



*The*  
**MAYFLOWER**  
**QUARTERLY**  
*Magazine*

**Leyden St**

Orig. "First Street"

Plymouth Historic District

VOL. 90, NO. 4

WINTER 2024



# General Society of Mayflower Descendants

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2023-2026

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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](https://www.themayflowersociety.org/history/lecture-series).



**January 9th – 7 pm (ET)**  
**Justin Jacobs, "Plunder? How  
Museums Got Their Treasures"**

**January 16th – 3 pm (ET)**  
**Graham Taylor, "The Mayflower  
in Britain"**

**February 4th – 7 pm (ET)**  
**Seth Rockman, "Plantation  
Goods: A Material History  
of American Slavery"**

**February 20th – 7 pm (ET)**  
**Bill Cole, "A Grave Mistake?  
The English Origins of  
Old Comer Thomas Clarke"**

**April 3rd – 7 pm (ET)**  
**Bruce Gordon, "The Bible:  
A Global History"**

**June 17th - 3 pm (ET)**  
**Jonathan Healey,  
"The Blazing World:  
Revolutionary England,  
1603-1689"**

**Cover Art:** Image of the Leyden Street sign at the crossroads of Leyden and Main Street in downtown Plymouth. Photo: Doug B.

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### Deadlines for submission:

January 1: Spring Issue	April 1: Summer Issue	July 1: Fall Issue	October 1: Winter Issue
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**Submissions:** To submit to *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*, please e-mail [MQMEditor@TheMayflowerSociety.org](mailto: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](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/book/ed17/frontmatter/toc.html).

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



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 2024 winter issue of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*.

As is customary, the winter issue is the largest of the year, and even still it was hard to fit in everything we received! Thank you all for your submissions, ideas and interest in *The MQM*.

This issue is jampacked with varied and interesting articles and photos. There is a great summary of the successful General Board of Assistants Meeting held in Asheville, North Carolina, along with photos from the event. Erica Hahn has provided a wonderful reexamination at the parentage of Allerton Newton that opens an exciting new Allerton and Brewster line. Peggy Baker has written a thorough and enjoyable article about the Howlands and the Revolutionary War, a connection made all the more pertinent with the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the American Revolutionary War. Speaking of connections, William Cheshire makes one between a shark and the Pilgrims in his article "If the Ancients Could Speak."

I would like to extend my thoughts and condolences to everyone affected by the storms that have ravaged the American South. Seeing the devastating photos of Asheville, a town that was so hospitable to us, was shocking. I wish everyone a quick recovery.

May everyone have a happy, relaxing holiday season.

- Doug



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# Governor General's Message

LISA PENNINGTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL



In September, I gave a tour of the Pilgrim's "First Street," now known as Leyden Street. It was filmed for our YouTube channel, and I hope you tune in to watch the video.

Four hundred four years ago, the street was a lonely dirt path with small thatched houses on either side. The street was surrounded by the sea on one side and deep forests on the others.

After the first winter, there were twenty-two children left in Plymouth, most of whom had lost one or both of their parents only months before. Imagine being seventeen years old, losing both parents and a brother, as Priscilla Mullins did, or Richard More, who was only six and would never see his parents, siblings or home again. Mary Chilton and Samuel Fuller were both thirteen years old and were orphans in this strange land, with no way home.

In the fall of 1621, the fifty-one Pilgrims and over one hundred Wampanoags held a three-day harvest feast we now call the First Thanksgiving. The four surviving women had to enlist the children to help make the enormous amount of food required over three days. Joseph Rogers and John Cooke might have been assigned to turn the outdoor spits. Perhaps the Billington boys set rabbit traps and then ran foot races up the hill. Did Love Brewster and Giles Hopkins fetch water from Town Brook for the feast? Would the Allerton girls and the Wampanoag children have clapped their hands as they followed the parade up the street to the beat of a drum?

One hopes that that Thanksgiving may have been a turning point which encouraged the young Pilgrims to believe they could survive and be happy in this new land. As you gather at your Thanksgiving tables, remember the Pilgrim children who, against the odds, bravely persevered to overcome such incredible losses. Tell your children and grandchildren *their* story. And remind them that they are made out of the same stuff. These tales of bravery not only ground and inspire our children, they honor the sacrifices and fortitude of their ancestors. **Happy Storytelling – and Happy Thanksgiving!**



▲ "Three Young Pilgrims," Cheryl Harness, 1992, Scholastic, Inc.

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

MARK SCHMIDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As the year 2024 draws to a close, and as the holidays approach, members and supporters of The Mayflower Society are attuned to the importance and influence made by the Mayflower passengers during their historic voyage in 1620. Telling their story accurately has been the focus of the Society since 1897, and it is a task we take great pride in promoting. One of the major points of emphasis to enable that educational opportunity will be the restoration and renovation of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse. When it is completed, the Society will have a venue that will accommodate a significant number of visitors, and will allow them to grasp what happened at that very location four centuries ago, and what an historical impact was created by the Pilgrim's settlement. Far too often, it is assumed that people know who these passengers were and what they endured. Instead, it is incumbent upon the Society to continually advance the learning and teaching of these historical narratives correctly so that they do not get lost to the ravages of time.

In addition, as 2025 looms, there are other historical markers to remember. It will be the 250th Anniversary of the start of the American Revolutionary War. It will be the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II. Both events will be among the themes for upcoming articles and programs for The Mayflower Society. Work on the Mayflower Society House should be finished while the work on the Mayflower Meetinghouse ramps up. The annual General Board of Assistants meeting in September will be held in San Antonio, Texas. We look forward to 2025 being a great year for the Society and hopefully for you as well. Please help us to continue to tell the story of the Mayflower passengers and to push forward the work to finalize the renovations to the Mayflower Meetinghouse.

I want to thank everyone who attended the annual meeting in Asheville, North Carolina. The meeting recapped the past business year in an upbeat and successful manner, and those in attendance seemed to enjoy their venue. It was so distressing to see that area, and many others surrounding it, ravaged a few weeks later by Hurricane Helene. We all hope that those areas devastated by the storm can recover quickly; our thoughts are with those who lost loved ones.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I would like to take the time to give a sincere "thank you" to the staff in Plymouth who do such a great job all year long. It is my privilege and honor to oversee a talented group of people who continually do a stellar job all throughout the year and make my job so much easier because of their abilities and dedication. They are not always as visible as the Executive Director is, but they are certainly every bit as important, and I am very grateful for their hard work.

Some of the intricate  
woodwork inside the  
Biltmore Estate.





# Mayflower Meetinghouse Update

LEA SINCLAIR FILSON, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL PILGRIM MEMORIAL MEETINGHOUSE CHARITABLE TRUST

Our General Board of Assistants Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, in September was two weeks before the area was wiped out by Hurricane Helene. We are all thinking of our North Carolina members and praying that the recovery of this storm devastated area will be as painless as possible. As a Hurricane Katrina survivor myself, I know what people in that area are going through. An experience like weather recovery is one that grows strength, faith, and courage.

Our genetics tell us that we have experienced such stressful events through the generations. We know our Mayflower ancestors dealt with death, destruction, and trauma in 1620 when they chose to begin anew in the New World. That is why we are working to restore the Mayflower Meetinghouse, so we can remember our ancestors by leaving a legacy on the very location where they settled.

My report at the General Board of Assistants Meeting updated where we were at that time with the restoration, as well as with our fundraising. These numbers have been updated even further. As of October 1, 2024, we have raised \$8,553,478. We have \$3,473,553 cash on hand as we finish the final design and begin working on the restoration again in the spring. Another \$232,000 has been pledged.

We still need to fund \$6,500,000 on building construction, another \$1,000,000 for repair and restoration of the sanctuary, and \$3,800,000 for the films and exhibits. That means we have another \$7,400,000 to raise.

We are thankful to major donors, foundations, bequests, Member Society donations, Family Societies, and individuals for believing enough to leave this legacy so the Mayflower story will not be forgotten.

The elevator, bringing ADA access to the building for the first time, is finished. At year's end, the architects will turn in their final plan to complete the project. Whether we do it all at once or in phases depends on our fundraising, but it will cost nearly a million dollars more if we have to finish it in phases.

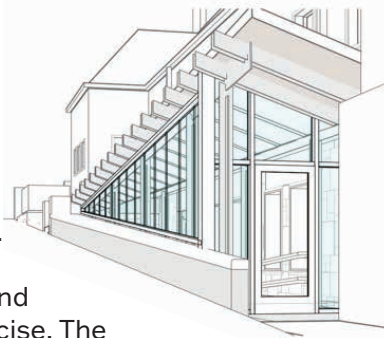
The new side entrance is next. Because the Meetinghouse is listed on the National Register, the project is subject to the guidelines established by the United States Department of the Interior.

It suggests that the relationship between old and new must be clear and precise. The old must retain its architectural qualities and the new must reflect contemporary qualities and look new. You can see examples of this guideline by looking in Plymouth at Pilgrim Hall's entrance, the entrance to the Plymouth Center for the Arts on North Street, as well as the Kingston Library. We will follow this directive with our new side entrance.

You can see photos with this information by looking at my PowerPoint presentation. It includes our fundraising film which you can also find on the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) YouTube channel. Please feel free to use these assets to help us raise the remainder of our shared goal.

Last, I asked if each Member Society would consider raising another \$5,000 to contribute towards finishing the project. I gave \$5,000 personally to remember cherished members we have lost: Virginia Mucciaccio, Michael Kelleher, and Ren Cushing. The other \$2,000 was in memory of Mayflower Historian Jeremy Bangs and my husband, Architect Ron Filson, FAIA, FAAR who guided us through the Mayflower Meetinghouse project as our owner manager until his death.

As of this date, three Member Societies have already sent \$5,000 to match my donation, bringing the effort to \$20,000. Please consider donating so that GSMD can leave this important legacy for all of our descendants.



# The Pilgrim “Undertakers:” Then and Now

LISA PENNINGTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL

The Pilgrim story is one of bravery, perseverance and faith, but it was based on a hope that their enterprise would financially succeed in the New World. Many of them sold everything they had in Leiden and England to finance the Mayflower voyage, then borrowed more from a group of English “merchant adventurers.” Together, the merchant adventurers and passengers formed a stock company which held all the money, livestock and land. After seven years, they agreed that the assets (and expected profits) would be divided amongst all the shareholders. But the business of planting colonies was more expensive and dangerous than they imagined.

Half the Pilgrims died the first winter. *The Fortune* arrived in 1621, and when it was filled with lumber and furs, was sent back to England to help pay down the Pilgrims' debt. Bradford recounts that it was captured by French pirates on its return voyage. The Thirty Years War, a world war between eight nations, drove interest rates up over fifty percent. The Pilgrims also needed more supplies, and the debt and interest increased.

As a result, Bradford states that in 1626, the Pilgrims' agent, Isaac Allerton, proposed that the leading colonists and four London adventurers “undertake” to guarantee the debt for the Pilgrim householders. They called themselves the “Undertakers.” They planned to grow corn, trade it for furs, then sell the

furs in England and New Amsterdam. But their plans were not enough. The Pilgrim Undertakers were William Bradford, William Brewster, Isaac Allerton, Edward Winslow, Myles Standish, John Howland, John Alden, Thomas Prentice, John Jenney and Samuel Fuller. In 1645, eight of these men personally sold their own land, houses and other assets to pay off the negotiated debt of £1,800. As a result, all of our Plymouth ancestors were able to keep the land they had worked so hard to hold.

The agreement to guarantee the Pilgrim debt and save the Pilgrims' homes was negotiated at the Meetinghouse Fort. And it is there that we propose to tell this story and all the other Pilgrim stories about the Mayflower Compact, the First Thanksgiving, the first Bill of Rights and the selfless sacrifice of the men who went above and beyond to save the Plymouth Colony from foreclosure by the merchant adventurers.

We have created a new group of Pilgrim Undertakers in 2024. If you are able to donate \$25,000 or more to the Meetinghouse, your name—and the name of your ancestor—will appear on a plaque at the Mayflower Meetinghouse. Like our Pilgrim ancestors, you will save a piece of Plymouth Colony. And you will help to tell the Pilgrim story to generations of Americans!



▲ “Syndics of the Drapers' Guild” by Rembrandt, 1662.



# Mayflower Meetinghouse Donations

LINDA ANDERSON

Now that most of the exterior renovations of the Meetinghouse have been completed; we need your help to raise \$7,400,000 for the interior renovations. Many of our members would like to use funds from their retirement accounts to give more than they have available in liquid cash or other assets.

Keeping in mind that The Mayflower Society does not and cannot provide tax and legal advice, you may wish to consider using funds from your retirement accounts to make a larger donation that may also reduce your taxes, by making “a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).”

If you have an IRA or other retirement account and are presently required to take a minimum distribution, but do not need all of the funds, this method, which is described by the IRS at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/qualified-charitable-distributions-allow-eligible-ira-owners-up-to-100000-in-tax-free-gifts-to-charity>, may allow you to take that distribution while also receiving a tax benefit. With a QCD, the portion of a distribution designated for charitable purposes for the Meetinghouse would be made directly from the IRA’s custodian according to your instructions without ever passing through your hands.

Any amount you give in 2024 as a QCD up to \$105,000, unlike other distributions that may be taxable, would not be taxed. It may also allow you to make a larger gift, without the IRA distribution being taxed, than would be

available for regular charitable deductions, where the tax benefit of a contribution will depend on your income level (there is no income level restriction for QCDs). And by reducing your IRA balance, a QCD gift may reduce your minimum distribution obligation in future years.

For a QCD to count towards your minimum annual IRA distribution for 2024, it must be made by December 31, 2024, which means you need to notify your custodian in time to have the gift processed by year’s end.

Please have your IRA custodian mail a check to:

**The Mayflower Society**  
18 Winslow Street  
Plymouth, MA 02360

If you prefer, you may donate via wire transfer by contacting Cheryl Whittaker at [Accounts@TheMayflowerSociety.org](mailto:Accounts@TheMayflowerSociety.org).

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Schmidt at [ExecutiveDirector@TheMayflowerSociety.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@TheMayflowerSociety.org) or Lisa Pennington at [GovernorGeneral@TheMayflowerSociety.org](mailto:GovernorGeneral@TheMayflowerSociety.org).

