she discovered a possible link to another ancestor! additional Mayflower ancestors, Thomas and Joseph Submitted by: Norma Maron Hughes, Governor Rogers. She considered this trip very successful,

#### SOUTH CAROLINA



▲ Left to right: SMD-SC Governor Melana Maxie, SC House Representative and SMD-SC member, and Kathy Landing.

### **Historic Moment in South Carolina**

On April 18, 2024, the South Carolina House of Representatives passed Resolution 5441. It is summarized as follows: "To recognize and honor the signing of the historic Mayflower Compact on November 21, 1620, a monumental moment in human history and to declare November 21, 2024, as 'Compact Day' in South Carolina." A request is intended to be made next year to designate November 21 as Compact Day in perpetuity.

South Carolina House Representative and Society of Mayflower Descendants in South Carolina (SMD-SC) member, Kathy Landing, presented a beautifully framed copy of Resolution 5441 to SMD-SC Governor Melana Maxie during our spring luncheon held at Hopsewee Plantation in Georgetown, South Carolina.

#### **OKLAHOMA**

#### **Oklahoma Society Celebrates Centenarian Member Esther Waters Maron**

On July 7, 2024, to celebrate her 100th Birthday, The Oklahoma Society presented member Esther Water Maron with a proclamation. Esther, a descendant

of Stephen Hopkins, became a member on July 29, 2008, at the age of eighty-four. Although living in St. Joseph, Illinois, she chose to become a member of the Oklahoma Society because of her daughter's established membership there.



#### Submitted by: Deborah Hill, Palmetto Log Editor

## PILGRIM HISTORY AND GENEALOGY

## Joseph<sup>6</sup> Higgins of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont! An expanded and updated Rogers Family Line PEGGY M. BAKER

One of the more disconcerting aspects of genealogy can be trying to trace the progress of a peripatetic householder, particularly one who left no forwarding address! Complicate that scenario with a fairly common name, such as Joseph Higgins (the 1790 and 1800 censuses, for example, list sixteen Joseph Higginses, with minimal information to differentiate them), and the result can be a mystery. In these instances, input from descendants is of particular value. Unlike Silver Book researchers, who work forward from a specific Mayflower passenger, descendants work back from the twenty-first century, turning the question from "Where did they go?" to "Where did they come from?" That seemingly-small reversal in thought and in research can be pivotal in documenting a line.

Rogers descendant Joseph Higgins, son of Elisha and Hannah (Doane) (Atwood) Higgins, was born on Cape Cod, at Eastham, in 1734/5. He had, by May of 1757, married and moved to Hardwick, in Worcester County, Massachusetts. By the 1770s, Joseph, now with a wife and children, had moved to New Hampshire. Then, the family seemed to simply disappear ... it was at this point that the Rogers Family Silver Book, Volume Two, was published.

Now, thanks to the meticulous research of Jim Alder, husband of a Rogers descendant, the mystery of Joseph Higgins's whereabouts has been solved. Joseph and his family had moved to Vermont. There, a widowed Joseph Higgins married a second time, and had another son. His probate documents, in Caledonia County, not only document these two new family members, but expand his line still further by naming another daughter, Lois, born from his first marriage.

The resulting expanded biography which follows, will be included in the "Corrections & Additions" section

of the next Rogers Family Silver Book, Volume Four ... still in ongoing research. My thanks to Jim Alder for making this discovery possible. His careful and thorough research into the peregrinations of Joseph Higgins, resulting in the documentation of two additional children and a second marriage, opens new lines for potential Rogers descendants, and further expands our knowledge of the past.

**458. Joseph<sup>6</sup> Higgins** (Elisha,<sup>5</sup> Elisha<sup>4</sup> Higgins, Elizabeth<sup>3</sup> Rogers, Joseph,<sup>2</sup> Thomas<sup>1</sup>) was born at Eastham, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, 9 February 1734/5, the son of Elisha and Hannah (Doane) (Atwood) Higgins.<sup>1</sup> Joseph died, probably at St. Johnsbury, Caledonia County, Vermont, before 17 March 1808, when the Probate Court named Dr. Luther Jewett guardian to Joseph Winslow Higgins of St. Johnsbury, a minor and son of Joseph Higgins.<sup>2</sup> He published intentions at Hardwick, Worcester County, Massachusetts, 6 March 1756<sup>3</sup> and married first at Littleton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 24 March 1757 **Anna Hooker**; the marriage record identifies both Joseph and Anna as formerly of Hardwick but, for the past six months, inhabitants of Westford, Middlesex County.<sup>4</sup> Anna's identity is unknown. She died after 2 November 1767, when her signature is last found on a deed,<sup>5</sup> and before 16 February 1791, by which time Joseph had remarried.<sup>6</sup>

Joseph married second between 21 December 1787 and 16 February 1791 **Priscilla (Winslow) Kathan**, daughter of Joseph Winslow<sup>7</sup> and widow of John Kathan.<sup>8</sup> Priscilla Higgins, wife of Joseph, died 20 June 1819, age 72,<sup>9</sup> and is buried in West Hill Cemetery, Putnam, Windham County, Vermont.<sup>10</sup>

In May 1757, Joseph Higgins of Hardwick, cordwainer, bought some five acres there from Elisha Higgins of Hardwick.<sup>11</sup> On 20 February 1764, Elisha Higgins of Hardwick sold land there, excepting acreage conveyed to "my son Joseph Higgins" and other acreage "measured to my son Uriah Higgins."<sup>12</sup> On 2 November 1767, Joseph Higgins of Hardwick, yeoman, sold two parcels of land adjacent to his homestead there; both Joseph Higgins and Anna Higgins signed.<sup>13</sup>

Joseph was living in Chesterfield, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, as early as 1770. On 12 June 1776, with a number of other townsmen, he signed a declaration promising that he would "to the utmost of our powers, at the risqué (sic) of our lives and fortunes, with arms, oppose the hostile proceedings of the British fleets and armies against the united American colonies."<sup>14</sup> Both he and Joseph Junior were among the men of Colonel Ashley's regiment of militia who marched to Ticonderoga in July 1777 to support the American troops there.<sup>15</sup>

On 12 June 1781, Joseph Higgins, Joseph Higgins Junior, Charles Higgins, and Pelatiah Higgins were among the fifty-nine men, all residents of Vermont (although the petition was signed in Chesterfield, New Hampshire), many of whom were veterans of the Revolutionary War, who petitioned the Vermont General Assembly for land there.<sup>16</sup> On 14 April 1784, Joseph Higgins of Chesterfield sold Charles Higgins (child ii) land there for £100; on 13 August 1784, he sold Joseph Higgins Jr. (child i) land there for £120.<sup>17</sup>

