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THE MAYFLOWER QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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Cover Art: Waterfowl in Alms House Pond, Plymouth, Massachusetts. Photo by Doug B.

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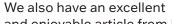
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 2025 fall issue of The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine.

This issue contains several interesting articles from our regular contributors, including Dale H. Cook's look at trade periodicals, our Member Society updates, and an article by Beth Lambright detailing the statistical surprise of Mayflower connections close to home.



and enjoyable article from Deborah H. Hill reminiscing about her family's time living in the Mayflower Society House, and reminding us that the Mayflower story continues to this day through all of you.

Now an editorial correction: on page 20 of the Summer 2025 MQM under Member Society Fees and Dues 2025, the number of Junior Members for Virginia is incorrectly listed as 16. The actual number of Junior Members for Virginia is 371.

Lastly, this summer Cape Cod received tens of thousands of visitors whose lineage goes back to the days of the Pilgrims: the cicadas of brood XIV. These cicadas are known as periodical cicadas and emerge in mass every seventeen years. This brood was first recorded by none other than William Bradford in Of Plimoth Plantation. He described them thus:

"And the spring before, especially all the month of May, there was such a quantity of a great sort of flies like for bigness to wasps or bumblebees, which came out of holes in the ground and replenished all the woods, and ate the green things, and made such a constant yelling noise as made all the woods ring of them, and ready to deaf the hearers. They have not by the English been heard or seen before, or since."

> Having experienced them firsthand, Bradford's description is spot on.

I hope you all have a great Thanksgiving.

Doug

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Governor General's Message

LISA PENNINGTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL

I hope you are enjoying your summer days. Over four hundred years ago, our Mayflower ancestors would have been tilling their corn crops and hoping this new plant would be the means to their self-sufficiency and prosperity. Their hard work paid off, and they were able to harvest their corn and celebrate with their neighbors in the fall.

Similarly, I am happy to report that we have made more progress on our Mayflower Meetinghouse and have installed the bells and the carillon to play them! We recorded the bells playing a series of patriotic songs for Independence Day, along with an introduction explaining how the Pilgrim story inspired eighteenthcentury Plymouthians to rally to the Patriot cause. The Meetinghouse bells played an important part throughout the Revolutionary War, ringing to assemble the local militia as well as to call townspeople to hear important news such as a reading of the Declaration of Independence! Check out our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@mayflowersociety to listen to the bells and view our other educational videos. We will continue to record more bell concerts with summer, Thanksgiving and Christmas themes. Each will include a little history before the bells begin to play. We hope you and your families enjoy the concerts!

I have been honored to travel to several of our Mayflower Member Societies over the last six months. Our members' dedication to telling our story is amazing. I have attended meetings in Florida, New York, California, Texas, Ohio, Nebraska, Washington, DC, Kansas, South Carolina, Vermont—and even England and France. David and I were planning to attend a friend's wedding in the United Kingdom in May. Since we would be there anyway, we decided to visit our Europe Society since there would be no cost to The Mayflower Society. We held a Zoom meeting of other European members while we were in Kent. We also were honored to meet with the United States Ambassador's staff in Paris, France, to discuss ways The Mayflower Society could tell the Pilgrim story to Europeans there. The Ambassador's staff suggested that we give lectures about the Pilgrims at the American Library in Paris. Plans are being made for our French members to do precisely that—and we will send PowerPoint materials to help. Thank you to Mark Primmer, Donna Heys, Carmen Goodwin Kew,



Europe Society member Mark Primmer and Governor General Lisa Pennington meet with Kimberly Krhounek, Minister Counselor, and her team, at the US State Department in Paris.

Julie Wilson and William English for their spectacular hospitality. The Europe Society is doing terrific work.

We are also excited to announce that Cheryl Soares became our new Executive Director following Mark Schmidt's retirement in June. Cheryl has been Mark's number two for the last two and one-half years and has been working closely with him so that there will be no interruption in member service. Cheryl previously worked with Plymouth 400 and is a Mayflower Society member herself. Please join me in congratulating Mark on his retirement and welcoming Cheryl as Executive Director. Cheryl is a passionate supporter of The Mayflower Society, and we are so glad to welcome her to our team!

Finally, we are happy to announce another exclusive benefit for our members. The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is offering discounts if you sign up with Storyworth through the link on our website. Storyworth is a service which encourages people to record their own stories for their families. Members will receive prompts, such as "What was your father like?" Individuals will then complete the prompt, and the results will be published in a book for their families at the end of the year. If recording your story for your family is something that suits you, I hope you will sign up and take advantage of the savings and an opportunity to leave your history for your family. How nice to tell your family about the results of all your summers tilling your garden...!

Mark Schmidt Retires as Executive Director, Bids Farewell

MARK SCHMIDT, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As this will be my final update as Executive Director for The Mayflower Society, I would just like to thank all the members for their support over these past years. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to oversee the supremely talented staff that we have in Plymouth, and to be involved with the organization on so many levels. My involvement with The Mayflower Society has really been a source of pride and I wish the organization nothing but the best in the days ahead.

I hope that you are as proud as I am of some of the things that have happened over the past few years: the Virtual Lectures, the Governors Forum, the Teddy Bear Tea, the community events—all of which were done to benefit our members, prospective members, as well as the public who have no knowledge of The Mayflower Society. Hopefully, these events found some level of success in providing information, knowledge, and enjoyment to their audiences.

And, besides the staff, I want to thank the members of the Executive Committee with whom I have worked who were so very supportive. I want to thank the members of the Development Committee, who worked very hard to raise money for the Society. I want to thank the people who put The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine together, giving of their time and talents to make it such a success. I want to thank the faithful donors to the Society, who contributed so much to the success of the appeals, the restoration of the Mayflower Society House, and now towards the renovation of the Mayflower Meetinghouse. And I especially want to thank the people who took a chance on me and hired me in the fall of 2021. I am very grateful to all of them.

Again, good luck to the Society in the days to come. Executive Director Cheryl Soares will do a great job, and I hope you will join me in giving her the support she deserves. Thank you, one and all. I truly appreciate all you have given me.

Cheryl Soares Accepts Executive Director Position

CHERYL SOARES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with great excitement and deep gratitude that I step into the role of Executive Director. I want to thank everyone who made this opportunity possible and for the confidence and support you have shown me.

Over the past four years, I have had the privilege of serving as Executive Assistant and Development Manager, and I have truly enjoyed every moment. I am now looking forward to this new challenge with enthusiasm and commitment.

As a member myself, some of the most rewarding parts of my day have been the conversations I have had with you, hearing your journeys, your discoveries, and what being part of this Society means to you. Whether

part of this Society means to you. Whether you have been a member for decades or are just beginning your connection with us, I encourage you to reach out—whether you have questions or simply want to share your story. I would love to hear from you.



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Mayflower Meetinghouse Update

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

Nothing is more beautiful than New England in the fall and this year will be no exception. Among the changing leaves, notably in Plymouth up on Town Square, a new addition can be seen taking shape along the left side of the Mayflower Meetinghouse. It is the new entrance!

When you visit or see photos of the progress, please thank yourself for bringing to reality this amazing legacy for our future Mayflower descendants. It has not been an easy path to restore this beautiful iconic treasure that was built as a memorial to the Mayflower Pilgrims. While plans and events for the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower voyage were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision to restore the Mayflower Meetinghouse as the General Society of Mayflower Descendant's (GSMD) legacy went forward. There have been starts and stops along the way throughout the project, but our inheritance of determination and perseverance is in full view.

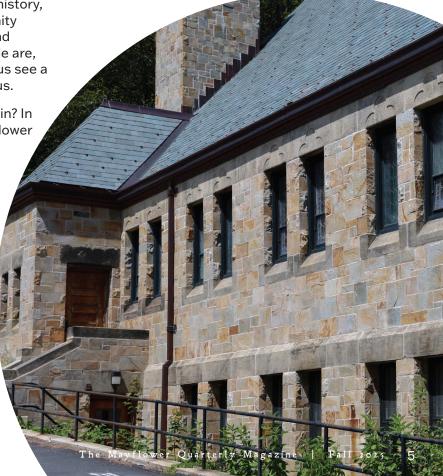
As the world changes and evolves, memory, history, and knowledge must prevail. Our very humanity depends on it. The past informs the future and knowing where we come from, who our people are, and how their stories have shaped us, helps us see a broader picture than what is right in front of us.

Where does the Mayflower Meetinghouse fit in? In saving the structure, GSMD will tell the Mayflower story on the location where it happened. The restoration of the sanctuary welcomes locals and visitors into an awe-inspiring chamber where everything created was hand-done by master craftsmen. It is the last remaining fully intact example of prominent midcentury architects Hartwell, Richardson, and Driver. Stories shared inside will

educate the public about the trials and tribulations the Mayflower Pilgrims suffered while laying the foundation for a democratic nation. It will also tell the story of us—generations of descendants who don't want the story to ever be forgotten.

As for the business of GSMD, the Mayflower Meetinghouse will provide another revenue source to help us continue all the programs that benefit our Member Societies. It will also give us the space needed if your Member Society travels to Plymouth to touch and feel the story where it happened. It gives you a place to bring your family and show them that their heritage lives on.

This restoration is all possible because of your efforts. We are now well beyond the halfway point with fundraising because, like our ancestors, we do not and will not give up. Please help spread the word and welcome additional donors and supporters as we continue this monumental historic task to leave a legacy.



Left side of the Mayflower Meetinghouse where the new entrance will be installed.