**Disclaimer:** All tax information should be reviewed by your Certified Public Accountant or Financial Advisor.

# Introducing the New “Heirloom” Membership Certificate: A Legacy to Cherish for Generations

MARTIN W. BEERMAN, SECRETARY GENERAL

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is proud to offer an exquisite new “Heirloom” Membership Certificate, a piece of history reimagined for today’s members. This beautiful certificate, measuring 16 x 20 inches, is designed to be proudly displayed, fitting perfectly into a 16 x 20 inch frame or a 20 x 24 inch frame with a matte for a distinguished presentation. Frame not included, but can be ordered separately.

This certificate is more than a simple document; it is a true recreation of the Society’s original membership certificate, honoring the proud legacy of our lineage and the pioneering spirit of our ancestors. Each certificate is personalized with your Member Name, Member Number, Member Society Number, Date of Admission and your Mayflower passenger ancestor. Adding a special touch of historical significance, the certificate also bears the faithfully reproduced signatures of the Governor General and Historian General in office at the time your membership was approved.

For a \$150 donation to the Mayflower Meetinghouse, you can receive this timeless heirloom. Your donation will help ensure the preservation of one of the most significant Pilgrim landmarks in Plymouth: the iconic Mayflower Meetinghouse.

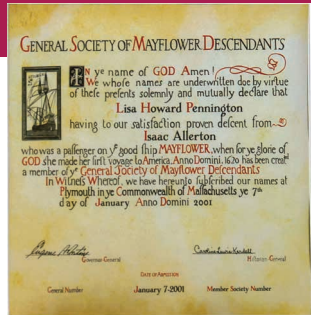
As the keeper of the Pilgrims’ legacy, The Mayflower Society remains committed to preserving our shared history and ensuring that the stories of our ancestors are passed down through generations. The reimagined membership certificate serves as both a personal keepsake and a symbol of our collective heritage.

By choosing to make a donation, you are directly contributing to the reinvention of this historic site, and helping to bring to life a cornerstone of our Pilgrim story for future descendants.

Join us in preserving history—secure your “Heirloom” Membership Certificate today and leave a legacy that will inspire generations to come.

Do not miss this opportunity to be part of history in the making. Visit [www.TheMayflowerSociety.org](http://www.TheMayflowerSociety.org) and click Donate, then The Mayflower Meetinghouse Project, or send your contribution to the General Society at the address below.

**The General Society of Mayflower Descendants**  
18 Winslow Street  
Plymouth, MA 02360



## Save the Dates

MEMBER EXCLUSIVE EVENTS

### HEREDITARY FORTNIGHT BREAKFAST April 9, 2025

The Mayflower Society’s Hereditary Fortnight Breakfast is Wednesday, April 9, 2025, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. at The Army Navy Club in Washington, DC. Details and registration will be available on The Mayflower Society website [www.TheMayflowerSociety.org](http://www.TheMayflowerSociety.org) in January 2025.

### GENERAL BOARD OF ASSISTANTS MEETING September 4–7, 2025

The General Board of Assistants will meet September 4–7, 2025, at The Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. See *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* Spring 2025 issue for details. Registration opens online March 3, 2025. A link for registration will be available on The Mayflower Society website [www.TheMayflowerSociety.org](http://www.TheMayflowerSociety.org).



## 2025 GSMD Scholarships

MEMBER BENEFIT

CHERIE LAWSON, GSMD SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) scholarship awards for 2025 will be opening to applicants on the GSMD website on January 1, 2025. GSMD will be awarding four scholarships to high school students who are graduating seniors, Mayflower descendants, and will be attending a four-year college or university, or a two-year community college. GSMD will also award a Native American scholarship. In 2024, GSMD awarded its first GSMD Native American scholarship through the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants with the help of Beth Anderson-Godfrey.

For an applicant to be considered, the Application Form must include a valid active GSMD membership number for the applicant or for a parent, grandparent or

great-grandparent of the applicant. The applicant will be required to complete the application form. Copies of the applicant’s grades and class standing are required. Letters of reference from a teacher and from one person in the community are also required. There will also be an essay that will need to be completed by the applicant. All of the documents must be postmarked and submitted by March 1, 2025.

Watch the GSMD website for updates on the scholarship applications. Please let the members of your Member Societies know about the availability of these scholarship opportunities.





# General Board of Assistants Meeting 2024

MARTIN W. BEERMAN, SECRETARY GENERAL

More than 225 members, spouses and guests traveled from across the United States, Canada and Europe to attend this year's General Board of Assistants Meeting at the DoubleTree by Hilton Asheville-Biltmore Hotel in Asheville, North Carolina, September 5-8, 2024. Attendees enjoyed connecting with cousins and friends at the Welcome Reception, participated in educational and informative sessions at the Governor General's Forum, and enriched their understanding of the Pilgrims from presentations by Christopher C. Child, "Uncovering Mayflower Connections through DNA;" Caleb Johnson, "Latest Discoveries in Mayflower Research;" and David Furlow, "The Odyssey of Isaac Allerton: Rebel Pilgrim." Members of the Governor General's 1620 Club enjoyed a special brunch event at the Grand Bohemian Hotel.

## ABBREVIATED GENERAL BOARD OF ASSISTANTS MEETING MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the General Board of Assistants of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants was called to assemble by Secretary General Martin W. Beerman on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Asheville-Biltmore Hotel in Asheville, North Carolina. The meeting was called to order by Governor General Lisa H. Pennington, Esq.

Elder General Rev. Michael Denney offered the invocation, followed by Presentation of

the Colors by the Mayflower Guard. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Captain General Collier Wiese.

North Carolina Society Deputy Governor General Steve Pike welcomed the assembly. Secretary General Beerman responded to the welcome and thanked the North Carolina Society for hosting the meeting and congratulated North Carolina on its 100th Anniversary year.

Governor General Pennington presented the Executive Committee Officers and recognized Former Governors General, GSMD Staff and special guests in attendance.

Professional Registered Parliamentarian Mary Scout was appointed and welcomed by Governor General Pennington. Mrs. Scout gave an overview of the parliamentary procedure including the role of the parliamentarian. Governor General Pennington announced the appointment of two timekeepers and four tellers for this meeting.

A necrology of Officers was read by Elder General Denney.

Secretary General Beerman read the nominees to the General Society offices of Deputy Governor General and Assistants General. Twenty-four nominees from fifteen societies were elected.

Secretary General Beerman conducted the Roll Call of Executive Committee Officers, Executive Committee Members-at-Large, Former

Governors General, Deputy Governors General and Assistants General. Forty-seven of fifty-four Member Societies were present.

Without objection, the Agenda and Standing Rules were approved.

The minutes of the September 10, 2023, General Board of Assistants Meeting in Plymouth were approved.

The actions of the September 5, 2024, Executive Committee were read. The Actions of the Executive Committee September 2023 through August 2024 were previously distributed by email to all General Board of Assistants members.

Reports of the Executive Committee were presented by Governor General Pennington, Assistant Governor General Jeffrey J. Stark, Secretary General Martin W. Beerman, Treasurer General Bart S. Henson, Historian General Alexandra Shires Golon, Counsellor General James J. Wheaton, Elder General Rev. Michael R. Denney, Captain General Collier S. Wiese, Surgeon General David L. Nash, and Members-at-Large Christine A. Schlosser, Beth Lambright and Jane Duxbury Schleinzer.

Reports presented by Former Governor General Jane E. Groves Riddell Hurt and Executive Director Mark Schmidt followed.

Former Governor General Jane E. Groves Riddell Hurt presented the Mayflower Society House Report followed by the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse Report, presented by Former Governor General Lea Sinclair Filson.



▲ Governor General Lisa Pennington and Texas Society Governor Kimberley Florsheim.

## Committee Reports included:

- |                                                                 |                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Archives:</b><br>Meg Averett;                                | <b>Meetings and Events:</b><br>Secretary General Marty Beerman;       |
| <b>Awards:</b><br>Nancy Saul;                                   | <b>New Products:</b><br>Secretary General Marty Beerman;              |
| <b>Development:</b><br>Mark Schmidt;                            | <b>Scholarship:</b><br>Cherie Lawson;                                 |
| <b>Historic Trips:</b><br>Lisa Shoemaker;                       | <b>Silver Books:</b><br>Bonnie Wade Mucia;                            |
| <b>Insignia:</b><br>Meg Averett;                                | <b>Technology:</b><br>Member-at-Large Chris Schlosser; and            |
| <b>Long-Term Planning:</b><br>Governor General Lisa Pennington; | <b>Trustees of Endowment Funds:</b><br>Treasurer General Bart Henson. |
| <b>Mayflower Guard:</b><br>Captain General Collier Wiese;       |                                                                       |
| <b>The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine:</b><br>Della Regenold;     |                                                                       |

Historian General Allie Golon presented eleven awards of recognition to members of the Historian General's SWAT Team.

Member-at-Large and Technology Chair Chris Schlosser presented seventeen awards of recognition to Mayflower Indexers.

Governor General's Commendation Awards were presented to the North Carolina Society and North Carolina GBOA Planning Committee Chair Cheryl Vislay.

Governor General Pennington presented the Texas Society the Governor General's Light the Candle Award for its eighth grade curriculum and short films, produced by Plimoth Patuxet Museums, to be made available to Texas schools and all Member Societies at no cost.

▼ The Mayflower Guard at the GBOA Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina.





The Governor General's Distinguished Service Award was presented to Silver Books Director Bonnie Wade Mucia for her service and dedication to the continued success of the Silver Books Project.

Treasurer General Henson presented the 2024-2025 Budget. The Annual audit was accepted without objection.

The Benediction was given by Elder General Denney. Captain General Wiese called for Retiring of the Colors by Mayflower Guard Commander James Battles.

With no additional business, the 2024 General Board of Assistants Meeting was adjourned.

### TOURS

Members, spouses, and guests enjoyed tours to see Biltmore Estate and Gardens on Friday, and several stops on Saturday to experience the Southern Highland Craft Guild Folk Art Center and River Arts District.

### UPCOMING GBOA AND CONGRESS MEETINGS

**GBOA 2025**  
**San Antonio, Texas:**  
September 4-7,  
2025.

**GBOA 2028**  
**California:**  
September 7-10,  
2028.

**Congress 2026**  
**Plymouth:**  
September 11-15,  
2026.

**Congress 2029**  
**Plymouth:**  
September 7-11,  
2029.

**GBOA 2027**  
**Atlanta, Georgia:**  
September 9-12,  
2027.

**GBOA 2030**  
**Virginia:**  
September 5-8,  
2030.

**Complete General Board of Assistants Meeting Minutes and Reports may be accessed on The Mayflower Society website under the Members Only tab [www.TheMayflowerSociety.org](http://www.TheMayflowerSociety.org).**



Left: Members waiting in line to enter the Biltmore Estate tour.

Right: Members of the North Carolina and Virginia Societies at the GBOA Banquet.



Left: The Biltmore Estate.

Middle: Members enjoying the cocktail reception.

Right: The Biltmore Gardens.





# 2024 Awards

DELLA REGENOLD, THE MAYFLOWER QUARTERLY MAGAZINE CHAIR

## 2024 GSMD MEMBER SOCIETY COMMENDATION AWARDS

Commendation Awards are bestowed each year by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) at its annual meeting to members who have been nominated by their Member Society for their extensive volunteer service with significant direct benefits to GSMD or to their Member Society. Each Member Society may nominate one member each year to the GSMD Awards Committee. The members of the Awards Committee are Chair Nancy Q. Saul, Lee Hardin Woody, Jane Schleinzer, and the late Virginia Mucciaccio. Each recipient of the award receives a Commendation Pin and a Certificate of Commendation and Appreciation.

The following members are the recipients of the GSMD Commendation Awards presented on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at the General Board of Assistants meeting in Asheville, North Carolina.

### ARIZONA

Dr. Andrew Barrett Turner

### ARKANSAS

Tegan Ann Taylor Utterback

### AUSTRALIA

David Magee

### DELAWARE

The late Christine Hadley Crossan

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Glenn S. K. Williams

### ILLINOIS

Jessica Lee Schleinzer

### INDIANA

Roberta "Brigit" Caito

### KANSAS

Vicki Barge

### MAINE

Dr. Carla Rigby

### MARYLAND

Marilyn K. Van Wagner

### MICHIGAN

The late Dr. Grace Bliss Smith

### NEBRASKA

Stephanie Donsig

### NEVADA

Julie Patterson

### NEW YORK

Susan Abanor

### NORTH CAROLINA

Nancy Saul

### OHIO

Jill E. Parker

### OKLAHOMA

Leslie Kay Crow Reid

### PENNSYLVANIA

Virginia M. "Ginny" Fossa

### SOUTH CAROLINA

David Lee Smith

## 2024 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S COMMENDATION AWARDS

### Historian's SWAT Team

The Historian's SWAT Team assists Member Societies with the preparation of membership applications when an unexpected vacancy occurs in office of the Member Society Historian, or assists a Member Society Historian get caught up when there is a back log of membership applications or supplementals and also assists with the training of Member Society Historians when needed. Each recipient of the award receives a Commendation Pin and a Certificate of Commendation and Appreciation.

The following is a list of the members of the Historian's SWAT Team who received the Governor General's Commendation Award for their service as members of the Historian's SWAT Team.

### CALIFORNIA

Diane Douglass

### COLORADO

Alexandra "Allie" Golon

### INDIANA

Laura Lee Smith

### IOWA

Judy Stumbo

### MAINE

Michael Denney

### MICHIGAN

Charlene Tavarozzi

### NEW YORK

Bert Cullen

### PENNSYLVANIA

Ginny Fossa

### UTAH

Kevan Barton

### VERMONT

Randy and Cynthia Roberts

## Mayflower Indexers

The Mayflower Indexers were organized to index 400 different data fields from member and supplemental applications beginning with the most recent applications. To date, information from these data fields has been indexed from over 14,000 member applications and over 1,800 supplemental applications. As a result, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants was able to launch its Easy App Generator on September 9, 2024, for Member

Society Historians to use in preparing new member and supplemental applications. These applications can now be automatically populated with the data indexed thus far, ushering in a new era of how The Mayflower Society member and supplemental applications are prepared.