In 1790, Joseph was living in Dummerston, Windham County, Vermont, head of a household, there consisting of one male over 16, one male under 16 (probably his stepson, Joseph Kathan), and two females; Joseph's son Peletiah was also living there, with a household consisting of one male over 16, one male under 16, and one female.<sup>18</sup> On 16 February 1791, Joseph Higgins and his wife Priscilla, late widow of John Kathan, petitioned the Windham County court for her dower properties, with support and allowance for the support of Joseph Kathan, youngest child of the deceased; on the third Tuesday of July 1791, Joseph Higgins was named guardian of Priscilla's son, Joseph Kathan, then about 5 years old.<sup>19</sup>

On 10 April 1794, Joseph Higgins of Dummerston bought some ten acres of land there for £15; on 5 July 1796, Joseph, called a cordwainer, sold land there for  $\pounds 30$ .<sup>20</sup>



On 22 February 1798, Joseph Higgins, now of St. Johnsbury, bought fifty acres of land there for \$100.<sup>21</sup> On 4 May 1806, he mortgaged that fifty acres, where he was then living, for \$50, with the mortgage due in three-years time; on 17 August 1807, he seems to have mortgaged the property again, to a different lender, this time for \$400.<sup>22</sup>

In 1800, Joseph was head of a household in St. Johnsbury consisting of one male and one female over the age of 45, and one male age 10 to 15.<sup>23</sup>

Joseph, then of St. Johnsbury, in his will written 29 May 1801, and probated 19 April 1808, bequeathed his [unnamed] wife all his household furniture, "one good cow," and a decent maintenance for so long as she remained Joseph's widow. The remainder of his estate he bequeathed to his youngest son, Joseph Winslow Higgins, and ordered that he should pay (and, in the event of Joseph Winslow's death, Joseph Kathan of Putney should pay) legacies of \$1 each to Joseph's children Joseph Higgins, Charles Higgins, Pelatiah Higgins, Anna Johnson, and Lois Cole. Joseph named his son Joseph Winslow Higgins and his son's uncle, Joseph Winslow of Putney, executors.<sup>24</sup>

Children of Joseph<sup>6</sup> and Anna (Hooker) Higgins:<sup>25</sup>

- i. Joseph<sup>7</sup> Higgins, b. at Hardwick 6 Sept. 1760; d., prob. in Farnham, Bedford, Missisquoi Co., Quebec, Canada, after 1825;<sup>25, A</sup> m. (1) at Chesterfield 21 Feb. 1782 Lydia Harris,<sup>26</sup> prob. m. (2) at Montreal, Quebec Province, Canada, 21 Feb. 1799 Dorcas (Freeman) Scott.<sup>27, 28, 29, B, 30</sup>
- 2202. ii. Charles Higgins, b. 29 Aug. 1762; d., prob. at Chesterfield, between 9 June and 25 Sept.
   1807;<sup>31</sup> m. at Chesterfield 25 Sept. 1783 Sarah Hastings.<sup>32</sup>
- 2203. iii. Anna Higgins, b. 5 July 1764; m. at Westmoreland, Cheshire Co., 21 May 1787 Charles Johnson.<sup>33</sup>
- iv. Pelatine or Pelatiah Higgins, b. 18 May 1766;
  d. after 1800;<sup>34</sup> m. at Westmoreland in 1788 (no further date given) Gesina Woods.<sup>35</sup>

2204A. v. Lois Higgins;<sup>36</sup> m. at Westmoreland 5 Feb. 1789 Amasa Cole.<sup>37</sup>

Child of Joseph<sup>6</sup> and Priscilla (Winslow) (Kathan) Higgins.

2204B. vi. Joseph Winslow<sup>7</sup> Higgins, b. at Putney 17 March 1792; d., prob. in Aurora, Kane Co., III., after 1860;<sup>38, C</sup> m., as "Winslow Higgins," at St. Johnsbury 14 Dec. 1817 Mary "Polly" Huntoon.<sup>39</sup>

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#### Notes:

- A. In 1825, Joseph Higgins was living in "Farnum," Bedford, Missisquoi County, Quebec, head of a household consisting of 1 married male over the age of 60, 1 married female over the age of 45, 1 single male age 25 to 40, 1 single female age 14 to 45, and 1 female under age 14.
- B. Joseph Higgins' identity as the man who lived, first, in Chesterfield and, second, in Quebec, is based on strong circumstantial evidence. Joseph and Lydia Higgins had five children born in Chesterfield; one, with the distinctive name of Darius, later attended St. Gabriel Church in Montreal.
- **C.** In 1850, "Winslow Higgins," age 58, born in Vermont, was head of a household including Polly Higgins, age 50, both born in Vermont. In 1860, Winslow Higgins, age 68, said to have been born in Massachusetts, was head of a household including Mary Higgins, age 60.

#### **References:**

- 1. Eastham & Orleans, BMD 1649-1840, 2:43, DGS #7009735, image #196.
- 2. Caledonia Co. PR, 4:19.
- 3. Hardwick TR & VR, 2:4.
- **4.** Littleton VR, image 87.
- 5. Worcester Co. LR, 57:418-18.
- 6. Windham Co., Vt., Marlboro Dist. PR, 1:214-15, cited above.
- 7. Windham Co., Vt., Westminster Dist. PR, 1:42-43.
- 8. Windham Co., Vt., Marlboro Dist. PR, 1:89. On 21 Dec. 1787, Priscilla Kathan, widow of John Kathan, was named administrator of his estate.
- 9. Vt. VR.