A Request for Bradford-Owned Books

FRANCIS J. BREMER, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

In 2020, Kenneth Minkema, Jeremy Bangs, and I edited and annotated a 400th Anniversary edition of William Bradford's Of Plimoth Plantation for the Colonial Society of Massachusetts and American Ancestors. Ken and I are now working with David Lupher and Kathryn Gray on an edition of Bradford's manuscript Dialogues (exchanges between the young men of Plymouth and the ancients), Poetry, Correspondence, and other writings. In doing so, we have discovered notes taken by Bradford in a number of books that were in his personal possession. We plan to include those notes in our edition because an individual's writings in the margins and flyleaves of his or her books can shed light on their interests and thinking. We have found copies of such volumes that were generously given to the State Library of

Massachusetts and to Pilgrim Hall Museum. We also know of a volume (Lucan's *Pharsalia*) that was loaned to Pilgrim Hall Museum in the past. We are appealing to the Descendants of the Mayflower for information on any volumes that may have belonged to Governor Bradford as well as any known manuscripts. Our intent is to photograph Bradford's signature, marginalia, and writings on the flyleaves and to edit and publish the material in order to preserve a record of his writings. If you have or know of such material in libraries or elsewhere, please contact me.

Francis J. Bremer Professor Emeritus, Millersville University of Pennsylvania francis.bremer@millersville.edu



GSMD 2025 Scholarship Winners

CHERIE LAWSON, SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Scholarship Committee is proud to announce the 2025 scholarship winners. Cherie Lawson, Scholarship Chairman and Committee Members, Cathy Bambenek, Nancy Harrison, Lorrie Link, Della Regenold, and Collier Wiese worked together to select the 2025 winners.

FIRST PLACE:

Noah Kerr, \$6,000

Noah is from Plymouth,
Massachusetts; his Mayflower
ancestor is Francis Cooke. Noah earned
high honors for all high school terms
where he was a member of the National Honor
Society, the World Language Honor Society, the
boys' varsity track and field team and in 2025
served as vice president of his class. Outside the
classroom, he worked as a broadcast journalist
for Plymouth North News, as a greater Plymouth
volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, and as a Guest
Services Associate at Plimoth Patuxet Museums.

Noah will be attending the University of St. Andrews in Scotland where he will study management and sustainable development. Noah intends to pursue a career in either broadcast journalism or airline management.

SECOND PLACE:

Lindsey Sobon, \$5,000

Lindsey Sobon is from Winston-Salem, North Carolina; her Mayflower ancestor is James Chilton. Lindsey was named a junior Marshall at the end of her junior year at Ronald Wilson Reagan High School for being ranked in the top five percent of her class. Her high school memberships included the National Honor Society, dance team, and the Reagan Girls Service Club. She was also a member of Youth and Government, a conference where North Carolina high schools meet to perform mock government activities, and, Lindsey also volunteered at her studio for the Riverwood Therapeutic Riding Center in the Leaps Without Bounds program where she helped children with disabilities ride horses.

Lindsey will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she will be pursuing a major in Health Policy and Management at the Gillings School of Public Health.

THIRD PLACE:

Kendall Chappell, \$4,000

Kendall Chappell is from Atlanta,
Georgia; her Mayflower ancestor is
Francis Eaton. Kendall's high school
honors included the AP Scholar Award,
Excellence in AP US Government, and outstanding
performances in the Advanced Placement courses
of AP Biology, AP Physics, US History, AP World
History and Advanced Topics in Women's Voices.
She participated in high school varsity track and
field and varsity volleyball. She is a member of the
National Honor Society, Children of the American
Revolution and the Jamestown Society. Kendall
volunteered 150 hours for Roots (Reaching Out to
Others Through Service), and participated in the
American Revolution flag replacement for Veterans
Day.

Kendall will be majoring in Biology at the University of Georgia with plans to attend medical school and pursue a career in dermatology.

MARY CHILTON WINSLOW SCHOLARSHIP:

Kelsey Clayton, \$2,400

Kelsey Clayton is from Camden,
Maine; her Mayflower ancestor is James
Chilton. Kelsey graduated in the top ten percent of
her class at Camden Hills Regional High School,
having completed six AP courses. She served as
Co-Captain of the JV Field Hockey and Varsity
Tennis teams, played alto saxophone in the concert
and pep bands, and was President of both the
Intercultural Club and Amnesty International.
Kelsey also mentored a local elementary school
student through the P.A.L.S. program and
volunteered with the Midcoast Interact Club. As
the Student Representative to the Five Town
Community School District Board, Kelsey attended
monthly meetings and voted on key policy issues.

Kelsey interned with the League of Women Voters, helping manage civic outreach and election education efforts during her Senior Year, and inspired by a Ukrainian exchange student's story, she led a year-long fundraiser through the Intercultural Club to support Ukraine's reconstruction efforts.

Kelsey will be majoring in finance at the New York University Stern School of Business. Kelsey plans to pursue a career in impact investing, with the goal of supporting post-conflict recovery and driving sustainable global development.

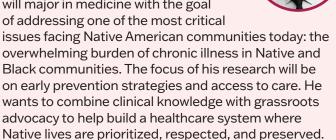
NATIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIPS:

Major Elliott: \$1,300 and Eliana Hellon: \$1,300

In conjunction with the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, GSMD is awarding two \$1,300 scholarships in 2025 under the guidance of the Massachusetts Society Scholarship Chairman, Beth Anderson Godfrey. The recipients are Major Elliott and Eliana Hellon.

Major Elliott

Major, a member of the Wampanoag Tribe, will be entering Georgetown University for the fall semester. He will major in medicine with the goal of addressing one of the most critical



In his Native American Heritage essay, written for the Massachusetts Society, he wrote, "My family can be summed up as survivors. Through my great-grandfather and grandmother and my mother I learned their determination to fight against discrimination, prejudice, subjugation, suffering, scrutinization, and every other obstacle the world could throw at them, paving the way for me to achieve my dreams. In essence, I am my family and my family is conversely me. My journey has taught me that my power lies in never abandoning who I am. I am walking a path laid by those who came before me."

Eliana Hellon

Eliana is also a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. When she was a student, she shared her cultural background in classrooms where it was seldom acknowledged.

She took on leadership roles to use her platform for

educating others and promoting inclusion. Eliana graduated from high school and earned two associate's degrees through dual enrollment. She will attend the University of California majoring in Architecture. Eliana says, "My interest in architecture stems from my desire to uplift communities, particularly Indigenous and marginalized ones, through thoughtful, sustainable, and culturally relevant design. I want to reimagine spaces in ways that restore connection to land, promote equity, and reflect the cultural values of the people who live there. I plan to work with firms that share this mission, eventually founding my own practice focused on serving underserved populations, especially in Native regions. I believe that design is a form of storytelling, and through my work, I hope to honor the narratives of my people."

In her Native American essay written for the Massachusetts Society, she wrote, "As an Afro-Indigenous woman and a proud member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, my heritage is not just part of my identity, it is the foundation of my values, leadership, and future aspirations. My identity is deeply intertwined with my engagement in our Native community, and I have come to see my cultural heritage as both a personal responsibility and a powerful source of motivation." Eliana stays engaged with local tribal events advocating when she can for her culture and history. "Although I was raised in California, I make it a point to return to Mashpee every year, reconnecting with my extended family and participating in the annual Mashpee Wampanoag Powwow. This event is more than a celebration; it is a spiritual homecoming, a time to honor our ancestors, and an opportunity to immerse myself in the vibrant traditions that define our identity."

A special thank you to Technology Committee Chair Chris Schlosser for her hard work in implementing the new scholarship automated system used for the first time this year. All kudos for the success of this year's scholarship applications go to Chris.

Express Indexing is Here!

CHRIS SCHLOSSER, TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Easy App Generator, the amazing new tool created by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD), was launched in September 2024 to help Member Society Historians find previously approved applications that closely match an applicant's line and then generate a new member or supplemental application automatically populated with all the generational information (names, dates, places, citations) filled in. Historians are already generating about 275 potential applications per month using Easy App Generator!

This tool is based on lineage information indexed by volunteer indexers from approved applications. GSMD continues to need your help indexing more applications so that Easy App Generator is more useful in finding a close match for prospective members or for those members submitting supplementals. As of June 2025, indexers have indexed over 34,000 applications, but thousands more applications remain to be indexed so we need a big crew to accomplish this task!

WHAT IS EXPRESS INDEXING...

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 are 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. It takes just fifteen to thirty minutes to index an entire application with 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 it 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, Technology Committee Chair, at GSMDCertify@ TheMayflowerSociety.org.



Why I Joined The Mayflower Society

CATHERINE KREWER

My Great-Grandfather Was the Missing Link to John Alden

In 2006, I began researching my family genealogy. My father's family claimed that their ancestors were among the "early comers" to America. I came to a dead end quickly, but I did learn that the earliest settlers in his family arrived in 1637.

Several years later, my cousin on my mother's side of the family provided me with research that my uncle had completed on the Turner line in the 1980s, before digital records were available. My uncle's quest was to identify my maternal grandfather's father, my great-grandfather.

My grandfather, Almerin Westman Turner was born in Bloomington, Illinois, in 1864 and lived his entire life in Elgin, Illinois, until his death in 1958. There was no official record of his birth. Marriage and death records proved that my grandfather's mother was Elizabeth Lucas who married Almerin Westman Turner in 1863. Almerin Westman Turner, married to Elizabeth Lucas, died in 1865 in Elgin. Elizabeth Lucas Turner remarried in 1867 to Abel Walker. Elizabeth Lucas Turner died in 1870.

At the time in 1864, there was another resident of Elgin named Almerin Turner (1807-1890). The uniqueness of another man living in Elgin with the same name Almerin Turner was confusing. Through newspaper articles, census records, and my mother's memories, I learned that my great-grandfather Almerin Westman Turner was the first cousin of the other Almerin Turner

living in Elgin. My great-grandfather had been married to an Eliza (last name unknown) in Ohio with whom he had seven children. He was divorced from Eliza, moved to Elgin, opened a medical practice, and married Elizabeth Lucas.

After documenting this family information on **Ancestry. com**, I discovered that my great-grandfather Almerin Turner was the missing link to my Mayflower ancestor John Alden.

My membership in The Mayflower Society has increased my interest in the lives the Mayflower Pilgrims led and what made them dare to take this adventure to America. My hope is to keep that interest alive in my family and for them to appreciate the sacrifice their ancestors made to build a better life.