The following is a list of the Mayflower Indexers who helped make the Easy App Generator a reality, and received the Governor General's Commendation Award for their service as Mayflower Indexers.

### ALABAMA

Malcolm Chase  
Mark Chesebro  
Daniel Spiegelberg

### ALASKA

Emily McDonald

### ARIZONA

Robert Brooks  
Ruth Fox\*  
Katherine Jolly  
Maura Mackowski

### ARKANSAS

Philip Hunkins

### AUSTRALIA

Patrick Morgan  
Connie Riley

### CALIFORNIA

Carolyn Calzia  
Deborah Coon  
Miranda Dunkle  
Sharon Gardner\*  
Sandra Graham  
Tonia Haney  
Michael Harvey  
Susan Hasselkuss  
Barbara Matulich  
Claudette Perry  
David Stephenson  
Barbara Taylor  
Noel Van Slyke\*  
Kenneth Whittemore  
Louis Windhurst  
Rachelle Yost

### CANADA

David Bradley  
Meghan Bradley  
Cheryl Middleton

### COLORADO

Arlene Dykstra  
Alexandra Golon\*

### CONNECTICUT

Matthew Drinkwater  
Julie Gibson

Jacquelyn Hohenstein  
Martha Inglese  
Michelle Jette  
James Place  
Naomi Porter  
Gregory Thompson

### DELAWARE

Stewart Krug

### EUROPE

Julie Wilson

### FLORIDA

Donna Born  
Deborah Dalrymple  
Phyllis Dearborn  
Russell Elms  
Joyce Gillen  
Marianne Graham  
Patricia LeConte  
Gayle Locke  
Cynthia Michaels  
Eileen Steele  
Cynthia Sylvester  
Charles Wonn

### GEORGIA

Jill Barnard  
Cynthia Bloomquist  
Mark Hess\*  
Robert Parken  
Jeanne Sewell  
Delbert Smith

### HAWAII

Eric Smith

### IDAHO

Gerald Kelley

### ILLINOIS

Catherine Krewer  
Anne Polaski  
Timothy Prince  
David Richardson  
Robert Russell  
Jessica Schleinzer  
Barbara Svoboda  
Susan Usherwood

Patricia Vodick  
Ann Wilkerson  
David Willcox

### INDIANA

Thomas Botts  
Tracie Curtis  
Nancy Fribley  
Chase Slaughter  
Laura Smith

### IOWA

Rebecca Ackerman\*  
Rachel Smith  
Anne Thompson

### KANSAS

Elisabeth Rall

### KENTUCKY

Margaret Davis  
Drake Rinesmith  
Joseph Swelns

### LOUISIANA

Pamela Carr  
Marguerite Moffatt  
William Moreland

### MAINE

Jane Adams  
Jody Clark  
Wayne Dyer  
Raymond Wing

### MARYLAND

Sharon Loving  
Charles Marvin  
Jennifer Schmidt

### MASSACHUSETTS

Pamela Anderson  
Richard Andrews\*  
Marc Chardon  
Sharon Charest  
Christine Chirokas  
Martin Conroy\*  
Linda Dearruda  
Susan Feely  
Alan Ginn  
Elizabeth Handler

Esther Horrigan  
Francine Jacques  
Robert Johnson  
Cheryl Krisko  
Jennifer Lecesse  
Stephen Mclane  
Elizabeth Miller  
Sarah Richards  
Patricia Ross  
Barry Savary  
Judith Sheldon  
William Sides  
Rebecca Smith  
Dianne Sterling  
William Taylor  
Robert Trezise  
Ronald Wilson  
Sarah Woodrooffe

### MICHIGAN

Steven Althoen  
Maria Calabrese  
Kim Cole  
Linda Dinoff  
Joanne Griffin  
Victoria Izzo  
Peggy Smith

### MINNESOTA

Audrey Butts  
Phyllis Carter  
Cora Knutson

### MISSISSIPPI

Nancy Harrison  
Diane Thompson

### MONTANA

Susan Weinreis

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

Jeremy Klockars  
Ralph Perkins  
Robert Small  
Douglas Williams

### NEW JERSEY

Patricia Christie  
Robert Criswell  
Dawn Faulkner

### NEW MEXICO

Valerie Crockett\*

### NEW YORK

Scott Biggar  
Barbara Cushing  
Lynn Sciog\*  
Virginia Sigety  
Gail Swota

### NORTH CAROLINA

Cynthia Bell  
Mark Sardelis

### OHIO

Rebecca Appenzeller  
Robert Coltrin  
Donald Gillespie  
Ann Gulbransen  
Lori Hart  
Ann Keim  
David Papoi  
Kenneth Porter  
William Savage  
Luanne Speck  
Erin Welker  
Heather Wheeler-Reichert  
Susan Woodford  
Winthrop Worcester  
Phyllis Zibbel

### OKLAHOMA

Janette Ferryall  
Cynthia Penland  
Satia Schwartz

### OREGON

Marcha Hunt  
Robert Saunders  
Michael Tieman  
Kay Wilson

### PENNSYLVANIA

Thomas Batten  
Eileen Kopelman  
Christine Krem



**RHODE ISLAND**

Sarah Algie  
Kathy Clements  
Lynn McLaughlin  
Monica Nichols  
Daniel Sullivan

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

Melissa Gibbons  
Lewis Knudsen  
Christine Ramsey  
Donald Smith  
Marshall Woodward

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

Jayson Liddle  
Collier Wiese

**TENNESSEE**

David Mensel  
Edward Payzant

**TEXAS**

Gretchen Crawford  
Lori Hurford  
Kimberlee Lueders  
Nancy Powers  
Charles Purkiss  
Jodi Schwartz-Drake  
Nancy Sheldon  
Heather Truax  
Thomas Wood

**VERMONT**

Linda Gifkins  
Deborah Kensinger

John Miller Jr.  
Steven Mitchell  
Thomas Rogers  
Mary Wright

**VIRGINIA**

James Clark  
Rachel Fowler  
Matthew Grinnell  
Ashlie Smith  
Lester Stadig

**WASHINGTON**

Dennis Burman  
Robert Carter  
Nicole Dettmar

**WISCONSIN**

Nancy Andrews  
Catherine Best-Holt  
Phyllis Brick  
Carolyn Cafilisch  
Brant Doty  
Nicole Gould  
Kathleen Johnson  
Kenneth Jones  
David Null  
John Rauland  
Paul Remus  
Christine Schlosser\*  
Sherry Siekert  
Susan Swanson  
Susan Wolfe

\* Denotes Indexer/Certifier

**North Carolina**

The Governor General commended Steve Pike and Cheryl Vislay of the North Carolina Society for their outstanding work in organizing the 2024 General Board of Assistants meeting and making it so special for the attendees. The Asheville location, tours and North Carolina's kind hospitality made everyone feel welcome.

Congratulations to all of the Commendation Award recipients. And the GSMD thanks you for the volunteer work you do for your Member Society and for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants!

**2024 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S LIGHT THE CANDLE AWARD**

Governor General Lisa Pennington presented her Light the Candle Award to Texas Society Governor Kimberley Florsheim who accepted the award on behalf of the Texas Society which has gone above and beyond in providing recorded radio programs and curriculum to tell the Pilgrim Story.

Schools, kindergarten through high school, are spending less time teaching the Pilgrim Story which includes the signing of the Mayflower Compact and the beginnings of democracy and self-government in America. To compensate for this lack of historical information in the schools, the Texas Society, at its own expense, hired Plimoth Patuxet Museums to create an eighth-grade curriculum with short films at a cost of \$100,000. The Texas Society will light many candles when it offers this curriculum and short films for free to every middle school in Texas. This educational project should be complete by April 2025.

In addition, the Texas Society will share these lesson plans and films with each of the Member Societies



▲ Governor General Lisa Pennington, Texas Society Governor Kimberley Florsheim and Awards Chair Nancy Saul.

for free, lighting many more candles. These films can be utilized at Member Society meetings, local schools or as programs for various civic and lineage organizations, continuing to spread the light one candle at a time.

Congratulations to the Texas Society for receiving the Light the Candle Award for its generosity and selflessness in creating educational material and short films to tell the Pilgrim Story, one of the most important stories in American history, and sharing it with others!

**2024 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – BONNIE WADE MUCIA**



▲ Governor General Lisa Pennington, Silver Books Chair Bonnie Wade Mucia and Awards Chair Nancy Saul.

individual for their extraordinary and extensive service.

The recipient of the 2024 Governor General's Distinguished Service Award is Bonnie Wade Mucia of the South Carolina Society. Mrs. Mucia has been a devoted supporter and volunteer for GSMD. She is currently serving as chair of the Silver Books Project and she has taken that work to an entirely different level by ensuring the work is done at the highest level by the best genealogists. Mrs. Mucia also makes sure that

The Governor General's Distinguished Service Award recognizes excellence and dedication to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and is presented to an

contracts are signed with the genealogists so that the work they do belongs to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

The Silver Book Project that Mrs. Mucia oversees consists of twenty-two volumes with multiple parts that make up the forty-two book catalog. Mrs. Mucia created the three volume *Silver Book Index* and the Thomas Rogers volume. She predicts that new *Silver Book* volumes for George Soule, Francis Eaton and Desire Howland will be published in the next few months.

Mrs. Mucia has also served on the GSMD Executive Committee as Member-at-Large from 2020 to 2023 and is a Past Governor of the South Carolina Society.

Several organizations have honored Mrs. Mucia for her stellar genealogical work. As a Forensic Genealogist, she does military repatriation work for the US Army's Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. She has also researched guests appearing on Henry Lewis Gates' *Finding Your Roots* program.

Congratulations to Bonnie Wade Mucia on receiving the 2024 Governor General's Distinguished Service Award, and thank you for your extraordinary and extensive service to GSMD!

**2024 PILGRIM ACADEMIC RESEARCH AWARD – CHRISTOPHER C. CHILD**



▲ Christopher C. Child and Governor General Lisa Pennington.

Club meeting in Asheville, North Carolina.

Mr. Child is a leading expert in the field of genealogy and DNA research. He is the Senior Genealogist of The Newbury Street Press and is the editor of *The Mayflower Descendant*. Mr. Child's extensive contributions to the field include numerous articles in *American Ancestors*, *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, and *The Mayflower Descendant*. He is also the co-editor of *The Ancestry of Catherine Middleton* and the co-author of several genealogical works, including *The Descendants of Judge John Lowell of Newburyport, Massachusetts*, and *Ancestors and Descendants of George Rufus and Alice Nelson Pratt*.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants' (GSMD) prestigious Pilgrim Academic Research Award recognizes scholarly contribution and advancement in Pilgrim related research. The 2024 Pilgrim Academic Research Award was presented by Governor General Lisa Pennington to Christopher C. Child on September 8, 2024, at the Governor General's 1620

Mr. Child holds a BA in history from Drew University and has expertise in a wide range of topics, including Southern New England genealogy, the ancestry of notable figures, genetics and genealogy.

The award included \$1,000 for Mr. Child's continued research in the field of Mayflower Pilgrim related research.

**Previous Recipients of the Pilgrim Academic Research Award**

<b>2015</b> James W. Baker	<b>2019</b> Caleb H. Johnson
<b>2016</b> Dr. David Landon & Dr. Christa Beranek	<b>2021</b> Judith H. Swan
<b>2017</b> Dr. Jeremy D. Bangs	<b>2022</b> Richard H. Pickering
<b>2018</b> Susan E. Roser	<b>2023</b> Peggy M. Baker

Congratulations to Christopher C. Child on receiving the 2024 Pilgrim Academic Research Award and thank you for your scholarly contribution and advancement in Pilgrim related research.



# In Memoriam

## VIRGINIA MUCCIACCIO

We all have fond memories of the much-deserved 'Awards' part of our national meetings when Virginia Mucciaccio handed annual certificates to members who each year pour their hearts and souls into their Member Societies. We said goodbye to Ginny on August 4, 2024, just shy of her 94th birthday. It is the end of an era. Ginny not only served the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) for decades, but she also worked as the Massachusetts Society (MSMD) Executive Secretary for over two decades. She takes with her more institutional knowledge than we will ever be able to match.

She belonged to thirteen lineage organizations and served as an officer for most of them. She was a Past Governor of MSMD and she served her second term as Member-at-Large, 2014–2017, on my GSMD Executive Committee when I was Governor General. We called her the 'loveable contrarian', a title she loved, because she was an expert at playing the devil's advocate and making us examine every vote from every angle.

Her service to GSMD was invaluable. No matter what the circumstance our society was experiencing, she was there to offer advice, raise a glass, and sing songs she remembered from grade school!

I asked her once what her recipe was for the long and happy life she was living. She confided in me that she was following what her mother had always done. "Every morning," she said, "I take one spoonful of dried cranberries and mix them with a small glass of one of the berry-flavored Manischewitz wines." We both burst out laughing, me most of all when I realized she was serious. That was SO Ginny!

Ginny and I attended the New England Governor's meeting the weekend before she passed. The ride to New Hampshire and back was a joy as we recounted all the things we had gone through together in service to The Mayflower Society, at both the national and state levels. She was in rare form at the meeting on that Saturday, speaking out, complimenting many, and showing her latest photos of her great grandkids.

Family was the most important thing in life to Ginny and that included all of us. She always said, "I have my family that I love dearly, but I also love my Mayflower family!" Out of all Ginny's families, I know for a fact that the most important person in her life was her late husband, Henry. In the afterlife, she is smiling from ear to ear standing right next to her Henry, who she could not wait to see again.



**Lawrence Ely "Larry" Hite** of Summertown, Tennessee, passed away on May 24, 2022, at the age of 88. Mr. Hite served as governor of the Tennessee Society from 1990 to 1996. He was a descendant of Mayflower passenger William Bradford. Mr. Hite is survived by his four daughters, Gretchen Kaufmann, Strother Jett, Sarah Whitt and Jan King and four grandsons.

