

The MAYFLOWER QUARTERLY *Magazine*



General Society of Mayflower Descendants

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2023-2026

Governor General
Lisa H. Pennington, Esq., Texas

Assistant Governor General
Jeffrey J. Stark, Wisconsin

Secretary General
Martin "Marty" W. Beerman, Nebraska

Treasurer General
Bart S. Henson, Texas

Historian General
Reverend Michael R. Denney, Maine

Counsellor General
James "Jim" Wheaton, Esq., Massachusetts

Elder General
Reverend Michael R. Denney, Maine

Captain General
Collier S. Wiese, South Dakota

Surgeon General
David Lowell Nash, MD, Florida

Members-at-Large
Beth Lambright, Oregon
Jane Schleinzer, Illinois
Cherie Snow Lawson, Oklahoma

Former Governor General
Jane E. Groves Riddell Hurt, Kansas

Executive Director
Cheryl Soares

THE MAYFLOWER QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

MQM Chair
Della J. Regenold
MQMChair@TheMayflowerSociety.org

Editor-in-Chief
Doug Blake
MQMEditor@TheMayflowerSociety.org

Contributing Historian
James W. Baker

Contributing Genealogist
Dale H. Cook

Copy Editors
Della J. Regenold
Beth Anderson Godfrey

EDITORIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Chair - Della J. Regenold
Martin W. Beerman, Secretary General
Susan Roser, Former Assistant
Governor General, Former MQM Editor-in-Chief
Beth Anderson Godfrey, MQM Copy Editor

HELP TELL THE PILGRIM STORY

The Mayflower Meetinghouse Project



Find out more at:

www.TheMayflowerSociety.org/give/the-mayflower-meetinghouse-project

Cover Art: The Mayflower Society's hand-painted Plymouth Harbor Seal named Winny, located near the *Mayflower II*. Winny was painted by Plymouth artist Elizabeth Ames.

The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine (ISSN 0148-5032) is published quarterly by the not-for-profit General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 18 Winslow Street, Plymouth, MA 02360. The magazine is available to all GSMD members in good standing as well as by annual subscription to the public for \$24 (+ shipping for those outside the continental US). Periodical postage paid at Plymouth, Massachusetts, and additional offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 18 Winslow Street, Plymouth, MA 02360-3313.

Deadlines for submission:

January 1: Spring Issue	April 1: Summer Issue	July 1: Fall Issue	October 1: Winter Issue
----------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------------

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

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

The MAYFLOWER QUARTERLY Magazine

VOLUME 92, NO.1
SPRING 2026

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 2026 spring issue of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*. Hopefully spring-like weather has reached you by the time this issue does.

Inside the covers of this magazine you will find a plethora of information about the upcoming **Forty-fourth General Congress in Plymouth, Massachusetts, September 11-16, 2026**. This includes the tentative schedule for the event with the details on the various tours and registration information. This issue also contains the proposed Bylaws Amendments that will be voted on during the General Congress and an article from the Nominating Committee about their candidates for election to the Executive Committee.

In addition, the issue contains Member Society News articles, General Society Updates, Why I Joined The Mayflower Society and an article by Dale Cook on historical records that are useful in genealogy.

- Doug



▲ 2025 America's Hometown Thanksgiving Parade.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 Governor General's Message
Lisa Pennington
- 3 Executive Director's Update
Cheryl Soares
- 4 Mayflower Meetinghouse Update
Cheryl Soares
- 5 News from the Research Center
Jeff Gamble
- 6 Commendation and Appreciation
Awards 2026
Nancy Q. Saul
- In Memoriam
- 7 To Seeth Muscles
Alex Cervenak
- 8 GSMD Nominating Committee Report
Jane E. Groves Riddell Hurt
- 11 GSMD Hereditary Fortnight Breakfast
in Washington, DC
Martin W. Beerman
- 12 Congress 2026: Proposed
Amendments to the Constitution
and Bylaws
- 18 Why I Joined The Mayflower Society
- 20 General Society of Mayflower
Descendants Forty-fourth
General Congress
Martin W. Beerman
- 27 Newbury Street Experience:
Scholarship, Beauty and
Mayflower Legacy
Martin W. Beerman
- 28 Member Society News
- 36 Pilgrim History and Genealogy
- Online Discoveries: The Historical
Records Survey Projects
Dale H. Cook
- 38 Need help with your
lineage application?
- 40 Sales and Insignia