WILLIAM D. MILLER

Always Talking About Our Family Tree Until Eyes Glossed Over

When I was a young child growing up in Massachusetts, my grandmother, Lillian Miller, was always talking about our ancestors, but nobody paid much attention to her. So, she recorded it all in her Bible. Somehow, I ended up with that Bible and discovered several pages of names and dates and other information. She inspired me and gave me the genealogy bug. When I retired, I decided to continue her research, and after twenty-two years, I had found more than several Mayflower ancestors. Like my grandmother, I was always talking about "our family tree" until eyes glossed over and the audience

disappeared. So, I decided to join The Mayflower Society to exchange stories with people who share my ancestral addiction.

Sadly, both of my parents died before I discovered our Mayflower ancestry. My father, George Miller, had a rough childhood and had nothing good to say about his family tree. In fact, when I first started on my family tree, I asked Dad about my great-grandfather and he said, "He was the meanest man that ever lived, and I don't care where he came from." No name was mentioned. After a long genealogical journey through Millers and Coombs, I finally found my tenth-great-grandfather and Mayflower passenger, Degory Priest. He was among the passengers who died during the first winter.

Then I researched the Millers, Claghorns, and Hawes families, and finally met my eighth-great-grandmother, Desire Gorham, ninth-great-grandmother, Desire Howland and, finally, John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley, my tenth-great-grandparents and my Mayflower passengers. How I wish that my father were alive for this announcement that through him, our family has lineage to three Mayflower passengers.

That is why I joined the Mayflower Society.

BOB RAMSDELL

Preserving History

My husband Bob began searching for answers to the proverbial question, Who am I, and where did I come from, when he was only ten years old. His search, however, was not about the birds and the bees, but rather about a fifth-grade assignment about his family tree. Pre-internet and pre-computers, the search was more family hear-say and conjecture, but the word "Mayflower" never varied from the conversation.

Now seventy-six years old, Bob has long known that the Ramsdell name leads straight back to Plymouth, approximately 1640. Five years later, Joseph Ramsden/Ramsdell married Rachel Eaton, daughter of Mayflower passenger Francis Eaton, a Stranger rather than a Saint.

The Mayflower Society is one of the greatest hubs for connecting families with their ancestral heritage, and Bob values his membership for that very reason. By preserving and sharing all his research, Bob's wish is that the future generations of the Eaton-Ramsdell line never forget those who came before them. His Ramsdell genealogy has been placed in various libraries and museums, spanning the family trail from Massachusetts, to New York, to Michigan, and even beyond to Nebraska.



Bob & Jo Ramsdell had a memorial plaque created, honoring twenty of Bob's ancestors who were without headstones.

Bob's quest now is to discover where Joseph Ramsden/Ramsdell came from before arriving in the New World. He continues to have high hopes that The Mayflower Society may, over time, acquire additional records, or perhaps know of other sources that can help guide him in that search. In the meantime, to keep our focus on preserving the past, trying to prevent anymore history from being lost, we have been collecting the local history of Bob's hometown, Scotts, Michigan, and the surrounding townships, and have written two books, Welcome to Bip's World and History of Bip's World, now out of print. Bip was Bob's childhood nickname.

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

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

MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

AUSTRALIA

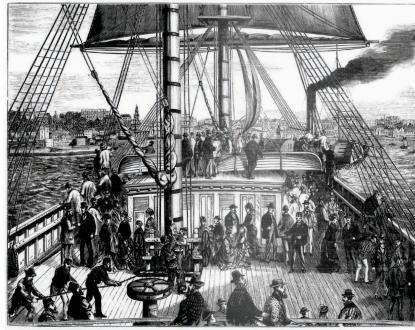
Uncovering the Stories of North American Migrants to Sydney – A New Resource Now Live and Free!

The Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants has been exploring migration pathways from North America to Australia in the hope of finding descendants of Mayflower passengers. We have identified various periods when many ships sailed between the two continents, the most notable period being the early whaling years and then the gold rush years, as discussed by Governor Bill Elliott in The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 issues. As part of the brainstorming, I was prompted to share the story of how my Mayflower ancestor came to Australia in 1877. He arrived as part of a littleknown scheme, where the colonial New South Wales Government was trying to recruit skilled workers to Sydney. They were offering a subsidised passage to encourage the immigrants, and almost 1,000 people took up the offer. The American newspapers called it "The Sydney Scheme."

All the ships departed from New York, with most of the passengers travelling from towns and cities in the northeastern states of the United States as well as from Canada. My ancestor and his two brothers travelled down from Norwood, Massachusetts. The majority of the immigrants from North America were from the states of New York and Pennsylvania.

Inspired to document the scheme, I set about transcribing the passenger lists. It was during this process that I decided to research and document any sources I could find pertaining to the immigrants who were born in North America, all in the hope of identifying more possible links back to the Mayflower passengers.

A new website has been created and named The Sydney Scheme (sites.google.com/view/ thesydneyscheme/home).



RRIVAL OF THE "N. BOYNTON," IN PORT JACKSON, WITH THE FIRST EMIGRANTS FROM AMERIC

"Arrival of the N. Boynton, in Port Jackson, with the First Immigrants from America," 35mm microfilm, Sydney; Gibbs, Shallard & Co., June 23, 1877. From The State Library of Victoria Collection.

What's inside The Sydney Scheme?

Transcribed Passenger Details: The transcribed records detailing all the individuals who participated in the 1877 migration.

Comprehensive Database of the passengers born in North America includes: census records, vital records, prison records, coroners' records, and newspaper articles.

Sources regarding the scheme: newspaper articles and government correspondence, that offer context and insight into the migration program.

Please have a look and let us know if you find a relative!

Submitted by: Lisa Apfel, Assistant Historian

EUROPE

The Europe Society Continues to Grow and Strengthen

Our Mayflower ancestors were a diverse people. Their scattered origins and convoluted (and sometimes obscure) reasons for sailing meant that rubbing along together required uncomfortable adaptations from everyone. Perhaps because of the need for adaption, they understood that both disorder and inflexibility posed threats to survival; the Mayflower Compact was their defense against human frailty; therefore, in honour of their idealism, good sense, and practical application, the Society of Mayflower Descendants (Europe) (SMD(E)) Board gathers each November to commemorate the Mayflower Compact. That is the event that you see here.

Many of the SMD(E)'s seventy plus members live amid history that is much older than the Mayflower Compact; however, we celebrate that heritage, too. We take pride in the fact that the Magna Carta (the Great Charter) was created in England in 1215; it is the Mayflower Compact's direct ancestor. Magna Carta was in itself a momentous document, for it meant that every person—even the monarch—was subject to the rule of law. Modern European society reflects this intermingling of the past and present; we inhabit a pivot-point connecting the Old World to the New. For us, the cobbled roads and grassy fields where Europe's history took place are still vital and living; we orient daily by sight of medieval steeples and crenellations. We also seek the most modern of means to ensure our sustainable future.

SMD(E) membership events—the annual Online Cook-Along from Donna's Dorset Kitchen, our Winter Online Education event, and our Annual In-Person SMD(E) Membership Gathering in July—celebrate this confluence between Europe's deep history and our Mayflower lineage. None of us could ever travel far enough or fast enough to maintain the SMD(E)'s presence across the European continent, so we have adapted. Our annual pattern of online, in-person, and hybrid events are inclusive, forge personal connections, and overcome physical distance. We are a thriving community as a result.



Deputy Governor William English, CBE (England); Secretary Donna Heys (England); Governor Carmen Kew (England); Elder Marilyn Griffith (France); Historian Julie Wilson (Netherlands); and Treasurer Greg Geissler (England).

The solemn November day reserved to honour the serving SMD(E) Board and the Mayflower Compact is also essential to our annual cycle. The Board is connected solely through goodwill and wires throughout the year. The work-load is heavy: we fulfil our duty-of-care to membership, process the administrative requirements of the GSMD, and work to integrate within the laws and customs of Europe. Our Compact Day Luncheon at Westbery Manor, Kent, is in recognition of this endeavour. Appropriately, we gather at a fourteenth-century manor farm just thirty miles south of Rotherhithe, the port where the *Mayflower* first set sail, in the home of our Deputy Governor, William English, CBE. It is an opportunity for reflection; we borrow fresh resolve from our companions around the table.

This year, we also recognised the great blessing of sheer survival. The SMD(E) has been perilously close to capsizing. The *Mayflower*, stranded mid-Atlantic with a broken mast, riding a stormy sea, has constantly been in this Governor's thoughts. Just as in 1620, though, we have repaired our ship. Jury-rigging, grim determination, and forlorn bits off the old printing-press were almost certainly (figuratively) involved. While rough water still lies ahead, we have sighted land, and the wind is set fair. Good news, first announced at our 2024 Compact Day Luncheon, has helped.

Here, I can share two of those announcements. First, General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Governor General Lisa Pennington made a personal donation to the SMD(E) incorporation fund-raising event, anticipating our public appeal,

which started in January 2025. In the short term, incorporation will mean that the SMD(E) can become a non-profit organisation and acquire insurance. In the longer term, this incorporation will prepare us to accept bequests, fund scholarships, and sponsor charitable work. Twenty individuals have donated funds; we have begun the first steps in the legal process. Contributions are still accepted, though: your generosity could help the SMD(E) to become a permanent part of European history.

Secondly, Associate Members are now invited to join the SMD(E). Our amended by-laws were submitted and duly approved by the GSMD. Australia's Governor Bill Elliott was accepted as SMD(E) AM001 as of January 2025; his name toasted around this table. We can now extend this invitation to you. Please join us! You can find details on our website at mayflowersmde.wixsite.com/mayflowereurope.

I offer you a photograph that is much more than a still image, then. It tells a wider story, one that reaches

into both past and future. It represents countless hours of work on behalf of the membership; the struggle to formulate and submit new by-laws; the steep learning curve necessary for incorporation; the looming knowledge that we must begin fund-raising. It catches the millisecond of pause before we tip forward into months of fresh struggle. It represents our good faith, clear purpose, and community. It tells the story of a living Mayflower Compact.

