

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



VOL. 91, NO. 2

SUMMER 2025



General Society of  
Mayflower Descendants

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THE MAYFLOWER  
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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://TheMayflowerSociety.org/history/lecture-series).



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

**June 24th – 7 pm (ET)**  
**“The Photo Angel” with Kate Kelley**

**Cover Art:** Town Brook in Plymouth, Massachusetts, courtesy of Governor General Lisa Pennington.

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

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Plymouth, MA 02360-3313

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VOLUME 91, NO.2  
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EDITOR’S NOTE

Welcome to the 2025 summer issue of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*. Hopefully the weather is warm and sunny for our members in the Northern Hemisphere and not too cold for those in the Southern Hemisphere.

This issue is filled with many informative and engaging articles. Inside you will find information about the upcoming **General Board of Assistants Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, September 4–7**. Bonnie Wade Mucia, Silver Books Director, shares some exciting news on the Silver Books Project, and several Member Societies and Family Societies give updates from around the world. In the Pilgrim History and Genealogy section, Peggy Baker and Dale Cook continue their excellent articles on Mercy Warren and Historic maps respectively. Lastly, Elder General Michael Denney has written a wonderful article about the Pilgrim’s covenant that I am sure you will love!

I hope the rest of your summer is enjoyable and I will see you in the fall.

– Doug



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# Governor General's Message

LISA PENNINGTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL

When we try to imagine the everyday lives of our Pilgrim ancestors, it is almost impossible to see them clearly. But we know they were ahead of their time in many respects.

We know the Pilgrims not only elected the first governor in the western hemisphere, but they also passed the first law (the right to trial by jury) and created the first veterans' benefits for soldiers who were wounded defending the colony. They also created the longest treaty in history with Native Americans, fifty-four years.

**And did you know that the Pilgrims created the first law to protect penniless widows and children?**

When Stephen Hopkins was a castaway on Bermuda, he mutinied against the governor and was sentenced to death. He begged the governor to spare him because his wife and children would otherwise be ruined. Englishmen knew that the wives and children of bankrupt men would be left to starve under English law. This realization convinced the company to commute Hopkins' sentence.

In late 1633, Plymouth suffered through a serious epidemic which took the lives of several Mayflower passengers and their family members.

Francis Eaton was one of those who died in 1633. His debts exceeded his estate, and his wife Christian and their four children were left with nothing. Fortunately, Christian quickly married Francis Billington, so she and her children did not starve.

Peter Brown also died in 1633 without a will. He left a young family whose needs would also be more than his remaining estate.

Francis Eaton and Peter Brown's untimely deaths revealed a weakness in English common law which hurt the widows and children of men whose estates were consumed by creditors. Under English law, widows had no right to any of their husband's estate in the case of insolvency, and there was nothing set aside for the children.

In January 1634, the Pilgrims began to create new laws to help widows like Christian Eaton and Mary

Brown. The laws stated that every widow had the right to inherit one-third of her husband's lands for her lifetime and would have outright ownership of one-half of the estate's moveable property. If widows and children were left with a bankrupt estate, the Governor and Assistants would determine a subsistence for the widow and maintenance for the children. They did that for Mary Brown, placing Peter Brown's two eldest daughters with other families and providing a subsistence for the widow and her younger children.

In preferring the rights of families to creditors, the Pilgrims replaced English common law with "Biblical law," citing Exodus 22:22: **"Ye shall not trouble the widow or the fatherless child."** This compassionate care for widows and children was ahead of its time and can be found today in countless state laws throughout America.

To find out some of the fascinating items the Pilgrims left in their wills and estate inventories, watch our new YouTube video "The Things They Left Behind." See examples of the clothes, furniture, silver and a "turkey-worked carpet" that were some of the prized treasures our ancestors left in their wills! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7B5KwDNHnM>

The Pilgrims knew how important it was to have a will, and we do too! The Mayflower Society has entered into a partnership with FreeWill, to offer our members the opportunity to create their own will and estate planning free of charge. While we hope you will leave a bequest to The Mayflower Society or to the Mayflower Meetinghouse so we can continue to tell these Pilgrim stories, doing so is not required. Read more about this member benefit in another article in the magazine!



▲ Lisa Pennington with examples of high prestigious items the Pilgrims left behind.



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

MARK SCHMIDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As the summer approaches, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) is gearing up for its annual General Board of Assistants (GBOA) meeting, to be held in San Antonio, Texas, September 4-7, 2025. Understanding that not every member can or will go to this event, the GSMD Development Committee has come up with a fundraising idea that every member (and even non-members) can participate in. Beginning on September 7 and continuing through October 1, the GSMD will have a silent auction of a variety of items donated by many of the fifty-four Member Societies that make up the General Society. These donations, which will range from a variety of items to various 'experiences' unique to each Society's geographic territory, will assist with raising funds needed to complete the restoration and renovation of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse. People can go onto the GSMD website, see photos and descriptions of the various silent auction items up for bid, and can then place a bid on those items. At the end of the auction, each Member Society will be informed of the name and address of the winning bidder for their donated silent auction item(s) and the Member Society will be responsible for shipping the item(s) to their winning bidder. We hope that this silent auction will attract a lot of interest in what we are doing and we look forward to raising more funds to complete the Meetinghouse project.

As the Executive Director, I am always interested in knowing what you would like as a member of The Mayflower Society. What programs would you be interested in seeing? Are there historical topics that are of interest to you? Do you like the virtual programs? What piques your curiosity?

In part, we would like to know what inspired you to become a member of GSMD. You are why we do what it is we do. We would like you to be invested in The Mayflower Society and be proud of what The Mayflower Society offers its members. Take, for example, the virtual lecture series. You will

hopefully notice that we are trying to incorporate more historical topics to our offerings, of different eras, to entice you, and non-members, too, to watch, learn, and be proud of what we provide to the community at large. We try to provide a smorgasbord of topics from which you can choose. As we delve into these different stories, we would also like you to be thinking of your participation in GSMD. What is it that you, as a member, would like more of? Are there topics that you would like us to explore for your programming benefit? Is the virtual format good for you? (Note: we try to make our programs accessible for all, so we do them virtually to allow more people to view.)

At the Plymouth office, we are trying to create a better membership experience for you. Your involvement and support are what allows The Mayflower Society to grow and prosper. Your physical participation and monetary contributions provide the means to allow programs—in person and virtual—to take place. We want you to be invested in The Mayflower Society and to watch it thrive. This is **YOUR** Society, so we are striving to make it what you want. At the heart of our work, we also want **YOU** to be pleased with the direction of The Mayflower Society. We want **YOU** to participate in your Member Society's meetings and functions. We want **YOU** to assist with the variety of projects so that they can come to fruition sooner. We want **YOU** to purchase a brick in our Mayflower Society House walkway, or to make a planned gift to the Society in your will. Ultimately, we want **YOU** to feel you are a part of a successful organization that is thriving because of **YOUR** involvement in it.

We hope that you agree, and that we are succeeding in our efforts! Thank you for being a member and thank you for all you do to support The Mayflower Society.





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## Mayflower Meetinghouse Update

MARK SCHMIDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As contributions for the Mayflower Meetinghouse continue to arrive, work on the next phase of the Meetinghouse restoration is slated to start later this spring. The Verdin Company of Cincinnati, originally returning to Plymouth in March, has rescheduled until June the reinstallation of the 10-bell chime. About this same time, the work will also begin on the side entryway, which will ultimately become the new main entrance. The construction company CM&B, with plans provided by architect CambridgeSeven, will obtain the needed permits and commence the work on the side vestibule around Memorial Day. Additionally, restoration work on the interior plaster walls should also begin this summer. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the work for this phase

of restoration should take between six and eight months to complete.

The Mayflower Society will continue to need the support of our loyal donors to ensure that the project can be completed in a timely manner. We thank you all for your support for this project and we will endeavor to keep you informed every step of the way.

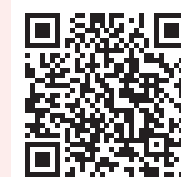


▲ Mayflower Meetinghouse Sanctuary.

## The Mayflower Family Silver Books Presentations at Legacy Family Tree Webinars and RootsTech

BONNIE WADE MUCIA, SILVER BOOKS DIRECTOR

Recently, our esteemed Silver Books Project received notable attention within the genealogy community, and I am thrilled to share the details with you. Legacy Family Tree Webinars is an online platform that provides educational webinars on various genealogy topics. These sessions, led by expert genealogists, cover subjects including DNA testing, geographic research, and genealogy software. I delivered an hour-long webinar titled "Navigating the Mayflower Silver Books: A Guide for Genealogists," which explored the history, organization, usage, and current status of the Silver Books Project. You can view the recording, if you are a subscriber, at: <https://familytreewebinars.com/speaker/bonniwademucia/>.



RootsTech, the largest family history conference, is held annually in Salt Lake City, Utah, and organized by FamilySearch. Participants can attend either in person or online, enjoying a wide range of workshops, technology demonstrations, and sessions suitable for all levels of genealogy expertise. As a first-time speaker for RootsTech, I presented an on demand condensed version of my webinar in under twenty minutes, which you can watch for free here: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/navigating-the-mayflower-families-silver-books-a-guide-for-genealogists>.



The other important topic covered at RootsTech was funding for the National Archive Records Administration (NARA). Funding NARA at even current levels, is very important for genealogists and lineage societies. NARA holds a treasure trove of documents like census records, military files, and immigration details that are crucial for proving lineage applications. There is something we can do to make sure we do not lose important history. This link walks you through that process. <https://fundnara.com>.





# General Board of Assistants Meeting 2025

MARTIN W. BEERMAN, SECRETARY GENERAL

Registration continues for the General Board of Assistants (GBOA) Meeting, Sept. 4–7, 2025, in San Antonio, Texas.

Visit the GBOA registration website for all meeting details, hotel availability updates and the latest news about this year’s meeting. To visit the registration website, login to the Members Only section of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) website at [www.TheMayflowerSociety.org](http://www.TheMayflowerSociety.org) and select Member Only Events, then General Board of Assistants Meeting.

This year’s General Board of Assistants Meeting is one you will not want to miss! The vibrant energy of San Antonio, Texas, where rich history meets modern charm in the heart of the Lone Star State is calling. Picture yourself strolling along the iconic River Walk, discovering unique cultural treasures, and savoring the bold flavors of Tex-Mex cuisine. September in San Antonio brings warm, sunny days perfect for exploring landmarks like the historic Alamo and the UNESCO World Heritage Missions, a testament to the city’s storied past. Venture to nearby Fredericksburg to



visit the National Museum of the Pacific War, where history comes alive in an engaging and profound way. Immerse yourself in the lively spirit of San Antonio, and let its blend of tradition, culture, and innovation inspire you.

out privileges. Day or event parking is \$20, plus tax. Both subject to availability.

To book online, click the link on the GBOA Meeting registration website located in Member Only Events on the GSMD website at [www.TheMayflowerSociety.org](http://www.TheMayflowerSociety.org). To make a reservation by phone, call 800-345-9285 and reference **General Society of Mayflower Descendants Board of Assistants Meeting**.

Individual room reservations must be made by **Wednesday, August 20, 2025**, to obtain the special group rate. Reservations made after this date are subject to room availability and at prevailing rates.

The special group rate is available for stays Sunday, August 31, through Wednesday, September 10. If any participant decides to leave earlier than the scheduled departure date when the guest is in-house at the hotel, there will be a charge of \$75 plus 16.75% tax early departure fee.

Check-in time is 4:00 p.m.; Check-out time is 11:00 a.m.



**HOTEL**  
The Menger Hotel  
204 Alamo Plaza  
San Antonio, Texas

Rate is \$169 per night, not including taxes, fees or incidental charges.

The Menger Hotel is twelve minutes (eight and one-third miles) from the San Antonio International Airport. Transportation options to the hotel include car rental, bus, taxi and Uber/Lyft.

Parking: Valet parking is available for hotel-registered guests for \$30 (plus tax) per day and includes in-and-

## SCHEDULE

### Thursday, September 4

- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Credentials pickup.
- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting and Lunch.
- 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Committee Meetings.
- 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Insignia and Sales.
- 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Historians Meeting.
- 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Treasurers Meeting.

### Friday, September 5 – Fellowship Day

- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Credentials pickup.
- 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. San Antonio Missions Tour. *Suggested Dress:* Casual attire and good walking shoes.
- 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fredericksburg: National Museum of the Pacific War Tour. *Suggested Dress:* Casual attire and good walking shoes.
- 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Welcome Reception hosted by the Texas Society—open to all registered members and guests. Appetizers and cash bar. *Suggested Dress:* Cocktail attire.

### San Antonio Missions Tour - \$90

The San Antonio Missions are a UNESCO World Heritage Site you will not want to miss, filled with history and religious importance. These four missions comprising the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, are the most complete and intact group of Spanish Colonial mission complexes in the world. Missions included are Mission San José, Mission Concepción, Mission San Juan Capistrano, and Mission Espada. The tour will also stop at San Antonio’s historic San Fernando Cathedral from whose spire hung Santa Anna’s blood red flag of no surrender. Tour includes lunch at Don Pedro Mexican Restaurant.

### Fredericksburg: National Museum of the Pacific War Tour - \$125

The National Museum of the Pacific War (NMPW), about a seventy-minute drive from San Antonio, is recognized today as a world-class, cultural institution. A Smithsonian Affiliate and accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the museum provides the nation’s most comprehensive account of World

War II in the Asiatic-Pacific theater. The museum was founded to honor Fredericksburg’s native son and Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces in the Pacific, Chester William Nimitz. To honor all who served and supported the war effort in the Pacific, the Museum proudly presents the facts, stories, and authentic artifacts of the Pacific War for today and for generations to come. The tour includes lunch at The Auslander in Fredericksburg.

### Saturday, September 6 – General Board of Assistants Meeting

- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Credentials pickup.
  - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Insignia and Sales.
  - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. GBOA Meeting. Required attendance for General Society Officers, Deputy Governors General and Assistants General. *Suggested Dress:* Business casual.
  - 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch – \$50.
- Lunch is open to all registered members and guests.