- **10.** *Find a Grave,* #27537878, photo by Vickie Storlie. The photograph is illegible; transcription provided.
- **11.** Worcester Co. LR, 40:98.
- 12. Worcester Co. LR, 59:17.
- 13. Worcester Co. LR, 57:418-19.
- 14. Randall, Hist. of Chesterfield, p. 51-52, 348.
- **15.** Randall, *Hist. of Chesterfield*, p. 93-94; N.H. Rev. War Records, Muster rolls and petitions, 1777-1779.
- 16. Vt., Secretary of State, State Papers of Vermont, 5:245-46.
- 17. Cheshire Co. LR, 8:263; 9:157.
- 18. 1790 U.S. census, Dummerston, Windham Co., Vermont, p. 112; NARA M637, roll 12.
- **19.** Windham Co., Vt., Marlboro Dist. PR, 1:214-15, 247.
- 20. Dummerston LR, 2:167; 3:34.
- 21. St. Johnsbury LR, 2:244.
- 22. St. Johnsbury LR, 2:206, 245.
- **23.** 1800 U.S. census, St. Johnsbury, Caledonia Co., Vt., p. 275; NARA M32, roll 51.
- 24. Caledonia Co. PR, 4:18-19.
- **25.** Hardwick TR & VR, 2:142/172. The births of children i-iv are in the Hardwick records.
- **26.** Census of Lower Canada, 1825. MG 31 C1, Lower Canada/ Canada East census returns, ID #47004786. [26] N.H. MarriageR.
- **27.** Quebec Notarial Records; Montreal, Louis Chaboillez, p. 275, #3397. The marriage contract named Dorcas "Freeman."
- **28.** Quebec, ChR: Montreal, St. Gabriel, Presbyterian, 1799, p. 3. The MarriageR named Dorcas "Scott."
- **29.** Montreal, Return of Protestant Inhabitants, p. 128. In Aug. 1784, Dorcas Freeman m. John Scott.
- Chesterfield TR, 1:79(66). Darius<sup>8</sup> Higgins was b. 2 Aug. 1782. Quebec, ChR: Montreal, St. Gabriel, Presbyterian, 1814, p. 39. Darius Higgins, age 32, was bap. at Saint Gabriel Church 17 Sept. 1814.
- **31.** Cheshire Co. Wills, 76:186-87. Charles' will was written 9 June 1807 and probated 25 Sept. 1807.
- 32. N.H. MarriageR.
- 33. N.H. MarriageR.
- **34.** 1800 U.S. census, St. Johnsonbury, Caledonia Co., Vt., p. 275; NARA M32, roll 51. In 1800, Peletiah was age 26 to 44, and head of a household of nine.
- **35.** N.H. MarriageR.
- **36.** Caledonia Co. PR, 4:19. Known from father's PR cited above.
- 37. N.H. MarriageR.
- **38.** 1850 U.S. census, Aurora, Kane Co., III, p. 194b; NARA M432, roll 112. 1860 U.S. census, Aurora, Kane Co., III, p. 322; NARA M653, roll 191.
- 39. N.H. MarriageR. She is named Polly Huntoon here.

## More Gravestone Records

DALE H. COOK

#### ONLINE DISCOVERIES: MORE GRAVESTONE RECORDS, WITH ADDITIONAL CAVEATS

In my last column I described some gravestone records and caveats. In this column I will describe additional sources with additional caveats, and conclude with a brief partial bibliography of published records of interest to Mayflower researchers.

#### **Gravestone Websites, With Caveats**

The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine readers have probably visited, and have perhaps extensively used, websites dedicated to gravestones. The largest of those are Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com), founded in 1995, owned by Ancestry.com and holding about 240 million gravestone records, and BillionGraves (www.billiongraves.com), founded in 2010, owned by BillionGraves Holdings, Inc., and holding about 175 million gravestone records.

A major difference between the two sites is that BillionGraves is designed for genealogical researchers, offers full access only by subscription, is well documented for genealogical researchers, and, unlike Find a Grave, has a photograph as part of every gravestone entry along with graveyard maps and GPS coordinates for every stone. Find a Grave, in addition to having a larger database than BillionGraves, is free and so is more widely used. One caveat for both is that the gravestone photographs are often far from the quality found in archival gravestone photographs,<sup>1</sup> and sometimes (especially at Find a Grave) have inscriptions which are difficult to read. Another caveat is that gravestone transcriptions on both sites are not created by, or curated by, genealogical scholars, and may contain errors. An additional caveat for Find a Grave is that some entries contain information not found on the gravestone, such as additional genealogical information. That additional information is not curated, is generally not documented, and can vary greatly in quality from excellent to partly erroneous.

## Published Gravestone Transcriptions and Abstracts

As noted in my previous column, even highly reliable published gravestone compilations may contain errors. In my experience, because published works are more carefully prepared and edited (sometimes by genealogical scholars) they are less likely to contain

errors than the volunteer contributions found on the largest gravestone websites.

One category of sources of gravestone abstracts are published volumes of vital records, which may use those abstracts as a supplement to records of Town and City Clerks.

What follows is a brief partial bibliography of several published sources of gravestone transcriptions and abstracts of interest to Mayflower researchers. URLs are given in footnotes for works which are available online.

One important source for gravestone records is *Mayflower Descendant*, which began publishing a series of articles containing those records beginning in Volume VIII (1906). The Internet Archive has many volumes of *Mayflower Descendant* online—search for "Mayflower Descendant" with quotes. Members of the New England Historic Genealogical Society have access to all but the most recent issues through the Society's web site.<sup>2</sup>

Burial Hill Cemetery in Plymouth is a special case among published gravestone records volumes, with three volumes (by different compilers) published in the 1890s and one in 2000.

Bradford Kingman, *Epitaphs From Burial Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts, from 1657 to 1892, With Biographical and Historical Notes* (Brookline, MA: New England Illustrated Historical Publishing Co., 1892).<sup>3</sup>

Benjamin Drew, Burial Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts, Its Monuments and Gravestones Numbered and Briefly Described, and the Inscriptions and Epitaphs Thereon Carefully Copied (Plymouth, MA: The Author, 1894).<sup>4</sup>

Frank Herman Perkins, Handbook of Old Burial Hill, Plymouth, Massachusetts (Plymouth, MA: A. S. Burbank, 1896).<sup>5</sup>

Barbara J. Bradford Robinson, Howard E. Robinson and Cynthia L. Robinson, *Burial Hill In the 1990's, Plymouth, Massachusetts: A Six-Year Cemetery Mapping Project with Descriptions, Conditions and Some Photographs* (Plymouth, MA: Plymouth Public Library Corp., 2000).<sup>6</sup>

Williams Latham, *Epitaphs In Old Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Illustrated with Plans and Views* (Bridgewater, MA: Henry T. Pratt, Printer, 1882).<sup>7</sup> Bridgewater was the first inland town in Plymouth Colony. The Massasoit Ousamequin sold land to fifty-four original purchasers who included Mayflower passengers John Alden, William Bradford, Love Brewster, Samuel Eaton, Henry Samson, George Soule, and Myles Standish. Although none of them settled in Bridgewater, a number of Mayflower descendants did settle there, and gravestone records for numerous descendants are found in this volume.

Charles M. Thatcher, Old Cemeteries of Southeastern Massachusetts: A Compilation of Records (Middleborough, MA: Middleborough Public Library, 1995).

This volume was not written by Thatcher, but was compiled from his notes about seventyfive years after his death. It contains over 16,000 entries from 214 cemeteries in fifteen towns in Plymouth and Bristol Counties. This volume is not online.