The SMD(E) will assemble in Leiden just days after this writing. Our Annual In-Person Membership Event will present a programme of socialising, tourism, and education. We will conduct our second Annual General Meeting then, too, as a hybrid in-person/ online event. We will look at how far we have come, and plan for the future. We are a determined people: we Mayflower descendants. We persist. We adapt. We invite others to join our table, and we give thanks.

Submitted by: Carmen Kew, Governor

HAWAII

Hawaii Society Elects New Officers

Aloha kākou!! It's hard to believe that summer has officially begun and we are almost halfway through 2025! The Member Society of Mayflower Descendants in Hawai'i held its annual Spring Meeting virtually via Teams on March 8, 2025, and elected new officers and assistants. Former Governor General Lea Filson was in attendance and presided over the installation of officers. Officers for the 2025-2027 term are: Bill Stiles, Governor; Alana Lee, Deputy Governor; Robin Aweau, Secretary; William Stiles, Treasurer; Jim Tueller, Historian; Eric Smith, Assistant Historian; Lindsay Kamm and Steve Burris, Assistants; Lynda J. Hylander, Deputy Governor General; and Bill Stiles, Assistant General nominee. The meeting started with a short but moving memorial ceremony to honor seven members who had passed during the previous four years.

Fifteen Members joined virtually from Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, Hawaii Island, Arizona, Texas, and California! We encourage our far distant members who have not joined our Microsoft Teams meetings to do so next time. Notification of meetings and the Microsoft Teams invitation are sent by email and we would be very happy to see your smiling faces!

Since the Spring meeting, the new Board has been busy! Our Historians have been processing fifty-six new member applications as well as supplemental applications; the Treasurer continues to advance electronic payment methods through Zelle and PayPal, which are faster, more secure, and easier than mailing checks; and the new Secretary is quickly coming up to speed with reconciling membership lists and taking minutes at our meetings. The entire Board continues to learn and make use of Microsoft 365 for Non-Profits. This commercial system is tremendously important for our record keeping, communications, and ongoing operation as a professional organization. The Board is also in the process of reviewing all our governing documents for relevance, correctness, and compliance with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Finally, be sure to look for our General Board of Assistants Silent Auction item: a beautiful mixed pink, burgundy and white Moloka'i Kahelelani Shell Lei with Ni'ihau Kahelelani Shell pierced earrings to match. This exquisite handmade jewelry is paired with an explanatory book titled "Lei Ni'ihau: Shell Lei of Ni'ihau" by Linda Paik Moriarty for a combined value of over \$775! Hopefully this unique local Hawaiian entry will contribute significantly to help fund the Mayflower Meetinghouse.

Submitted by: Bill Stiles, Governor

ILLINOIS

Illinois Society Members Attend the 69th Annual **Lincoln Tomb Ceremony**

On April 15, 2025, Illinois Society members Julie Barnes and Mary Mucciante represented the Illinois Society at the 69th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois. The event was sponsored by the Lincoln Death Day Association and commemorated the 160th Anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln. Patriotic, lineage, and veterans' societies and organizations participate each year in the commemoration.

The speaker for the luncheon that followed was Timothy Good, the former superintendent of the

Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, Illinois. He spoke about the assassination of President Lincoln at Ford's Theater in Washington, DC.

Submitted by: **Brett Johnson.** Illinois Mayflower **News Editor**



Julie Barnes and Mary Mucciante at the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois.

INDIANA

Indiana Society Holds First 2025 Members Luncheon

On April 19, 2025, the Indiana Society held its first Members Luncheon of the year. Highlights included the presentation by Governor Laura Smith of the 2024 General Society of Mayflower Descendants Certificate of Commendation to Roberta "Brigitt" Caito. Brigitt has been an active Life Member since 2005. She is a descendant of Mayflower passengers Francis Cooke, Edward Doty, Stephen Hopkins and Elizabeth Fisher Hopkins, and she has served the Indiana Society on the Board as Elder (2011-2013, 2016–2022), Captain (2013–2014), and as a board member. Brigitt is also the mother of four Life Members! Whenever there is a need, Brigitt is always right there to lend a helping hand.

Dr. Bob Alonso, a physician with a lifelong interest in horticulture and particularly in early Colonial American gardening and architecture, presented the program titled "American Colonial Gardens 1620-1780." He and his wife Deb Givan (Indiana's immediate Past Governor and current Historian) have visited multiple early American historical sites throughout the years. Bob's ancestors came to

America soon after the Mayflower and he is a descendant of George Washington's grandfather. His presentation included several historically significant American gardens including Bartram's Garden (Philadelphia), Mount Vernon (Virginia), Monticello (Charlottesville), and Middleton Plantation (Charleston). He highlighted early agricultural



methods utilized in the Plimoth Colony including the contributions of the Native peoples such as the "Three Sisters" agricultural practice.

Submitted by: Diana Soule McDowell, Corresponding Secretary

KANSAS

Kansas Society Hosts Governor General Pennington

The Kansas Society was honored to have Governor General Lisa Pennington as guest speaker for its April 27, 2025, spring meeting, held in Wichita, Kansas. Governor General Pennington's program titled "Lighting the Candle: Why We Must Tell the Mayflower Story," was an inspiration to the members and guests attending the meeting.

Kansas Society Governor Karen Weis presented Governor General Pennington with two checks from the Kansas Society totaling \$6,772.41 as donations toward the continued renovation of the Mayflower Meetinghouse which will become an educational center where the Pilgrim story can be told. One of those checks in the amount of \$1,000 was a memorial for the Kansas Society's deceased members.

These donations to the Mayflower Meetinghouse help the Kansas Society meet its purpose to perpetuate the memory of the Pilgrims and to continue to "Light the Candle." Governor Weis also placed a lighted and decorated wooden candle holder at each place setting for the attendees to take home. This memento will serve as a reminder to continue telling the story of our Pilgrim ancestors.

This meeting was also very special as Governor General Pennington met her fifth cousin, Kansas Recording Secretary Lisa Rall, for the first time! One hundred thirty-five years have passed since their respective family branches have engaged with one another. Lisa Rall is also a General Society of Mayflower Descendants Indexer.

Submitted by: Karen Weis, *Governor*





Top Photo: Governor General Pennington with her cousin Lisa Rall of the Kansas Society. Bottom Photo: Kansas Governor Karen Weis with Governor General Pennington.

NEW JERSEY

The Jersey Cape, the *Mayflower*, and the American Revolution

The Jersey Cape is a small, narrow land mass that projects out into the Atlantic Ocean at the southern end of New Jersey. With Cape Henlopen to its south, the Jersey Cape frames the mouth of the Delaware Bay between the states of New Jersey and Delaware. Sitting at its tip is the seaside resort of Cape May, world renowned for its grand Victorian homes, gourmet restaurants and pristine beaches. Less well known is the Jersey Cape's direct connection to the voyage of the *Mayflower* in 1620 and the significant role its descendants played in the fight for America's independence during the American Revolution.

The Mayflower legacy in Cape May began circa 1682 when Joseph Whilldin, a mariner of Yarmouth in the Plymouth Colony, married Hannah Gorham, the granddaughter of John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley, two of the Pilgrims who came to Plymouth on the Mayflower in 1620. Hannah was the youngest daughter of John Gorham and Desire Howland, John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley's eldest child, who also lived in Yarmouth on land bordering the town

of Barnstable on Cape Cod. Joseph Whilldin and Hannah Gorham would go on to have five children, the first two born in Yarmouth, and the rest born in Cape May, New Jersey.¹

Sometime before 1690, Joseph and Hannah Whilldin made their way 300 miles south to the Jersey Cape along with other families from New England and New York's Long Island, all lured by the promise of its then thriving whaling industry.² These included the families of Christopher Leaming, Ezekiel Eldredge, Humphrey Hughes, Henry Stites, Thomas Hand, Arthur Cresse, Jacob Spicer and more. They would go on to become prominent families and land owners in the area and their descendants would play significant roles in the development of Cape May's legal, political, judicial, and business environment.3 Over the ensuing years many marriages would take place between the descendants of these families and descendants of Joseph and Hannah Whilldin. These marriages would result in a large and evergrowing population of Jersey Cape citizens being lineally descended from John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley of the *Mayflower*.

By 1775, the calls for American independence from the British Crown were ringing throughout the English Colonies, and the inhabitants of the Jersey Cape, now formally established as Cape May County, were no exception. News of the Battles in Massachusetts at Lexington and Concord and news that the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia had appointed George Washington as Commander in Chief of the new Continental Army arrived at the Cape in June of that year.4 By August, Cape May County had formed the Cape May Militia made up of Minutemen who swore an oath of allegiance to the Continental Congress. Eventually the militia would transition into the Cape May Battalion and become part of Washington's Continental Army. Many of those who answered the call to arms came from these Mayflower descendants and many were direct descendants of John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley.

On July 4, 2026, the United States will commemorate and celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As we approach this historic milestone in our nation's history the Jersey Cape Colony (JCC) of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New Jersey (SMDNJ) undertook a special project in 2024 to: (1) identify ancestors of its members who were both Mayflower descendants and Revolutionary War Patriots, and (2) ensure that each of their names appear on The Mayflower Society's national Patriots to Passenger List which serves in part as an honor roll of Mayflower descendants who were Patriots of the American Revolution. See https://TheMayflowerSociety.org/genealogy/patriots-to-passengers/.

To be included, the ancestor had to have been verified and recognized as a Mayflower descendant by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD), or be someone married to a verified descendant, and had to have been formally recognized as a Revolutionary War Patriot by either the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) or both. Through independent research and member input, a total of twenty-two Mayflower descendant Patriots were identified and verified, nineteen of whom were not previously included on the list. Of these, two came from Massachusetts, one came from Connecticut and sixteen came from the Jersey Cape, all of whom were descendants of John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley.