Governor General's Message

LISA PENNINGTON, GOVERNOR GENERAL



Earlier this winter, we stayed in our 1745 Plymouth house on Leyden Street. Snow blanketed the town, and it was beautiful. But our heat was not working, so the house was freezing. We put on layers of clothing and huddled by the fire, as we imagined our ancestors would have done under the same circumstances. At least we had shelter. During the winter of 1620–1621, the Pilgrims tried to build a common house in December and waded from the *Mayflower's* shallow to shore through freezing water. Cold, exposure, and scurvy were enough to cause half of their number to perish. Winter was always a difficult and dangerous time.

In March of 1623, Edward Winslow wrote about another winter story involving Massasoit Ousamequin, the Pokanoket sachem. The Pilgrims heard news that he was dangerously ill and was likely to die. In his book, *Good News from New England*, Winslow related that it was the “commendable manner of the Indians” to visit persons of note who were very ill to show respect and friendship. Accordingly, Governor Bradford asked Winslow to visit Massasoit, bring the Pilgrims’ good wishes and offer him some of their English remedies. Bradford, and probably the surgeon Samuel Fuller, equipped Winslow with various “comfortable cordials,” which may have included a chicken broth.

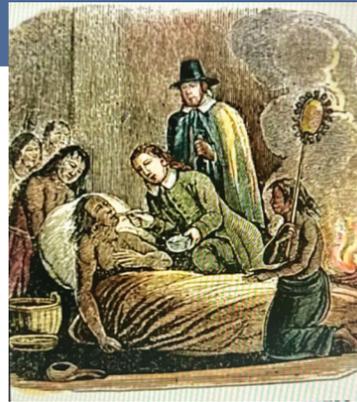
Hobbamock, Massasoit’s representative at Plymouth, acted as a guide. Another Plymouth visitor also traveled with Winslow on a three-day journey by foot which was about forty miles away. After arriving at the village, they found that the sachem was indeed very ill. Massasoit was blind, and his tongue was so swollen that he hadn’t been able to swallow for two days. Winslow told him that Governor Bradford had sent some medicine “which they thought might do him good,” and asked permission to administer it. Winslow then gave Massasoit small amounts of the “conserve” between his teeth on the point of a knife blade. This medicine seemed to help him swallow. Winslow also washed out his mouth and scraped his furred tongue, then gave him more of the confection dissolved in water. Within half an hour,

Massasoit’s eyesight started to return, and his recovery seemed almost miraculous. At his request, Winslow shot a duck and made a “pottage” of duck, some “bruised” corn, strawberry leaves and sassafras root. A messenger was sent to Plymouth for more chickens to make broth and for more “physic” from their surgeon, Samuel Fuller.

Massasoit also asked Winslow to treat everyone in the village who suffered from the disease by scraping their tongues and giving them some of the Englishman’s broth. Winslow wrote, “These pains I took with willingness, though it were much offensive to me, not being accustomed to such poisonous savors.” But he did it anyway, and Massasoit and his people recovered from their illnesses. Winslow noted, **“They were good folk.”**

Winslow quotes Massasoit as saying, “Now I see the English are my friends, and love me: and whilst I live I will never forget this kindness they have showed me.” And he never did. Winslow and Massasoit became lifelong friends, and the Pilgrim/Pokanoket alliance lasted for fifty-four years, the longest in American history.

One sometimes hears tales of small acts of kindness which changed history. Squanto helped the Pilgrims grow corn in the summer of 1621, teaching them to grow food and survive in a new world. Winslow’s sharing of English medicine and techniques with Massasoit and his people were small but important acts of kindness which showed care, honor and respect. This is only one of the many important stories we intend to tell at the Mayflower Meetinghouse. And it may have been the first time in history that chicken soup helped forge a fifty-four-year peace!



▲ Depiction of Winslow giving Massasoit medicine from Plymouth.