**Lunch Presentation:** “‘Facts’ Concerning the Texas Revolution That Just Ain’t True,” presented by Stephen L. Hardin, PhD, The Texan’s Historian.



Dr. Hardin is the author of numerous award-winning books on Texas history, and more than a dozen scholarly articles enjoyed by readers on both sides of the Atlantic. *Texian Iliad*, published in 1994, achieved distinction as a “Basic Texas Book” when bibliophile Mike Cox included it in *More Basic Texas Books*.

Dr. Hardin has served as an on-air commentator, appearing on such varied venues as the A&E Network, The History Channel, and NBC’s Today show. Most recently, he appeared on the Fox News series, “Legends & Lies.” He is a retired professor of history, previously at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas.

His newest book is *Texian Exodus: The Runaway Scrape and Its Enduring Legacy*, a narrative account of the evacuation of the Texians in 1836, which was redeemed by the defeat of the Mexican Army and the creation of the Republic of Texas.

6:00 to 9:30 p.m. Banquet and Cocktail Reception – \$95 with cash bar. *Suggested Dress:* Dressy or formal attire.



**Keynote Presentation:** “Using Autosomal DNA for 18th and 19th Century Mysteries,” presented by Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD, The Genetic Genealogist.



Even though our eighteenth- and nineteenth-century ancestors have been dead for decades, their DNA still survives in their descendants. Learn how to use autosomal DNA to attack and potentially solve genealogical mysteries and brick walls for ancestors who were born or lived in the 1800s, 1700s, and beyond.

Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD, is a professional genealogist specializing in DNA evidence. In 2007 he started The Genetic Genealogist ([www.thegeneticgenealogist.com](http://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com)), one of the earliest blogs on the topic. Blaine is the author of *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* and co-author with Debbie Parker Wayne of the award-winning *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, the world’s first genetic genealogy workbook. He also co-authored “Genetics for Genealogy” with Judy Russell in 2018’s *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards (ProGenPPS)* (Elizabeth Shown Mills, Author and Editor).

Blaine is or has been an instructor for genetic genealogy courses at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR), Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), and Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research. Blaine is a graduate of ProGen Study Group 21, a trustee for the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, and a member of the DNAngels Board of Directors since 2022 (President since January 2023), and a member of the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods (SWGDM) “Investigative Genetic Genealogy Working Group” since 2019. He is also the founder in 2017 of Genetic Genealogy Tips & Techniques, a very active Facebook group with more than 75,000 members.

### Sunday, September 7 – Governor General’s 1620 Club Event

By invitation only for 1620 Club members.  
*Suggested Dress:* Dressy.

### All Mayflower Society members are welcome in San Antonio!

This GBOA Meeting is a wonderful opportunity to meet and reconnect with Mayflower cousins and be



involved in Society business and decision-making. All General Society officers are urged to attend. If the elected or nominated Deputy Governor General (DGG) or Assistant General (AG) is unable to attend, “Acting” Officers may be designated for this meeting only.

**GBOA 2025 is not just for General Society Officers. All Mayflower Society members and family/guests are welcome in San Antonio to enjoy fantastic tours, listen to interesting speakers and connect with Mayflower cousins from near and far.**

Questions? Email Secretary General Martin Beerman at [SecretaryGeneral@TheMayflowerSociety.org](mailto:SecretaryGeneral@TheMayflowerSociety.org)

### IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- Tours registration ends July 1. No refunds for tour reservations canceled after July 1.
- \$75 Registration Fee ends Monday, July 14.
- \$100 Late Registration Fee ends Monday, August 4. No registrations after this date. No refunds for reservations canceled after August 4.
- \$169 Hotel Special Rate ends Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GBOA IN 2025

(Deletions are ~~struck through~~ and additions are **bolded** and underlined).

Proposed Amendment 1: **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 2: Application**  
*Amend by striking and inserting as follows:*

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 2: Application</b>  Every application for membership in a Member Society shall be made on an application blank provided by such Society. Such application shall be signed by the applicant, or guardian, in a manner authorized by the Member Society.	<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 2: Application</b>  Every application for membership in a Member Society shall be made on <del>an application blank provided by such Society</del> <b>using the technology and application template current at the time the application is to be submitted to GSMD</b> . Such application shall be signed by the applicant, or guardian, <del>in a manner authorized by the Member Society.</del>	<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 2: Application</b>  Every application for membership in a Member Society shall be made using the technology and application template current at the time the application is to be submitted to GSMD.

**Rationale:** Applications are able to be generated via the Easy App Generator while the current Word template is still available. It is assumed that all Historians will be asked to convert to Easy App Generator in the near future and no “blank application” will be used. Signatures have not been required for several years now.

Proposed Amendment 2: **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 3: Preliminary Application Terminated**  
*Amend by striking and inserting as follows:*

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 3. Preliminary Application Terminated</b>  After the preliminary application has been approved, the lineage papers shall be issued. If the lineage papers are not filled out in duplicate and filed with the Society within one year after the approval of the preliminary application, such approval shall lapse. Any Member Society, however, may, at its option, grant an extension of time.	<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 3. Preliminary Application Terminated</b>  After the preliminary application has been approved, the lineage papers shall <del>be issued.</del> <b>be completed using the technology current at the time of submission</b> . If the lineage papers are not <del>filled out in duplicate and filed</del> <b>submitted to GSMD</b> within one year after the approval of the preliminary application, such approval shall lapse. Any Member Society, however, may, at its option, grant an extension of time.	<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 3. Preliminary Application Terminated</b>  After the preliminary application has been approved, the lineage papers shall be completed using the technology current at the time of submission. If the lineage papers are not submitted to GSMD within one year after the approval of the preliminary application, such approval shall lapse. Any Member Society, however, may, at its option, grant an extension of time.

**Rationale:** To accommodate the changes brought on by digital submission of an application; no applications have been filed in duplicate for several years.

Proposed Amendment 3: **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 5: Copies of Lineage Documents**  
*Amend by striking and inserting as follows:*

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 5: Copies of Lineage Documents</b>  Any applicant for membership in any Member Society who shall make a request through a Member Society Historian for a copy of any lineage paper or documentary proofs that are in the office of the Historian General, shall be furnished the same at the fee as the General Board of Assistants may determine, said fees to be paid to the General Society through the Historian General.	<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 5: Copies of Lineage Documents</b>  Any applicant for membership in any Member Society who shall make a request through a Member Society Historian for a copy of any lineage paper or documentary proofs <b><u>subject to redactions of any information regarding events that occurred in the last 100 years,</u></b> that are in the office of the Historian General, shall be furnished the same at the fee as the General Board of Assistants may determine, said fees to be paid to the General Society. through the Historian General.	<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 5: Copies of Lineage Documents</b>  Any applicant for membership in any Member Society who shall make a request through a Member Society Historian for a copy of any lineage paper or documentary proofs subject to redactions of any information regarding events that occurred in the last 100 years, that are in the office of the Historian General, shall be furnished the same at the fee as the General Board of Assistants may determine, said fees to be paid to the General Society.

**Rationale:** Per our own NDA and generally accepted genealogical standards, we cannot release the details of an individual's birth, marriage or death if that event occurred in the last 100 years. This information must be redacted before the lineage paper or documents may be sold or otherwise released.

Proposed Amendment 4: **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7a: Transfer and Reinstatement of Membership**  
*Amend by striking and inserting as follows:*

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7a: Certificate of Good Standing</b>  If the application for transfer is acted upon favorably by the Member Society to which transfer is desired, the applicant, if entitled thereto, shall be granted a certificate of good standing forthwith from the Secretary of the Member Society from which the applicant desires to be transferred together with a copy of his, or her, lineage papers, and shall file the same with the Secretary of the Member Society to which transfer is requested.	<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7a: Certificate of Good Standing</b>  If the application for transfer is acted upon favorably by the Member Society to which transfer is desired, the applicant, if entitled thereto, shall be granted a certificate of good standing forthwith from the Secretary of the Member Society from which the applicant desires to be transferred together with a copy of his, or her, lineage papers, and shall file the same with the Secretary of the Member Society to which transfer is requested <b><u>the receiving Member Society shall confirm, via email, with the current Member Society that the member is in good standing. Once the transfer has been completed, the Historian from the receiving Member Society shall request a copy of the lineage papers from GSMD.</u></b>	<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7a: Certificate of Good Standing</b>  If the application for transfer is acted upon favorably by the Member Society to which transfer is desired, the receiving Member Society shall confirm, via email, with the current Member Society that the member is in good standing. Once the transfer has been completed, the Historian from the receiving Member Society shall request a copy of the lineage papers from GSMD.

**Rationale:** Actual certificates of a member's good standing are no longer issued. Instead, the standing of a member wishing to transfer is communicated via email exchange. Per the NDA begun in 2023 (now confidentiality agreement), lineage papers may not be transferred from one Society to another as confidentiality agreement compliance of any Member Society Officer is not known to other Member Society Officers. Instead, the receiving Society has been requesting these documents of the staff in Plymouth since early 2024.

Proposed Amendment 5: **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7b: Fees for Transfer by Transferring Member Society**  
*Amend by striking and inserting as follows:*

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7b: Fees for Transfer by Transferring Member Society</b>  The Member Society from which the transfer is made, shall make no charge for the certificate of good standing, but may charge a fee to be determined by it for the copy of the member's lineage papers. Documentary proof shall be furnished upon payment of the cost of the same.	<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7b: Fees for Transfer by Transferring Member Society</b>  The Member Society from which the transfer is made, shall make no charge for the certificate of good standing, but may charge a fee to be determined by it for the copy of the member's lineage papers. Documentary proof shall be furnished upon payment of the cost of the same.	All remaining paragraphs in Section 7 would be relettered.

**Rationale:** There are no costs associated to the Member Society losing the member for his/her transfer. Lineage papers are requested from GSMD and are forwarded electronically.

Proposed Amendment 6: **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7g: Reinstatement of a former Member Society Member**  
*Amend by striking and inserting as follows:*

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7g: Reinstatement of a former Member Society Member</b>  A former member of a Member Society may be re-instated in said Member Society by complying with such provisions governing like cases, as said Member Society may have established. However, no former member of a Member Society, who has been dropped from said Member Society for non-payment of dues, may become a member of another Member Society until re-instated in the same Member Society of which he was formerly a member. But any former member who is so re-instated, or who becomes a member of any other Member Society,	<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7g: Reinstatement of a former Member Society Member</b>  A former member of a Member Society may be re-instated <b><u>reinstated</u></b> in said Member Society by complying with such provisions governing like cases, as said Member Society may have established. <b><u>The fees to reinstate shall not exceed two years' dues plus a nominal reinstatement fee with one year's dues to cover the current year.</u></b> However, n <b><u>o</u></b> former member of a Member Society, who has been dropped from said Member Society for non-payment of dues, may become a member of another Member Society until re-instated <b><u>reinstated</u></b> in the	<b>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7f: Reinstatement of a former Member Society Member</b>  A former member of a Member Society may be reinstated in said Member Society by complying with such provisions governing like cases, as said Member Society may have established. The fees to reinstate shall not exceed two years' dues plus a nominal reinstatement fee with one year's dues to cover the current year. No former member of a Member Society, who has been dropped from said Member Society for non-payment of dues, may become a member of another Member Society until reinstated in the same Member Society of which he/she



Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
shall, in every case, retain the General Number originally assigned by the Historian General. Should such former member become a member of a Member Society other than the Member Society of which he, or she, was originally a member, the Secretary of such Member Society shall, within five days, notify the GSMD Membership Manager of the date of election and of the new Member Society Number assigned to such member.	same Member Society of which he/ <b>she</b> was formerly a member. But, any former member who is so re-instated <b>reinstated</b> , or who becomes a member of any other Member Society, shall, in every case, retain the General Number originally assigned by the Historian General. Should such former member become a member of a Member Society other than the Member Society of which he/ <del>or</del> she was originally a member, the Secretary of such Member Society shall, within five days, notify GSMD Membership <del>Manager</del> of the date of election and of the new Member Society Number assigned to such member.	was formerly a member. But, any former member who is so reinstated, or who becomes a member of any other Member Society, shall, in every case, retain the General Number originally assigned by the Historian General. Should such former member become a member of a Member Society other than the Member Society of which he/she was originally a member, the Secretary of such Member Society shall, within five days, notify GSMD Membership of the date of election and of the new Member Society Number assigned to such member.

**Rationale:** We cannot make reinstatement cost prohibitive. Instead, we should welcome back those members whose membership has lapsed.

Proposed Amendment 7: **ARTICLE V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Section 5: Executive Committee Members at Large**

*Amend by striking and inserting as follows:*

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<b>Article V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Section 4: Executive Committee Members-at-Large</b>  There shall be three Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee. The three Members-at-Large shall be elected from an East and West division. At least one, with a maximum of two Members-at-Large shall be from the East division. The East division shall consist of the Member Societies whose greater portion lies east of the Mississippi River and shall include Europe. The West division shall consist of the Member Societies whose greater portion lies west of the Mississippi, and shall include Minnesota, Canada and Australia. In the case of dual memberships, a member's Member Society shall be considered to be the Member Society that first received the initial application of the member, unless the member is an officer representing another Member Society.	<b>Article V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Section 4: Executive Committee Members-at-Large</b>  There shall be three Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee. <del>The three</del> <b>One</b> Members-at-Large shall be elected from an <del>East and West</del> division. At least one, with a maximum of two Members-at-Large shall be from the East division. <del>The East division shall consist of the Member Societies whose greater portion lies east of the Mississippi River and shall include Europe. The West division shall consist of the Member Societies whose greater portion lies west of the Mississippi, and shall include Minnesota, Canada and Australia.</del> <b>each of the following three regions, consisting of 18 member societies each:</b>  <b><u>Region 1: ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA, NJ, DE, MD, VA, DC, NC, SC, GA, FL &amp; EU.</u></b>  <b><u>Region 2: OH, KY, WV, TN, AL, MS, LA, IN, IL, MI, WI, MN, IA, MO, AR, ND, SD &amp; CN.</u></b>	<b>Article V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Section 4: Executive Committee Members-at-Large</b>  There shall be three Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee. One Member-at-Large shall be elected from each of the following three regions, consisting of 18 member societies each:  Region 1: ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA, NJ, DE, MD, VA, DC, NC, SC, GA, FL & EU.  Region 2: OH, KY, WV, TN, AL, MS, LA, IN, IL, MI, WI, MN, IA, MO, AR, ND, SD & CN.  Region 3: NE, KS, OK, TX, MT, WY, CO, NM, ID, UT, AZ, WA, OR, NV, CA, HI, AK & AU.  If a region has no MAL candidate nominated, the next highest candidate within one of the other two regions shall be elected.  In the case of dual memberships, a

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
	<b><u>Region 3: NE, KS, OK, TX, MT, WY, CO, NM, ID, UT, AZ, WA, OR, NV, CA, HI, AK &amp; AU.</u></b>  <b><u>If a region has no MAL candidate nominated, the next highest candidate within one of the other two regions shall be elected.</u></b>  In the case of dual memberships, a member's Member Society shall be considered to be the Member Society that first received the initial application of the member, unless the member is an officer representing another Member Society.	member's Member Society shall be considered to be the Member Society that first received the initial application of the member, unless the member is an officer representing another Member Society.