Among them were Eli Eldredge who was commissioned as a First Major in the Cape May Militia and a member of the New Jersey General Assembly; 6 Memucan Hughes who served as Pay Master and Muster Master of the Cape May Militia;7 Seth Whilldin who was commissioned as a Captain in the First Battalion Cavalry of the Cumberland County Militia;8 Humphrey Stites who was commissioned as a Captain in the Cape May Militia and later the New Jersey Battalion; and Thomas Leaming III who served as Adjutant to the Cape May Militia, was a member of the Provincial Congress and later a member of the First City Troop Cavalry of Philadelphia where he fought at the Battle of Germantown.¹⁰ Among the Patriot ancestors identified who were not residents of the Jersey Cape were Samuel Daggett of Massachusetts who served as a privateer in defense of the New England coast and was imprisoned on the notorious British prison ship HMS Jersev¹¹ and Nathaniel Gorham of Massachusetts who was a delegate to the Continental Congress and a signer of the Constitution of the United States.12

The names of these nineteen Revolutionary War Patriot ancestors have now been added to The Mayflower Society's national Patriots to Passenger list and their service to our nation will now be formally recognized and forever remembered.

Submitted by: Daniel Reeves, Captain

- 1. Rev. Paul Sturtevant Howe, Mayflower Pilgrim Descendants in Cape May County, New Jersey, (1921), 11–12.
- **2.** Howe, Mayflower Pilgrim Descendants, 12–13.
- 3. Howe, Mayflower Pilgrim Descendants, 22–23.
- **4.** Lewis T. Stevens, The History of Cape May County, New Jersey: From the Aboriginal Times to the Present Day, (1897), 177–178.
- 5. Stevens, History of Cape May County, 179–180.
- **6.** William S. Stryker, Official Register of the Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War, 1838-1900, 364.
- 7. Stryker, Men of New Jersey, 375.
- 8. Stryker, Men of New Jersey, 418.
- 9. Stryker, Men of New Jersey, 329.
- Stryker, Men of New Jersey, 372; Stevens, History of Cape May County, 184.
- **11.** Samuel Bradlee Doggett, *A History of the Doggett-Daggett Family*, (1894), 157–158.
- **12.** Dorothy Horton McGee, *Framers of the Constitution*, (1968), 61–62.

OHIO

Governor General signs the Ohio Society's "Great Book"

The Ohio Society (SMDOH) had the great pleasure of hosting the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Governor General Lisa Pennington, on May 16 and 17. The two-day event began with the Cleveland and Western Reserve Colonies hosting the "Great Book" signing on May 16 at the Western Reserve Historical Society Library. The reference supervisor, Ann K. Sindelar, set up a display of Mayflower related books and presented the history of the "Great Book" printed in 1618, by William Brewster's Choir Alley Printing Shop in Leiden, Netherlands. The title of the book is A Confutation of the Rhemists Translation Glosses and Annotations on the New Testament so Farre as they Containe Manifest Impieties, Heresies, Idolatires, Superstitions, Prophanesse, Treasons, Slanders, Absurdities, Falsehoods and other evils, and is essentially the Separatists' arguments against the King James interpretation of the Bible. The book's blank face pages have been signed by the GSMD Governors General since 1924. For more on the history of the book go to (https://ohiomayflower.org/history/). Governor General Pennington asked numerous questions and was very proud to add her name to the list of GSMD Governors General. As a remembrance of the occasion, the Ohio Northeastern Colonies gave Governor General Pennington the CROSS pen that she used to sign the book and a commemorative coaster with the image of the book, her name, and date of the signing.

The Governor General was hosted for dinner by the Cincinnati Colony and other SMDOH members at the historic Golden Lamb restaurant in Lebanon, Ohio. The group then went to the Great Wolf Lodge in



Governor General Lisa Pennington signing the Ohio Society's "Great Book" as Ohio members look on.

members were delighted to hear the musical folk tunes provided by the Eric McDaniel family.

On Saturday, May 17, the SMDOH Annual Member Society meeting was held with the Governor General presenting the most recent history of her ancestor, Isaac Allerton. Governor General Pennington was also the keynote speaker during the SMDOH General meeting where she spoke of the importance of telling the Pilgrim story and its relevance today. She also updated those in attendance of the innovations developed at GSMD.

The Cincinnati Colony and SMDOH were delighted to host the Governor General and hope she can visit in the future. Ohio is privileged to have the "Great Book" and looks forward to visits from future Governors General to add their name to this piece of Mayflower History.

Submitted by: Beth Anderson, Governor

Mason, Ohio, for the

SMDOH Member Society meeting. Friday evening,

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Society's **Spring Meeting**

On May 3, 2025, the Oklahoma Society welcomed Member-at-Large Beth Lambright as the special guest speaker for its annual Spring Meeting held at the Tulsa



▲ Member-at-Large Beth Lambright with Oklahoma Governor Norma Hughes with the bell used for the Memorial Service.

Country Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Lambright as an elected Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee, is the representative for the western Member Societies. Her program topic was "Fact or Fable—Test Your Mayflower IQ." Our members and guests enjoyed the interactive program, and they appreciated Lambright's Mayflower knowledge and enthusiasm, as well as her

friendliness. She traveled from her home in Corvallis, Oregon, and the Oklahoma Society thanks her for her willingness to make the trip, share her many suggestions for improvements in our Oklahoma Society, and present such an interesting program.

In the photo is a bell that was borrowed from a local Sons of the American Revolution chapter and is a new addition to our annual memorial service. While visiting the Kansas Society, two Oklahoma members were so impressed with the Kansas Society's memorial service. which included the ringing of a bell, that they asked to share the narrative for the Oklahoma Society's service. Thank you, Kansas Society! An Oklahoma member has ordered a similar bell to donate to the Member Society for future memorial services.

Submitted by: Norma Hughes, Governor

SOUTH CAROLINA

Southern Hospitality South Carolina Style

On May 2-3, 2025, Governor General Lisa Pennington and husband, David Furlow, joined the South Carolina Society for its annual Spring Luncheon Meeting. The event was held at historic Middleton Place where society members saw America's oldest landscaped garden and toured the home of Arthur Middleton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. This magnolia-scented oasis is located on the Ashley River in Charleston, South Carolina.

After a leisurely afternoon of lunch and garden strolls, approximately twenty-five members traveled together by bus to the lovely home of South Carolina Deputy Governor E. Frances Frame on nearby John's Island. Society members were delighted by a fabulous southern dinner of smoked brisket, steelhead trout and all the trimmings al fresco complete with linen table cloths and candle lights. The members then boarded the bus for Middleton Place singing to oldies music provided by impromptu deejay and Silver Books Director, Bonnie Wade Mucia. "Oh, What a Night"!

Saturday morning found some members enjoying the grounds, house and stable tours before our scheduled lunch and program at noon. Governor General Pennington



Governor General Lisa Pennington enjoying dinner with the South Carolina Society.

presented an excellent PowerPoint presentation focusing on the Pilgrim Story and the visions for restoration of the Meetinghouse in Plymouth. Many thanks to Governor General Pennington and David Furlow for their warm and educational visit. And many thanks to South Carolina Governor Melana Maxie and South Carolina Deputy Governor E. Frances Frame for making this magical weekend come together seamlessly!

Submitted by: Deborah Hall Hill, Palmetto Log Editor

In Memoriam

William DeWitt Alsup of Corpus Christi, Texas, passed away on August 1, 2023, at the age of 85. Alsup had served the Texas Society as Governor and was a descendant of Mayflower passenger John Howland. He is survived by his wife Sharon Watson Alsup; children Mark DeWitt Alsup, LeAnne Alsup Romo, Ashley Wingo, and William Matthew Alsup; and seven grandchildren.

Michael J. Hodnett of Waco, Texas, passed away on December 15, 2024, at the age of 77. Hodnett had served the Texas Society as Governor and was a descendant of Mayflower passenger Francis Eaton. He is survived by his partner Marshall Swindall and his sister Judy Hodnett.

Joan Carol (Reed) (Georgantis) Miller of East York, Pennsylvania, passed away on May 18, 2025, at the age of 93. Miller served the Pennsylvania Society as Governor from 2010 to 2012, Assistant Governor from 2007 to 2010, GSMD Assistant General - Pennsylvania and GSMD Deputy Governor General - Pennsylvania. She was a descendant of Mayflower passenger Myles Standish. Miller is survived by her children William Georgantis, Denise Georgantis Price, and Debra Georgantis-Miller.

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.

PILGRIM HISTORY AND GENEALOGY

Salt was usually shared by

everyone at the table, and was

a cellar. Since it was shared, it

was considered uncouth to dip

your food or fingers into the salt

cellar—better manners would be to scoop some salt out of the cellar with your clean knife.5

placed in a common vessel called

The Seventeenth-Century Table

ALEXANDRA CERVENAK, MEMBERSHIP AND SALES MANAGER

What goes on your Thanksgiving table? The turkey and mashed potatoes? Fall themed decorations? There would certainly be things we would recognize today on a seventeenth-century table—a tablecloth, napkins, spoons and knives. But there might also be things that seem a little bit strange—like a carpet, but no forks!

SEATING

Four hundred years ago, you could tell a lot about someone by where they were seated at the table. The higher your rank, the better your chair and the better your placement around the table Higher ranking people had food offered to them first, and because lower ranking people were expected not to interrupt, they also dictated the conversation.1

Alexandra Cervenak has a double BA in **English and history from Wayne State** University, and an MA in English from Brown University. For a decade she worked at Plimoth Patuxet Museums, including as Foodways Specialist. She is currently the Membership & Sales Manager at GSMD.

CUPS

A seventeenth-century table setting was generally more shared than today, including drinking vessels. You could offer someone a drink just as you offered someone a dish of food, but good manners dictated that you wipe your mouth before taking a sip.8

- Donna R. Barnes and Peter G. Rose, Matters of Taste: Food and Drink in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Art and Life, (Syracuse University Press, 2002), 49.
- Barnes and Rose, Matters of Taste, 133.
- Frederick James Furnivall, Early English Meals and Manners; With Some Forwards On Education in Early England (1868), (Kessinger Publishing, 2007), 14.
- **4.** Fulmer Mood, "John Winthrop, Jr., on Indian Corn." *The New England* Quarterly 10, no. 1 (1937): 121-33. https://doi.org/10.2307/360150.
- 5. Furnivall, Early English Meals, 272.
- Furnivall, Early English Meals, 256.
- Gervase Markham and Michael R. Best, The English Housewife, (McGill-Queen's University Press, 1994), 122.
- 8. Furnivall, Early English Meals, 272.
- Furnivall, Early English Meals, 263.
- Joan Wildeblood and Peter Brinson, The Polite World: A Guide to English Manners and Deportment from the Thirteenth to the Nineteenth Century, (Oxford University Press, 1965), 119-120.