Executive Director's Update

CHERYL SOARES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am writing this article on a cold December day, knowing that you will be reading it as we head into spring. That said, I would be remiss not to share how wonderful it was to participate in the Thanksgiving Parade with a float and a band of dedicated Mayflower members who braved very inclement weather—not a single complaint among them, only great fellowship. I hope you were able to watch it live or on Thanksgiving morning.

I am pleased to introduce our new Research Center Manager, Jeff Gamble. We welcome Jeff, and I must say how impressed I have been with his competence and leadership as we explore ways to enhance and grow our Research Center. Jeff will share updates later in this issue of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*.

As mentioned in the last issue of this magazine, we partnered with the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce and local artist Elizabeth Ames for a public art fundraiser featuring more than twenty hand-painted Plymouth Harbor Seals. If you are in Plymouth anytime through the Fall of 2027, I encourage you to visit The Mayflower Society “seal,” named *Winny*, located near the *Mayflower II*—it is a wonderful photo opportunity.

I am pleased to share that The Mayflower Society is continuing its partnership with FreeWill, a secure and easy-to-use online tool that helps supporters create or update their Wills at no cost. This partnership reflects our commitment to making thoughtful legacy planning accessible to everyone who cares deeply about The Mayflower Society mission. We are profoundly grateful to the members and friends who have already chosen to include the Society in their estate plans. Your foresight and generosity ensure that The Mayflower Society work will continue for generations to come, and we thank you for leaving such a meaningful legacy. By sharing your intention to support the Society through a planned gift, you also join our legacy society, the Candlelight Circle, and we are very proud to celebrate in the coming years the members who have generously joined.

Additionally, members can take the extra step to designate their bequests and planned gifts specifically to the Mayflower Meetinghouse. These commitments will build the Meetinghouse endowment, ensuring that this space remains a beacon of our shared history for years to come. If you are considering how your legacy might serve The Mayflower Society and the Mayflower Meetinghouse, please reach out to me directly or learn more on our website.

To further support the Mayflower Meetinghouse campaign, this winter we also took part in Giving Tuesday, seeking support to restore the plaster and gold-leaf stenciling that borders the windows inside the Mayflower Meetinghouse. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we raised nearly \$10,000 toward this important restoration effort.

Looking ahead to spring, we are beginning the plans for the Forty-Fourth GSMD General Congress, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. We also plan to continue our Teddy Bear Tea tradition in June. As warmer weather approaches, please be sure to stop by if you are visiting the area and to check our website where we will keep our hours updated. You are welcome to enjoy a stroll through our beautiful gardens, schedule a tour of the Mayflower Society House by contacting Christine at ExecutiveAsst@TheMayflowerSociety.org, visit our Research Center to continue your Mayflower research, or stop by the Administration Building to say hello.

Above all, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our members. Whether near or far, your continued support, engagement, and shared dedication to preserving the Mayflower story unite us as one community. We are deeply grateful for your commitment and look forward to all we will accomplish together in the months ahead.

Mayflower Meetinghouse Update

CHERYL SOARES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am thrilled to share an update on our Meetinghouse Campaign, the most ambitious initiative in The Mayflower Society's history. Together we are developing a world-class educational center that preserves this historic building and honors the original Meetinghouse site on Leyden Street, the birthplace of American self-governance.

Since assuming ownership of the Meetinghouse, we have made tremendous progress thanks to your generosity. To date this campaign has:

- Raised over \$10 million in cash, pledges, and designated planned gifts.
- Launched Phase One of construction including critical improvements from electrical upgrades to installing a new elevator.
- Completed restoration of the historic bells, restoring these treasured artifacts to their original condition.

These accomplishments have set the stage for what comes next: a full interior restoration featuring multimedia exhibits, and the establishment of a Meetinghouse Endowment to ensure its perpetual

FLORIDA HOSPITALITY SHINES AT FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

On December 6, 2025, the Isaac Allerton Colony hosted a special fundraising luncheon in Boynton Beach, Florida, for the Meetinghouse Campaign, drawing more than eighty members and friends of The Mayflower Society. The event was filled with warmth, camaraderie, and a shared passion for preserving our Pilgrim heritage.