**Richard Byrd Wise** of Leesburg, Virginia, passed away on April 1, 2024, at the age of 94. Mr. Wise served the Maine Society as Treasurer from 2001 to 2008. He was a descendant of Mayflower passengers William Brewster, Francis Cook, Richard Warren and William White. Mr. Wise is survived by his wife Amelia Pittinger Wise, his three sons Richard Dean Wise, Robert Alan Wise, and William Martin Wise, his two daughters Gail Elizabeth Wise and Laura Dawn Wise and eight grandchildren.

**Herbert McMurray Gould** of Tennessee Ridge, Tennessee, passed away on August 31, 2024, at the age of 82. Mr. Gould served as GSMD Deputy Governor General – Tennessee and as the Tennessee Society Elder during 2024, as GSMD Assistant General – Tennessee from 2021 to 2023, and as the Tennessee Society Governor from 2015 to 2017. He was a descendant of Mayflower passengers John Alden, William Mullins, Priscilla Mullins, John Howland, Joan Hurst Tilley, John Tilley, Francis Eaton and Elizabeth Tilley. Mr. Gould is survived by his wife Susan Ellen Demarest Gould, his son Thomas Gould, his daughters Cathy Deason and

Maryanna Powell, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Joyce Aletia Cutler**, the ninth Governor of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants passed away 9 August 2024 at the age of 91. A member since 1996, Joyce was a proud descendant of John Billington. She served the Canadian Society as Governor from 2003 to 2012, Deputy Governor from 2001 to 2003, Librarian from 1998 to 2010 and for many years represented Canada as Deputy Governor General and Assistant General, at General Board of Assistants meetings. Putting her artistic background to work, Joyce designed the Canadian Society's first pin, with a depiction of the ship *Mayflower*, which was also on the masthead of the Canadian Society's newsletter *Canadian Pilgrim* for many years. Joyce is survived by son John Heeney and daughter Kathleen Merkel, sister Gail Moser, eight grandchildren and nine great-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](mailto:ElderGeneral@TheMayflowerSociety.org)

## Indexers Still Needed

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

Easy App Generator, the recently released tool to help Member Society Historians find prior applications that closely match the applicant's line, and based on that line, generates an application with all the generational information (names, dates, places, citations) filled in, was launched at the General Board of Assistants Meeting in Asheville in September. More application information is now needed to improve the results!

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

As of October 1st, we have indexed over 15,000 applications. But we still have many applications to index—plus thousands of supplementals—so we need a big crew.

The indexing program to digitally capture the life events of every generation from verified Mayflower applications detailing the lives of our Mayflower ancestors for 400 years is a significant accomplishment!

### WHAT DOES A MAYFLOWER INDEXER DO?

Indexers view a previously approved application via the internet on a desktop computer or laptop, 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 or 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.

### 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 not only fuel the Easy App Generator that will populate new Mayflower Society members or supplemental applications with data that has previously been approved. It will also serve as a central location (called One Source) of our Mayflower data rather than the multiple sources that need to be searched today. It will serve as the foundation for a massive family tree. When fully implemented, Easy App Generator will improve the application process for applicants, Member Society Historians, and Research Center and Verifier teams.

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 Pilgrim descendants.

#### 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](mailto:GSMDCertify@TheMayflowerSociety.org).

## Silent Auction Challenge 2025-2026

MARK SCHMIDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Development Committee requested that each Member Society provide a product or experience that is distinctive to their Member Society for a silent auction to be held at each of the next two annual meetings. The silent auction item or items should be unique to each Member Society’s region, and something that only your Member Society could provide for the Silent Auction. It can be as big and grandiose as you would like it to be—as long as you can provide what you say. The 2025 General Board of Assistants (“GBOA”) meeting will be held in September in San Antonio, Texas, and the 2026 General Congress meeting will be held in September in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Proceeds from this auction will go toward the restoration and renovation of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse. We would like to have all silent auction submissions for the 2025 GBOA meeting delivered to the Plymouth office no later than June 30, 2025, so we can properly advertise the items. We will

need photographs and descriptions of each item or experience offered, as well as its monetary value so that bidders will know each item’s worth. And, the item or items donated for the silent auction should fit into a basket that can be easily transported by the recipient.

We thank all of you in advance for participating in this fundraiser and letting us find out which Member Societies will make this silent auction really interesting and fun! Will the scenic beauty of a Maine lobster experience outshine the glitz of a Broadway show in New York? What about the splendor of Europe, Canada, Australia or the District of Columbia? Or will the charm of a southern barbeque experience from Texas steal the show?

Let us find out why your state or region is the best!!!



## Own a Piece of the Mayflower Legacy: Wall Hanging or Serving Tray!

MARTIN W. BEERMAN, SECRETARY GENERAL

Step into history with your own piece of the remarkable Mayflower legacy! Whether you are looking to adorn your walls or elevate your entertaining, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants has two unique and captivating treasures crafted from the very slate tiles that once graced the rooftop of the iconic Mayflower Meetinghouse—built on the site where the Pilgrims first gathered over 400 years ago.

#### NEW: MAYFLOWER MEETINGHOUSE WALL HANGING

For a contribution of \$300, you can claim an exclusive wall hanging inscribed with “Mayflower Meetinghouse.” This beautiful, historic piece crafted from an 1897 slate tile, will add a touch of elegance to any space while serving as a tangible connection to the storied past of the Pilgrims. It’s the perfect way to bring a piece of history into your home.



#### MAYFLOWER MEETINGHOUSE SERVING TRAY

For a donation of \$500, you can own an original Mayflower Meetinghouse serving tray, complete with handles. This exquisite piece is not only a functional addition to your gatherings, but also a conversation starter. Imagine telling guests that the tray they’re using was crafted from the slate tiles that once sheltered the 1897 church.

By contributing to the Mayflower Meetinghouse restoration project, you are not just receiving a remarkable keepsake for yourself or a loved one—you are playing a pivotal role in preserving the Mayflower Story for future generations.

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. Every corner will resonate with the spirit of the Mayflower journey, from breathtaking stained-glass windows to a sanctuary enveloping guests in a 360-degree embrace of history.

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, your exclusive wall hanging or serving tray will serve as a constant reminder of your role in this extraordinary legacy.

Do not miss this opportunity to own a special piece of Pilgrim history. Visit [www.TheMayflowerSociety.org](http://www.TheMayflowerSociety.org) and click Donate, then The Mayflower Meetinghouse Project, or send your contribution to:

**The General Society of Mayflower Descendants  
18 Winslow Street  
Plymouth, MA 02360**

Together, let’s ensure that the Mayflower Story continues to inspire and educate for centuries to come!



# Why I Joined The Mayflower Society

SUSAN KAY DAVIS COOPER

## The Significance and Relevance of GSMD Membership

Centuries have passed...fifteen generations of ancestors...enough lapsed time to forget the connection to England, and reasons to leave the Old World. One half of the twenty-six male family patriarchs who sailed on the *Mayflower*, were Separatists, seeking religious freedom; the other half were merchants...forebearers of today's entrepreneurs, who were seeking adventure and a new way of life. The mix of religious dissenters and entrepreneurs on the Mayflower voyage, was purposely orchestrated to ensure the success of the new colony.

My father's family, who I presumed had lived in Vermont since immigrating to the United States, were farmers whose lives seemed cloaked in unfamiliarity. Over the centuries, subsequent generations accepted the lack of information about our forefathers, even though attempts were made to unlock the mysteries....

In 2015, I began my family genealogy search. With the assistance of modern technology and, later, the Texas Society Historian, I was able to determine, after many hours of research, that I was a documented descendant of Mayflower passengers, Thomas Rogers, (seeker of religious freedom or Separatist), and Stephen Hopkins (merchant). The early New England Colony of Plymouth was small. During the first thirty years after the arrival to America, Mayflower passengers frequently intermarried as was the case with the offspring of Rogers and Hopkins. Further investigation revealed my lineage as a descendant of Edward Fuller (Separatist). It was fascinating to discover that my father's family had lived in Plymouth for four generations after the landing of the *Mayflower*, prior to relocating to Vermont in 1801.

In 2022, the high point of a family reunion was the private dedication of our paternal grandmother as part of the Mayflower family. A General Society of Mayflower Descendants plaque was permanently affixed to her gravestone (pictured) in our family plot in Pleasant View Cemetery, Morrisville, Vermont.

To commemorate her Mayflower lineage, I am extremely proud to be a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and treasure my heritage as a Mayflower descendant. Experiencing the excitement of identifying ancestors who defied death and religious persecution, to fulfill dreams of freedom and endless opportunities in a New World, has been humbling, rewarding and motivating.

## FREDERICK ROGERS

My grandfather, Fred Kimball Rogers, was descended from Mayflower passenger Thomas Rogers. He was very proud of his ancestry, and he wanted us grandchildren to know who our ancestors are. We grew up in Quincy, Massachusetts, before Plimoth Plantation was created. So, my grandfather would take us to Plymouth to see the National Monument to the Forefathers, where he would point up to the statue and say "Those are names of your great-grandfathers, Thomas and Joseph Rogers. They both sailed on the *Mayflower* in 1620." Thomas, my ninth great-grandfather died the first winter, most likely still on the *Mayflower*; our family's last name comes from Joseph. After Plimoth Plantation, now called Plimoth Patuxet Museums, was built, we would travel from our home to see the replicas of Pilgrim homes and take note of our ancestry.



▲ Frederick Rogers in front of *Mayflower II*.



▲ Pleasant View Cemetery, Morrisville, Vermont.



▲ Sarah Doty Headstone - St. Mary's Cemetery, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants has verified my lineage back to Thomas and Joseph. I am humbled and proud to know that I have ancestors who are considered forefathers of our country. Thomas signed the Mayflower compact while Joseph was too young to sign.

Joseph was orphaned when he was still a teenager. He later lived in Sandwich for a brief time and then moved to Duxbury where he lived with his younger brother John. He ran a ferry there across the Jones River before he moved to Nauset. He was a lieutenant in the Militia there with a responsibility for drilling the men. He died in 1677 and is buried in the Cove Burying Ground where a marker was placed by an ancestor; however, the actual location of the grave is unknown. I have visited there and brought my children to see where their great-grandfather is buried. I am also directly descended from other pilgrims, including Elder William Brewster, a fact which is very interesting to me because I am an ordained Clergy in the United Church of Christ whose parent is the Congregational Church, a denomination first formed by our Separatist ancestors.

## BONNIE WISER

I would like to recognize the efforts of my son Eric Wisner, a history teacher, whose passion and curiosity led him to research my paternal great-grandmother Sarah Doty, an Edward Doty descendant, which then led to my becoming a member of The Mayflower Society. Having previously known so little about Sarah Doty, my becoming a member of The Mayflower Society has given me a greater awareness and appreciation of my ancestry.

Sarah Doty was born in 1864 in Scioto County, Ohio, and her family later moved and settled in Covington, Kentucky. At some point Sarah decided to move to Chicago where she resided with an aunt and uncle. Sarah then met and fell in love with a young joiner (carpenter), George Hempsall, who had recently immigrated from East Markham, England. The courtship resulted in a pregnancy that sealed Sarah's fate. In August of 1898, the couple eloped and went by train to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where they were married. Shortly thereafter my grandmother came into the world. Sarah died however, never having held her baby in her arms.

Sarah's body was returned to Kentucky for interment in Saint Mary's Cemetery at Fort Mitchell. George now had a baby he could not care for and appealed to his employer, a Civil War veteran named Albert Koons. Albert's young wife Ellen had just lost a baby. From all accounts she was overjoyed and welcomed this baby girl as her own. The Koons' named her Dorothy, but sadly Dorothy died at a young age in 1943, due to a heart defect. Much later, because of the untimely death of our mother, Ellen was once again called upon, and she provided care for my brother and me.

In the process of applying for membership in The Mayflower Society, my family and I learned that Sarah's grave did not have a headstone. We remedied this situation by purchasing a headstone and, when we visited the Doty family plot, the headstone was there in honor of Sarah.

"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](mailto: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 Spring issue of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* is January 1.



## A Mayflower Family at Work & Play, Seek & Find Coloring Pages at the Alden House

DESIREE MOBED, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALDEN HOUSE HISTORIC SITE

**“Pictures are a wonderful way to learn new things...”**

– Nancy Hohorst Martin

John and Priscilla Alden are without question the most celebrated Mayflower Pilgrim couple. Popular art, commemorative items, and publications have kept them in the public mind for nearly two centuries since Henry Wadsworth Longfellow captured the world’s imagination with his poem, “The Courtship of Miles Standish.” In the twenty-first century, the Mayflower story is less visible to children, presenting parents and grandparents of young descendants and lovers of American history with the challenge of capturing the imagination of children to share this history. With this need in mind, artist Nancy Hohorst Martin, writer Caroline Gardiner, and designer Norman R. Forgit created *A Mayflower Family at Work and Play*.

This wonderfully detailed twenty-eight-page seek-and-find coloring book published by the Alden Kindred of America shows what it was like to live at the Alden House and other early farms in the New England wilderness. With each turn of the page, kids will be immersed in Pilgrim history while having fun exploring the activities of the Alden family and life in seventeenth-century New England. The rich illustrations help them imagine the challenges of building a home in the New World, the day-to-day activities of feeding the family and running a farm and trading ventures with the Native Americans. The lesson is straightforward and timeless: the family’s days are full of work—no child is too young to help—carrying wood or gathering eggs, but there are also moments of fun, games, and community as the

Aldens gather with their neighbors at church. Young children will be charmed with the animals that fill the drawings.

“Researching for this book brought forth so many little pieces of history,” said Nancy Martin, referring to John and Priscilla Alden who married by 1623, built their 400-square-foot home, established a farm, raised ten children and lived their happily ever after story in what is now modern-day Duxbury. “It’s about the tiny things that don’t really matter but are fun to know,” Nancy explained. “Comparing our day-to-day moments with the Aldens gives us an understanding of [their] history in a meaningful way. When things relate to us it is easier to understand and retain that information.”