NAPKINS

Seventeenth-century images often show men with napkins draped over their shoulders, while women have theirs in their laps. A napkin might be essential for keeping your fingers clean, but it was rude to use it to blow your nose.9

CARPET

Woven carpets from Turkey (or at least purported to be) were a popular table decoration particularly in Holland during many of the Pilgrims' tenure there. During a meal these carpets were left on the table, but covered with a tablecloth.

TABLECLOTH

A mark of one's civility, the base of any good seventeenthcentury meal was a tablecloth. Images of the time show even poorer families eating simple meals off tablecloths.2

BREAD

No meal was complete without bread, and along with salt it was one of the first things put out on the table after the tablecloth.3 Bread in early New Plimoth was often made solely from maize, or a combination of maize and other flours.4

TRENCHERS

SPOONS AND KNIVES

Forks had not yet reached common usage in England in the early seventeenth-century, meaning food was eaten with spoons, knives, and yes, your fingers.



Essentially a square wooden plate, some trenchers also had small divots meant to hold your personal supply of salt after it had been taken from the cellar.⁶



Online Discoveries: Trade Periodicals

DALE H. COOK

A genealogical researcher may at times encounter an ancestor who worked in an occupational field with which the researcher is unfamiliar. To learn more about that occupational field, the researcher may choose to consult a specialized publication—a trade periodical.

CLASSES OF PERIODICALS

In general, we can divide periodicals (magazines, newspapers, and newsletters) into three main classes:1

- Popular Periodicals, which appeal to a general audience:
- Trade Periodicals, aimed at those who work in a particular industry; and
- Scholarly Periodicals, whose audience is scholars, and which are generally peer reviewed.

You have all read some popular periodicals. Many of you have experience with scholarly genealogical journals, such as Mayflower Descendant, The American Genealogist, or The New England Historical and Genealogical Register.

AN INTRODUCTION TO TRADE PERIODICALS

Trade periodicals have been published for a wide variety of trades. An example of a type of trade periodical which I have searched for and consulted is one connected to another scholarly interest of mine—old water-powered mills. American Miller was a monthly magazine published from 1873 to 1930 by American Miller Publishing Company, Ottawa, Illinois, and its successors. Its subtitle was "A Monthly Journal Devoted to the Art and Science of Milling." As a major trade journal, its contents covered subjects such as:

- · Accounts of historic and new mills, their owners, and their millers:
- Construction of mills:
- Equipment used in and by mills;
- · Agricultural articles related to milled crops;
- Courses about mills including those at agricultural colleges;
- Reviews of books for the milling industry;
- Statistics for the milling industry;

- · Association news; and
- Advertisements.

This trade periodical came to include many photographs and diagrams as illustrations. You can read volumes of American Miller online at Google Books² (you must sign in with a Google account).

A competing periodical was National Miller, which merged with American Miller in 1930, but the merged periodical apparently lasted only until 1934.

FINDING TRADE PERIODICALS

Finding trade periodicals can be difficult. The foremost guide to periodicals found in libraries is The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature. It is a regularly published index (by subject) to articles in periodical magazines and scholarly journals. It covers popular magazines of general interest and not trade periodicals. Trade periodicals have relatively small subscriber lists, and subscriptions are usually controlled. Subscriptions, which are often free, are available only to those people working in a particular industry who the periodical's advertisers wish to reach.

I know of no source likely to list or index trade periodicals outside of databases such as those of EBSCO, and access to those databases generally requires that the person be qualified through a participating institution such as a university or college.

For the general public there are some useful approaches. One of these is to use the advanced search at the Internet Archive.3 I was already familiar with American Miller. I used the Internet Archive search to look for similar periodicals. For "Any Field" I entered "milling", and for "Mediatype" I used the pulldown menu "All Mediatypes" to select "texts." Clicking the "Search" button brought up a lot of books, but also showed some periodicals. The Milling World was a weekly periodical published in Buffalo. Milling and Grain News was a weekly periodical with offices in Kansas City and St. Louis. Canadian Milling and Grain Journal was published in Montreal.

Another approach is to visit Google Books⁴ and enter the search keyword. By searching for "miller" I found volumes of The American Miller, The Northwestern Miller (published in Minneapolis), and National Miller (published in Chicago).

Another resource is the Library of Congress, 5 where you can select "Periodicals" from the pull-down menu and enter a search term. The selections on the left side of a results page allow you to narrow the search by location or a range of years.

Dale H. Cook <webmaster@plymouthcolony.net> serves as the Massachusetts State Coordinator for the USGenWeb® Project, and specializes in Plymouth Colony families, especially those of Bridgewater, MA. Dale is also a member of The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine staff as **Contributing Genealogist.**

On any of these sites you may need to scroll through numerous pages of hits to find your entries of interest because your search term may produce a large number of hits. Only a small number of those hits may be for the type of trade periodical of interest to you. I have never promised you that online research is quick or easy.

- https://libguides.pittcc.edu/career/trade-periodicals.
- 2. https://books.google.com/books/about/American_Miller. html?id=Dcs0AQAAMAAJ.
- 3. https://archive.org/advancedsearch.php.
- https://books.google.com/?hl=en.
- 5. https://loc.gov.

Home Sweet Home

DEBORAH HALL HILL, PALMETTO LOG EDITOR

Although we never owned it, two generations of my family lived, loved, and cared for the Mayflower Society House (House), and called 4 Winslow Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts, their home. My sister, Sandy, and I played in the House, roamed the grounds and climbed to the cupola many times when we were children. Later, our children came to the House to visit their grandparents, sometimes enjoying a roaring fire in one of the fireplaces or a picnic lunch on the side piazza. Those days are gone, never to return, but what great memories were made!

My grandmother, Corinne Hill Damon Hall, served as the Historian General for The Mayflower Society from 1960 when I started first grade until 1978 when I graduated from college. She drove daily from her home in Pembroke, Massachusetts, to the Historian's office which was in Boston at that time. History tells us there were two separate fires in the Historian General's office that damaged many of the early records—one in 1947 and one around 1960, which was when the decision was made to move all records to the headquarters in Plymouth. A fireproof vault room was added to the existing "Tea House" in the garden, and this room became Gramma's new Historian General's office.

Soon, Gramma and Grampa Hall sold their home and moved into the apartment quarters of the Mayflower Society House. We would often visit

them at the House for Sunday dinner. Another precious memory was the year we all walked to the Meetinghouse for church service before our Thanksgiving Day dinner.

At some point, my mother Ruth Bowker Hall was employed to give the House an annual spring cleaning and prepare it for special events. This was yet another opportunity



Stuart Hall dressed as Myles Standish.

for my sister and me to explore the house when we were not helping polish the silver. On May 31, 1975, my mother was officially appointed Chairman of the Mayflower Society House. In her report she stated that her first task was to supervise the hanging of the original iron gates at the driveway entrance. When the driveway was widened, many years prior, the then current owner, Mr. Willoughby, asked the contractor to take the gates to the dump, but the contractor instead stored the gates at his home for many years. Eventually, my mother learned of the existence of the gates and she was able to retrieve them and have them reinstalled at the driveway entrance where they remain today.

Like my grandparents before them, my parents sold their home in Abington, Massachusetts, and moved into the Mayflower Society House's apartment quarters. They promoted and encouraged the public to visit the House and other historical locations in Plymouth. Some of the creative things my parents did were to decorate the House for Christmas, provide live music, and host special productions on the grounds and in the House. My father, Stuart Hall, made sandblasted Mayflower related etchings on glasses and sold them for the benefit of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD). My parents truly enjoyed and cherished the years they lived in the House.

By this time, my sister and I were both married and starting families. Since I moved to South Carolina, I would fly home with my child, lvy, for one week every summer before school began. On Friday night we would go to the basement and pick out a costume to wear in the Pilgrim Progress. Dad was usually Myles Standish, dressed in full armor. I was usually Susannah White and carried a baby doll, Peregrine. Ivy was a young child, perhaps Mary Chilton? Mom was our photographer. The House was open for tours back then so we needed to be quiet from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. But once the House closed for the day, lvy delighted in running back and forth on the huge front porch. We also loved visiting Plimoth Plantation now known as Plimoth Patuxet Museums, the Mayflower II, Plymouth Rock and of course the Wax Museum on top of Cole's Hill, which is now condos. The view from Cole's Hill was, and still is, breathtaking!

My sister and I were privileged to tour the house with Former Governor General Jane Hurt at the 2023 Triennial Congress. We were astounded and thrilled by all the restoration work, improvements, love and care that had taken place at the Mayflower Society House. We know our family would be pleased. I hope that as members of this wonderful Society you will have a chance to enjoy the House as well.



Left: Corinne Hill Damon Hall in her Historian General's office in Plymouth in 1966. Right: Stuart, Deborah and Ivy, marching in a Pilgrims' Progress.

A sidenote about the fires. In 1994, when the GSMD was compiling data to create Centennial History 1897-1997, the records from 1909-1935 were not to be found. Had the records been lost in the 1947 fire in Boston? They searched for two years to no avail. Now, I will insert a quote from the book from page iv: "Then - in September 1996 - a miracle! Investigating the contents of some built-in drawers at the back of a storage closet in the upper hallway of the Mayflower Society House and Museum, Mr. Stuart Hall discovered several large boxes of papers – all in great disarray with many pages badly mangled, crumpled, folded or rolled. Suddenly the task of sifting and sorting such a large volume of historical material seemed overwhelming. Sheaves of letters, notes, agendas, original minutes and a flurry of correspondence were clipped together with rusty paperclips, pinned together with corroded straight pins, or rolled up with dead rubber bands. Some of the early papers had burned edges which disintegrated into black powder at the touch. Fortunately, many of the early records had indeed survived the fire in the Boston office."