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- See "Online Discoveries: The Farber Gravestone Collection" *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*, vol. 85, no. 1, 26-27. The photographs in the Farber Collection (http://www.davidrumsey.com/ farber/) are all of archival quality and are intended to capture the details of the inscription and of any dectorative details for the benefit of scholars.
- 2. See my MD Contents https://plymouthcolony. net/resources/periodicals.html#md.
- **3.** https://archive.orgsearch?query=title%3A %28%22 epitaphs +from+burial+hill%2C +plymouth %2C+ massachusetts%22%29.
- https://archive.org/search?query=title% 3A%28%22 burial+hill%2C+plymouth%2C+ massachusetts%2C +its+monuments%22%29.
- https://archive.org/search?query=title%3A% 28%22 handbook%20of%20old%20burial%20 hill%22%29.
- 6. https://archive.org/details/burialhillin199000 brad.
- https://archive.org/search?query=title%3A%28 %22 Epitaphs%20In%20Old%20Bridgewater% 22%29.

# Mayflower II: A Tribute to Unity

RICHARD A. STONE

The presidential race between two giant public figures had been heating up for more than a year. The incumbent was fighting hard against a fiercely popular opponent from the other party. Then seemingly out of nowhere, war broke out in the Middle East, blocking all traffic from the Red Sea and Suez Canal, forcing ships to divert around the southern tip of Africa. On top of that, Russian tanks and troops invaded a neighboring country that sought democratic freedoms, crushing their hopes with brutal aggression. Making all of these events more complex, the Atlantic Alliance that had held the peace since the end of World War II was fraying.

#### lt was 1956.

Out of this fog of war and weariness came a wooden ship that had no engine, and no name or home port written on her stern—a break with centuries-old maritime tradition. No words could describe her, nor were they needed.

A May-blooming hawthorn flower told it all.

What happened next captured the world's imagination and helped restore a values-based alliance upon which nations around the globe depended: the Special Relationship between the United States and Great Britain.

When the Pilgrims landed on barren unknown shores with only winter on the horizon, they seized the day with quills drawn rather than with swords. Determined not to let a navigation error shatter their dreams, they immortalized them on a piece of parchment which declared the desire for "just and equal laws . . . for the general good" and self-government.<sup>1</sup> Scholars have called that agreement—named, after the Pilgrim's ship, the Mayflower Compact—"the first written American constitution."<sup>2</sup>

Not only did it inspire men 156 years later to write a document that began with the words "We the People," it was the primal force driving the men building the *Mayflower*'s reincarnation in the mid-1950s. Those visionaries wanted *Mayflower II* to be a tribute to unity that honored democracy in unsettled times.

Men with direct lineage to the original voyagers added special meaning to the enterprise.

*Mayflower* passenger Edward Winslow's descendant Kenelm Winslow drove the first nail into the ship's keel to start construction.<sup>3</sup>

British aircraft carrier pilot John Winslow was a namesake of an early colonial governor and a nephew of Kenelm Winslow.<sup>4</sup> On this twentieth-century transit, the airman quickly became a valued member of the crew and an expert in the art of scampering across topsail yards in rolling seas. He was also a skilled diver who once joined American Joe Meany for a spontaneous "high-diving competition from the ratlines."<sup>5</sup> The event, which could take place only in a totally calm sea, was not to be missed. The two were aquatic acrobats who left less talented mates to watch in amazement.

Richard Warren descendant Charles Church took time off from the Royal Canadian Navy, where he was a chief petty officer, and signed on to *Mayflower II* as a seaman for one shilling a month. Nicknamed "Canada" by his crewmates, he could fix just about anything that needed repair. He knew how to be a shipwright, a skilled helmsman, and always a first-rate mariner.<sup>6</sup>

Once the voyage was completed—53 days via a more southerly route than the original 66-day passage at the northern latitudes—the outstretched hand of Ellis Brewster, a descendant of Elder Brewster,<sup>7</sup> greeted a trio of achievers who walked up the steps to the Portico Over Plymouth Rock: Captain Alan Villiers, Project Mayflower founder Warwick Charlton, and shipyard owner Stuart Upham.<sup>8</sup>

Plimoth Plantation's founder and an inspirational force behind *Mayflower II*, Harry Hornblower, did not find out that he was a Steven Hopkins descendant until years later.<sup>9</sup>

Within weeks of her arrival, the replica entered New York Harbor triumphantly on July 1, 1957. *National Geographic*'s most celebrated photographer of the era, B. Anthony Stewart, captured the moment on film, a photo so spectacular that the magazine continues to republish it as a Photo of the Day.<sup>10</sup> While at first glance the photograph looks like a product of Photoshop, it's not. And, for all to see, the Town of Plymouth has put the image on a huge utility box located between The Rock and the *Mayflower II*.

The next day was declared Mayflower Day,<sup>11</sup> and a massive ticker tape parade led by the ship's captain and "a saltylooking crew" roared up Broadway from Battery Park at the tip of Manhattan past Wall Street and on to City Hall.<sup>12</sup> Mayflower descendant Priscilla Alden Kiefer, then in her early twenties, was the mistress of ceremonies.<sup>13</sup> Kiefer's namesake Priscilla Mullins had traveled to the New World with her mother, father, and brother, but within months they were all dead, leaving Priscilla to fend for herself as the only single woman of marriageable age in the colony. After she wed John Alden, a story immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1858 poem "The Courtship of Miles Standish," Priscilla went on to raise ten children, among whose great- and great-great-grandchildren were US presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams. The twentieth-century Priscilla also had lots to do. Not only did she greet representatives from the Society of Mayflower Descendants and other ancestral groups, but also bands from the US Army, US Navy, US Air Force, US Coast

Guard, and Merchant Marine Academy, plus the New York Fire Department and the city's mounted police.<sup>14</sup>

Now, sixty-seven years later, we continue to celebrate *Mayflower II*'s message of unity, as she remains a symbol of democracy in unsettled times, along with the values first expressed in writing aboard a cold ship near Cape Cod—the Mayflower Compact.

Is Mayflower II still relevant? Yes!

Richard A. Stone is the author of PROJECT MAYFLOWER: Building and Sailing a 17th Century Replica (Lyons Press, 2024). A graduate of Harvard (BA in economics) and the University of California, Los Angeles (MA in journalism), he worked for decades with America's premier media groups, including NBC, HBO, Time Inc., and ESPN/Disney. In the United Kingdom, the Caird Library at the National Maritime Museum (Royal Museums Greenwich) has added his book to their collection, and the Imperial War Museum has recognized Stone as a Subject Specialist, Cold War and late 20th Century (1949-2000). Originally from Southern California, he now lives in Connecticut.