**Rationale:** There is continued confusion regarding the boundaries of the East and West Divisions and what areas each of the Members-at-Large would represent if elected. This amendment clearly defines how candidates shall be elected and what Member Societies each would represent if elected.

Proposed Amendment 8: **ARTICLE VII: GENERAL CONGRESS Section 7: Minutes**

*Amend by striking and inserting as follows:*

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<b>Article VII. GENERAL CONGRESS Section 7: Minutes</b>  Minutes of each meeting of the General Congress shall be published in The Mayflower Quarterly after approval by the Governor General and the Secretary General.	<b>Article VII. GENERAL CONGRESS Section 7: Minutes</b>  Minutes of each meeting of the General Congress shall be published in The Mayflower Quarterly <b>on the Society website at <u>www.TheMayflowerSociety.org</u></b> after approval by the Governor General and the Secretary General.	<b>Article VII. GENERAL CONGRESS Section 7: Minutes</b>  Minutes of each meeting of the General Congress shall be published on the Society website at <a href="http://www.TheMayflowerSociety.org">www.TheMayflowerSociety.org</a> after approval by the Governor General and the Secretary General.

**Rationale:** Publishing full minutes on the GSMD website offers members easy and continued access to the business of the Society at a reduced cost to the Society. A summary of meetings will continue to be published in the MQM as it was for Congress in 2023 and GBOA in 2024. This amendment reflects current practice.

Proposed Amendment 9: **ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS Section 1: Who May Submit an Amendment**

*Amend by striking and inserting as follows:*

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<b>ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS Section 1: Who May Submit an Amendment</b>  Amendments, alterations and additions to these Bylaws or the	<b>ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS Section 1: Who May Submit an Amendment</b>  Amendments, alterations and additions to these Bylaws or the	<b>ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS Section 1: Who May Submit an Amendment</b>  Amendments, alterations and additions to these Bylaws or the



Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
Society's Charter must be submitted in writing, by a vote of the General Board of Assistants or of a Member Society, to the Secretary General of the General Society, at least six months before the session of the General Congress at which such amendment is to be considered and the Secretary General shall mail a printed copy of all proposed amendments to the Secretary of each Member Society at least five months before such session.	Society's Charter must be submitted in writing, by a vote of the General Board of Assistants or of a Member Society, to the Secretary General of the General Society, at least six months before the session of the General Congress at which such amendment is to be considered and the Secretary General shall <del>mail a printed copy of</del> <b>email</b> all proposed amendments to the Secretary of each Member Society at least five months before such session.	Society's Charter must be submitted in writing, by a vote of the General Board of Assistants or of a Member Society, to the Secretary General of the General Society, at least six months before the session of the General Congress at which such amendment is to be considered and the Secretary General shall email all proposed amendments to the Secretary of each Member Society at least five months before such session.

**Rationale:** Current practice is to email proposed amendments, rather than mailing a printed copy.

## Pilgrims to Patriots – Celebrating America’s 250th

MARTIN W. BEERMAN, SECRETARY GENERAL

We are excited to present the perfect accessory to showcase your Pilgrim pride: the new *Pilgrims to Patriots* scarf! Look stylish while honoring the incredible legacy of our Pilgrim ancestors and their descendants who fought for independence in 1775. This exclusive new scarf draws inspiration from *Liberty’s Pulpit*, a stunning painting by American artist Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1863-1930), which depicts a Patriot standing on Plymouth Rock in front of the Mayflower Meetinghouse.

Measuring 42” x 42”, this beautifully crafted, double-sided pure silk scarf is a tribute to the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony and their Patriot descendants. The rich navy, red, and white design features a striking image of the Patriot on Plymouth Rock, along with alternating colonial and fifty-star flags, all framed by four majestic American eagles.

For a contribution of \$135 to the Mayflower Meetinghouse restoration project, you can claim this special limited-edition scarf. In addition, a companion *Pilgrims to Patriots* necktie is also available for a \$75 contribution. Your generous donation helps fund the restoration of the Mayflower Meetinghouse, ensuring that the history of the Pilgrims and Patriots is preserved for future generations.

By contributing, you are not just receiving a beautiful keepsake, you are playing a crucial role in revitalizing Plymouth’s Town Square with a transformed Meetinghouse that will offer immersive, multimedia

experiences. Visitors will be transported back in time to experience the Pilgrims’ journey firsthand, from breathtaking stained-glass windows to a sanctuary that envelopes guests in a 360-degree historical experience.

Help preserve this cherished landmark and pave the way for an innovative museum that will educate, inspire, and leave a lasting impression on all who enter. As a token of our gratitude, your exclusive scarf or necktie will serve as a constant reminder of your contribution to preserving this extraordinary legacy.

Do not miss out on this unique opportunity to honor both the Pilgrims and their Patriot descendants. To claim your exclusive scarf or necktie, visit [www.TheMayflowerSociety.org](http://www.TheMayflowerSociety.org), click on “Donate,” select The Mayflower Meetinghouse Project,” then scroll down to “Support the Mayflower Meetinghouse Project” or send your contribution to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 18 Winslow Street, Plymouth, MA 02360.

Let’s ensure that the Mayflower story continues to inspire and educate for generations to come!



# Express Indexing is Here!

CHRIS SCHLOSSER, TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE CHAIR

## EXPRESS INDEXING IS HERE!

Easy App Generator is a tool created by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and launched in September 2024 to help Member Society Historians find prior approved applications that closely match an applicant’s line and then generates a new member application populated with all of the generational information (names, dates, places, citations) filled in.

This tool is based on lineage information indexed by volunteer indexers found on approved applications. GSMD continues to need your help in indexing more applications so that the Easy App Generator is a more useful tool in finding a close match for prospective members or for those members submitting supplementals. As of March 1, 2025, indexers have indexed over 26,000 applications, but many more applications remain to be indexed so we need a big crew to accomplish this task!

## WHAT IS EXPRESS INDEXING...

In January of 2025, GSMD introduced Express Indexing, which means, for applications approved prior to September 1, 2015, indexers are primarily indexing only the names in the lineage, not the details for birth, marriage, and death. GSMD made this change because pre-September 1, 2015, citations were out of date with information in the *Silver Books*, as well as with other citation challenges. GSMD has also tripled the number of applications being indexed each month, thereby making more information available to the Easy App Generator.

## THE DETAILS OF EXPRESS INDEXING

The indexers are indexing both the Line Carrier and Spouse names as well as any Additional Spouse names for both. The parents of the Spouse are entered when available. Indexers are also still capturing the information that links to other applications that may have relevant supporting information. This Express Indexing should provide current Historians with the clues they need to use the lineage and bring the citation information up to current standards.

## EXPRESS INDEXING VERSUS FULL INDEXING

The biggest bonus is that Express Indexing an application takes just fifteen to thirty minutes. Full Indexing, with between 400–500 fields to enter per application, can take over an hour to complete. New indexers will focus on Express Indexing. The experienced indexers, who are more familiar with Full Indexing, will be assigned the remaining applications approved after September 1, 2015.

## WHO CAN BE A MAYFLOWER INDEXER?

Only Mayflower Society members are eligible to participate as indexers. To ensure the confidentiality of application data, all indexers are required to sign a Confidentiality Agreement prior to starting the project.

## WHAT DOES A MAYFLOWER INDEXER DO?

Indexers view a previously approved application via the internet on a desktop or laptop computer 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 the GSMD applications for easy data entry.

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

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

## WHEN CAN A MAYFLOWER INDEXER INDEX?

Indexers can volunteer in their homes at times convenient to them for as much time as they want. The indexing platform will be open for business and available to Mayflower Indexers 24/7. You can do as little or as much as you have time for.



## 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 member or supplemental applications with data that has previously been approved, but will also serve as a central location (called One Source) for GSMD 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).

# In Memoriam

**Former Captain General** Arthur “Art” Frederick Young Jr. of Delmar, New York, passed away on January 8, 2025, at the age of 95. Former Captain General Young served the General Society of Mayflower Descendants as Captain General from 2002 to 2005 and served the New York Society as Elder from 2004 to 2016, and as GSMD Deputy Governor General – New York until 2016.

Young was dedicated to serving his country, community and the many non-profit organizations of which he was a member. In 1948, he enlisted in the US Army, serving as a Staff Sergeant, 1st Infantry Division during the occupation of Germany post-WWII. Young’s career in banking lasted over forty years.

He was a descendant of Mayflower passengers William Brewster, John Howland, and Joan Hurst Tilley. Young is survived by his wife Anne Young, his three children: the Honorable David A. Young, Susan Young McCormick and Elizabeth Young Waidelich, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



▲ Former Captain General Arthur “Art” Young Jr.

**Joseph Edgar “Ed” Sherman Jr.** of Simpsonville, South Carolina, passed away on February 10, 2024, at the age of 84. Sherman served the South Carolina Society as Governor from 1999 to 2002, Acting Historian from 2004 to 2005, and Historian from 2005 to 2008. He was a descendant of Mayflower passenger William Brewster. Sherman is survived by his wife Beverly Sherman, his son Joseph Edgar “Joe” Sherman III, and his daughter Amy Sherman Oppen.

**Duncan Ward Smith** of Seminole, Florida, passed away on December 22, 2024, at the age of 87. Smith was a Charter member of the Alaska Society in which he had been a member for sixty-one years. He served the Alaska Society as Surgeon from 2024 until his death. Smith was a descendant of Mayflower passengers Samuel Fuller, Francis Eaton, Isaac Allerton, John Howland, John Billington, Stephen Hopkins, William Brewster, Peter Brown, and Richard Warren. He is survived by his daughters Sophia Gregg Reimer and Consuelo Gregg Scott and four 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).

# Judith Swan In Memoriam

LEA FILSON, FORMER GOVERNOR GENERAL

Judith Haddock Swan was born in Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts, on February 26, 1948. She passed away at the age of 76 on February 11, 2025, in Huntington Beach, California. She served as General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Governor General from 2008 to 2011.

What a privilege it was to be among Judy’s friends. At my very first General Board of Assistants (GBOA) meeting, she welcomed me warmly and made me feel comfortable, explaining the quirks and inside stories within the society. That is when I first heard her laugh. We had so many laughs through the years.

When she became Governor General, she was an inspiration to everyone. Here are only a few of her accomplishments during her term.

- Created our GSMD scholarship program.
- Expertly ran the Silver Books Project before, during, and after her term as Governor General.
- Created an anonymous committee that researches the work and recommends a decision to the Historian General for those who need lineal proof arguments.
- Crafted a beautiful scrap book after her term of every Member Society she visited across the US with the names and photos of every member she met.

She was a generous donor to the society, both public and anonymous. When she learned about a member who had several proven ancestors but could not afford to purchase the medal and bars to proudly wear, she quietly bought the medal and bars for them.

Judy served on the GSMD Executive Committee as Treasurer General before becoming Governor General. Always smiling, she and her best friend, Carol Leavitt, who was Secretary General, were known for writing jokes to each other throughout GBOA meetings.

Judy received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business at California State University Long Beach. She was a brilliant leader as a university administrator during her twenty-five-year career.

She was known for her patient, calm, and positive demeanor and carried those talents to the California Society as well as to the General Society. She was a member and leader of many lineal societies.

Judy married her true love Philip Swan in 1978. She shared his passion for birdwatching which took them all over the world.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents, Marvin and Ruth Haddock, and her sister Kathy North. Her survivors include her husband and her beloved children Marvin Swan and Michelle Farrell. She was so proud of her grandchildren Michael, Marley, Melanie, and Mikayla Farrell and Brandon Swan. In addition to her immediate family, Judy’s extended family included her Mayflower cousins.

Judith Haddock Swan leaves this earth a better place. She is the model of a life well lived and always set the example of someone who followed their better angel, encouraging compassion and understanding, even when faced with conflict. She will be remembered as warm, giving, and wise. With her valued counsel, she often changed the lives of those she loved.

Judith Marie Haddock Swan will be missed but never forgotten.



▲ Former Governor General Judith Swan.





# Why I Joined The Mayflower Society

## JILL S. CHAPMAN

### Grateful for my Mayflower ancestors

“Could it be? No, probably not,” I said to myself. I had never heard of our family having a connection to the *Mayflower*. My parents, Jack Sheridan, and Christine Legge Sheridan, took my two sisters, Wendy and Sandy, and me to Plymouth in the early 1960s. I recall thinking “One must be very special to have ancestors going that far back.”



▲ Jill Chapman at grave of her ancestor Jonathan Brewster.

Skip ahead forty plus years and I discover Lucy Ann Brewster who married a Campfield ancestor in my direct lineage. I wondered to myself, “What are the chances Lucy Ann Brewster is related to William Brewster of the *Mayflower*?” This curiosity prompted more research which culminated in my submitting a Mayflower Lineage Match to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) for review. This review was a good option and really helped!