Above: Mom (Ruth) & Dad (Stuart) portraying the Willoughby family.
Left: Back Row: Dad (Stuart Hall)
Middle Row: Mom (Ruth Hall), my sister (Sandy Mastrangelo) and me.
Front Row: The grandchildren,
(Joe Mastrangelo and Ivy Hill).

What are the Odds

BETH LAMBRIGHT, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

What are the odds that three eighteen-year-old friends and graduates of the same high school would discover that 400 years ago their ancestors probably knew each other and might have also been related?

In June, my husband and I attended the high school graduation of our grandson, Nathan Wilson, from Bellarmine Preparatory School in Tacoma, Washington. Nathan is a direct descendant of several Mayflower passengers and is a Junior Member of the Oregon Society and the Thomas Rogers Society. Nathan is the son of Lissa Lambright Morrison, a member of the Washington Society; I am a member of the Oregon Society.

And what did three young men want to do as soon as they graduated high school and were FREE? Go on a road trip of course! So, the day after graduation, Nathan and his best buddies Frank Kormos and Emerson Smith headed south to our home in Oregon. They took in the beautiful sites in Astoria, Washington, Portland, Oregon, ate Portland's Voodoo donuts and spent their last evening watching the sunset over the Pacific Ocean at Newport, Oregon.

We have always shared Nathan's Mayflower history with him since his youth, so when these three young men were at my home, genealogy was a topic of conversation. Nathan's friend Emerson shared that he is also a descendant of the Mayflower, and after texting his mother, he nailed that claim down to two specific passengers—John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley. A short gasp! Grandson Nathan is a descendant of John Howland's brother Henry Howland who came to Plymouth before 1624. Nathan and Emerson are distant cousins! They share a common ancestor in Henry Howland (1565–1635) of Fenstanton, England, the father of both John Howland and his brother Henry Howland! These best of friends had no previous idea of their family connection.

The third best friend, Frank Kormos, revealed that he is a direct descendant of John Rolfe (1585–1622) of Jamestown, Virginia, who famously married Pocahontas. Then there was another pause—and another gasp. Grandson Nathan's ancestor Stephen Hopkins, his 11th great-grandfather, was also at Jamestown! And could it have been that Nathan's ancestor Stephen Hopkins would have known John Rolfe? As the young men looked up the information on Google about John Rolfe and Stephen Hopkins, they discovered that both men had boarded the Sea Venture in 1609 as one of the nine ships of the Third Supply from the Virginia Company of London headed to Jamestown. Upon encountering a terrible

hurricane-like storm that lasted three days in the North Atlantic, the Sea Venture was separated from the fleet and broke up on the

Best friends Emerson Smith, Frank Kormos, and Nathan Wilson at Bellarmine Prep Graduation June 1, 2025.

rocks off the shore of Bermuda where both John Rolfe and Stephen Hopkins would live for the next ten months building two new pinnaces to carry them to Jamestown. This event is believed to be the basis for Shakespeare's play "The Tempest."

Upon finally arriving in Jamestown in 1610 both Frank's ancestor John Rolfe and Nathan's ancestor Stephen Hopkins helped restore the colony that had dwindled to sixty survivors. John Rolfe married Pocahontas in 1614 and discovered that tobacco planted in Jamestown Colony grew splendidly. As a result, Rolfe became very successful as a tobacco farmer. In 1616, John Rolfe, his wife Pocahontas and infant son Thomas sailed to England on the *Treasurer* as guests of the Virginia Company to promote colonization of Jamestown.

Oddly enough, Mayflower passenger Stephen Hopkins may have been aboard the same ship!

In his book Here Shall I Die Ashore, author and Mayflower Society member Caleb Johnson records (p. 60-61) that when Stephen Hopkins received word in 1614 that his wife in England had died, he decided to return to England and "one of the next ships to return to England departed Jamestown in the Spring of 1616 with... John and Rebecca [Pocahontas] Rolfe and their baby son." Stephen Hopkins and John Rolfe had departed England on the same ship, did they also RETURN to England on the same vessel? Upon discovering this piece of the story, Frank blurted out to Nathan "our ancestors were 'boat buddies'!!" We all laughed. It was hard to take in—both Nathan and Frank's ancestors had spent time together at sea onboard the same ship and also spent time together in Jamestown for some five to six years! Their ancestors were, indeed, BOAT BUDDIES and fellow colonists at Jamestown. What was even more amazing was that these two young men were drawn to close friendship not knowing that they had actual physical ties in their family histories.

What are the odds?

Our grandson Nathan Wilson traveled to Massachusetts this summer for orientation at Westfield State University where he will be a freshman this fall. Unbeknownst to anyone in his family, he decided to select "HISTORY" as his major.

Remember, Remember

DOUG BLAKE

REMEMBER, REMEMBER: GUY FAWKES DAY AND PLIMOTH

In 1605 a plot to assassinate King James I by blowing up Parliament was foiled when guards found Guy Fawkes in a cellar below the House of Lords with barrels of gunpowder and a fuse. While there were others involved in the conspiracy, Guy Fawkes is the name most associated with the Gunpowder Plot, in part because he was caught with the actual gunpowder and fuse. Once people learned of the failed assassination attempt, celebrations sprung up around England with bonfires and the burning of effigies. This celebration became known as Guy Fawkes Day/Night, Bonfire Night, or Gunpowder Treason Day.¹

In 1606, the Observance of 5th November Act 1605, also known as the Thanksgiving Act, was passed by Parliament. This Act, passed by Parliament made the 5th of November a nationwide day of thanksgiving. Churches were mandated to hold morning services to give thanks for the King's survival and the defeat of the Catholic Church and its attempts to overthrow the Church of England. While the church services were held and attended across England (it was mandatory remember), it was the celebrations afterwards that became popular. These celebrations included: bonfires, fireworks, the burning of effigies, Guy Fawkes and the Pope being the most popular, anti-Catholic Church rhetoric, and often disorderly behavior. As time went on it became more common for children to walk around towns with effigies of Guy Fawkes looking for fuel and/or money, singing rhymes such as Remember Remember the 5th of November in a similar fashion to Trick or Treating on Halloween in America.²

By the 1850s, Guy Fawkes Day had lost much of its anti-Catholic message and no longer had mandatory church services. Instead, the day became a more secular social gathering; a reason to get together with friends and family, attend parades, set off fireworks, and light bonfires and effigies. This tradition is still held in England, but its observance in America had died out in the nineteenth century.³

While there are no direct mentions in the primary sources of the early Plymouth settlers celebrating Gunpowder Treason Day, there was a major event that occurred on the Fifth of November in Plymouth Colony.

In 1623, a bad fire broke out in Plymouth Colony.

Bradford wrote that the fire was caused "by some of the seamen that were roistering in a house where it [the fire] first began, making a great fire in very cold weather, which broke out of the chimney into the thatch and burned down three or four houses and consumed all the goods and provisions in them."4 The house where the fire started was also against the company storehouse. If the storehouse had burned, their common provisions would have been destroyed and "the plantation had been overthrown."5 Fortunately, through the diligence of Bradford and some with him the storehouse and goods were saved. There was concern over the rude company that belonged to the two ships that were staying in the town. Bradford and his trusted company "suspected some malicious dealing, if not plain treachery" and later "when the vehemency of the fire was over, smoke was seen to arise within a shed that was joined to the end of the storehouse." When people ran over to put out the fire they "found a long firebrand of an ell long [45 inches], lying under the wale on the inside, which could not possibly come there by casualty but must be laid there by some hand."8 Thankfully for Plymouth there were no further fires and the rude company of seamen eventually left with the ships. Emmanuel Altham also mentioned this fire in a letter to his brother writing "...by a sudden fire one half of the plantation was burnt down by fire, upon the 5th of November last, wherein was burnt and spoiled the goods of all such that came this last time into New England."9 Altham may have exaggerated the amount of damage, as other authors of the event place the number of houses lost lower. Bradford mentions three or four houses and Captain John Smith wrote in 1624 that Plymouth contained "Thirtytwo dwelling houses, whereof seven were burnt the last winter."10



This instance of fire was not the only time fire was reported in Plymouth's early history. In the first winter the roof of the common house burned off twice. The first instance occurred "the 14th of January, in the morning about 6 of the clock the wind being very great, they on shipboard spied their great new rendezvous on fire."11 The description continues "... the house was fired occasionally by a spark that flew into the thatch, which instantly burnt it all up but the roof stood and little hurt. The most loss was Master Carver's and William Bradford's, who then lay sick in bed, and if they had not risen with good speed, had been blown up with powder, but, through God's mercy, they had no harm."12 Then again on "Friday, the 9th [of Feb], still the cold weather continued, that we could do little work. That afternoon our little house for our sick people was set on fire by a spark that kindled in the roof, but no great harm was done."13

Fire was an ever-present concern with wooden houses and thatched roofs. Plymouth's militia would be called upon to help in instances of fire. In 1622 "Fearing, also, lest the enemy at any time should take any advantage by firing our houses, Captain Standish appointed a certain company, that whensoever they saw or heard fire to be cried in the town, should only betake themselves to their arms and enclose the house or place endangered, and stand aloof on their guard, with their backs towards the fire, to prevent treachery, if any were in that kind intended. If the fire were in any of the houses of this guard, they were then freed from it; but not otherwise, without special command."14 Reading the description of the 1623 fire in Of Plimoth Plantation, we can see that this plan was carried out successfully by the militia.

As mentioned, there are no records of the Pilgrims celebrating Guy Fawkes Day in Plymouth's early years. However, most of the Pilgrims would have known about the Gunpowder Plot and the conspirators, especially Guy Fawkes. Whether it was just a coincidence that the fire of 1623 happened on November 5th or if the seamen roistering were celebrating the date will likely never be known for certain. Either way, it serves as a good reminder that if you plan to celebrate the 5th with a bonfire, to not only have a penny for the Guy but a fire extinguisher nearby as well!