Assisting Nancy with this project were Caroline Gardiner, a historical archaeologist who specializes in early colonial sites, and freelance graphic designer and photographer Norman R. Forgit. Caroline wrote her master’s thesis about the ceramic artifacts from John and Priscilla’s seventeenth-century homesite and continues to consult on educational projects connecting the public with archaeology. Norm is a freelance graphic designer and photographer. He has worked with Alden House on many projects and has produced several books for the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society.

In bringing this story to life, this talented trio worked carefully with educators, artists, students, historians, and others to ensure they delivered a lively, colorful, and historically faithful book. “A Mayflower Family at Work & Play, Seek & Find Coloring Pages at the Alden House” is the perfect gift to excite a child about history and the Pilgrim story. The book is targeted for children ages four to ten. It was supported by a grant from the Rockwell Foundation. You can buy your copy through The Mayflower Society Online Shop: [www.TheMayflowerSociety.org/shop](http://www.TheMayflowerSociety.org/shop).

## AUSTRALIA

### Comparing Christmas in Australia

As the only Member Society that celebrates Christmas in summer, it seems worth trying to list a few of the things that make our Christmas in Australia different from the northern hemisphere and from the United States in particular.

First, it is hot, and generally quite humid for Christmas Day. Think summer in Houston, Texas, for example. While we now live in Brisbane, I grew up in Mackay in the tropical northeast of Queensland, but my mother, following her American mother’s example, always insisted on having turkey and ham, roasted vegetables, and Christmas pudding. When it came time to eat, the house was unbearably hot, and we were all looking for some way to cool down.

In Australia we tend to grow up envying those of you who live in cooler climates, and for most Australians there is a dream of having a white Christmas at least once in their lifetime. Consequently, either going to a beach or spending time in the home swimming pool is synonymous with the Christmas get-together, and frequently with Christmas Day itself. Some people will have a cold Christmas meal, and seafoods, especially Prawns (Giant Shrimp) and Oysters served natural in their shell, are common and enjoyable elements of Christmas and the Christmas lunch, whether or not traditional hot food is served later.

Another thing that startles Americans having Christmas in Australia is that we pull paper BonBons (A Christmas Cracker – not a candy). The BonBons when pulled apart contain generally a small plastic toy, a terrible joke, and most importantly a paper hat of various colours that everybody is expected to wear during the Christmas lunch! Be warned, if planning a Christmas in Australia, wearing funny paper hats is compulsory!



▲ Bill Elliott and family wearing their paper hats at Christmas.

Being summer, Christmas is the beginning of the holiday season, and so beaches are generally busy until the end of January. Thus, the Christmas spirit lingers on and very few people work between Christmas Eve and 2 January. Many businesses shut down completely until at least mid-January. We have public holidays on Christmas Day, Boxing Day (the day after Christmas and a good British tradition) and for New Year’s Day. It is not without reason that Australia has been accused of being “the land of the long weekend.”

I trust all our Mayflower cousins will have a joyous, restful, and rewarding festive season.

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

## DELAWARE

### Delaware Mayflower Society Celebrates Delaware’s Separation Day

Saturday, June 8 marked the 248th Anniversary of Delaware State’s independence from Pennsylvania and the British Crown. For the second consecutive year the Delaware Mayflower Society officially joined in this annual parade and celebration held in historic New Castle, Delaware. Governor Geoff Gamble and grandkids, Past Governor David Bradford and wife

Kathy, Secretary Lois Schlegel and Board Assistant Barbara Wright marched behind the Mayflower flag into the town square in front of the Old Court House. Following a review stand salute, they proceeded into Battery Park to greet and engage festival attendees with the Pilgrim story. Pilgrim literature, books, colonial games, and great conversations were shared with passers-by throughout the afternoon.

**Submitted by: David Bradford, Past Governor**



## EUROPE

### Europe Society Holds its First Annual General Meeting

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in Europe (SMDE) hosted a triumphant visit to Plymouth, United Kingdom, on July 5, 2024. Members from the Netherlands, Germany, and United Kingdom gathered to taste a bit of the port's finest Mayflower heritage. The SMDE sponsored tour took us to the places integrally tied to our ancestors' history, with fascinating narrative supplied by Hannah Poole, one of Plymouth's finest guides. With that background in mind, we then visited the Mayflower Museum, where lavish, purpose-built displays celebrate the story of the *Mayflower*, its people, and their relationship to this English city. As descendants, the SMDE's steps literally followed those of their ancestors. Then, as Mayflower descendants are wont to do, we followed these enlightened exploits with the pleasures of excellent food and fellowship. Having feasted at the Barbican Kitchen, a number of us followed lunch with a visit to the Plymouth Gin Distillery, where, in the tasting room at the end of the tour, we found a wall emblazoned with the names of our ancestors. For Mayflower descendants, the city provided a welcome that exceeded all expectations.

There was more to come. On July 6, 2024, Europe Society Secretary Donna Heys hosted our first Annual General Meeting (AGM) at her beautiful west-country home. Following a Barbeque of lavish proportions, members from across the world came together in a hybrid in-person and online meeting that laid a foundation for the continuance of the SMDE.

Due to the efforts of Donna Heys, Secretary, and William English, CBE, Deputy Governor, two of the SMDE's three primary goals have been achieved: the membership has been offered a rich variety of educational and social events, with planning for a regular schedule of such occasions now extending into 2026; and our operational and strategic processes have been examined, researched, and restructured as necessary, with the intention of creating both sustainability and growth. AGMs are planned into perpetuity.

In addition, Governor Carmen Kew set in process a three-plied programme, attending equally to (1) the SMDE's membership, (2) its internal operational details, and (3) its active relationship with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD).



▲ The Society of Mayflower Descendants in Europe members at the 2024 GBOA meeting in Asheville, NC.

The SMDE Executive Board, including Greg Geissler as the long-time Treasurer, Julie Wilson as the newly-minted Historian, Nancy Naro as Governor Emeritus/Member at Large, and Marilyn Griffith as Elder, have worked hard to propel the SMDE into a post-Mayflower400, post-COVID, future. They are supported by a lively, engaged, and notably growing membership. Accomplishments in 2024 include a new Society website, amended by-laws submitted to the GSMD for approval, and the SMDE Facebook pages have been amalgamated, with new protocols put in place to encourage engagement.

In celebration of this successful work, and to add the third strand to balance the thread, Governor Kew attended her first-ever GSMD General Board of Assistants meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, in September 2024. She was the furthest-travelled delegate present at the meeting. As the SMDE's lone delegate, Governor Kew attended meetings for both Treasurers and Historians, as well as the General Meeting, two receptions, and the final banquet. There was much to learn and much to consider.

Finally, event planning has been put in place through the end of Governor Kew's elected term. This schedule includes a February 2025 talk from the son of the builder of the *Mayflower II*; the May 2025 SMDE AGM at the home of SMDE Historian Julie Wilson in Driebergen-Rijsenburg with a visit from The Mayflower Society Governor General; a 2026 visit to Leiden, Netherlands; and a July 2027 full-scale conference in Scrooby, Yorkshire.

The SMDE is so fortunate to have first-hand access to the places and the people that make the Mayflower story come alive—as well as the best of modern European Mayflower-descendant hospitality. It would be lovely if you could join us!

**Submitted by: Carmen Kew, Governor**

## INDIANA

### Indiana Society Hosts Lecture on the Quakers and Pilgrims Relationship

On May 18, 2024, the Indiana Society hosted a lecture given by Quaker Historian Thomas Hamm, PhD, Professor of History and Quaker Scholar in Residence at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. The program was held in the Sugar Grove Meetinghouse, a traditional Quaker Meetinghouse founded in 1823, just after Indiana's 1816 statehood. The Meetinghouse is located in Plainfield, Hendricks County, Indiana. The topics were the relationship between the Quakers and the Pilgrims followed by the history of the Quaker migration of descendants of John and Desire (Howland) Gorman, a daughter of Mayflower passengers John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland, from Nantucket Island to Guilford County, North Carolina, and later to Wayne County, Indiana and Guilford Township in Hendricks County, Indiana. The idea for this field trip was from Indiana Treasurer Chase Slaughter who read an article in the Indiana



▲ The Sugar Grove Meetinghouse in Plainfield, Indiana.

Society's Silver Anniversary Book from 1942 that told of this migration and noted that descendants of Quaker-Pilgrim families have been active members of the Indiana Society.

**Submitted by: Diana Soule McDowell, Corresponding Secretary**

## OHIO

### Ohio Society Distributes Silver Books to Ohio Libraries

During this past calendar quarter, the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Ohio (SMDOH) has kept our *Silver Books* coordinator, Patricia Van Norman, busy overseeing the distribution of twelve sets of the *Silver Books Indexes* and the Rogers book to libraries around the state. Two other libraries have received sets by personal donations from our members and the Columbus Colony has donated a third set to the Bexley Library in Columbus. The books are going to many public and some private libraries in the major cities across Ohio. This effort has been an ongoing project for the past ten years to make Mayflower research more accessible for our members, potential members and future generations of Ohioans.

SMDOH supported two of its members so they could attend the General Society Board of Assistants meeting in Asheville, North Carolina; both were surprised to be individually recognized. Jill Parker, immediate Past Governor for SMDOH, received the 2024 Commendation Award for the Ohio Member Society. Jill was instrumental in leading the changes to incorporate additional support roles for the Ohio Board of Assistants. She was also recognized for her creative leadership in reviving the

"Mayflower Maze" bingo-like game of Mayflower facts. Jill was also responsible for the fund-raising effort for the SMDOH 2020 event, which became the 2021 First Thanksgiving event, by developing the concept of the "Mayflower Ancestor Box," Jill created a recognition program for those who contributed to the "Buckeye Mayflower."



▲ Beth Anderson, Governor SMDOH, Debbi Riley, Cincinnati Colony member donating the *Silver Book Index* and Rogers book to Dayton-Montgomery County Library.

SMDOH Historian Ann Gulbransen was the second member receiving recognition for her efforts in supporting and assisting the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) with the revisions for Mayflower application submissions, and as a Mayflower Indexer for the Easy App Generator project to make reviewing submissions faster for the staff at GSMD. Congratulations to both talented and creative leaders of the SMDOH.

**Submitted by: Beth Anderson, Governor**



## OKLAHOMA

### Oklahoma Society Donates Silver Book Indices

In September 2024, the Oklahoma Society made presentations of the three-volume *Silver Book Index* to genealogy research libraries in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Governor Norma Hughes presented an index set to the Research Center of the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City. John Ruffing, a member on the Oklahoma Society Board of Assistants, presented an additional set to the Genealogy Resource Center of the Hardesty Regional Library in Tulsa. The two locations were chosen because they house the largest genealogy collections in the state, and because their locations are in the two major population centers in Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Society learned more about the *Silver Books* and the Index from the program presented by Bonnie Wade Mucia, Director of the Silver Books Project. Ms. Mucia was our guest speaker at the November 5, 2022, meeting held in Oklahoma City. We were impressed with the scope of the Silver Books Project and the upcoming Index. We realized



▲ Left: Norma Hughes, Oklahoma Governor, presenting the *Silver Book Index* to Veronica Redding, Research Registrar at the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Center in Oklahoma City.

Right: John Ruffing, Oklahoma Board of Assistants member, presenting the *Silver Book Index* to Aaron Pope, Genealogy Research Coordinator at Hardesty Regional Library in Tulsa.

the impact the Index could have on increasing membership, if it were placed in local genealogy libraries where the public would have access to it for researching their possible Mayflower ancestry.

**Submitted by: Norma Maron Hughes, Governor**

## TENNESSEE

### Tennessee Has Another Celebration

During the past several years the Tennessee Society has celebrated the 400th Anniversary of both the landing of the *Mayflower* and the first Thanksgiving, and most recently celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Tennessee Society of Mayflower Descendants. Tennessee Society members have enjoyed meetings filled with recognition, gifts, toasts and, of course, cake. This past spring, the Tennessee Society in honor of its seventy-five years, proudly recognized those members with memberships of twenty plus years, including its immediate Past Governor Joan Campbell, who has the longest membership of fifty-three years!

In 2024, applicants for the Tennessee Society scholarship were asked to submit a thought-provoking essay on what historical effects were realized by the treaty between the Wampanoag and Pilgrims and what may have been the historical impact if that treaty had never been made.

As a community outreach project, the Tennessee Society will implement an art contest this year among grade school children as a way to reintroduce the Plymouth Colony story to children as so many schools are eliminating this important history!

Due to the hunger our Pilgrim ancestors faced, the Tennessee Society partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank this year to fulfill its philanthropy project and to honor our Pilgrim ancestors by giving back to those who are hungry in our state. Our first outing provided over fifty pounds of food, and an additional monetary donation provided 380 meals to hungry seniors, children and families!

On a sad note, the Tennessee Society lost Herbert Gould, one of its dedicated board members, who served the Society as a Past Governor, GSMD Assistant Governor - Tennessee, GSMD Deputy Governor General - Tennessee, and most recently as Elder. He was our "Plymouth Rock" and we miss him terribly.

**Submitted by: Karen Bauer, Governor**

## UTAH

### Utah Society Holds Its Spring 2024 Banquet

On May 3rd, the Utah Society met for its Spring 2024 Banquet at the Sons of Utah Pioneers Headquarters. After conducting Society business and presenting new members with their certificates, Dr. Brian Cannon of Brigham Young University presented an interesting program entitled "Pilgrims to Pioneers." His presentation focused on the life stories of selected nineteenth-century descendants of our Pilgrim ancestors after they migrated to the Western frontier. To celebrate this initiative, the Utah Society offered lapel pins, medallions, challenge coins, and mugs for sale with a newly created design.

Fellow Mayflower cousins had an enjoyable evening and look forward to meeting at the next banquet in November at Gardner Village.

**Submitted by: Thomas Potlock, Deputy Governor General**



▲ Utah Society Members listen to Dr. Cannon's Pilgrims to Pioneers presentation.

## Member Benefits

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE MAYFLOWER SOCIETY INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING MEMBER BENEFITS. PLEASE SEE THE MEMBERS ONLY SECTION OF THE GSMD WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MEMBER BENEFITS.