The review of my Mayflower Lineage Match found no proven record of Lucy Ann Brewster’s daughter, Catherine Campfield, but another approved application contained a very similar name. I needed to connect my line to this proven line. Bingo! I found sisters that could be connected as siblings to prove my line! One sister and her husband are buried in front of the other sister and her husband in a cemetery in Berkshire, New York.

My now proven Mayflower line reveals that I have seven generations of Brewster males before a female appears in my direct line. My family had no idea of this connection. I think my parents would have been excited to know I had joined The Mayflower Society.

My Mayflower membership led to my serving as a Colony Governor for six years and then as Member Society Governor for North Carolina. Being a member of The Mayflower Society has made me very grateful for my ancestors. Our Mayflower ancestors had to persevere through much. Bless them!

## NEYSA GARRETT

### I documented my ancestors to the Silver Books

I have been interested in family history since childhood.

My great-grandfather, Edmund Janes Carpenter (1845–1924), wrote books on American history, among them *The Pilgrims and Their Monument* (1911) and *The Mayflower Pilgrims* (1918). While researching his life and reading through his letters, I learned that he had been a member of the Tercentenary Committee for the 1920 Mayflower Celebration. I had fantasies that perhaps I too could be invited to ride in a parade through Provincetown, where he and his family had their summer house. And I wondered if he had a Mayflower ancestor to inspire this research.

▲ The summer home of Edmund Carpenter in Provincetown.



Our Carpenter ancestors arrived in America on the *Bevis* in 1636 and were original settlers of Rehoboth, Massachusetts, but I have never found any Mayflower connection there; however, Edmund’s wife, Lydia Etta Snow, proved to be a descendant of William Snow, who came to America on the *Susan and Ellen* in 1635 and married Rebeckah Browne, daughter of Peter Browne and Peter’s second wife Mary () Browne. Peter, a weaver, was a Mayflower passenger in 1620.

My ancestor was William Snow and Rebeckah (Browne) Snow’s son Joseph Snow who married Hopestill Alden, a granddaughter of Mayflower Passengers John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, whose names are familiar to most Americans. Joseph’s brother Benjamin married Hopestill’s sister Elizabeth Alden.

My Snow ancestors moved from Plymouth to Duxbury to Bridgewater to Providence, Rhode Island, where they remained for many generations. Edmund and Lydia met and married in Providence but moved to Milton, Massachusetts, where they raised their six children. Lydia may have shared Edmund’s interest in the *Mayflower*, but she never joined The Mayflower

Society, nor did any of her close relatives; I had to document all my ancestors back to the first five generations enumerated in the Peter Browne *Silver Book*. I had already completed some of the research necessary for my application, but work remained to acquire and organize birth, marriage, and death certificates, as well as wills, census, and graveyard records.

It was an interesting intellectual activity, especially since my application required several explanatory pages to cover some discrepancies in the records. I was thrilled to be accepted as a member of The Mayflower Society in the fall of 2019, but saddened the following spring when there were no festivities, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower* in New England.

Since joining The Mayflower Society, I have read quite a bit about the Mayflower passengers and was especially interested to learn, through Caleb Johnson’s research, that both Peter Browne and the Mullins family were from Dorking in Surrey, where their families were closely connected. That connection apparently continued in the New World, with the marriage of Peter Browne’s grandsons to William Mullins’ great-granddaughters.

## JOHN SHERMAN

### My Mayflower membership has been a blessing

My Mayflower journey started when my mother passed away and we found a handwritten story from her great-grandmother stating an ancestor had fought in the American Revolutionary War. I applied for and received membership in the Sons of the American Revolution.

My sister-in-law Diane, wife of my half-brother, and our nieces were visiting when the subject arose of enrolling our nieces in the Children of the American Revolution. During this conversation, my wife Judy remarked, “It’s too bad the girls aren’t on John’s dad’s side of the family. They would be Mayflower descendants through William Bradford.” Diane asked, “**THE** William Bradford?” Judy answered, “Yes.” I exclaimed, “WHAT?!”

Judy had found a genealogy stating that my fourth-great-grandmother was a Bradford descendant. I had momentarily seen the assertion, but did not believe it, and then forgot about the possible lineage connection.

This time, I don’t know why, but something possessed me to prove this lineage assertion to be only family

folklore. I spent the weekend on the computer, and after going down and coming out of several rabbit holes, I felt I had proof, although it was not what I expected. I told Judy, “I think it is true, but I can’t believe it.” I submitted a Mayflower Lineage Match to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and received a response stating a line existed from William Bradford to my Great Aunt Lizzie. I submitted an application for membership to GSMD and waited hopefully. When I received confirmation that my Mayflower application had been approved, my chest puffed.

What I appreciate most about our Member Society meetings is the roll call of our Mayflower ancestors. A guest on “Finding Your Roots” once stated that we die twice. First, when our physical bodies die; and secondly, the last time someone says our name. The Mayflower Society remembers our ancestors and preserves their story. In remembrance and lest we forget, our Thanksgiving table is set with napkin rings that are engraved with the names of our Mayflower ancestors.

Membership in The Mayflower Society has led me on a journey of meaningful family and historical discoveries. I have made many friends on my journey and learned to appreciate the hardships and toils our ancestors faced from which we and our country have all benefited. It has been a blessing to be a member.

“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 Fall issue of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* is July 1.



MEMBER SOCIETY FEES AND DUES FOR 2025

Member Society	Application Fee	Annual Dues	Life Membership Fees	Supplemental Fee	Junior Registration Fee	Number of Junior Members
Alabama	\$0	\$60	N/A	\$200	N/A	N/A
Alaska	\$210	\$50	N/A	\$160	N/A	N/A
Arizona	\$227	\$52	N/A	\$175	\$25	84
Arkansas	\$250	\$45	N/A	\$155	\$15	54
Australia	\$180	\$85	N/A	\$180	\$25	6
California	\$245	\$75	N/A	\$185	\$60	324
Canada	\$215 CDN	\$75 CDN	N/A	\$215 CDN	\$25 CDN	33
Colorado	\$180	\$50	N/A	\$175	\$75	117
Connecticut	\$250	\$65	\$1,301-\$1,950	\$200	\$50	297
Delaware	\$175	\$65	\$520-\$1,300	\$150	\$20	85
D.C.	\$200	\$65	Sliding	\$200	\$25	11
Europe	\$240	\$60	N/A	\$180	N/A	0
Florida	\$190	\$54	Sliding	\$190	\$30	958
Georgia	\$315	\$65	N/A	\$150	\$40	700
Hawaii	\$210	\$60	N/A	\$190	\$25	138
Idaho	\$250	\$45	\$655	\$200	\$25	N/A
Illinois	\$250	\$75	Sliding	\$175	\$15	248
Indiana	\$265	\$80	\$800	\$185	N/A	289
Iowa	\$200	\$45	N/A	\$150	\$15	14
Kansas	\$223	\$53	N/A	\$170	\$20	32
Kentucky	\$175	\$60	\$1,000	\$175	\$25	381
Louisiana	\$250	\$75	N/A	\$250	\$75	38
Maine	\$200	\$50	N/A	\$175	\$35	530
Maryland	\$350	\$65	N/A	\$225	\$50	506
Massachusetts	\$350	\$95	Sliding	\$300	\$100	30
Michigan	\$212	\$52	\$130-\$569	\$160	\$10	45
Minnesota	\$290	\$65	N/A	\$225	\$45	135
Mississippi	\$200	\$50	\$750	\$175	\$5	14
Missouri	\$175	\$50	N/A	\$125	\$25	83
Montana	\$195	\$45	N/A	\$150	\$25	88
Nebraska	\$175	\$45	N/A	\$175	\$15	146
Nevada	\$225	\$50	N/A	\$175	\$25	217
New Hampshire	\$275	\$75	N/A	\$200	\$30	61
New Jersey	\$275	\$50	\$1,200	\$200	\$10	71
New Mexico	\$220	\$56	N/A	\$200	\$10	52
New York	\$150	\$150	\$3,000	\$150	\$100	43
North Carolina	\$200	\$50	N/A	\$200	\$35	352
North Dakota	\$175	\$60	N/A	\$175	\$15	38
Ohio	\$180	\$56	N/A	\$165-\$170	\$25	102
Oklahoma	\$205	\$55	N/A	\$150	\$6	66
Oregon	\$200	\$50	N/A	\$200	\$20	60
Pennsylvania	\$245	\$70	N/A	\$150	\$0	129
Rhode Island	\$200	\$35	\$2,000	\$200	\$3	106
South Carolina	\$230	\$70	\$275-\$2,300	\$230	\$50	12
South Dakota	\$150	\$60	Sliding	\$150	\$15	409
Tennessee	\$200	\$50	N/A	\$150	\$25	N/A
Texas	\$220	\$50	\$1,500	\$170	\$15	110
Utah	\$175	\$60	N/A	\$150	N/A	371
Vermont	\$200	\$55	Sliding	\$200	\$10	124
Virginia	\$200	\$75	N/A	\$200	\$10	16
Washington	\$175	\$49	N/A	\$175	\$15	534
West Virginia	\$190	\$40	N/A	\$150	\$15	17
Wisconsin	\$245	\$50	Sliding	\$195	\$25	518
Wyoming	\$200	\$70	N/A	\$175	\$5	26

GSMD MEMBERSHIP TOTALS, 2015-2024

Member Society	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Alabama	212	201	243	254	256	271	256	240	226	196
Alaska	59	63	60	61	59	66	64	68	66	73
Arizona	333	350	360	358	402	406	384	387	382	383
Arkansas	81	83	100	99	123	112	126	117	129	117
Australia	51	57	49	43	37	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
California	2,045	2,523	2,615	2,512	2,615	2,392	2,410	2,404	2,476	2,504
Canada	231	246	264	245	239	267	254	249	245	255
Colorado	523	617	595	591	619	540	513	492	492	475
Connecticut	1,451	1,497	1,452	1,488	1,514	1,444	1,404	1,379	1,363	1,361
Delaware	172	173	176	183	184	172	193	186	187	187
District/Columbia	442	442	429	414	413	420	440	439	410	420
Europe	68	62	64	59	60	68	65	61	59	N/A
Florida	1,557	1,507	1,564	1,548	1,539	1,570	1,526	1,451	1,390	1,338
Georgia	300	359	324	396	383	354	369	373	362	353
Hawaii	52	62	72	74	93	95	99	92	90	88
Idaho	154	153	157	151	154	143	144	133	142	143
Illinois	1,043	1,087	1,110	1,101	1,106	1,120	1,097	1,085	1,066	1,045
Indiana	427	417	427	414	432	445	452	428	433	445
Iowa	332	364	329	331	369	379	376	371	374	366
Kansas	388	402	407	440	451	436	439	404	384	393
Kentucky	246	241	228	210	198	201	194	190	187	175
Louisiana	154	159	178	172	176	169	171	164	154	165
Maine	1,050	1,098	1,113	1,108	1,097	1,088	1,108	1,091	1,090	1,112
Maryland	489	517	506	488	471	424	474	444	407	397
Massachusetts	3,774	3,796	3,883	3,879	3,892	3,706	3,628	3,526	3,381	3,372
Michigan	1,020	1,024	1,035	986	928	858	828	821	823	845
Minnesota	418	440	457	476	465	463	466	450	445	498
Mississippi	174	184	184	176	179	184	190	183	177	177
Missouri	275	304	306	322	309	304	306	302	303	304
Montana	106	106	109	118	119	123	116	116	117	113
Nebraska	212	240	269	271	269	277	296	284	290	297
Nevada	162	177	177	178	178	169	159	158	150	133
New Hampshire	590	606	603	571	593	593	595	566	540	557
New Jersey	744	789	786	764	831	825	786	792	804	789
New Mexico	142	150	144	144	153	185	176	171	164	161
New York	1,495	1,643	1,590	1,568	1,513	1,396	1,437	1,404	1,294	1,255
North Carolina	350	350	352	541	567	574	581	597	696	675
North Dakota	110	109	111	105	113	121	118	123	115	110
Ohio	935	939	900	984	999	932	946	916	891	873
Oklahoma	192	195	186	190	170	275	267	256	258	252
Oregon	264	269	272	257	263	246	235	215	218	206
Pennsylvania	795	818	852	819	801	758	776	757	741	718
Rhode Island	475	505	494	491	504	490	478	474	448	441
South Carolina	414	448	462	431	440	403	385	377	405	393
South Dakota	306	328	326	309	308	315	309	296	283	277
Tennessee	192	189	194	242	243	233	212	195	199	195
Texas	1,200	1,285	1,427	1,442	1,424	1,472	1,414	1,344	1,300	1,258
Utah	253	254	316	301	285	294	255	266	293	281
Vermont	459	467	473	616	606	606	556	581	596	606
Virginia	705	869	948	891	847	782	774	748	725	724
Washington	369	362	362	351	400	459	441	451	423	448
West Virginia	48	53	58	58	60	53	46	45	46	46
Wisconsin	538	547	626	641	641	621	581	557	538	534
Wyoming	53	61	78	81	101	104	108	107	107	117
TOTAL	28,630	30,187	30,802	30,943	31,191	30,403	30,023	29,326	28,884	28,646



# Soule Kindred in America Reunion

RANDY BREESE, PRESIDENT

Soule Kindred in America, the Family Society of George Soule, held its 2024 reunion in Maggie Valley, North Carolina, September 12–15. Attendees spent the long weekend at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center and enjoyed passing the time on the long front porch where rocking chairs awaited them, the perfect place to reconnect with old friends and get to know new ones.

Attendees were treated to one of two train rides through the beautiful Smoky Mountains on Thursday. The morning train departed from Chattanooga and provided a trip through historic bridges, a historic tunnel and a tour of the Soule Restoration Shop. The afternoon train provided a four-hour ride through the beautiful Lower Hiwassee River gorge.

Friday was spent at the Biltmore Mansion in Asheville. The Biltmore House was built for George Washington Vanderbilt II, between 1889 and 1895, and is the largest privately owned house in the United States. Still owned by George Vanderbilt’s descendants, the mansion remains one of the most prominent examples of Gilded Age architecture.