- "Beyond the Pilgrim Story: Text of the Mayflower Compact," Pilgrim Hall Museum, https//:pilgrimhall.org/mayflower\_ compact\_text.htm.
- 2. Samuel Eliot Morison, "The 66-Day Saga of *Mayflower I*," *New York Times*, April 14, 1957, 12.
- **3.** "The Laying of the Keel of *Mayflower II*," *Illustrated London News*, August 6, 1955, 214.
- **4.** Alan Villiers, "How We Sailed the New *Mayflower* to America," *National Geographic*, November 1957, 655.
- 5. Warwick Charlton, *The Voyage of Mayflower II* (London: Cassell, 1957), p. 201.
- 6. Villiers, "How We Sailed," 661.
- 7. John H. Fenton, "*Mayflower II* Hailed at Plymouth Rock," *New* York *Times*, June 14, 1957, 1.
- 8. Villiers, "How We Sailed," 664.
- 9. Melissa Berry, "Mayflower Descendants: Who's Who, Part 16," Genealogy Bank, April 29, 2022, https://blog.genealogybank. com/mayflower-descendants-whos-who-part-16.html.
- **10.** National Geographic, Photo of the Day, October 16, 2021, www. nationalgeographic.com/photo-of-the-day/media-spotlight/ mayflower-ship-blimp-harbor.
- 11. "Mayflower Day July 2," New York Times, June 25, 1957, 58.
- **12.** John C. Devlin, "Mayflower Crew Hailed in Parade," *New York Times*, July 3, 1957, 25.
- **13.** "Priscilla' Is Chosen: Pilgrim Descendant to Greet *Mayflower II* on Arrival Here," *New York Times*, May 25, 1957, 19.
- 14. Devlin, "Mayflower Crew Hailed in Parade." 25.

## Intersecting Histories: New Plymouth/ New Netherland

PEGGY M. BAKER

The magic of history lies in its ability to see to the end of the chapter, to track change over time. When viewed from a chronological distance and with the expert analyses of historians, the past —even the seventeenth century!—can seem orderly. A decision is made, an outcome occurs. Plymouth Colony, however, was not formed in the serenity of "history." It was formed within a here-and-now, tumultuous, fast-changing, North Atlantic world. When this experimental colonizing venture is returned to this larger setting, its complex and uncertain nature reappears. Outcomes were not inevitable; decisions were not predetermined or even obvious. And when Plymouth Colony's foundation story is placed side by side with that of another colony, New Netherland, their two intersecting histories remind us even more clearly that success was not inevitable, or even well-defined.

The two colonies, both with strong roots in the Netherlands and formed just four years apart, shared a particularly fraught world of political and religious strife. William Bradford described the circumstances surrounding the founders of Plymouth Colony, a group of English Separatists who had been living in selfimposed exile in the Dutch city of Leiden

...about some eleven or twelve years, (which is the more observable being the whole time of that famous truce between that state and the Spaniards,) ... [who] began both deeply to apprehend their present dangers, and wisely to foresee the future; and think of timely remedy... at length they began to incline to this conclusion: of removal to some other place.<sup>1</sup>

Bradford concluded with the ominous note that "the twelve years of truce were now out, and there was nothing but beating of drums, and preparing for war..."<sup>2</sup>

Thereafter, as the well-known story goes, having decided to live as a "distinct body by themselves,"<sup>3</sup> the Separatists obtained a patent allowing them to establish a plantation within the extensive territories granted to the Virginia Company by the English Crown, secured financing from a group of English "merchant adventurers," and sailed for America, eventually landing at Plymouth in 1620.

Before those events, however, the seventeenth century records indicate an alternative possibility, settlement in North America under the aegis of a different



Plattegrond van Leiden (Map of Leiden), anonymous, 1612-1648.

government, that might have dramatically changed the story of the people we know as "the Pilgrims."

Bradford gives a tantalizingly brief reference to a proposed Dutch sponsorship for the Pilgrims' emigration, writing "... when there was speech of their removal into these parts, sundry of note and eminency of that nation [the Netherlands] would have had them come under them, and for that end made them large offers."<sup>4</sup> This was not casual conversation; this was an approach by the New Netherland Company, a precursor to the Dutch West India Company that would, eventually, plant a colony in North America. On 12 February 1620, the directors of the New Netherland Company alerted the Dutch States-General, its parliament, that

... there is residing at Leyden a certain English Preacher, versed in the Dutch language, who is well inclined to proceed thither to live, assuring the petitioners that he has the means of inducing over four hundred families to accompany him thither, both out of this country and England, provided they would be guarded and preserved from all violence on the part of other potentates ...

They requested, therefore, that the unnamed preacher and his families

... be taken under the protection of this country, and that two ships of war may be provisionally despatched to secure to the states the aforesaid Countries, inasmuch as they would be of much importance, whenever the West India Company is established.<sup>5</sup> The States-General refused to dispatch ships of war, but did not indicate any opposition in principle to a colonizing effort.<sup>6</sup>

Edward Winslow, writing retrospectively in 1646, considered this a genuine proposal, noting

... the large offers the *Dutch* offered us ... if we would go on such adventures, to goe under them to *Hudsons* River (where they have since a great plantation, &c.) and how they would freely have transported us, and furnished every family with cattle, &c.<sup>7</sup>

The Pilgrims declined. According to Bradford, it was Thomas Weston, the London merchant who recruited the "adventurers" who would finance the *Mayflower* voyage, who had "persuaded them … not to meddle with the Dutch."<sup>8</sup> As John Robinson expressed it, "when we had in hand another course with the Dutchmen, [we] broke it off at his motion."<sup>9</sup>

Although no reason (beyond Weston's counsel) is stated for rejecting the proposals, the looming prospect of war was undoubtedly a significant factor.

The Dutch province of Holland, where Leiden was located, was one of the seven largely-Protestant northern provinces of the Netherlands that, in 1568, began a thirteen-year war of independence against their seemingly invincible Catholic overlord, the Hapsburg empire. That empire included Spain, Portugal, the areas of Europe formerly known as Burgundy (today's northeast France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands), a large segment of North America, South America, and islands in the Caribbean, as well as the Philippines and other islands in East Asia, all under the rule of the monarch of Spain. By 1581, however, the new "Dutch Republic" had actually achieved *de facto* independence. By 1590, it had begun to grow exponentially.