1. A subscription to *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*.
2. Scholarship eligibility for self, child, grandchild or great-grandchild.
3. \$20 off a Plimoth Patuxet Museums membership plus a special edition print of the *Mayflower II* under sail on the Atlantic Ocean in 2020.
4. Members Only Store Items.
5. Special discounted rate on NEHGS membership.
6. See Plymouth Discount Package.
7. Free tour of the historic Mayflower Society House.
8. 10% Discount at Hotel 1620 in Plymouth, Massachusetts.
9. Free Admission to the Mayflower Society Genealogy and Research Center.
10. Exclusive members only tours to historic Pilgrim sites in the US, Canada, Great Britain and the Netherlands with paid reservation.
11. Free access to educational videos on The Mayflower Society YouTube channel.
12. Exclusive members only Hereditary Fortnight Breakfast each April in Washington DC with paid reservation.
13. Opportunity to serve in Member Society and General Society Office Positions.



## Another look at the parentage of Allerton Newton opens a new Allerton and Brewster Mayflower line in Virginia

ERICA HAHN

A new analysis under eighteenth-century Virginia law of the will of **Isaac Allerton Jr.**, son of Mayflower passenger Isaac Allerton and his second wife, Fear<sup>2</sup> Brewster, daughter of William<sup>1</sup> and Mary Brewster (also Mayflower passengers), reveals that Isaac Jr. had a daughter, Mary. **Mary<sup>3</sup> Allerton** (*Isaac<sup>2</sup>, Isaac<sup>1</sup>*) and (*Isaac<sup>3</sup>, Brewster, Fear<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*) was the wife of **John Newton Jr.**, son of Isaac's neighbor, John Newton Sr. This discovery opens a new Mayflower line to these three passengers.

Isaac Allerton Jr. had a grandson, Allerton Newton, named in his will.<sup>1</sup> At the time he wrote the will, Isaac Jr. lived in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He bequeathed two tracts of land in Stafford County to his daughter Sarah Lee and his grandson Allerton Newton, as well as 5,000 pounds of tobacco to Sarah and 1,000 pounds to Allerton. The gifts of tobacco were specified as their "filial portions or child's part." The will, dated 25 October 1702, also names his son Willoughby Allerton, two living daughters (including Sarah), a deceased daughter Traverse, and her three daughters.

The question is who were Allerton Newton's parents? Previously, it was believed, based on articles by John F. Cochran in 1928 and 1929, that he was the son of a daughter Mary (Allerton) Newton, and her husband John Newton Jr., both deceased by 1700. Isaac Allerton Jr. married the twice-widowed Elizabeth (Willoughby) (Overzee) Colcough around 1663, and she would have been the deceased daughter's mother, presumably born in the next few years.<sup>2</sup>

In 1992, Barbara Lambert Merrick analyzed Isaac's will and concluded that Allerton Newton was the son of Isaac's living daughter Sarah Lee from a previous marriage to a man named Newton. This information was incorporated into *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*, Vol. 17 in 1998, with the assertion that Sarah Lee's first husband was Joseph Newton;

however, Merrick's analysis, included in *MF 24*, Part 1 (a Brewster volume), later dismissed Joseph as Sarah's first husband, but did not identify another possible Newton husband.<sup>3</sup>

In 2021, Barbara Vines Little, a well-respected genealogist, published in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, an article "Correct Interpretation of an Eighteenth Century Virginia Will Restores the Parents of Allerton Newton of Westmoreland County, Virginia," and interpreted Isaac Allerton Jr.'s will differently.

The two tracts of land left by Isaac Allerton Jr. to be divided between his daughter Sarah Lee and his grandson Allerton Newton, were both entailed, preventing inheritance from each other. It was not a joint bequest. Secondly, both Sarah and Allerton received tobacco in lieu of their filial portions, implying that Allerton represented a deceased child. Based on the long-standing familial and social connections between the families of Isaac Allerton Jr. and his neighbor John Newton Sr. Little identified the likely deceased daughter as Mary, wife of John Newton Jr.

She also showed that daughter Sarah Lee, who was the wife of Hancock Lee, was not likely to have had an earlier Newton husband. Documentation shows that their first son Isaac Lee, was born circa 1693, and thus her marriage to Hancock Lee occurred in about 1692. Her gravestone shows she was born circa 1671.<sup>4</sup>

John Newton Sr., of Westmoreland County, the immigrant ancestor from England, had five sons: John, Joseph, Benjamin, Gerrard, and Thomas, all named in his will of 1695.<sup>5</sup> His sons were also identified in a deposition given by his daughter in 1755.<sup>6</sup>

This family is the only one from which Allerton Newton's father could have originated, as there are no

records of any other Newton family in Westmoreland County during this time. There were significant interactions between the Allerton and Newton families in Westmoreland County, including their shared worship at Yeocomico Church in Cople Parish and the marriage of Willoughby Allerton, Isaac Jr.'s son, to Rosamond Fitzhugh, step-granddaughter of John Newton Sr.<sup>7</sup> The only other Newton family in Virginia, that of George Newton in Lower Norfolk County, had no dealings with Isaac.<sup>8</sup>

None of John Newton's sons could have been married to Sarah prior to 1692, but one of them must have been Allerton Newton's father born to a different daughter of Isaac Allerton. The only son that fits is John Newton Jr. who had a wife, Mary.

Cochrane essentially ruled out all of John's sons except John Jr., and additional evidence supports this interpretation. Sarah, the widow of son Joseph, was alive and married to a man with the surname of Anderson in 1700. Son Benjamin's wife was Mary Grigsby, and they only had one son, named Benjamin.<sup>9</sup> Gerrard, the second youngest son, married a woman named Rebecca in 1695; she was still alive in 1711 as his widow. Thomas, the youngest son, born around 1678, was too young to have married one of the Allerton daughters. He married Elizabeth Storke in January of 1702 and it was certainly his first marriage.

John Newton Jr. and his wife, Mary, were both deceased by 1700. Funeral expenses were authorized for her funeral, as her husband had already died. John R. Reynolds was appointed the executor of the estate.<sup>10</sup>

John Newton Jr. and Mary had at least four children, established by the 1695 will of John Newton Sr., depositions in 1709, and other court proceedings. William Newton, the eldest, provided depositions in 1709 supporting his right to inherit his grandfather's land in England. In 1755, his great aunt identified him as the only son of John Jr. to have children. John Newton Jr., would have a wife the right age to be a daughter of Isaac Allerton Jr.<sup>11</sup>

Evidence supports that Mary Newton, wife of John Newton Jr., was the deceased daughter of Isaac Allerton Jr.

### Children of John Newton Jr. and Mary Allerton, likely born in Stafford County, Virginia:

1. William Newton, b. circa 1690; m. (1) Barbara Johnson, (2) Elizabeth Berryman.
2. Allerton Newton, b. circa 1691; d. by 6 Aug. 1713.
3. Thomas Newton, b. circa 1692; liv. 6 Aug. 1713; n.f.r., no issue in 1755.
4. [Unknown child], b. by 16 Aug. 1696; d. by 6 Aug. 1713.

John and Mary had one child, William, who had descendants. The Society encourages descendants through William to submit applications.

© Erica Hahn, ([ericalishahn@yahoo.com](mailto:ericalishahn@yahoo.com)) wishes to thank Governor General (and Allerton descendant) Lisa Pennington and Bonnie Wade Mucia, Silver Books Project Director, for their assistance and support. DGS numbers are for digital images on FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org>) All images accessed on 16 Jul 2024.

1. Westmoreland Co., Va., Deeds & Wills, Vol. 3 (1701-1707), 115-116, will of Issac Allerton, 1702; DGS 7645862, images 138, 139.
2. Charles F. Cochran, "Early Generations of the Newton Family of Westmoreland County, Virginia," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 36 (1928) 298-302; DGS 8920253 images 531-532. *VMHB*, Vol. 37 (1929), 87-91, 179-184, 283-188, DGS 8918203, images 55-57, 111-114, 179-182.
3. Barbara Lambert Merrick, "Important Allerton/Brewster Corrections," *Mayflower Descendant* 42 (1992), 117-123; *Mayflower Families (MF)* 17:7, 22-23; *MF* 24:1: 176-181.
4. Barbara Vines Little, "Correct Interpretation of an Eighteenth-Century Virginia Will Restores the Parents of Allerton Newton of Westmoreland County, Virginia." *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 109 (2021), 245; Gertrude E Gray, *Virginia Northern Neck Land Grants 1692-1742* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987) 1:52. (Patent of land by Isaac Lee.) The age of majority was then age eighteen. See the will of Hancock Lee, who left most of his estate to his eldest son Richard who would be under trustees until he "comes of age" when he turned eighteen. "Mr. Hancock Lee, Codicil and Testament." Northumberland Co., Va., Record Book 1706-1720, 29-32; DGS 7645576, images 488-490.
5. Westmoreland Co., Va, Deeds & Wills, Vol. 2, 1691-1699, 104a-106, will of John Newton; DGS 7645861 images 220-224.



6. "Notes to Council Journals," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 33 (1925), 300; DGS 8920253, image 227. (Elizabeth Berryman deposition)
7. Wat Tyler Mayo, Walter Randolph Crabb, and S. Downing Cox. *A Sketch of Yeocomico Church (built 1705), Cople Parish, Westmoreland County, Virginia* (Washington, DC: Sudwarth, 1906) unpag.; William Meade, *Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia Vol II* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1857, pub 1910), 192-3; Robert K Headley, *Married Well and Often: Marriages of the Northern Neck of Virginia, 1649-1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003), 133, 147, 263.
8. "Newton Family of Norfolk," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 29 (1921), 516-519; DGS 8920251, images 925, 926.
9. Stafford County VA, Will Book Liber Z 1699-1709, 49, DGS 7646081, image 29 (Sarah Anderson's receipt; John Bennett Boddie, *Virginia Historical Genealogies* (Redwood City: unknown pub, 1954, reprint Baltimore: Clearfield Company Inc., 1990, 1996, 1999, 2005), 50-51, 65.
10. Stafford Co., Va., Will book Z, 1699-1709, 20, estate of John Newton, 1700; DGS 7646081, image 15.
11. Estate of John Newton, 20. Richmond Co., Va., Order Book No. 6, 1711-1716, 125, Newton; DGS 8191516, image 82. (bill in chancery by John Newton's surviving children); *VMHB*, 33:300.

# Vintage Maps for Genealogical Research

DALE H. COOK

## ONLINE DISCOVERIES:

### Vintage Maps for Genealogical Research

This is the first of two columns about the use of online maps in genealogical research. This column is an introduction to the subject and also a discussion of some of the variety of vintage maps available online.

### An Introduction to Vintage Maps

My first memory of a vintage map useful for genealogical research predates my interest in genealogy by decades. When I was a boy, I was fascinated by a map hanging on the wall of my paternal grandparents' home. It was about thirty-two inches on a side and was published about 1946. It depicted the land holdings in the North Parish of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, as of December 31, 1750. The North Parish was incorporated as the town of North Bridgewater in 1821, renamed Brockton in 1874, and was incorporated as a city in 1881. My paternal and maternal grandparents both lived in Brockton, and my parents, my brother, and myself were all born in the city. As I am now the eldest member of the family, I now own that map.

My paternal grandmother, the late Susan May (Packard) (Cook) Haynes, inspired my interest in genealogy. I do not think that she ever knew that her ancestor and the first settler in the North Parish, Zaccheus Packard (1651 - ca. 1679) had his homestead a little over a mile south of her house, my father's boyhood home.

Although that map is not available online, vintage maps of many towns and cities are available online, and many show the locations of inhabitants' homes. Knowing where your ancestors' homes were and who their neighbors were can help to solve some genealogical problems.

### Maps in Early Town and City Histories

Town and City histories may have genealogical accounts which do not live up to today's standards for genealogical research, but they may contain useful maps. One example is William Ladd Chaffin's *History of the Town of Easton, Massachusetts* (Cambridge, MA: John Wilson & Son, 1886), which is online at the Internet Archive.<sup>1</sup> It contains a foldout map showing the locations of inhabitants' homes in 1886, as well as other salient features of the town such as churches, cemeteries, schools, and grist and saw mills.

### Individual Town and City Maps Online

One of the foremost repositories of vintage maps is the Library of Congress. Go to loc.gov and use the pull-down menu at the top of the page to switch from "Everything" to "Maps." Enter the name of a town and state in the search box to look for maps. Some of the useful maps which I have used there are *Map of East Bridgewater, Mass.* (Surveyed by M. Bates, Jr. in 1848),<sup>2</sup> *Map of the Town of Braintree, Norfolk County, Mass.* (Surveyed by Henry F. Walling, 1856),<sup>3</sup> and *Map of the Town of Attleborough, Bristol County, Massachusetts* (Surveyed by H. F. Walling, 1850).<sup>4</sup>

Harvard University has some useful maps in their online collection, including *Plan of the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts* (Surveyed by J. C. Sidney, 1850).<sup>5</sup>

Other important online sources for maps are the state governments. Massachusetts has digitalcommonwealth.org as a repository for maps, images, and other resources. Use the advanced search and choose "Maps/Atlases" under "Format" to narrow your searches. Maps there which I have used include *Map of the Town of Raynham, Bristol County, Mass.* (Surveyed by H. F. Walling, 1855),<sup>6</sup> *Map of the Town of Weymouth, Massachusetts* (Surveyed by Lemuel Humphrey and Noah Torrey, and dated 1830),<sup>7</sup> *Map of the Town of Barnstable, Barnstable County, Mass.* (Surveyed by H. F. Walling, 1856),<sup>8</sup> and *Map of the Town of Dartmouth, Bristol County, Mass.* (Surveyed by H. F. Walling, 1856).<sup>9</sup>

### Town and City Maps in Online Atlases

Some county atlases have quite a bit of detail in their individual town and city maps, showing the locations of family dwellings. An important series of Massachusetts county atlases were prepared and published by F. W. Beers in the late 1800s, and they contain such detailed town and county maps. One is *Atlas of Bristol Co., Massachusetts* (New York, 1871),<sup>10</sup> and another is *Atlas of Hampden Co., Massachusetts* (New York, 1870).<sup>11</sup> The digitalcommonwealth.org site also has detailed atlases, such as *Atlas of Brookfield, West Brookfield, and North Brookfield Towns, Massachusetts* (Surveyed by George A. Craig, 1885).<sup>12</sup> One fascinating and extremely detailed city atlas is *Atlas of the City of Newport, Rhode Island* (Surveyed by L. H. Elliott and Thomas Flynn, 1898).<sup>13</sup> It is a fascinating look at the summer playground of major Gilded Age families.