The reunion attendees gathered for dinner at a Maggie Valley restaurant Friday evening and were treated to a presentation by Caleb Johnson, the

renowned Mayflower Pilgrim researcher. Caleb has authored a number of books and a YouTube documentary on George Soule. Caleb has been credited with multiple discoveries of records that document the origins of various Pilgrims. He continues to search for the origins of George Soule.

Saturday morning the group was treated to a wonderful breakfast buffet at the Living Waters and then departed for Cherokee along the Great Smoky Mountain Parkway. Cousins enjoyed a picnic lunch in Great Smoky Mountain National Park, while Becket Soule talked about Mayflower Descendant Col. William Holland Thomas. The group explored various businesses in the Cherokee Village and then headed back to Living Waters for a barbecue dinner.

Sunday morning all were treated to another fine breakfast and then said their goodbyes as attendees headed home or to their next destination. One week later, Hurricane Helene hit Florida and moved up the coast to North Carolina, causing flooding and damage to Asheville and surrounding towns. Thankfully, Living Waters Reflection Center posted that all of the staff were well and safe, and the facility remained open.

**Visit Soule Kindred in America at:**  
[www.soulekindred.org](http://www.soulekindred.org)

an incredibly powerful way to make an impact for a cause you support.

Once on the FreeWill page, just follow the systematic instructions to fill out the necessary information. You can print your documents to keep with your own records. FreeWill can assist you with your estate planning, long-term giving, and provide you with peace of mind that you now have a will.

We hope that you find this helpful and a cost savings to you.

# Edward Winslow Thanksgiving 2025/Droitwich Spa

KATHLEEN M. (KATHY) MYERS

*“Welcome to the historic town of Droitwich Spa. Surrounded by the beautiful Worcestershire countryside, it is a town of great charm offering its visitors plenty of things to do, attractions and places to visit.*

*The spa town has been the site of a settler community for over 2000 years. It owes its existence to the natural brine springs which emanate from subterranean beds of pure rock salt 200 feet below the ground. Dissolved by underground springs, artesian pressure forces the salt to the surface as brine. Its density and buoyancy are only rivalled by the Dead Sea”*

It was in the community of Droitwich Spa that Edward Winslow Sr., who was involved in the salt trade, along with his wife, Magdalene Olliver, chose to raise their five sons who later became an important part of American history. As church-going Anglicans, the births of their children were dutifully recorded in the records of St. Peter’s Church.

Best known of their sons was Pilgrim Edward Winslow who sailed on the *Mayflower* with his brother, Gilbert Winslow. A few short years later, their brothers, Kenelm, John and Josiah followed them to the new world.

Edward Winslow, born on October 18, 1595, and baptized two days later on October 20 at St. Peter’s Church, Droitwich, is known for his skills in diplomacy, writing and politics. But his ability to forge friendships with the Native American community, battle in England’s corridors of power, and help communicate the *Mayflower’s* legacy all mean he is one of the story’s crucial figures.

In 2024, Droitwich Spa hosted its first Edward Winslow Day on Thursday, November 28. The day was advertised as a day of “friendship, thanks, diplomacy and peace.” On the Edward Winslow Facebook page, the question was asked, “What is the Edward Winslow Day?”

The Edward Winslow Day was created to recognize a Droitwich native who was a key figure in history. The idea to recognize Winslow on the **American** Thanksgiving Day is due to Winslow’s description of the First Thanksgiving. Everything we know about the First Thanksgiving in 1621 is based on a few lines from a letter Winslow wrote:

*“Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the Company almost a week, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men,*

*whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deer, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.”*<sup>2</sup>



▲ Statue of Pilgrim Edward Winslow.

The 2025 celebration will be titled, “Edward Winslow Thanksgiving 2025,” and will be held from November 27–29. It has been expanded to “recognize the historical significance of the Winslow family from Droitwich.”<sup>3</sup>

On Edward Winslow Day, Thursday, November 27, the day’s events include the raising of the American flag over St. Richard’s House; dressing the statue of the Pilgrim Edward Winslow in the town center at St. Andrew’s Square; an exhibition on the voyage of the *Mayflower* at the library; Thanksgiving meals; and a Thanksgiving service at St. Peters Church at 6:00 p.m.

On Friday, November 28, the town will host Winslow Friday to mirror Black Friday sales to support local shops and trades, along with presentation of awards.

Saturday, November 29, the Winslow Festival will hold a street market, music around the town, and the formal taking down of the American flag to close out the festivities.

Droitwich Spa is located south of the City of Birmingham, north of the City of Worcester where the Pilgrim Edward Winslow was a King’s Scholar at the Worcester Cathedral Grammar School, to the east where one can find Shakespeare’s Country and Stratford-Upon-Avon, and to the west of Droitwich Spa are the black and white villages of Herefordshire and Wales.<sup>4</sup>

This event will be a true celebration of one of Droitwich’s celebrated citizens and the long history of friendship between the United States and Great Britain. For additional information on Edward Winslow Thanksgiving 2025, please contact:

Richard Morris, Councillor at [rmorris4@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:rmorris4@worcestershire.gov.uk) or Edward Winslow Day on Facebook.

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. “Visit Droitwich Spa”, <a href="https://www.visitdroitwichspa.com/droitwich/">https://www.visitdroitwichspa.com/droitwich/</a> . | 2. “Edward Winslow Day on Facebook.” |
| 3. “Visit Droitwich Spa.”   | 4. “Visit Droitwich Spa.”            |

## New Exclusive Member Benefit: Complimentary Online Will Preparation through FreeWill

MARK SCHMIDT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) introduced a new benefit in April—FreeWill. This is a company that allows you to create a will for no charge, saving you the expense of legal bills. You write up your wishes, then FreeWill provides the legal language needed to make your document official, and gives you the opportunity to edit it should you need to update your information. FreeWill is also secure—it is 100% free and will never sell your personal data. Many of FreeWill’s users choose to leave a bequest to charity or to their favorite nonprofit, such as GSMD. They believe that leaving a bequest in your will can be



# MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

## FLORIDA

### Myles Standish Colony Celebrates its Fiftieth Anniversary

On March 4, 2025, the Myles Standish Colony (Colony) of the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants (FSMD) celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary.

At the meeting, certificates signed by Colony Governor Carolyn Alden and FSMD Governor Brian McWaters, were presented commemorating all members who had belonged to the Colony for at least ten years. In all, seventy-five certificates will be distributed including one for Charles Strome, a founding member who has been a member of the Myles Standish Colony for fifty years!

Vice Governor Nancy Zolidis gave a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Colony. This presentation featured the late Fran Lopus, a beloved, long-time and active member of our Colony whom we lost in January 2025. Fran joined the Colony on January 25, 1990, and was a Governor of the Colony from 1999 to 2002, Florida Society Governor from 2005 to 2009, GSMD Assistant General – Florida from 2008 to 2011 and GSMD Deputy Governor General – Florida from 2011 to 2014. Fran's family donated several of her Mayflower memorabilia for a Silent Auction. All items were won

by bid and the auction raised \$654. A member then generously donated the difference between the amount raised and \$1,000. The proceeds of the auction were donated to the Meetinghouse Restoration Project. This contribution is in addition to a \$2,000 donation suggested by Fran Lopus and approved by the Executive Committee.

A gorgeous cake decorated with Colony and Mayflower insignia was served.

**Written by: Carolyn E. Alden, Esquire Governor, Myles Standish Colony of the Florida Society of Mayflower Descendants**

**Submitted by: Brian McWaters, Florida Society Governor**



▲ Top: Member Kris Brown and Colony Governor Carolyn Alden. Bottom: Former Colony Governors Nancy Ratner and Ann Lambert Kremer.

## INDIANA

### Indiana Society's Mayflower Compact Fellowship

The Indiana Society strives to provide its members and scholarship recipients with meaningful education about our Pilgrim ancestors and to build fellowship among our members. To better connect our members to the purpose of our society and to support our mission, the Indiana Society has created a giving program named the Mayflower Compact Fellowship (the "Fellowship"). Monetary gifts made through the Fellowship support our Indiana Governor's Fund

which is used for all Indiana Society activities. A tax-deductible contribution of \$250 allows entry into the Fellowship for one calendar year from the date of donation. Members of the Fellowship receive a Mayflower Compact Fellowship pin and a certificate which are presented at the Membership Luncheon or mailed directly to recipient.

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

## OHIO

### Ohio Society is Holding a Writing Competition for Juniors

The Ohio Society (SMDOH), as part of its strategic plan, is encouraging Junior Members to participate in state and colony activities. Over the past few years, the Ohio Society's scholarship program has not generated interest or qualified candidates for our annual scholarship. The scholarship award goes to an applicant who writes an original essay on a topic determined by the SMDOH Scholarship Committee. We have brainstormed this situation with the help of our new Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Heather Horton, and have a plan that we believe will give our Junior Members a chance to become published in the *Buckeye Mayflower* newsletter, receive a monetary prize for being selected and gain skills and confidence in their writing that could help them earn the SMDOH scholarship or other scholarships in the future.

We are opening this writing competition to Junior Members who are in middle school through high school, with general Mayflower or Colonial period focus in which both groups can contribute. The Juniors' challenge is to write a short story of 200 words or less on a topic that will be of interest to these age groups. The upcoming topic will be published in the newsletter as well as sent by *Constant Contact* email to our members. In reviewing these articles, the committee will be looking for originality together with the basic grammatical requirements. The committee is aware of the temptation of AI (Artificial Intelligence) programs that can write the story, but we know how creative a student can be without AI assistance. We do not think a student will submit an article that AI wrote. We hope this will be fun for the Juniors and we know it will be fun for the members of the committee, and the readers of the newsletter. We will let you know how it goes!

**Submitted by: Beth Anderson, Governor SMDOH**

## OKLAHOMA

### Oklahoma Society Honors Patterson for Twenty Years of Service as Historian

Following twenty years of successful service as Historian for the Oklahoma Society, Kathy Patterson "put down the pen" as Historian at the Fall 2024 Compact meeting. Kathy joined The Mayflower Society in 1994, following her father, Edward Arthur Alvis, who had joined a few months earlier as a result of Kathy's research. Two years later, in 1996, Kathy completed the Mayflower lineage research for her husband, Malcolm (Mac) Patterson. Kathy and Mac are both Life Members of the Oklahoma Society.

During the 2000 to 2002 term of office, Kathy's father, Edward Alvis, served as the Oklahoma Governor, while Kathy served as Member Society Secretary. Kathy began her service as Member Society Historian

in 2004, and continued to serve for the next twenty years. During her twenty year stretch the Oklahoma Society welcomed 318 new members. Many of our current members fall into that category of someone Kathy assisted with the application process. She can also include many approved supplemental applications. Kathy reported that she had only two rejections during those twenty years.

Kathy also served the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) as the Oklahoma Deputy Governor General from 2010 to 2020, and she also served as the GSMD Chair of the Education



▲ Past Oklahoma Historian Kathy Patterson.



Committee during the 2011 to 2014 term of Governor General Bruce MacGunnigle.

At the 2024 membership meeting the Oklahoma Society honored Kathy with the GSMD Commendation Award. In 2022, a brick was placed in her honor in the sidewalk of the Mayflower Society House that leads to the Mayflower Research Library.

Now retired from her teaching career in the Oklahoma City public and charter schools, Kathy and her husband are at home on the family farm near Hydro, Oklahoma, living in the original rock house built by her grandparents in 1945.

On behalf of the entire Oklahoma Society, we want to say, THANK YOU KATHY!

## OREGON

### Mt. Hood Colony Celebrates Twentieth Anniversary

On Saturday, March 15, 2025, twenty-three members and guests gathered in Tualatin, Oregon, to celebrate the Twentieth Anniversary of the founding of the Mt. Hood Colony (the Colony) of the Oregon Mayflower Society. Three original members of the Colony (Francie Fessler, Patrice Petersen and Lois Streimer) attended. Oregon Governor Patrice Petersen and GSMD Member-at-Large and past Oregon Governor, Beth Lambright, presented memorable talks about the Colony's history and its importance.

Governor Petersen related some of the Colony's events and activities over the past twenty years: a boat ride on the Portland Spirit on the Willamette River, a picnic, an Oregon winery visit, meetings at various restaurants, and a visit to an antique automobile and airplane museum. The idea for the Colony began with discussions in 2004 among Oregon Society Mayflower members who resided in the northwest section of Oregon. Those members wished to have meetings outside of the two Member Society meetings held each year. The Colony was formally established in March 2005.

Member-at-Large Lambright emphasized that the Colony members, over the past twenty years,

formed a bond and their social interactions strengthened that bond. Lambright shared a list of the original forty-five members of the Colony. Five of the original members are current Colony members. The Colony currently has eighty-eight members. Lambright expressed hope and optimism that the Colony will still be active twenty years from now.

Lambright presented to Lieutenant Governor David Wiszneaukas a GSMD Certificate of Commendation and Appreciation on the Twentieth Anniversary of the Colony.

Those who gathered enjoyed fellowship, lunch and a decorated birthday cake.

**Written by: David Wiszneaukas, Lieutenant Governor, Mt. Hood Colony**

**Submitted by: Deb Sorensen, Oregon Society Governor**



▲ Top: Patrice Petersen reviews the Colony's history. Bottom: Beth Lambright presents Certificate to Lt. Governor David Wiszneaukas.

Photos courtesy of Sandy Sahagian.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

### South Dakota Society Hosts Governor General Lisa Pennington

There are numerous books offering both historical accounts and fictional narratives exploring the Pilgrims and their settlement at Plymouth Colony. One such book, *The Times of Their Lives*, by James Deetz and Patricia Scott Deetz is a well-researched and documented account of a very different look at daily life in the Colony, including, not only, that

order was both maintained and violated inside and outside of the Plymouth Colony but also that bright clothing, heavy drinking, and trouble were glimpsed!



▲ Group shot of the attendees of the South Dakota annual meeting.

Heavy drinking and trouble were not an issue at the 2024 South Dakota annual meeting held at the Armour Brewing Company in South Dakota, but some bright color did show up in both dress and character! We also had the honor of hosting Governor General Lisa Pennington, her husband David Furlow, Secretary General Martin "Marty" Beerman and his wife Jane from Nebraska, Historian General Allie Golon and her husband Bill from Colorado and Member-at-Large Chris Schlosser from Wisconsin.