The Republic was small in size, but mighty in resources. It was not only an optimal geographic center for both European and North Atlantic trade, but the Netherlands' fierce dedication to independence, hardened by the Spanish persecution of the Dutch Reformed Church, together with the Republic's determined and successful resistance to Spain, proved a magnet not only for English religious radicals, but also for experienced and innovative craftsmen, shipbuilders, merchants, bankers, and venture capitalists from throughout Europe.<sup>10</sup> The Republic was also mighty in ambition. In 1602, it chartered the Dutch East India Company, charged with establishing a Dutch trading empire in Southeast Asia to rival that of Spain in the Americas.

As Dutch power was increasing, Spanish power was beginning to diminish. In 1609, Spain agreed to a twelve-

year truce with the Dutch Republic. Dutch merchants then began quietly trading in Central America, South America and the Caribbean, all lands that were claimed by Spain.<sup>11</sup>

That same year, 1609, the Dutch East India Company hired the experienced English explorer Henry Hudson to search for the elusive northeast passage to Russia and the Far East. Hudson and his crew, sailing on the *Half Moon*, reached Norwegian waters but were turned back by impassable weather. Instead of returning to Holland, Hudson sailed directly across the Atlantic in search of a northwest passage. After exploring the Atlantic seaboard, he sailed into present-day New York harbor, and then northward for 150 miles, on the river that would later bear his name, to the site of present-day Albany, giving the Dutch Republic their claim on these lands.<sup>12</sup>

After Hudson's return, a group of enterprising Dutch merchants, recognizing the value of the North American fur trade, joined together as the "New Netherland Company." They were granted a charter on 11 October 1614, giving them the right to trade in the "new lands situated in America, between New France and Virginia ... and called New Netherland."<sup>13</sup> They established a network of trade, and built a fortified trading post near today's Albany.<sup>14</sup>

By 1620, the growing economic strength of the Dutch Republic had led to an increasing willingness to confront Spain. On 3 June 1621, at the expiration of the truce, the States-General authorized a new company, the Dutch West India Company ("WIC"), not only to initiate and oversee exploring and trading ventures in the Americas and West Indies, but also to "appoint and discharge Governors, people for war, and officers of justice, and other public officers, for the preservation of the places, keeping good order, police and justice"; to "advance the peopling of those fruitful and unsettled parts"; and to take troops with them "for the establishment, security and defence of this trade."<sup>15</sup> This was, and was meant to be, a clear and direct challenge to Spain's claims of ownership of the Americas.<sup>16</sup>

Of course, in 1619 and 1620, when the English Separatists were making their plans, no one knew how the end of the truce between Spain and the Dutch Republic would play out. Would Spain react immediately and forcefully, given the provocation of the new trading company then under public discussion? Would war and violent religious persecution return to the Netherlands? Would the 1573/74 siege of Leiden, whose horrors remained vivid in the communal memory of its residents, happen again?<sup>17</sup> The Pilgrims, under specific threat as radical English Protestants, were not willing to wait for events to unfold. In any event, the Dutch had not yet established a safe haven in North America. Although the formation of the WIC was tantalizingly near, its charter was not issued until ten months after the Pilgrims had left Leiden. And so, the Leiden community, having briefly considered settling under the aegis of the Dutch government, decided instead to settle in British North America.

Around the time the Pilgrims were making their emigration plans, another group of religious refugees, also living in Leiden, was grappling with the same issues. These refugees, the Walloons, upended the story, rejecting the idea of settling in British North America and deciding, instead, to wait for the West India Company and settle in New Netherland.

The Walloons were originally inhabitants of the southern area of the Spanish Netherlands, encompassing parts of modern Belgium, Luxembourg, and northeastern France, an area that remained under Spanish control. Protestant dissidents in a Catholic area, the Walloons were driven from their home by religious persecution. Many found refuge in Leiden, where they were, as noted by Bradford, "of the French church in that city."<sup>18</sup> The two refugee communities, French-speaking Walloons and English Separatists, were well-acquainted and religiously sympathetic.<sup>19</sup> Personal connections were forged. Francis Cooke, later a Mayflower passenger, and Hester Mahieu, a member of the Leiden Walloon church, were betrothed 30 June 1603; and, on 6 November 1603, "Francois Coek" appeared as a baptismal witness for Philippe de Lannoy [later Delano].<sup>20</sup>

Like the English Separatists, the Walloons of Leiden also felt specifically threatened by the impending end of the truce between the Dutch Republic and Spain. Consequently, the Walloon spokesman, Jesse de Forest, made an initial approach to Sir Dudley Carleton, the English ambassador to The Hague, proposing that a company of Walloons should settle in Virginia.

De Forest then, on 5 February 1621,<sup>21</sup> petitioned the King and the Virginia Company, requesting that "fifty or sixty families, as well Walloons as French, all of the reformed religion," be granted land. In addition to asking that the King "protect and defend them from and against all, and maintain them in their religion," de Forest also requested that a ship be provided to transport "nearly three hundred persons," with livestock, and that they be allowed to select a "spot fit for their settlement, from the places not yet cultivated."22 The Virginia Company responded in a vaguely positive manner, but with significant conditions; the Walloons must conform to the Church of England, neither Crown nor company would aid with shipping, and, instead of being settled as a single group, they would be placed "in convenient numbers" throughout Virginia.<sup>23</sup> The Virginia Company's wary attitude may have sprung from their belief that the Dutch, who were trading along the Hudson River, were encroaching on territory that belonged, by right, to the English Crown.<sup>24</sup> The Virginia Company's response to the Walloons ended any interest that community had in proceeding. The Walloons would not agree to abandon their religion or to fragment their community.

The Walloons now turned to the new WIC, proposing that their group be settled in the territories under their authority; on 27 August 1622, the WIC authorized the enrollment of families willing to emigrate.<sup>25</sup> Although the records are far from complete, it seems likely that many of these Walloon families were among the first settlers of New Netherland.

According to an overly optimistic report on the condition and history of New Netherland, presented to the States-General on 15 December 1644;

In the years 1622 and 1623, the West India Company took possession, by virtue of their charter, of the said country, and conveyed thither, in their ship, the *New Netherland*, divers Colonists under the direction of Cornelis Jacobsz. Mey, and Adriaen Jorissz. Tienpoint, which Directors, in the year 1624, built Fort Orange on the North River [the Hudson River], and Fort Nassau on the South River [the Delaware River], and after that, in 1626, Fort Amsterdam on the Manhattes. In all which, garrisons were continually maintained, and trade was carried on in those several districts with yachts, sloops and other craft.<sup>26</sup>

In actuality, although the WIC did assert possession in 1622 and 1623, it was not until 1624 that it established a colonizing presence in New Netherland, sending out the *Eendracht* (Unity) under the command of Adrian Jorisszen Tienpoint, and the Nieu Nederlandt, under Cornelis Jacobsen May, with some thirty immigrant families, probably mostly Walloon, with their supplies. On their arrival, the settlers were dispersed. Small groups were sent to the Delaware and Connecticut Rivers to establish Dutch claims there; a few men stayed on Manhattan Island, at the mouth of the Hudson; and eighteen or more families went upriver to the site of today's Albany, where Fort Orange was established. In 1625, more ships, carrying additional colonists, provisions, cattle, and agricultural supplies, arrived. In 1626, the company consolidated the Colony's scattered people and livestock, moving the inhabitants of the river communities and Fort Orange to the new, centralized location of "New Amsterdam," on Manhattan Island.