I hope this column has inspired you to seek out maps for use in your genealogical research. One significant group of maps which you will certainly have seen while searching the Library of Congress site are the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Those specialized and highly detailed maps will be the subject of my next column.

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12. <https://curiosity.lib.harvard.edu/scanned-maps/catalog/44-990095740630203941>.
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# Liberty, Loyalty, and Local Politics: The Howlands of Revolutionary Plymouth

PEGGY M. BAKER

All of us, as children, learned the story of the American Revolution, and the ultimate triumph of “our side,” the brave and noble American Patriots over the mighty British army. Of course, as we grow older, we realize that almost everything we learned as children, including the story of the Revolutionary War, is far more complex—and far more interesting! What we learned as children is known as a “founding myth.” All nations have them. America’s founding myth, based on that revolution, is that of a people united against oppression. There actually was, however, little unity. Instead, there was significant disagreement about the right way forward, not only in the lead-up, but during the Revolution itself. The actual degree of disunity is difficult to determine. Some historians estimate that half a million Americans, out of a population of less than three million, were committed Loyalists.<sup>1</sup> Then there were the many “neutrals,” those who had no confidence in the ability of Colonial militia to defeat an empire, or who saw war only as chaos, with trampled fields and burnt barns, and simply wanted to be left alone, in peace. The balance of neutrals would vary, depending on new coercive measures enacted and taxes levied (or not), and later, battles won (or not), or even local sentiment. On the local level, a strong and well-regarded Committee of Correspondence could set the tenor for a town. It is not surprising, then, that Plymouth, with a Committee of Correspondence led by James Warren (with Mercy Otis Warren writing behind the scenes), was strongly “Patriot.” Strongly, but not unanimously.

That, however, was in the future. When the first alarm bells began sounding (which was, in Plymouth, in 1765), there was no Committee of Correspondence, and certainly no Continental Army, or any thought that there would be any. There was only deep concern.

On 14 October 1765, Plymouth Town Meeting voted that a committee of nine men be chosen to draw up instructions for the town’s representative to the Massachusetts General Court on how to act “relative to the Stamp Act.” The first name on the list was James Warren, the ninth was Thomas Southworth Howland.

The committee produced a rather remarkable piece of oratory, one of the first instances in which the Pilgrims, known therein as the “Fathers,” were

invoked as both historically significant and as relevant to contemporary concerns. The statement began with an affirmation of Plymouth’s fervent attachment to the British Constitution and the British Crown; and followed with a rather overwrought recital of grievances, before the example of the “Fathers,” meaning the Pilgrims, was invoked:

**You, Sir [meaning their Representative to the Massachusetts General Court], represent a people who are not only descended from the first settlers of this country, but inhabit the very spot they first possessed. Here was first laid the foundation of the British Empire in this part of America ... to this place our Fathers (whose memories be Rever’d) Possessed of the Principles of Liberty ... fled...**

The authors closed with a final flourish, proclaiming that they would never submit to tyranny, “to avoid disgracing the memories of our Ancestors, as well as the reproaches of our consciences, and the curses of posterity.”<sup>2</sup>

This proclamation may seem a little over the top for a document whose purpose was, supposedly, to simply tell Plymouth’s representative to oppose the implementation of the Stamp Act. The document was actually aimed at a much larger audience. James Warren and his committee understood the power of the press. Their carefully-crafted proclamation was sent to the Boston papers, and printed on page 1 of the *Supplement to the Boston Gazette* and on page 2 of the *Boston Post-Boy*.<sup>3</sup>

Two months later, on 30 December 1765, the Plymouth Selectmen, at the request of thirty-seven Plymouth citizens, among them Thomas Southworth Howland, sent a letter to the Town of Boston, praising the actions that Bostonians had taken in response to the Stamp Act.

It brought, in response, a letter of absolutely soaring rhetoric:

**... When we recollect the ardent love of religion & liberty which inspired the breasts of those worthies (the Ancestors); what induced them, at a time when tyranny had laid its offensive hand on Church and State in their native country, to forsake their fair possessions, and seek a retreat in this distant part**

**of the earth... our mind is filled with deep veneration, and we bless & revere their memory.**

The authors, Samuel Adams, John Ruddock, and John Hancock, concluded:

**...That the spirit of our Venerable forefathers may revive & be diffused through every community in this land; that liberty, civil & religious, the grand object of their view, may still be felt, enjoyed, and vindicated by the present generation, and the fair inheritance transmitted to our latest posterity, is the fervent wish of this metropolis.<sup>4</sup>**

Resistance to the Stamp Act across the colonies brought results. In March of 1766, Parliament withdrew the act, although it still asserted its right, in principle, to impose taxes on its colonies. Future trouble was inevitable. Concern in Plymouth, however, did not rise again to a high level until 1772. When events then began to come to a boil, there were the Howlands.

Who were the Howlands of 1772?

Two of them, the older generation, were sisters, the only surviving children of Thomas and Joanna Howland. Hannah Howland, born in 1712,<sup>5</sup> married Edward Winslow;<sup>6</sup> she was the mother of Edward Winslow Junior, age 26 in 1772.<sup>7</sup> Her sister Joanna Howland, born 7 May 1716,<sup>8</sup> married Gideon White.<sup>9</sup> Joanna had three children: Cornelius, then age 28; Joanna, 27; and Gideon Junior, age 18.<sup>10</sup> “Young Joanna” had, in 1770, married Pelham Winslow.<sup>11</sup>

There were also the five children of Hannah and Joanna’s deceased older brother, Consider Howland, and his wife Ruth: Lucy, Mary, Thomas Southworth, Martha, and Consider, born between 1726 and 1745.<sup>12</sup> Lucy Howland married Abraham Hammatt in 1748,<sup>13</sup> their son, Abraham Junior, was born circa 1750.<sup>14</sup> Mary Howland had married, only two years earlier, Doctor William Thomas,<sup>15</sup> as his third wife, gaining herself half a dozen teenage stepchildren.<sup>16</sup> Thomas Southworth Howland, Martha Howland, and Consider Howland were, as yet, unmarried.

All the assorted Howlands were involved, although in very different ways, in the turmoil of the Revolutionary years.

When, on 24 November 1772, one hundred Plymoutheans presented Town Meeting with a letter protesting the quartering of British troops on colonial civilians, William Thomas, Mary Howland’s husband, and Thomas Southworth Howland, Mary’s brother, signed; their Winslow and White cousins did not.<sup>17</sup>



▲ Left: Gravestone of Gen. James Warren and his wife Mercy Otis Warren. Right: Gravestone of Joanna White.

The following year, with Parliament’s passage of the Tea Act, the rift in the family widened further. On 7 December 1773 (a week before the Boston Tea Party), Plymouth’s Town Meeting approved a lengthy, strongly worded statement of opposition to the Tea Act. The most significant action item was that Plymouth would follow in the footsteps of the “late Judicious resolves of the Worthy Citizens of Philadelphia.” While puzzling to us, the reference would have been instantly comprehensible to Town Meeting members. Philadelphia’s Resolve had established a boycott of tea, by not allowing tea ships to be unloaded in the city. By their vote, Plymouth Town Meeting had, therefore, forbidden the importation of tea into Plymouth.

In addition, they also threatened not only those who imported East India tea but their “abettors” (i.e., those who sold tea), by declaring that by their “wickedness & obstinacy,” they had “forfeited that protection Every Good Citizen is Intitled to” and exposed themselves “to the Indignation & resentment of all Good men.”<sup>18</sup> In other words, those who did not support the tea boycott were fair game for intimidation.

For some, this was a step too far. At the next Town Meeting, 13 December 1773, Edward Winslow rose to ask that the earlier vote be reconsidered. Town Meeting voted him down. Edward then presented Town Meeting with a document of protest, signed by forty Plymouth residents, asking that it be read into the minutes. He was voted down again.<sup>19</sup> This disrespect was a significant display towards one of Plymouth’s highest-ranking citizens. Edward Winslow was the first magistrate of Plymouth County, Collector of His Majesty’s Customs for the Port of Plymouth, Register of the Probate Court, and Clerk of the Common Pleas & General Sessions of the Peace. He was not about to be silenced. Instead, he followed James Warren’s lead and sent his proclamation to the newspapers. The protest was published, in full, on the front page of the *Boston Post-Boy* of 20 December 1773.





▲ Left: Gravestone of Abraham Hammatt and his daughter Sophia.  
Right: Gravestone of Thomas Southworth Howland.

the bootleggers by name: Captain Gideon White (son of Joanna Howland). Town Meeting then approved a measure, that “whoever continues to sell, or shall for the future expose for sale in this town, any India tea is and ought to be considered as an enemy to the rights of America & the constitution of his country.”<sup>22</sup>

Rhetoric had little effect. Six months later, on 19 September 1774, Town Meeting formed a Committee of Enquiry, charged with hunting down those who were illegally importing and selling tea.<sup>23</sup> And so began a game of cat and mouse. Town Meeting scolded, smugglers smuggled, the Committee of Enquiry chased after illicit importers and sellers (and sometimes caught them), and some Plymouthers persisted in drinking bootleg tea.

Some six months later, however, active hostilities broke out – and the games ended. On 19 April 1775, colonial forces faced British troops at Lexington and the history of America changed forever.

The first Howland to join the fight, on that very day, was Hannah Howland’s son, Edward Winslow Junior, who fought on the side of the British.<sup>24</sup> The next day, news of Lexington and Concord having reached Plymouth, 24-year-old Abraham Hammatt, son of Lucy Howland, led one of the two Plymouth companies of Minute Men that marched north, under the command of Colonel Theophilus Cotton, to confront the British troops stationed at Marshfield. The British troops evacuated immediately before their arrival.<sup>25</sup>

One week later, on 28 April 1775, Town Meeting voted to fortify Cole’s Hill and to purchase 1300 cannon shot, preparing for the war that now was inevitable.<sup>26</sup>

Soon thereafter, Colonel Cotton once again led a Plymouth regiment north, this time to Roxbury and Dorchester Heights, joining George Washington and his newly-formed Continental Army at the siege of British-held Boston. Among those who served were Doctor William Thomas, husband of Mary Howland, and Mary’s four stepsons, John, Joseph, Joshua, and Nathaniel Thomas.<sup>27</sup> Among the besieged in Boston were Pelham Winslow, husband of young Joanna White, and Edward Winslow Junior.<sup>28</sup> When the British troops evacuated Boston in March of 1776, Pelham and Edward evacuated with them.

Meanwhile, while some Plymouthers were entrenched outside of Boston, others took to the sea. In late 1775, Consider Howland sailed out of Plymouth harbor on the ship *Washington*, part of George Washington’s small, slightly-unofficial, eight-vessel navy. On 2 December 1775, the *Washington* was captured by an English man-of-war. Her crew were

taken prisoner and shipped to Boston; then, across the Atlantic to a British prison; then back across the Atlantic to a jail in Halifax, Nova Scotia; before finally, in the autumn of 1776, being moved to one of the notorious British prison ships anchored in Brooklyn Bay.<sup>29</sup>

Over the course of the war, thousands of American sailors were held captive on those wretched, derelict ships. Over 10,000 of the American prisoners died there.<sup>30</sup> Consider was among the few and very fortunate men who were exchanged, being released on parole in December 1776 and sent home to Plymouth. He was officially exchanged in September 1777 – for his cousin, Gideon White Junior, whose trading voyages to British Nova Scotia had finally landed him in deep trouble, and who had been under house arrest in their shared hometown of Plymouth for almost a year.<sup>31</sup>

A few months earlier, in June 1777, while both men were in town, an unprecedented Town Meeting had been held in Plymouth.

The Massachusetts General Court had passed an act that each town should present the Court with a list of their town’s “Tories” (aka Loyalists), who would then be tried for disloyalty. Plymouth dutifully established a committee to collect names and evidence. Nine men were publicly accused of being Loyalists, among them Edward Winslow Senior, Gideon White Senior, and Isaac LeBaron. All three men were married to Howland women (Hannah, Joanna, and Martha).

The case of Isaac LeBaron, husband of Martha Howland, throws a very bright light on the proceedings. First came an anonymous charge that, in discussing the voyage of an armed American privateer, Isaac had referred to it as “pirateing.” Then Thomas Southworth Howland (Martha’s brother and therefore Isaac’s brother-in-law), chimed in. Thomas Southworth said that he had heard Joshua Thomas (stepson of Mary Howland, Isaac’s sister-in-law) state that “many other of their family [the Thomases] lament Isaac LeBaron’s being a Tory, and that they could not change his principles and prevent his making such bad speeches against America.” Then, Abraham Hammatt (not only Isaac’s nephew-by-marriage, but married to Isaac LeBaron’s sister Priscilla) charged that Isaac had been heard criticizing the measures taken “by the country in the common cause.”<sup>32</sup>

The case against Isaac, therefore, consisted of an anonymous charge, a second-hand report, and an accusation so vague as to signify not much of anything. The charge laid against Edward Winslow was equally vague, and the Town Records do not

even report the nature of the charges laid against Gideon White. This vague reporting of the charges is particularly interesting because, testimony or no, there was no question about the political sentiments of these three men – they were quite openly Loyalist sympathizers, Edward Winslow notoriously so! Nevertheless, when it came time for Town Meeting to vote on whether their names should be given to the Massachusetts General Court, in every single instance, they said “no.” They would not report Edward Winslow; they would not report Gideon White; they would not report Isaac LeBaron, or any others to the Massachusetts Court. Plymouth circled the wagons around its own, paving the way, in the aftermath of the Revolutionary War, for those Loyalists who refrained from military action (and who remained in town) to be reintegrated into Plymouth life.

Not all the members of the extended Howland family, however, remained in town – or survived the war.