Governor General Pennington presented an informative program on the Mayflower Pilgrims and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants including an update on the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse restoration project. The Meetinghouse when complete

will be an educational center where the Pilgrim story will be told.

The South Dakota Society proudly pledges \$5,000 towards the restoration of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse and encourages members to give what they can to complete this project.

A good discussion was held about the future plans of the South Dakota Society including website improvement, meeting ideas, and new committees.

The meeting was enjoyed by all attendees. The next South Dakota Society meeting will be held in Rapid City.

**Submitted by: Randy Ollivier, Governor**

## UTAH

### Utah Society Volunteers at the GSMD RootsTech Booth

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants' (GSMD) booth had many visitors during the RootsTech 2025 conference. More than fifteen volunteers from GSMD and the Utah Society shared their enthusiasm about their Mayflower heritage. Volunteers distributed information and answered prospective members' questions as they looked at their lineage in preparation for their application to GSMD. During the three days of the conference, volunteers spoke with visitors about connecting with family, discovering their ancestry, and passing on their legacy to their children and grandchildren.

Visitors to the GSMD booth were encouraged to visit Plymouth and see the Mayflower Society House

and other attractions. Volunteers also talked about scholarship opportunities, the GSMD Research Library, the *Silver Books*, *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*, and Members Only events.

The Utah Society would like to thank GSMD Historian General Allie Golon and Secretary General Marty Beerman for participating this year.

We look forward to RootsTech in 2026!



▲ Jay Ashworth, Thomas Portlock-Utah DGG, Berti Loken, Coleen Benson, and Eileen Johnson, Utah Treasurer.

## WEST VIRGINIA

### West Virginia Society Participates in West Virginia History Day

On Wednesday, March 12, 2025, Captain Ruth Mooney and Secretary Martha Endres of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of West Virginia participated in the annual West Virginia History Day at the State Capitol. They displayed information about The Mayflower Society and talked with prospective members about the application process. It was the first time the West Virginia Society participated in this event with a booth. Martha Endres and several others were honored a few years ago with the West Virginia History Hero award for their efforts to return the West Virginia Society to an active society.



▲ Captain Ruth Mooney (left) and Secretary Martha Endres (right).



## Mercy Otis Warren: The Evolution of a Revolutionary, Part Two of a Two-Part Series

PEGGY M. BAKER

To recap: Mercy Otis, born in 1728 to a wealthy Barnstable family, received not only the education appropriate to her gender and standing in society, but also the exceptional opportunity of sharing her brother Jemmy's tutoring. This academic grounding fueled a lifelong interest in history, literature, and the classics. In 1754, she married Harvard-educated James Warren of Plymouth; together they created a remarkably loving and supportive union. In the early years of her marriage, Mercy found an intellectual outlet in the "appropriately" feminine activity of writing letters and poetry, while managing a home and mothering her five sons. In 1765, during the Stamp Act crisis, James Warren became deeply involved in colonial politics; he was soon one of the leaders of the Patriot movement in Massachusetts. Meetings were held at the Warren home in Plymouth's "Liberty Square" (so dubbed by Mercy), with Mercy's approval and undoubted participation. Her private correspondence with female friends now increasingly included the exchange of passionate and articulate opinions on colonial politics. Our story continues...

In 1772, Mercy Otis Warren ventured beyond her private sphere and into the wider world, writing satirical plays aimed at the British colonial administration.<sup>1</sup> Her husband James, who affectionately called her his "scribbler," gave his wholehearted support.<sup>2</sup> Mercy remained anonymous, the open participation of a woman in the political arena being unthinkable. With the assistance of James Warren's friend John Adams, the plays were published in Boston papers, "The Adulateur" in 1772 and "The Defeat" in 1773. In early 1775, when Mercy had finished another such drama, "The Group," James wrote to John Adams,

**Enclosed are for your amusement two acts of a dramatic performance, composed at my particular desire. They go to you as they came out of the hand of the copier without pointing or marking. If you think it worthwhile to make any other use of them than a reading, you will prepare them in that way and**

**give them such other corrections and amendments as your good judgement shall suggest.<sup>3</sup>**

Two weeks later, Mercy wrote directly to John, asking if he thought it ever appropriate for a woman to write satire. She worried,

**... will she not be suspected as deficient in the most amiable part there of that candor and charity which ensures her both affection and esteem, if she indulges her pen to paint in the darkest shades even those whom vice and venality have rendered contemptible? Your undisguised sentiments on these points will greatly oblige a person who is sometimes doubtful whether the solicitations of A Beloved Friend [Mercy's husband, James] may not lead her to indulge a satirical propensity that ought to be reined in with the utmost care and attention...**

Making a smooth transition to politics, she then expressed her passionate disapproval of measures taken by Massachusetts' British-appointed administration, before returning lightly to her original subject, noting that "Your criticism or countenance, your approbation or censure, may in some particulars serve to regulate my future conduct."<sup>4</sup> John responded on 15 March 1775. After noting that "The faithful historian delineates characters truly, let the censure fall where it will," he spoke directly about satire,

**... the lawfulness of the exercise of this brilliant talent, may be argued from its being a natural one. Nature, which does nothing in vain, bestows no mental faculties which are not designed to be cultivated and improved.<sup>5</sup>**

Thus commenced a correspondence that would last (with one notable interruption) until Mercy's death.

That same year, 1775, Mercy widened her circle to include Catharine Macauley, a trailblazing English historian. Catharine had written to Mercy's brother Jemmy in 1760, expressing her admiration for his

"patriotic conduct and great abilities in defense of the rights of your fellow citizens."<sup>6</sup> Mercy now wrote to her directly, opening a twenty-year dialogue between these two kindred spirits. As Mercy declared on 29 December 1775,

**You see, madam, I disregard the opinion that women make but indifferent politicians. It may be true in general, but the present age has given one example at least to the contrary and pray how many perfect theorists has the world exhibited among the masculine part of the human species either in ancient or modern times? When the observations are just and honorary to the heart and character, I think it very immaterial whether they flow from a female's lips in the soft whispers of private friendship, or whither thundered in the Senate in the bolder language of the other sex.<sup>7</sup>**

Mercy also corresponded with her husband James. The bulk of their letters were written between 1775 and 1780, when they were often separated by James' political responsibilities. James' love, admiration, and total support shine through, as in a letter he wrote from Concord on 7 April 1775,

**God has given you great abilities; you have improved them in great acquirements. You are possessed of eminent virtues and distinguished piety. For all these I esteem, I love you in a degree I can't express. They are all now to be called into action for the good of mankind, for the good of your friends, for the promotion of virtue and patriotism. Don't let the fluttering of your heart interrupt your health or disturb your repose. Believe me I am continually anxious about you. Ride when the weather is good and don't work or read too much at other times. I must bid you adieu. God Almighty bless you.<sup>8</sup>**

James' concern was not misplaced. For Mercy, the dread and uncertainty of living in wartime was heightened by the perils she could imagine facing her politically active husband and growing sons. Her personal involvement as an indefatigable female "influencer" in a predominantly masculine political world may have heightened a natural susceptibility to anxiety, creating at times an overwhelming emotional burden. James wrote from Boston on 6 June 1779, with a mix of understanding and gentle humor,



▲ Exterior of the Warren House in Plymouth's "Liberty Square."

**My dear Mercy, - I have read one excellent sermon this day and heard two others. What next can I do better than write to a saint. What if she has trembling nerves and a palpitating heart? She has good sense, she has exalted virtue, and refined piety.... All nature is a mystery. Why then should I attempt to explore the reasons and to say how it is that a mind, possessed of a masculine genius, well-stocked with learning, fortified by philosophy and religion, should be so easily impressed by the adverse circumstances or inconveniences of this world; but this will happen whether we can account for it or not. A brilliant and busy imagination often if not always accompanies great qualities...**

James added a postscript the following morning,

**How do you do this fine cool morning? I hope very well. I am persuaded the faintness and languor complained of was owing to the first coming of warm weather. Perhaps that has an influence on the mind and spirits. "I am nothing" is a very humble sentiment. Did ever such an idea pass over the imagination of a poet before? If it returns I advise you to sit down and write a satire on villains—there are enough of them. If not—take in the fools, then I am sure you will have enough. I am sure the remedy will succeed and you will feel a laudable pride.<sup>9</sup>**

Although Mercy was particularly prone to uneasiness when she and James were apart, her disquiet was intermittent. A letter written to her absent husband in January 1780 described a peaceful domestic interlude when, one stormy evening "before the candles were brought in," she proposed to her four sons (oldest James being away at Harvard) "that each one should take a pen to write a description of the storm in his own way." She described their individual efforts with some amusement, concluding,



**I determine to go on with the method & make them compose something each day, either description or narration, which shall be at least good grammar if it contains no striking images. This will habituate them to ready expression & in time give them an easy, if they should not be capable of a masterly style.<sup>10</sup>**

Two months later, however, Mercy was again overcome. On 12 March 1780, she wrote to James, claiming “I know not how it is but in your absence the sun seldom shines, either literally or metaphorically,” adding

**... I am sometimes ready to think you could serve the public as well and perhaps better unembarrassed by anxieties for me. I am not hypocrite enough to conceal the secret regrets that prey upon my mind and interrupt my peace though I have a thousand times resolved it for your sake.<sup>11</sup>**

Throughout these unsettled years, Mercy’s circle of correspondents continued to expand, her network now including new (and often younger) friends, both male and female. These letters were, and remained, private. It was not until 1788, some thirteen years after the publication of her satire “The Group,” that Mercy returned to the public sphere, jumping into the political fray with gusto.

A year earlier, the new U.S. Constitution had been approved by Congress and sent to the states for ratification. Mercy and James opposed ratification, believing the proposed constitution gave far too little protection to individual liberties and far too much power to the central government. Mercy expressed her views, anonymously, in a polemic entitled *Observations on the new Constitution, and on the Federal and State Conventions*. Published as a pamphlet in February 1788, it was reprinted, in three parts, in the *Independent Gazetteer* in March 1788. Beginning with the ominous words “Sic transit gloria Americana,” Mercy launched a scorching attack on the shortcomings she perceived in the proposed document, writing

**.... it is with inexpressible anxiety, that many of the best friends to the Union of the States, to the peaceable and equal participation of the rights of nature, and to the glory and dignity of this country, behold the insidious arts and the strenuous efforts of the partisans of arbitrary power, by their vague definitions of the best established truth, endeavoring to envelope the mind in darkness, the concomitant of slavery, and to lock the strong chains of domestic despotism on a country, which by the most glorious and successful struggles is but newly emancipated from the sceptre of foreign dominion.**

Heading Mercy’s list of the constitution’s shortcomings was its lack of provisions protecting the rights of individual conscience and liberty of the press.<sup>12</sup> Despite the efforts of Mercy and others, in 1788 the constitution was ratified, but the ongoing debate did lead to the passage of the Bill of Rights, guaranteeing the freedom of both religion and the press.

Perhaps it was the surge of energy from being once again in the political arena, perhaps the knowledge that James’ inclinations and age would soon keep him at home, or perhaps it was the natural composure of a more experienced woman (as mentioned by Mercy herself), but Mercy could now contemplate James’ absences with more equanimity, writing 29 March 1790,

**I hope I shall receive letters replete with cheerful expectation of [your] safe return after an absence too long for my affection and my feelings, yet depend upon it, I behave very well and keep up my spirits remarkably. Why should I not? I have many blessings and all have been crowned with the company and conversation of the best of friends.... My expectations and hopes—my experience of the past goodness of providence and confidence in its future support gives me tranquil days and closes my lids peacefully at night.<sup>13</sup>**

That year, 1790, also saw the publication of Mercy’s *Poems, Dramatic and Miscellaneous*, dedicated (with permission) to her correspondent George Washington.<sup>14</sup> This was the first publication in which she was credited, by name, as author.

Thereafter, Mercy turned her pen to the work that would be her greatest legacy, the three-volume *History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution*. She still, however, continued to engage with the wider world. In 1796, James and Mercy were visited by Francois-Alexandre-Frederic, duc de la Rochefoucauld-Liancourt, then touring North America. This distinguished and sophisticated international traveler characterized Mercy as “lively



▲ Mercy Otis Warren’s gravestone, naming both her husband, James Warren, and her father, James Otis.

in conversation. Like the other ladies of America, she has read a great deal on a variety of subjects”; he found her “truly interesting; for she has lost neither the activity of her mind, nor the graces of her person.”<sup>15</sup>

When Mercy’s *History* finally neared publication, “subscriptions” (presales) were announced. On 8 February 1805, Thomas Jefferson subscribed, writing to Mercy that

**He learns with great satisfaction Mrs. Warren has been so long turned to events which have been passing. The last thirty years will furnish a more instructive lesson to mankind than any equal period known to history. He has no doubt the work she has prepared will be equally useful to our country and honorable to herself.<sup>16</sup>**

When John Adams eventually read the *History*, however, he did not find it instructive, useful, or honorable. He found it personally offensive and historically unbalanced because (in his view) it denigrated his own contributions to American independence. Between 11 July and 19 August 1807, John sent Mercy ten lengthy letters, laying out his disagreements with everything from her interpretation of his actions to a date that, he claimed, she had misstated by three days.<sup>17</sup>

Mercy did not falter. The intelligent Barnstable girl with a hunger for learning, who had grown into an accomplished woman navigating her way confidently within the social protocols of eighteenth-century Massachusetts, had by now become a masterful writer, at ease with her unconventional role in the public sphere. Although her first steps into that world had been taken with considerable trepidation, she was no longer anxious about sharing her words and opinions— and she was no longer anonymous. The *History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution* carried her name on its title page, “Mrs. Mercy Warren, of Plymouth (Mass.).” This mature Mercy, strong in her informed perspective and judgments, did not hesitate to stand nose-to-nose and toe-to-toe against a former President of the United States and one of America’s Founding Fathers.