- Encyclopedia Britannica, "Guy Fawkes Day", britannica.com, July 9, 2025, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Guy-Fawkes-Day.
- 2. Encyclopedia Britannica, "Guy Fawkes Day."
- 3. Encyclopedia Britannica, "Guy Fawkes Day."
- William Bradford, Of Plimoth Plantation, ed. by Samuel Eliot Morison, (Random House, Inc., 1952), 136.
- 5. Bradford, Of Plimoth Plantation, 136.
- 6. Bradford, Of Plimoth Plantation, 136.
- 7. Bradford, Of Plimoth Plantation, 137.
- 8. Bradford, Of Plimoth Plantation, 137.
- John Pory, Emmanuel Altham, and Isaack De Rasieres, Three Visitors to Early Plymouth, ed. by Sydney V. James Jr., (The Plimoth Plantation, Inc., 1963), 37.
- **10.** Edward Arber and A. G. Bradley, eds., *Travels and Works of Captain John Smith* (1910), II, 782.
- **11.** Dwight B. Heath, ed., *Mourt's Relation*, (Applewood Books, 1986), 46-47.
- 12. Heath, ed., Mourt's Relation, 47.
- 13. Heath, ed., Mourt's Relation, 48.
- **14.** Edward Winslow, Good Newes from New England, (Applewood Books, 1996), 11.

To Make Cheesecakes Otherwayes

ALEXANDRA CERVENAK, MEMBERSHIP AND SALES MANAGER

TO MAKE CHEESECAKES OTHERWAYES

Take a good morning milk cheese, or better, of some eight pound weight, stamp it in a mortar, and beat a pound of butter amongst it, and a pound of sugar, then mix with it beaten mace, two pound of currans well picked and washed, a penny manchet grated, or a pound of almonds blanched and beaten fine with rose-water, and some salt; then boil some cream, and thicken it with six or eight yolks of eggs, mixed with the other things, work them well together, and fill the cheesecakes, make the curd not too soft, and make the paste of cold butter and water according to these forms.

TO MAKE COOL BUTTER PASTE FOR PATTY PANS OR PASTIES.

Take to every peck of flour five pound of butter, the whites of six eggs, and work it well together with cold spring water; you must bestow a great deal of pains, and but little water, or you put out the millers eyes. This paste is good only for patty-pan and pasty.

Sometimes for this paste put in but eight yolks of eggs, and but two whites, and six pound of butter.

- Robert May, The Accomplish't Cook

Nearly three years after the arrival of the *Mayflower*, three heifers and a bull finally arrived in New Plimoth aboard another supply ship called *Charity*. According to William Bradford they were "the first

beginning of any cattle of that kind in the land." Something like a cheesecake probably would have been considered a treat in the early years of Plimoth, because securing all the necessary ingredients at the same time didn't always happen in a fledgling colony. The *Charity* might have brought dairy cattle, but money was tight for the Pilgrims' investors, and this particular supply "could not provide other comfortable things, as butter, sugar, etc."²

This recipe is based on one from Robert May, a cook to wealthy English families who were probably more used to the "comfortable things." The 1685 edition of May's book The Accomplish't Cook included over 200 illustrations for a wide variety of pies, tarts, and yes, cheesecakes. If you are feeling up to it, you can even try to recreate one of his cheesecake designs seen above:³

- 1. William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, ed. by William T. Davis, (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1908), 166.
- 2. Bradford, Of Plymouth Planatation, 169.
- Robert May, "The Accomplisht Cook" Last modified October 16, 2023, https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/22790. 256, 288

Makes 1 approximately 12-inch cheesecake.

For the paste (crust):

- 2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for rolling dough
- 3 large egg whites
- ½ cup ice water
- 8 tablespoons cold unsalted butter

For the filling:

- 2 lbs. Whole fat ricotta
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 large egg yolks
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ tablespoon ground mace
- 1/₃ cup dried currants
- ½ teaspoon rosewater
- 1 pinch salt
- ²/₃ cup plain golden bread crumbs

To make the paste:

- 1. Separate the whites from three eggs. Set the yolks aside to use for filling.
- 2. Cut the cold butter into small pieces, and add to 2 cups flour in large bowl. Using your hands or a pastry cutter, and working quickly, rub together the cold butter and flour. Crumble the butter until it is in pea-size pieces, and the mixture has a sandy appearance.
- 3. Add the egg whites and ice water to the flour mixture. Again working quickly so as not to warm the butter, form the mixture into a dough. Be careful not to overwork the paste, and stop as soon as it comes together.
- **4.** Fashion the paste into a roughly 5-inch disc, and cover in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at least an hour.

To make the filling:

1. Begin by making a simple custard. Gently warm the heavy cream over medium heat until the edges start to bubble. Temper the egg yolks by adding three tablespoons of the warm cream, and then beat together. Slowly stream the tempered yolks into the cream while whisking constantly, until custard is thickened and a pale golden color. Remove from heat and set aside.

2. In a mixing bowl, add the softened butter to the ricotta. Using the back of a wooden spoon or a spatula, cream them together until combined.

3. To this mixture add sugar, mace, currants, rosewater and salt. Combine.

4. Pour the custard into the ricotta mixture, and gently stir together.

5. Add bread crumbs and mix together. The filling should be somewhat stiff, so if mixture is still too liquidy, add more bread crumbs by the tablespoon until desired consistency is reached.

To bake:

- 1. Generously flour work surface and turn chilled paste onto it. Flour top of paste and rolling pin if necessary. Roll paste into a roughly 12 to 13-inch circle, turning the paste as you go, so it doesn't stick to work surface.
- 2. To make Robert May's decorative design, cut a scalloped edge around the paste. Transfer paste to a baking sheet lined with parchment paper or silpat (such as by rolling the paste up onto your rolling pin, and then rolling it back out onto the baking sheet).
- **3.** Mound the filling into the middle of the paste circle. Don't panic, it will look quite tall!
- **4.** Fold the scallops towards the middle of cheesecake, sealing the edges between each one with your fingers.
- **5.** Return cheesecake to the refrigerator to chill for at least 20 minutes.
- **6.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake cheesecake on middle rack for about 1 hour, until paste is light golden brown and the filling has set (the center should still have a slight wobble).

7. Cool completely. To serve in true seventeenth century style, cut cheesecake into squares, not wedges!





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.

- A subscription to The **Mayflower Quarterly** Magazine.
- 10% Discount at Hotel 1620 in Plymouth, Massachusetts.
- Opportunity to serve in **Member Society and General** Society Office Positions.

- Scholarship eligibility for self, child, grandchild or great-grandchild.
- Free Admission to the **Mayflower Society** Genealogy and Research Center.
- Free tour of the historic Mayflower Meetinghouse.

FreeWill, a free online will preparation service.

- \$20 off a Plimoth Patuxet Museums membership plus a special edition print of the Mayflower II under sail on the Atlantic Ocean in 2020.
- **Netherlands with**
- **Exclusive members only** tours to historic Pilgrim sites in the US, Canada, **Great Britain and the** paid reservation.
- Storyworth discount through link on the GSMD website. Record and publish your own family stories through Storyworth.

- **Members Only** Store Items.
- Special discounted rate on NEGHS membership.
- See Plymouth Discount Package.
- Free tour of the historic Mayflower Society House.

Exclusive members only Hereditary Fortnight Breakfast each April in Washington, DC, with paid reservation.

Free access to educational videos on The Mayflower

Society YouTube Channel.

\$25.00

Mastiff & Spaniel Ornament

Honor your family's furry Mayflower descendants with this ornament custommade for GSMD. It showcases the two dogs known to have traveled on the Mayflower in 1620: a mastiff and a spaniel.

Measures approximately 3"x 2.5". Metal.

distinctive outline of the sign found at GSMD's main campus in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Engraved with The Mayflower Society logo on the reverse side.

Measures approximately 3" x 2". 24K gold plated.

LET GSMD HELP YOU STAY WARM AS THE WEATHER COOLS DOWN.

\$85.00

Logo Puffer Vest

A great layering option for added warmth! Waterresistant. Two on-seam pockets, each with a hidden snap. 100% polyester, machine wash.

Mayflower

Society.

From Land's End. Mayflower Society logo on left chest. Available in both men's and women's sizes.



\$30.00

Long Sleeve Tee

Lightweight tri-blend long-sleeved t-shirt, with GSMD seal on left chest.

Men's version has a rib-knit crewneck collar. Women's version comes with V-neck collar.



HUNGRY FOR HISTORY THIS THANKSGIVING? CHECK OUT THESE TITLES FOR BOTH KIDS AND ADULTS.

\$7.95



1621 - A New Look At Thanksgiving

This lushly illustrated photo-essay presents a historically accurate version of the three-day harvest celebration in 1621.

Paperback, 48 pages. Ages 8-12.

\$16.99

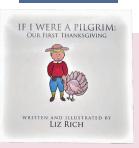


Keepunumuk - Weeâchumun's **Thanksgiving Story**

In this Wampanoag story told in a Native tradition, two children from the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe learn the story of Weeâchumun (corn) and the First Thanksgiving. Learn about the time of harvest (Keepunumuk), along with Wampanoag words and even a recipe.

Hardcover, 32 pages. Ages 3-7.

\$15.00



If I Were a Pilgrim: **Our First Thanksgiving**

Written and illustrated by GSMD member Liz Rich, a Brewster descendant. A fun but factual story of the First Thanksgiving.

Paperback, 34 pages. Ages 5-8.

\$19.99



We Gather Together (Young Reader's Edition)

This young reader's adaptation of the New York Times bestselling We Gather Together by Denise Kiernan shares the true story of how Thanksgiving became a national holiday and the way gratitude is looked at in America.

Hardcover, 312 pages, Ages 8-12.

\$30.00

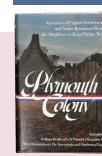


Thanksgiving -The Biography of an American Holiday

In this, the first in-depth study of the most American of holidays, James W. Baker sweeps away lingering myths and misconceptions to show how Thanksgiving was born and grew to be an essential part of our national spirit.

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