In September 1779, Cornelius White, age 35, son of Joanna Howland, died at sea while ferrying supplies to the British.<sup>33</sup> He is memorialized on the Burial Hill gravestone of his father, Gideon White Senior, who had died six months earlier, at age 61. His cousin Thomas Southworth Howland, who died in Plymouth a month later, is also on Burial Hill; he shares his gravestone with his younger brother, Consider, who had returned to the sea on American privateers and died in 1780.<sup>34</sup>

As for Hannah Howland and her husband Edward Winslow Senior, after the Battle of Lexington, Edward had been deprived of his civic positions and, therefore, his income. Nevertheless, the couple remained in Plymouth, in increasing poverty, until December 1781, when they fled, first, to British-held New York, and then to Nova Scotia.<sup>35</sup> Edward died there, in 1784 at age 70; Hannah died in New Brunswick 12 years later, at age 83.<sup>36</sup>

Their son, Edward Winslow Junior, had been appointed Muster Master General of Loyalist forces in North America. He was instrumental, after the war, in the formation of the New Brunswick as a Canadian province, and died at Fredericton in 1815, age 69, married and the father of fourteen children.<sup>37</sup>

Joanna Howland’s son, the incorrigible tea-smuggler Gideon White Junior, had received a commission as a captain in a British regiment. He moved to Nova Scotia, where he married and fathered nine children. Gideon died at Shelburne in 1833, at age 80.<sup>38</sup>

Joanna Howland herself remained in Plymouth, outliving her husband Gideon by 31 years. Far from

Winslow was a match for James Warren when it came to rhetoric, writing:

*We who are inhabitants of the town of Plymouth, neither captivated by sounds and declamations, nor deceived by the cunning stratagems of men who under the specious masque of patriotism have attempted to delude an innocent and loyal people, but firmly and steadily fixed and determined to defend our rights and privileges, and to endeavor to hand to our posterity the blessing of peace and good government, which were procured by our fathers and transmitted to us ...*

He eventually concluded, by saying that they could not:

*...answer to our GOD and our consciences unless we protest against the proceedings of said meeting, and publish to the world that we were not instrumental in procuring those mischiefs which may naturally be expected from such conduct.*

Then followed the supporting signatures. Prominent were Edward Winslow Junior, son of Hannah Howland; Gideon White Senior, husband of Joanna Howland, and their son Cornelius White; Pelham Winslow, husband of Gideon and Joanna’s daughter, Joanna; and Isaac LeBaron, who would soon marry Martha Howland<sup>20</sup> (sister of Lucy, Mary, Thomas Southworth, and Consider Howland).<sup>21</sup>

Four months later, on 24 March 1774, Town Meeting once again considered the persistent problem of tea. Boycott or no, some Plymouthers were continuing to illegally smuggle it into town; others were selling it, and some were continuing to drink it. Town Meeting, however, called out one, and only one, of



being ostracized for her strong Loyalist connections, she was honored as one of two people (the other being Ephraim Spooner) who remembered and publicly retold (often) the story of Thomas Faunce and his identification of Plymouth Rock, helping to preserve that beloved story for posterity.<sup>39</sup> At her death in 1810, age 94, a Boston newspaper, the *Columbian Centinel*, celebrated her role as a local historian.

In this Lady were united vigor of constitution, with activity of mind; bland manners, with dignity of conduct; strong intellect, without the affectation of its display. With an ardent love of the early history and progress of the Country, she delighted not only in the substantiated fact, but in the traditionary circumstances, that marked the early traces of our ancestors, and by which their posterity have ascended to such dignified rank.<sup>40</sup>

She rests on Plymouth's Burial Hill, as do her three nieces Lucy (Howland) Hammatt, who died in 1803, Mary (Howland) Thomas, who died in 1806, and Martha (Howland) LeBaron, who died in 1826.<sup>41</sup>

Joanna's daughter, another Joanna, also lived out her life in Plymouth. "Young Joanna" had married Pelham Winslow; after the evacuation of Boston, he had obtained a commission as an officer in the British army. He died in New York City in 1783, just as the war was ending and the city being evacuated, with the British troops about to board ship for Nova Scotia. Joanna, who had remained in Plymouth with the couple's two young daughters, was on the verge of sailing to Nova Scotia to join Pelham, when she received word of his death. She did move briefly to Nova Scotia, but soon returned to her hometown.<sup>42</sup> Joanna supported her little family by opening a shop on Main Street, where she sold "pins and needles and ribbons, buttons and laces."<sup>43</sup> When her daughter Mary, whose father had been not only of a Loyalist but an officer in the British army, married in Plymouth on 8 November 1791, the thoroughness of the Loyalists' reintegration was clear. Mary's groom was Henry Warren,<sup>44</sup> son of Plymouth's most preeminent Patriot couple, James and Mercy Otis Warren.<sup>45</sup> Joanna White Winslow died in Plymouth on May 1, 1829, at age 84.<sup>46</sup> Plymouth's great nineteenth-century historian, William T. Davis, who was born in 1822, remembered seeing a very elderly Joanna Winslow taking tea at his family's house, and then wending her way home in the dark, holding a lantern. William T. was himself a Howland, the son of one of those nine children of Gideon White – yet another Joanna, who had married a Plymouth sea captain and returned to her father's hometown of Plymouth.<sup>47</sup>

1. John Shy, *A People Numerous & Armed*, rev. ed. (Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan Press, 1990), 183.
2. *Plymouth, Massachusetts. Records of the Town of Plymouth*, 3 volumes (Plymouth: The Town, 1903), 3:164-67. Quotations are modernized as needed for clarity.
3. *Supplement to the Boston Gazette*, 4 Nov. 1765, 1:1-2; *Boston Post-Boy & Advertiser*, 4 Nov. 1765, 2:2-3.
4. Plymouth TR, 3:175-76.
5. Plymouth, "Vital records, indexes (1699-1893)," 5 volumes (FamilySearch.org), 1:56.
6. Plymouth VR, 1:150; 146. This was Joanna's second marriage; her first was to William Dyre.
7. Plymouth VR, 1:182.
8. Plymouth VR, 1:56.
9. Plymouth VR, 1:190.
10. Plymouth County, "Probate records, 1683-1903, with index and docket, 1685-1967" (FamilySearch.org), 25:304-305. Gideon White named children Joanna, Cornelius, and Gideon in his will; the approximate birthdates of the children are known from their gravestones and burial records.
11. Plymouth VR, 2:134. Pelham Winslow and Joanna White pub. int. 16 June 1770.
12. Plymouth VR, 1:119.
13. Plymouth VR, 1:236. Lucy Howland and Abraham Hammatt pub. int. 3 Sept. 1748.
14. *Find a Grave*, #14256142. Abraham Hammatt d. 13 Oct. 1797, age 47.
15. Plymouth VR, 2:258.
16. Plymouth VR, 2:63.
17. Plymouth TR, 3:261-62.
18. Plymouth TR, 3:278-281.
19. Plymouth TR, 3:281-82.
20. Plymouth VR, 2:259. Isaac LeBaron and Martha Howland m. 1 Dec. 1774.
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## If the Ancients Could Speak

WILLIAM P. CHESHIRE, M.D. DEPUTY GOVERNOR  
FLORIDA

Foundational to every genealogical society is lineage. Knowledge of direct descent from men and women who courageously changed the course of history sustains a living continuity with the past, the memory of which thereby cannot be extinguished. Members of The Mayflower Society are directly descended from the passengers of the historic ship that crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1620 and thus can feel personally connected to a decisive moment in the American story. Seeking religious freedom and a better life, the Mayflower passengers established the first permanent colony in New England and laid the foundations of American democracy. Their legacy continues to inspire a great nation.

The lines of Mayflower descendancy stretch across four centuries. My own descent is from my tenth great-grandfather William Bradford. He lived a very long time ago. Imagine how much more recent—how *immediate*—the Mayflower history might seem to us if there were someone alive then who is still alive today.

That would, of course, not be humanly possible. The average US life expectancy in 2020 was 78.9 years,<sup>1</sup> and the oldest verified person on record lived 122 years.<sup>2</sup> Other than in times of war or plague, throughout history average human life expectancy has rarely exceeded 70 years.<sup>3</sup> The last surviving Mayflower passenger was Mary Allerton Cushman, who was about four years old when she arrived in Plymouth Colony with her parents, Isaac and Mary

Norris Allerton, and she died in Plymouth in 1699.

Humans are not, however, the longest-living creatures on planet Earth. The longest-living vertebrates are Greenland sharks, which—surprisingly—can live for more than 400 years.

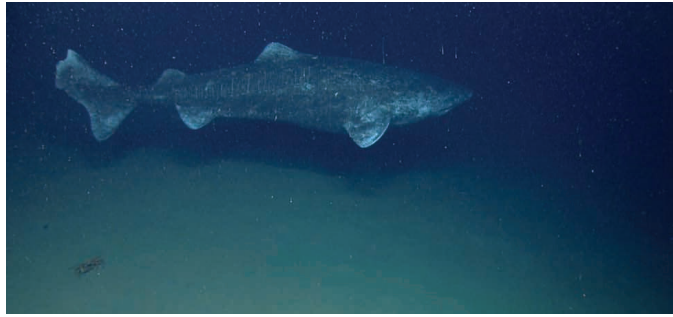
The exceptional longevity of Greenland sharks is a recent discovery. In 2016, an international team of scientists studied a number of Greenland sharks accidentally ensnared in trawling nets used to catch other varieties of fish. The scientists estimated their ages by measuring radiocarbon isotopes in the lenses of the sharks' eyes. The nucleus of their lens, it turns out, contains metabolically inert proteins that crystallize during embryonic development and thus constitute a molecular record of the date of their birth. By comparing the ratios of carbon isotopes with shark body length, they were able to generate a growth curve that allowed them to calculate the ages of their sharks, the oldest of which was 392, plus or minus 120 years.<sup>4</sup>

That means, swimming somewhere in the depths of the Atlantic Ocean today, there may very well



▲ Drawing of the *Mayflower* with a Greenland shark swimming below the surface. Drawing by William Cheshire.





▲ Photo of a Greenland shark taken in 2013.

be a Greenland shark that was alive when the *Mayflower* sailed in 1620. Greenland sharks take life in slow measure. Such a shark would have reached reproductive age around the time the Declaration of Independence was signed.

The Greenland shark's biological name, *Somniosus microcephalus*, translates to "sleepy small head." It is so named because of its short snout, relative to other sharks, and its sluggish movement, as it swims slowly in its habitat of cold waters at great depths. Greenland sharks, which are typically eight to fourteen feet long but can grow to twenty-four feet, are found predominantly in Northern Atlantic and Arctic waters. Some have been spotted off the coast of Cape Cod. They swim comfortably at water temperatures of between thirty-four and sixty-eight degrees Fahrenheit and retreat to depths of 4,000 feet (one was spotted at a depth of 7,218 feet).<sup>5</sup>

The *Mayflower*, we may conclude, very likely passed over waters inhabited by Greenland sharks. Moreover, it is plausible that one or more young Greenland sharks swimming in the vicinity of the *Mayflower* in 1620 might still be alive today, provided that in subsequent years they eluded fisherman's nets and capture for their meat, skin, or oil. The Greenland shark is currently classified as an endangered species.<sup>6</sup>

Famously, into those cold North Atlantic waters fell *Mayflower* passenger John Howland. The story of his rescue, as the men above deck hauled in the lanyard clutched by his nearly frozen hands, is remarkable enough without supposing that a Greenland shark might have surfaced just in time to nudge him above the water line. Greenland sharks swim much too slowly to be useful in that way, even if they had the intelligence to come to human aid.

Shark intelligence may be greater than one would think, though, at least in terms of memory. A study of grey bamboo sharks, which are native to the Indo-West Pacific Oceans, found that they remembered how to identify specific shapes shown to them, even when depicted in an optical illusion, a year later.<sup>7</sup> If a

Greenland shark had the capacity to remember the *Mayflower* sailing by, a shark, whose brain is focused on feeding, would have attached no significance to it. And sharks keep no written records.

But we do have the human written record to augment our "historical memory" of the great event that took place in 1620. The journal of Plymouth Colony Governor William Bradford, *Of Plimoth Plantation*, written between 1630 and 1651, records the story of the *Mayflower* voyage, Plymouth Colony, and the words of the *Mayflower* Compact. This written account allows us to collapse our mental timeline and experience in our imaginations the history of the Pilgrims. Written documentation supplies what longevity cannot.

The Greenland shark, by its very survival, affirms the continuity of history. It was there when the *Mayflower* sailed, and not just its kind, but possibly at least one creature that is still alive today. And we, too, were there, vicariously through the historical record, and biologically, in a way, through our familial lineages.

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# The General Society's Candlelight Circle

MARK SCHMIDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants ("General Society") has been the grateful beneficiary of a number of Planned Gifts over the years through members' estate planning. The General Society is honored and appreciative to receive these Planned Gifts, and to show its appreciation, the General Society established the Candlelight Circle to honor its members who have signed a new will designating the General Society of Mayflower Descendants as a beneficiary.

Planned Giving to the General Society assures that the General Society can continue its work of perpetuating the memory of the 1620 *Mayflower* Pilgrims through excellence in research and the preservation of family history, even after you are gone. Your legacy as a *Mayflower* descendant will be assured and the General Society can continue to educate the public on the ways the *Mayflower* Pilgrims shaped western civilization.

A Planned Gift could include cash, real estate, life insurance, equity or personal property and the gift is usually bequeathed through a member's estate documents like the Last Will and Testament.

Benefits of Planned Giving include safeguarding the financial needs of loved ones, reducing income tax and/or reducing exposure to capital gains tax, reducing tax costs to heirs, shifting assets for increased interest-earning potential, and creating a legacy with the General Society that can leave a larger impact than imagined.

The General Society looks forward to welcoming you as an honored member of the Candlelight Circle upon being notified that you have signed a new will designating the General Society of *Mayflower* Descendants as a beneficiary. You can learn more about including the General Society in your Planned Giving by emailing [candlelight@themayflowersociety.org](mailto:candlelight@themayflowersociety.org) or by calling 508-746-3188, ext. 25.





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