While the early Walloon settlers of New Netherland benefited greatly from their association with the West India Company, receiving free passage, free land after six years of tenancy, and an ongoing support system that provided low-cost supplies, there was a high (and unexpected) price to be paid. Immediately before sailing, on 30 March 1624, with no warning, they were presented with the company's "Provisional Regulations for the Colonists." Article One set the tone.

The colonists shall, in addition to observing the respective articles and instructions, during the voyage and their residence, and in changing their location, be bound to obey and to carry out without any contradiction the orders of the company already given them or still to be given, as well as all regulations received from the said Company in regard to matters of administration and justice.

They shall within their territory practice no other form of divine worship than that of the Reformed religion as at present practiced here in this country...<sup>27</sup>

Among other provisions, the WIC would appoint officers to govern the Colony, overseeing all executive, military, and judicial functions (within the laws of the Dutch Republic), as well as making treaties and alliances.<sup>28</sup> Additional detailed instructions were sent, in 1625, on topics as disparate as the specific role of the Colony's new Dutch cleric (hired by the WIC) and the proper method of unloading cattle from a ship, as well as declaring that the colonists "shall not be permitted to pass any new laws or ordinances or to sanction any new custom, unless such have previously been sent over to us, together with the reasons why under their conditions they consider their adoption advisable."29 This micromanagement from afar, particularly when carried out by appointed Directors of uncertain temperament and little experience, would prove detrimental to the early success of the Colony.

The Pilgrims, in contrast, were remarkably unregulated. Plymouth Colony benefited by being a "particular plantation," that is, one in which the organizers of the Colony, not the Virginia Company which had granted them their first charter, took on the burden of funding all aspects of the settlement, including transportation and supplies. "Particular plantations" were, in return, allowed a significant degree of self-government. In Plymouth Colony's case, the settlers' partners in organization, the merchant adventurers, were a fairly disorganized group of largely financial backers, with little interest in administration. The Pilgrims were able to choose their own officers to govern the Colony, and to establish a General Court to discuss and vote on judicial and legislative matters.

However different their structure, though, and however vehemently the English Crown regarded the Dutch as invalid "interlopers" in English territory, the colonies of Plymouth and New Netherland did have similarities. Each was Protestant and populated predominantly by families, with their isolation forcing a certain amount of independence in trade and dayto-day diplomacy. The bond was enhanced by the Pilgrims' time in Leiden, and the familiarity of many in their community with Dutch ways and the Dutch language.

The first extended encounter between the colonies came early in 1627, with a letter from Isaack de Rasiere, the newly-appointed Secretary of New Netherland. After congratulating the Plymouth colonists on their "prosperous and praiseworthy undertakings," he recalled the historic friendship between England and the Netherlands, and their ongoing mutual efforts against Spain. He ended by offering not only good will, but also that "if it so fall out that any goods that comes to our hands from our native country may be serviceable unto you, we shall take ourselves bound to help and accommodate you therewith."<sup>30</sup>

In his reply, Bradford fondly recalled the Pilgrims' time in the Netherlands,

...having lived there many years, with freedom and good content, as also many of our friends do to this day. For which we, and our children after us, are bound to be thankful to your nation and shall never forget the same, but shall heartily desire your good and prosperity as our own forever.<sup>31</sup>

Further correspondence, in August 1627, touched on the troubled issue of New Netherland's legitimacy. Bradford had asked, by letter, that the Dutch cease trading; their response was, "very friendly but maintaining their right and liberty to trade in those parts ... alleging that as we had authority and commission from our king; so they had the like from the States of Holland, which they would defend." Bradford responded by, first, expressing Plymouth Colony's wish to continue in both friendship and trade and then, after firmly restating England's right to primacy in "these lands" (which included the territory of New Netherland), suggesting that

... it were best (in our opinion) that your masters should solicit the States that they might come to some order and agreement with the King's Majesty and State of England hereabout, before any inconvenience befall...<sup>32</sup>

With the matter raised and then amicably "kicked upstairs," friendly colonial relationships could continue.

The relationship was warm enough that, in October 1627, de Rasiere made a personal visit to Plymouth.



 Nieuw Amsterdam ofte nue Nieuw Iorx opt't Eylant Man, anonymous, c. 1660.jpg

He arrived, accompanied by attendants (including trumpeters), and

... after some few days' entertainment he returned to his bark, and some of them went with him and bought sundry of his goods. And amongst other commodities they vended much tobacco for linen cloth, stuffs, etc., which was a good benefit to the people...<sup>33</sup>

On his return to the Netherlands, de Rasiere wrote a charming and insightful letter about his trip to Plymouth, describing not only the famous "Pilgrim march to church," but the participation of the citizens in its government.

The Governor has his Council, which is chosen every year by the entire community, by election... They apportion their land according as each has means to contribute to the eighteen thousand guilders which they have promised to those who had sent them out [the merchant adventurers]; whereby they have their freedom without rendering an account to anyone...<sup>34</sup>

These pleasant and profitable interactions, and the criss-crossing trajectory of the two Leiden communities, English Separatists who considered New Netherland but who sought out "Virginia," and Walloon refugees who sought out "Virginia" and then settled in New Netherland, does invite speculation. What if the Pilgrims had opted to delay their departure and sail under the Dutch flag? What might their "alternative history" have been?

In practical terms, the Separatists might have avoided the high price they initially paid for their Colony. The delay in the *Mayflower*'s sailing, caused largely by the improvised nature of their financing, and the subsequent arrival in New England in November, were undoubtedly significant factors in the enormous casualties suffered in that first winter of 1620/21. By aligning with the well-funded, well-provisioned, and well-organized Dutch, those casualties would probably have been considerably fewer. Beyond that, we can never know.

We can, however, frame the question in a different way. How well did the two colonies meet the goals, not of the companies who chartered them or the men who financed them, but the goals of the two Leiden communities, the English Separatists and the Walloons?