She responded to John’s first missive, writing

**I have expected that this history must pass under the criticisms of great and little men; but conscious that I have universally endeavored to write with impartiality, to state facts correctly, and to draw characters with truth and candor, whether the friends or the foes of my country, or the enemies of myself and family, or of those connected by the dearest ties of nature and friendship, I have**

**ventured to submit it to the ocean of public opinion. I feel a firmness of mind at my advanced period of life that will not be shaken by censure or elated with applause, my conscience bearing testimony that I have aimed at a just delineation of every fact and every character I have thought myself obliged to touch in the course of my narration.<sup>18</sup>**

Nothing daunted, John continued with an endless litany of corrections, grievances, and complaints. In his third letter, he resorted to personal invective, claiming that her history showed “a malignity of heart and a disposition to lessen me as much as you could in the opinion of your readers, both in present and future times.” Mercy, in her response, added a touch of acid,

**I never had a wish to enter into a discussion of your motives of action while President of the United States, nor to give a particular detail of an Administration that rendered you unpopular indeed. This may be done by some one of that large majority of the people whose suffrages removed you from the Presidential rank and placed another in the chair.<sup>19</sup>**

John persisted, writing seven additional letters, page after page after page.<sup>20</sup> Mercy replied, but with fewer letters (six total to Adams’ ten). Her final response was sent on 27 August 1807 when she ended the correspondence with these words,

**... as an old friend, I pity you; as a Christian, I forgive you; but there must be some acknowledgment of your injurious treatment or some advances to conciliation, to which my mind is ever open, before I can again feel that respect and affection towards Mr. Adams which once existed in the bosom of Mercy Warren.<sup>21</sup>**

Having lost a longtime friend, Mercy now suffered the greatest loss. On 28 November 1808, after fifty-four years of marriage, James Warren, her “Beloved Friend,” died.

A few years later, through the intercession of Abigail Adams, the estrangement between Mercy and John began to melt. Abigail visited Mercy in Plymouth in the late summer of 1812. Afterwards, Mercy wrote, “You, my dear Madam, are sensible how much I was gratified by the late visit from you and your children, nor do I give up the idea of once more meeting.”<sup>22</sup> Abigail responded with a gentle letter, sending a ring combining a lock of her own hair with that of John’s, as a “token of love and friendship.” On 26 January 1813, Mercy replied warmly,

**I shall with pleasure wear the ring as a valuable expression of your regard; nor will it be the less**



valued for combining with yours a lock of hair from the venerable and patriotic head of the late President of the United States.

She also reminded Abigail of

The very agreeable promise you made in the close of your last [letter], that if the ‘spring should find you well, and your friend [John Adams] also,’ you would again visit Plymouth, and as in former days hold sweet converse together. A visit from two such aged friends would be gratifying indeed.<sup>23</sup>

John, nevertheless, still clung to his grievances, writing with great indignation to a mutual friend, Elbridge Gerry, on 17 April 1813, that “History is not the province of the ladies... Little passions and prejudices, want of information, false information, want of experience, erroneous judgment, and frequent partiality, are among the faults.”<sup>24</sup> Fortunately, he did not impart these opinions to Mercy. When she wrote directly to him on 12 September 1813, complimenting him on an essay he had written, John responded politely,

We have acted our parts. The curtain will soon be drawn upon us. We must leave the future to that Providence which has protected the past. This sentiment of duty and interest, I doubt not, Madam, will be approved by you, as I hope it is realized with gratitude and entire confidence and submission by your old friend and faithful servant.<sup>25</sup>

Mercy persisted, and the friendship gradually regained warmth. On 10 July 1814, in the midst of the War of 1812, she wrote to John, reminiscing about their earlier years.

I most sincerely hope that the life of a gentleman who acted so great a part in a revolution that astonished the world and lived to set his seal to an honorable peace after a desolating war, may be spared to see peace again restored to the United States, notwithstanding the severe threats of our old inveterate enemy.

I should very much like to hear your observations on the gloomy aspect of the times. I am disposed to ask you very many questions which a letter cannot contain. I sit in my elbow chair in the old corner and were you and Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Warren again to meet there before we meet in the eternal world, I think the conversation of this trio would be neither unpleasing nor unprofitable. What think you, sir, of a little jaunt to Plymouth...?<sup>26</sup>

John replied on 17 August that, while her “polite invitation to Plymouth is esteemed as an effusion of friendship, ancient and modern,” his “three score and

nineteen years” kept him to his own home and his own bed.<sup>27</sup>

The reunion at the Warren home in “Liberty Square” never would occur. Mercy died two months later, on 19 October 1814, at age 86. Her gravestone on Plymouth’s Burial Hill, shared with her husband, names her not only the wife of James Warren, but also the daughter of James Otis of Barnstable.

Today, most of Mercy’s original correspondence can be found in the collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society. The manuscript of her masterpiece, the dramatic and insightful *History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution*, is preserved in the Library of Congress. Mercy Otis Warren’s *History*, with its uniquely contemporary and informed account of those pivotal years, not only remains in print, but remains relevant to present-day America. As Mercy wrote in 1805,

The principles of the revolution ought ever to be the pole-star of the statesman, respected by the rising generation; and the advantages bestowed by Providence should never be lost, by negligence, indiscretion, or guilt. The people may again be reminded, that the elective franchise is in their own hands; that it ought not to be abused, either for personal gratifications, or the indulgence of partisan acrimony. This advantage should be improved, not only for the benefit of existing society, but with an eye to that fidelity which is due to posterity.<sup>28</sup>

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1. Stage plays were illegal in Massachusetts; Mercy’s plays were meant to be read.
2. Jeffrey H. Richards and Sharon M. Harris, eds., *Mercy Otis Warren: Selected Letters* (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 2009), 5–6. All letters are presented with regularized, modern spelling and punctuation.
3. *Warren-Adams Letters, being chiefly a correspondence among John Adams, Samuel Adams, and James Warren*, 2 volumes (Boston, Mass.: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1917, 1925), 1:35–36.
4. Richards and Harris, *Letters*, 43–46.
5. *Warren-Adams Letters*, 1:42–44.
6. *Warren-Adams Letters*, 1:7–8.
7. “Mercy Otis Warren Papers, 1709–1841.” Online at the Massachusetts Historical Society. Letterbook I, 1770–1800,

at <https://www.masshist.org/collection-guides/digitized/fa0235/v01#10>.

8. *Warren-Adams Letters*, 1:44–46.
9. *Warren-Adams Letters*, 2:101–103.
10. Richards and Harris, *Letters*, 123–24.
11. Richards and Harris, *Letters*, 128–29.
12. *Independent Gazetteer* (Philadelphia, Pa.), 13 March 1788: 1.
13. Richards and Harris, *Letters*, 223–25.
14. *Warren-Adams Letters*, 2:318.
15. Francois-Alexandre-Frederic, duc de la Rouchefoucauld-Liancourt. *Travels Through the United States of North America, the Country of the Iroquois, and Upper Canada, in the years 1795, 1796, and 1797, with an Authentic Account of Lower Canada*, 2nd edition, 2 volumes (London, 1800), 2:257–58.
16. *Warren-Adams Letters*, 2:345.
17. “Correspondence Between John Adams and Mercy Otis Warren,” *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society* (Boston, Mass.), Fifth series, Volume 4, 1878; 317–511 (hereinafter cited as “Adams and Warren Correspondence”).
18. “Adams and Warren Correspondence”, 329.
19. “Adams and Warren Correspondence”, 354, 360.
20. “Adams and Warren Correspondence”, 358–59.
21. “Adams and Warren Correspondence”, 490–91.
22. “Mercy Otis Warren Papers, 1709–1841.” Online at the Massachusetts Historical Society. Correspondence,

1709–1841, at <https://www.masshist.org/collection-guides/digitized/fa0235/b02-f08#13>.

23. “Adams and Warren Correspondence”, 501–502; 503.
24. *Warren-Adams Letters*, 2:378–80.
25. *Warren-Adams Letters*, 2:386–87.
26. *Warren-Adams Letters*, 2:394–95.
27. *Warren-Adams Letters*, 2:396.
28. Mercy Otis Warren, *History of the Rise, Progress and Termination of the American Revolution*, 2 vols. (Indianapolis, Ind.: Liberty Fund, 1989), 2:696.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Nancy Rubin Stuart. *The Muse of the Revolution: The Secret Pen of Mercy Otis Warren and the Founding of a Nation* (2009).

Jeffrey Hacker. *Minds and Hearts: The Story of James Otis Jr. and Mercy Otis Warren* (2021).

Rosemarie Zagarri. *A Woman’s Dilemma: Mercy Otis Warren and the American Revolution* (2nd edition, 2015).

Gretchen Woelfle. *Write On, Mercy! The Secret Life of Mercy Otis Warren* (2012, grades 3–7).

Jennifer Blizin Gillis. *Mercy Otis Warren: Author and Historian* (2005, grades 5–7).

and [www.celebratemerocyotiswarren.org](http://www.celebratemerocyotiswarren.org)

With special thanks to manuscript reader and educator, Michele Gabrielson, who in her role as historical reenactor brings “our Mercy” to life.

# Online Discoveries: Topographical Maps, Part Three of a Three-Part Series

DALE H. COOK

This is the third and final column about the use of online maps in genealogical research. This column discusses the use of United States Geological Survey topographic maps which are available online.

Maps discussed in my last two columns show buildings, roads, and water features. Topographic maps provide a type of information not generally provided by other maps—elevation. With a little practice, a topographic map reveals terrain such as mountains, hills, valleys, and plains.

### AN INTRODUCTION TO USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

The United States Geological Survey is an agency of the Department of the Interior whose work includes geography, geology, hydrology, and biology. It was founded in 1879 as the Geological Survey to study

the US landscape and our natural resources. It is engaged in many areas of study organized by twelve US regions, and is best known for its topographic maps, published in a number of resolutions. The first major series of maps began publication in the late nineteenth century.

The two principal types of topographic maps available online are the current maps, which are created for online delivery, and the historical maps, available as scans of printed maps published from the late 1800s to the late 1900s. We will concentrate on the historical topographic maps. I suggest that you have a map on hand, preferably one of an area with which you are familiar. Visit the National Map Downloader,<sup>1</sup> enter a town or city in the “Find Address or Place” box at the right and hit enter. On the left, select “Historical Topographic Maps” and below that, select “7.5 x 7.5



minute” under “Data Extent” and “Geospatial PDF/ Geo PDF” under “File Formats.” Then click the blue “Search Products” button and choose a map to download.

WHAT THE USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS CONTAIN

For those of you who are not familiar with topographic maps, I suggest that you download the USGS brochure *Topographic Map Symbols*,<sup>2</sup> which will explain the types of symbols to which I will refer. I suggest that you read the first page carefully as it serves as an introduction to the symbols. Although the use of symbols has changed over the decades, they are generally consistent in the full color maps which you will most often see.

Colors are used to distinguish many features. Blue is used for water in streams and rivers, ponds and lakes, and bays and oceans, and patterns of blue symbols are used for marshes and swamps. Green is used for vegetation, including solid green for woodlands, and patterns of green symbols for shrublands and orchards. Browns and pinks have been used for geographic surfaces such as sand and gravel. Although relatively sparsely populated areas show individual buildings, densely populated areas in towns and cities are a solid pink with symbols only for major buildings.

Contour lines are a distinctive feature of topo maps which show elevation with brown lines. A mountain will be shown as a set of concentric circles with the summit at the center with its peak elevation shown. A depression can be shown the same way, except for ticks inside the lines with the bottom at the center. Each map shows the contour scale at the bottom. For the topo holding my home that is twenty feet. Heavier brown lines are an index elevation. In my home topo, an example is twelve hundred feet (multiples of one hundred feet), with the lighter lines at twenty-foot intervals. The contour lines are a two-dimensional representation of the three-dimensional characteristic of elevation. They let me determine the elevation of my home to better than twenty feet.

Small buildings, such as my home, are shown by a square. Larger buildings have their shape shown. Specialized buildings can be indicated by a symbol attached to the building symbol, such as a pennant

for a school or a cross for a house of worship. A variety of markings are used to distinguish roads, such as primary and secondary highways and divided highways. Lighter duty roads are shown as paved, gravel or dirt. Four-wheel drive roads and trails are also shown. Special symbols show railroads.

Many special symbols show water features such as falls, dams, locks, and canals, flumes, and aqueducts. Transmission lines and aqueducts are shown, as are road and railroad tunnels and bridges. Airports, racetracks, and athletic fields are also shown.

One feature of topos, which I have found especially useful, are symbols for cemeteries. The smallest cemeteries (frequently private family cemeteries) are shown with small squares or squares and rectangles with dashed borders. The symbols may include a cross or “Cem.” Large cemeteries such as Melrose Cemetery in Brockton Massachusetts can have more elaborate depictions. Melrose, which is the largest city-owned cemetery in the City of Brockton, has been the burial place for generations of my ancestors beginning in the early 1800s. That cemetery is clearly marked on topos with its name and has its internal roads and paths depicted.

The depiction of small, old, cemeteries has been especially useful in locating ancestral graves. Often, I have a general description of locations, such as the name of a road. The topographic maps may show the exact location of such small cemeteries.

I hope that some of you have found my columns about maps useful in your research. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at the address below.

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- 1. <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/downloader/#/>.
- 2. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/TopographicMapSymbols/topomapsymbols.pdf>.