Governor General Lisa Pennington led the program, sharing lesser-known historical details about the 1620 Pilgrims and the Meetinghouse project. The original Meetinghouse, on the same historic site as the current building, was central to the Pilgrims' faith and government for centuries. It was where they elected their own leaders and created the first laws in America, such as the right to trial by jury in 1623 and the first laws to protect destitute widows and orphans.

"I was so gratified by the outpouring of support for the Meetinghouse and all the hard work and dedication shown by the volunteers."

– Lisa Pennington, Governor General

care. With a total goal of \$20 million, we are now focused on raising the final \$10 million to complete this transformative project.

Regarding the physical construction and advancements, we are excited to be moving forward. Because of the site's proximity to Burial Hill, a seventeenth-century burial ground, the Town of Plymouth required archaeological oversight before work could begin. Soil testing and test pit drilling have been completed under the supervision of an archaeologist, and no archaeological finds were discovered, allowing work to proceed. We are working with CambridgeSeven, a notable architecture firm, alongside engineers and contractors to refine the plans, while we seek the final permits from the Town of Plymouth to advance the next steps for the redevelopment.

The educational opportunities offered by this Meetinghouse will celebrate the story of the Mayflower Pilgrims, a foundational chapter in our nation's history and, for many, a deeply personal story. Our vision is to bring to life the legacy of faith, fortitude, and the enduring human spirit that helped shape the United States.

The silent auction added energy to the afternoon, featuring a stay in the Mayflower Society House in Plymouth and Mayflower inspired centerpieces. This meaningful initiative was made possible by dedicated volunteers, including Colony Governor Mark Rhodes, and Marjorie Ferrer, as well as the generous attendees.

Lisa Pennington looks forward to traveling across the country in the coming year to continue sharing the story of the Meetinghouse and inspiring support for this endeavor, creating a space where our history can be celebrated well into the future.



JOIN US IN SHARING OUR LEGACY

As we reignite this campaign with renewed momentum, I invite you to be part of completing this historic achievement. In the coming months, I will share updates and opportunities for engagement.

We welcome introductions to friends and family to share our passion for the past, for education, and for celebrating the enduring impact of the 1620 Pilgrims, especially as we approach our nation's 250th Anniversary. Together, we can ensure this legacy inspires generations to come.

Thank you for your exceptional support. Whether through direct gifts or planned giving designated

for the Meetinghouse, your commitment makes a profound impact. Your partnership has brought us this far, and with your continued support, we will finish strong.

You are part of the story, and your contributions allow us to continue telling it. Please consider **making a gift today**, and please reach out to learn more and tour the space – we cannot wait to see you in Plymouth!



News from the Research Center

JEFF GAMBLE, RESEARCH CENTER MANAGER

Last year was one of growth and excitement for the Research Center in Plymouth. The Research Center is home to the Mayflower Society Library and the skilled team of researchers and verifiers whose dedicated efforts help applicants become members and help members further their genealogical endeavors.

In 2025, the team received well over 1,600 new applications. At the moment, new applications are taking about fourteen weeks to fully approve. If you are considering submitting a new application, or submitting a supplemental application, be sure to reach out to your Member Society Historian who can guide you through the application process and ensure you have everything you need for success. For members, you can find links to your Member Society's website and contact information for your Historian on The Mayflower Society website under **About > How to Join**.

One of the many perks of a Mayflower Society membership is access to our Research Library. The brick-and-mortar library houses thousands of rare and unusual books with everything from family genealogies to local vital records, to maps and other historic tomes. Members are encouraged to visit the library when they are in Plymouth and take advantage of the resources we have to offer. Our winter hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m. You don't have to be in Plymouth to use this valuable resource. Information for the Research Center Library is available on our website www.TheMayflowerSociety.org under **Visit > The Research Center**. There, you will find contact information for the Research Center staff, as well as links to library resources.

One of our newer Research Center services centers around helping members and prospective members with their genealogical research. The skilled genealogists on our Research Services team are ready to help you with your research, and can help you craft your application. You do not have to be a member to use Research Services. More information about the packages we offer can be found on the GSMD website. The Research Services Team had a very active 2025 and expects a robust 2026.