For the Walloons, the only evidence of their specific goals is found, briefly, in Jesse de Forest's 1622 petition to the English, namely that they settle as group and maintain their own church. Those quite limited objectives were not met in New Netherland. Instead, they had seen no way forward but to accept the religious and political control of the West India Company. After the company, in 1626, brought them down to Manhattan, the Walloons were submerged in a broader population.

This lack of evidence highlights another difference between the two communities, at least for those who wish to understand their histories. The Walloons who settled in New Netherland had no clear leader and no chronicler — in other words, no William Bradford. Jesse de Forest, who might have emerged as both, instead joined an exploring mission to Guiana (a territory considered and rejected by the Leiden Separatist community as a location for emigration): he died there 22 October 1624.<sup>35</sup> While there were official reports generated during the early years, these were the views of WIC's appointed officials and not the Colony's inhabitants, and many of those papers have been lost. There is no list of the Colony's "first comers" and no first-hand account of the early years.

Catalina Trico provides the only surviving "voice" of those first Walloon settlers. More than sixty years after her arrival, she made two depositions. In her second, lengthier, statement, made 17 October 1688, Catalina, "aged about 83 years," testified that

#### ...in y<sup>e</sup> year 1623 [sic] she came into this County w<sup>th</sup> a Ship called y<sup>e</sup> Unity whereof was Commander Arien Jorise belonging to y<sup>e</sup> West India Company being y<sup>e</sup> first Ship y<sup>t</sup> came here for y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Company,

and that she and her husband were among the "18 families aboard who settled themselves att Albany & made a small fort," and were, later, among those who "came from Albany & settled at N: Yorke."<sup>36</sup> But, when we search for the community's motives for emigrating, its hopes and expectations for life in New Netherland, its successes and disappointments, there is only silence.

We know the Separatists' motivations and their goals for their new Colony more fully, thanks to Bradford's *Of Plymouth Plantation*. The basic goals were to establish themselves as "a distinct body by themselves," to establish their own government in the Colony, and to maintain their own church.

Plymouth Colony, for the years of its duration, did remain relatively cohesive. That would not have happened if the Pilgrims had chosen otherwise, and ultimately ended up, like the Walloons, in New Amsterdam. That site, located at the mouth of the Hudson River, was the terminus of the inland fur trade and, with its deep-water harbor, had enormous potential for shipping. It would inevitably draw a diversified, polyglot, and unruly population; in 1644, Isaac Jogues reported that "there may well be four or five hundred men of different sects and nations; the Director General told me that there were persons there of eighteen different languages."<sup>37</sup> This was precisely what the Pilgrims wished to avoid.

As for governance, how exactly had the Separatists hoped to govern their community? No plan was laid out explicitly before the voyage, but the concepts of a "body politic, using amongst yourselves civil government" and of the community choosing its governors and magistrates, are found in John Robinson's farewell letter to the Pilgrims.<sup>38</sup> Those words were echoed in the Mayflower Compact of 1620.

This goal of a participatory government would not have been met in New Netherland. There is little likelihood that the Dutch would have offered the English settlers the political and religious rights that they denied, at the last minute, to the Walloons. The lack of citizen participation in the governance of New Netherland, and the absence of any degree of political autonomy, was, in fact, a continuing source of dissatisfaction among its colonists. In an interesting twist, one of the citizens of New Netherland who was highly instrumental in the first successful initiative, in the mid-1640s, to gain civic rights for its inhabitants, was Mayflower passenger Isaac Allerton.<sup>39</sup>

And what of maintaining their own church? William Bradford did, in his later years, mourn the Colony's geographic spread and the dispersal of its population away from the church in Plymouth, describing it, rather dramatically, as "this poor church left, like an ancient mother, grown old, and forsaken of her children."<sup>40</sup> Nevertheless, each of the new towns and parishes in Plymouth Colony, offshoots of the original settlement, maintained the principles of the Pilgrims, by establishing independent churches.

Neither New Netherland nor Plymouth Colony survived as such into the eighteenth century.<sup>41</sup> Nevertheless, Plymouth Colony's success in fulfilling the goals of that original group of English Separatists has remained an inspiration, thanks in large part to William Bradford, who documented for future generations the story of Plymouth's "First Comers," as they lit that historic "one small candle."

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- 3. Bradford, 29.
- 4. Bradford, 21-22.
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- **13.** Alden Chester and E. Melvin Williams, *Courts and Lawyers of New York: A History,* 1609-1925 (Clark, N.J.: The Lawbook Exchange, Ltd., 2005), 1:41, 45.
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- **15.** "Dutch West India Company Charter," The Avalon Project, Yale Univ. Law School, https://avalon.law.yale.edu/17th\_century/ westind.asp, accessed 16 June 2022.
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- **17.** The breaking of the 1573/74 siege is still celebrated annually in Leiden, although Leiden was never besieged again by the Spanish.
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- 20. Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs, "The Pilgrims and other English in Leiden records: some new Pilgrim documents," NEHGR, 143 (1989):196-98.
- **21.** Although the petition's date has been transcribed as 1622, other documents referring to this petition indicate that the year was 1621.
- 22. Brodhead, Documents, Colonial History of N.Y., 3:9-10; this petition is translated from the French.
- 23. J.W. De Forest, The de Forests of Avesnes (and of New Netherland): A Huguenot Thread in Colonial America (New Haven, Conn.: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor Co., 1900), 195; "America and West Indies: August 1621," Calendar of State Papers Colonial, America and West Indies: Vol. 1, 1574-1660 (London, 1860), 26; British History Online, http://www.britishhistory.ac.uk/cal-state-papers/colonial/america-west-indies/ vol1/p26, accessed 24 January 2022.
- 24. Later in the 17th century, Dutch ventures in North America were seen as open challenges to English claims and English interests. In the 1620s, however, the English were content simply to reiterate their rights (while continuing amicable relations) and to exercise caution by not planting large groups of non-English settlers within "their" lands.
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- 30. Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation (Morison ed.), 378-79.
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- 32. Governor William Bradford's Letter Book (Boston, Mass.: Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1906), 31-32.
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- 37. Michael Kammen, Colonial New York: A History (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), 37.
- 38. Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation, 369.
- 39. Brodhead, Documents, 1:203-204
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- 41. New Netherland's transition into the English province of New York, was finalized in 1674; Plymouth Colony was subsumed into the Province of Massachusetts Bay in 1692.



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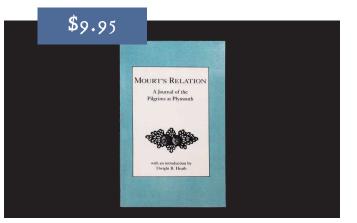
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