The Covenant of the First Church of Plymouth:  
A Sacred Bond in a New World

REV. MICHAEL R. DENNEY, ACTING HISTORIAN GENERAL AND ELDER GENERAL

As the Pilgrims disembarked from the *Mayflower* onto the windswept shores of Plymouth in 1620, they carried with them more than just hopes of a new life. In their hearts, they held a profound commitment to their faith—a bond forged with one another and, above all, with God. This commitment was formalized through the creation of a church covenant: a solemn mutual pledge made in the presence of God and grounded in Scripture. In their own words, they sought to “unite . . . into one congregation or church under the Lord Jesus Christ our Head” and to “promise & bind ourselves to walk in all [His] ways . . . in mutual love . . . watchfulness over one another, depending wholly . . . upon the Lord . . . to enable us by His grace.”<sup>1</sup>

REAFFIRMATION AND WORSHIP  
IN EARLY PLYMOUTH

In the 1620s and 1630s, Plymouth’s leaders emphasized remembering and reaffirming this covenant during worship. A significant example occurred in July 1620, just before the *Mayflower’s* departure, when Pastor John Robinson charged the departing members “to follow him no further than he followed Christ”<sup>2</sup> and to remain open to new truth from Scripture: “The Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth out of His holy Word.”<sup>3</sup> He reminded them of their church covenant: “Here also he put us in mind of our Church-Covenant... whereby we promise and covenant with God and one another, to receive whatsoever light or truth shall be made known to us from His written Word.”<sup>4</sup> This moment was both liturgical and pastoral—a solemn act of covenant reaffirmation and exhortation.

Though verbatim records of weekly worship are lacking, we know that the covenant remained central to church life. New members were admitted through public confession and repentance, implying assent to the covenant. Baptisms and the celebration of the Lord’s Supper were viewed as sacramental expressions of this covenant of grace. Thus, even without a formal ritual of reciting the covenant at every service, Plymouth’s worship was thoroughly covenant-conscious.<sup>5</sup>

One of the most meaningful glimpses into the early life of the Plymouth Church is the recognition of its



▲ The covenant of the First Church, located in the Mayflower Meetinghouse.

first members. Governor William Bradford, leader of the colony and longtime elder statesman, is named in the church records as the first member of the church in Plymouth: “Mr. William Bradford was the first governor and first member of the church in Plymouth.”<sup>6</sup> While formal records of covenant-owning were not consistently kept in the earliest years, one of the earliest surviving references appears in 1636. On May 5 of that year, Elizabeth Warren—widow of Mayflower passenger Richard Warren—was admitted to the church and is the first person explicitly recorded as having “owned the covenant.” The record reads: “The 5th of the 3d month [May 5, 1636] being the Lord’s day, Elizabeth Warren, a widow of good repute, was admitted to the church by owning the covenant.”<sup>7</sup> This phrase—“owning the covenant”—signified more than mere assent; it was a deeply personal, public declaration of faith and a solemn commitment to live according to the church’s shared promises. Warren’s admission offers a rare and vivid snapshot of covenant theology in practice—how belief was not only professed but enacted through mutual accountability and visible church membership. Her example reflects the seriousness with which the early Pilgrims approached membership: not as a formality, but as a sacred vow affirmed before God and the gathered community.

The influence of Plymouth extended beyond its borders. When the Salem congregation gathered in 1629 under Plymouth’s guidance, they entered “into Covenant with God and one another to walk in all His ways revealed, or as they should be made



known unto them, and to worship Him according to His will . . . only.”<sup>8</sup> The Salem Covenant closely mirrors Plymouth’s covenant language and Robinson’s teachings. Later church plants in Scituate (1635) and Barnstable (1639) also organized themselves around formal covenant ceremonies, often joining hands in a solemn vow before God.<sup>9</sup>

THE ENDURING RECORD:  
THE 1676 COVENANT

The exact date of the original covenant of the First Church of Plymouth remains unknown, but the earliest recorded summary appears in the Plymouth Church Records of 1676. By this time, the church community had already faced decades of trials, including war, sickness, and scarcity. Despite these hardships, the covenant remained central to the church’s identity. The 1676 record states that the church “did owne [the 1676 covenant] to be the substance of that Covenant which their Fathers entered into at the first gathering of the church.”<sup>10</sup> Owning the 1676 covenant demonstrates the enduring nature of the Pilgrims’ commitment to one another and to God, as they preserved the original principles of the covenant established in the earliest days of the colony.

The 1676 church covenant reads:

**In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ & in obedience to his holy will & divine ordinances. Wee being by the most wise & good providence of God brought together in this place & desirous to unite our selves into one congregation or church under the Lord Jesus Christ our Head, that it may be in such sort as becometh all those whom He hath redeemed & sanctified to himselfe, wee doe hereby solemnly & religiously (as in his most holy presence) avouch the Lord Jehovah the only true God to be our God & the God of ours & doe promise & binde ourselves to walke in all our wayes according to the Rule of the Gospel & in all sincere conformity to His holy ordinances & in mutuall love to & watchfullnesse over one another, depending wholly & only upon the Lord our God to enable us by his grace hereunto.**<sup>11</sup> (Plymouth Church Records 1620–1859, 1920, Vol. 1, p. 148)

This covenant was not simply a historical artifact; it was a living document, guiding the spiritual and communal life of the church for generations. Through this covenant, the Pilgrims affirmed their commitment to walk in God’s ways, to love and support one another, and to live according to the teachings of Christ.

A Modern Restatement might take this form.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in obedience to His holy will and divine guidance, we—brought together by the wise and good providence of God—desire to unite as one congregation, a church under the headship of Christ. We do so with hearts set on living as those whom He has redeemed and sanctified for Himself. In the presence of God, we solemnly and faithfully declare the Lord Jehovah, the one true God, to be our God, and we commit ourselves to walk in His ways, according to the teachings of the Gospel. We pledge to live in faithful obedience to His holy ordinances, to love and care for one another, and to watch over each other in Christian fellowship. Relying wholly on the Lord our God, we seek His grace to strengthen and guide us in this sacred calling.

THEOLOGICAL AND  
CIVIC IMPLICATIONS

The Covenant of Plymouth bears resemblance to the covenant between God and Israel at Mount Sinai<sup>12</sup> and “Come and let us cleave unto the Lord in a perpetual and everlasting covenant which shall never be forgotten.”<sup>13</sup> Like the Israelites, the Pilgrims viewed their covenant as a mutual agreement of faithfulness and obedience. This theological understanding shaped the very structure of their church, which emphasized congregational polity, self-governance, and mutual accountability.

THE COVENANT’S LEGACY

The legacy of the Pilgrims’ covenant endures. As members of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, we are heirs not only of a remarkable voyage, but of a deeply rooted spiritual vision. The covenant formed by the Pilgrims was not simply a tool of survival, but a bold declaration of faith, freedom, and mutual care. It continues to inspire how we remember our ancestors—not only for their courage and perseverance, but for the sacred bonds they forged and honored in community and in covenant with God.

In a time when individualism often prevails, the legacy of the Pilgrims’ covenant stands as a reminder that true community is built on shared commitments. Just as the Pilgrims depended on one another to face the unknown, so too do we rely on faith and fellowship to navigate the complexities of life today.

The covenant was so central to the identity of the Pilgrims that it was quite literally etched in stone.

Today, it can be seen inscribed on the wall of the very Meetinghouse that we are now restoring. Its presence there is not merely decorative; it stands as a testimony to the enduring spiritual bond that shaped a people and continues to inspire their descendants. As we bring new life to the Meetinghouse, we do so with reverence for the sacred commitments made there—and with a renewed dedication to walk together in faith, just as our ancestors covenanted to do.

This reflection is part of a lifelong interest in church covenants. Years ago, my M.Div. thesis carried the subtitle, “Covenants Not Forgotten.” That phrase still captures my sense of how these sacred commitments continue to shape not only our faith communities, but our understanding of who we are—individually and together—in covenant with God.

1. Plymouth Church Records, 1620–1859. Vol. 1, First Church of Plymouth (Mass.), (New England Society in the City of New York, 1920). Internet Archive, <https://archive.org/details/plymouthchurchre01plym>.

2. Edward Winslow, *Hypocrisie Unmasked*, (London, 1646) John Robinson Farewell Address to the Pilgrims, July 1620. Early English Books Online. <https://quod.lib.umich.edu>.  
3. Winslow, *Hypocrisie Unmasked*, John Robinson Farewell Address to the Pilgrims, July 1620.  
4. Winslow, *Hypocrisie Unmasked*, John Robinson Farewell Address to the Pilgrims, July 1620.  
5. Plymouth Church Records, 1620-1859, Vol. 1.  
6. Plymouth Church Records, 1620-1859, Vol. 1.  
7. Plymouth Church Records, 1620-1859, Vol. 1.  
8. <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/salem-covenant-of-1629/>  
9. Mayflower Descendant 10:91-92  
10. Plymouth Church Records, 1620-1859, Vol. 1.  
11. Plymouth Church Records, 1620-1859, Vol. 1.  
12. Exodus 24:1–8, NRSV.  
13. Jeremiah 50:5, NRSV.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

“Cambridge Platform of 1648.” Pilgrim-Platform.org. Accessed April 3, 2025. <https://www.pilgrim-platform.org>.  
“Church Covenant.” Colonial Society of Massachusetts. Accessed April 3, 2025. <https://www.colonialociety.org>.

Member Benefits

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE MAYFLOWER SOCIETY INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING LIST OF 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 NEGHS 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.
- 14

Free tour of the historic Mayflower Meetinghouse.
- 15

FreeWill, a free online will preparation service.



# Step Into Mayflower History



See Plymouth  
MASSACHUSETTS  
[SeePlymouth.com](http://SeePlymouth.com)



## INSIGNIA

MEMBERS ONLY



Members may wear the Member Society Medal with top bar to display their service bars for their Member Society. If the Member Society has Colonies, this medal also displays colony service. Society bars are displayed first, followed by the Colony bars and then the Colony service bars. As per the GSMD Insignia Guide which can be found on the GSMD online shop's Insignia page:

**Member Society/Colony Officer medals come with a straight gold top bar engraved with the Member's Society name. Title bars for offices or committees held, past or present, are attached on the ribbon below the top bar; next, a Colony name bar is attached with title bars for colony offices or committees held attached below the colony name bar.**

The following bars and medals may be purchased to display service for offices and committees at the Member Society and Colony level. To be eligible to purchase them you must be a past or present Member Society or Colony Officer, or Member Society Committee Member. Purchase of Member Society Medal (or Past Governor or Past Colony Governor Medal) with top bar required before purchase of title bars. They are to be worn at Society functions only.

### 2A Member Society Medal with top bar

The front of the medal displays "1620" on the bottom left side and the Member Society charter year on the bottom right side. The Member Society/Colony Officer medal ribbon should display office title bars only.

### 2B Member Society Title Bar

The curved Member Society/Colony Office Title Bar pins onto the ribbon on the Member Society Medal. These office title bars should be worn only on the Member Society Medal.

### 2C Member Society Committee Member Bar

The curved Member Society/Colony Committee Title Bar pins onto the ribbon on the Member Society/Colony Officer Medal. These committee title bars should be worn only on the Member Society/Colony Officer Medal.

### 2D Colony Officer Bar

Purchase a Colony Officer Bar with the name of your Colony, then purchase a Member Society Title Bar engraved with your Colony office. The title bars are to be placed beneath the bar displaying the name of the colony.

Office title bars for Member Society offices held are to be placed on the ribbon above Colony Officer title bars.

### 2E Historian Bar

The Historian Bar may be worn only on the ribbon of the Member Society Medal with Straight Top Bar.



2A



2B



2C



2D



2E

Please contact Insignia Chair Meg Averett at [Insignia@TheMayflowerSociety.org](mailto:Insignia@TheMayflowerSociety.org) or Sales Manager Alexandra Cervenak at [Sales@TheMayflowerSociety.org](mailto:Sales@TheMayflowerSociety.org) with any questions. We look forward to seeing many of you at the 2025 GBOA in San Antonio, Texas.

Please note: Insignia and Members Only jewelry items will take approximately 8-14 weeks to arrive.



# SALES

ARTWORK AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY FOR OUR MEMBERS

## Mayflower Ship Ink Prints

\$30.00



**Mayflower Ship Ink and Watercolor Print**

\$28.00



**Mayflower Ship Ink Print**

Created by artist and GSMD member Al Bortles. Available in two styles: as a black and white ink print, or with added watercolors. Members' version says "Mayflower Descendant." Unframed. Measures 8.5 x 11 inches. Print is shipped directly from the artist.

## PRICES VARY BASED ON CUSTOMIZATION



## Mayflower RelationShips® Commemorative Artwork

Mount this beautifully-rendered visual story of your Mayflower heritage on your wall as a celebration of your family's rich history. The artwork comes in four sizes with a choice of map background colors and frames. The Mayflower ship options include 3D (half-model) or a choice of 2D images. The text may be customized to include your family and ancestors' names.

## DISCOUNT FOR MEMBER SOCIETIES!

Member Societies are welcome to purchase items from the GSMD store to resell at their gatherings. Items purchased for resell come at a fifteen percent discount. For more information and to place an order contact Sales Manager Alexandra Cervenak at [sales@themayflowersociety.org](mailto:sales@themayflowersociety.org).

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Learn more about the Herring Pond Wampanoag tribal community and culture through illustrations that work for multi-generations and learning abilities. 28 pages.

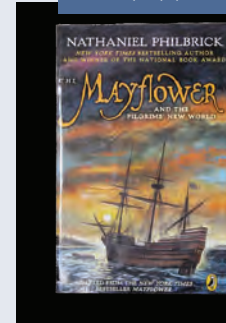
\$7.99



## Sarah Morton's Day: A Day in the Life of Pilgrim Girl

Join nine-year-old Sarah Morton for a day in 1627 Plimoth. 32 pages. By Kate Waters. Paperback. Grades Pre-K-3.

\$9.99

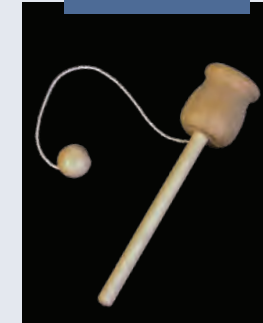


## The Mayflower & The Pilgrims' New World

Adapted from the *New York Times* bestseller *Mayflower* specifically for younger readers, this edition includes additional maps, artwork, and archival photos.

368 pages. By Nathaniel Philbrick. Paperback. For Middle Grade children, ages ten and up.

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## Cup and Ball

Variations of this toy are known all over the world, and it was popular in England at the time of Pilgrims. Test your skills by swinging the attached ball and trying to catch it inside the cup. Wooden, six inches long. Contains small pieces which might not be suitable for very young children.

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