We do hope that you will take advantage of all the Research Center has to offer. When you are in Plymouth, please feel free to stop in. If you have questions, or need help with your genealogical research, feel free to email us at ResearchCenter@TheMayflowerSociety.org or give the library a call at (508) 746-3188 extension 11.

Commendation and Appreciation Awards 2026

NANCY Q. SAUL, AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Each year, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) presents Commendation and Appreciation Awards to members who have rendered extensive volunteer service with significant direct benefits to the GSMD over an extended time or have supported and enhanced the objectives of the GSMD.

If a member of your Member Society has volunteered above and beyond for your Member Society and your Member Society would like to recognize them at Congress in Plymouth, Massachusetts, please contact me, Nancy Q. Saul, Awards Chairman, at nqsaul@aol.com. This is not a contest. All Member Societies should submit one of their members for this recognition.

Please provide me with the name of your nominee and a short description of how they have made a difference in your Member Society. Be sure to give me the name of your nominee as you would like to have it printed on their certificate. Only one nominee from each Member Society will be honored.

Please submit your entry to me by July 15, 2026. I look forward to reading about your Member Societies' nominees.

In Memoriam

Thomas Russell Drummond of Peoria, Arizona, passed away on November 25, 2025, at the age of 78. Mr. Drummond served the Arizona Society as Captain from 2020 to 2025. He was a descendant of Mayflower passengers John Alden, Priscilla Mullins Alden, Stephen Hopkins, Elizabeth Fisher Hopkins, William Bradford, William Mullins and Richard Warren. Mr. Drummond is survived by his wife Paula Drummond, his daughter Tamara (Tammy) Lynn, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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

To Seeth Muscles

ALEX CERVENAK, MEMBERSHIP AND SALES MANAGER

Take butter and vinegar a good deal, parseley chopt small and pepper, then set it on the fire, and let it boile a while, then see the Muscles be cleane washee, and put them in the broth shelles and all, and when they be boyled a while, serve them shells and all.

– Thomas Dawson, *The Second Part of the Good Huswives Jewell*, 1597¹

Especially in the warmer months, Plymouth Harbor teemed with seafood. But even throughout the autumn and winter, the waters around New Plimoth still afforded the Pilgrims a good deal of food. Eels could be found all year, as could mussels. One of the first foods the Pilgrims found and ate on Cape Cod after the *Mayflower* arrived there in November 1620 was mussels, and likewise when they finally came to Plymouth in December they found an “abundance of mussels the greatest and best that ever we saw.”²

Makes 2-3 servings.

- 2 pounds mussels
- 4 tablespoons salted butter
- ½ cup white wine vinegar
- 1 cup parsley, chopped
- 2 cups water
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Rinse and beard the mussels. Throw away any that are already open, or do not close when touched. Set aside to drain.
2. In a large pot, melt the butter. Once melted add vinegar, water, parsley and hearty pinches of salt and ground black pepper. Bring to a gentle boil.
3. Add mussels to pot and toss to coat in broth. Cover and let simmer.
4. The mussels will be done as soon as they open. This will only take a few minutes, so be careful not to overcook them. Serve the mussels immediately, along with the broth.

1. “The second part of the good hus-wiues iewell Where is to be found most apt and readiest wayes to distill many wholsome and sweet waters. In which likewise is shewed the best maner in preseruing of diuers sorts of fruits, & making of sirrops. With diuers conceits in cookerie with the booke of caruing.” In the digital collection Early English Books Online. <https://name.umdl.umich.edu/A69185.0001.001>. University of Michigan Library Digital Collections. Accessed January 21, 2026.

2. Heath, Dwight B. 1986. *Mourt's Relation: A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth*. Cambridge: Applewood Books.



GSMD Nominating Committee Report

JANE E. GROVES RIDDELL HURT, FORMER GOVERNOR GENERAL

GENERAL OFFICERS PROPOSED FOR 2026-2029

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of General Society Officers for election at the 2026 Congress.

Executive Office Nominees for the 2026-2029 administration are:

Governor General Martin “Marty” W. Beerman (NE)	Assistant Governor General Collier S. Wiese (SD)	Secretary General Della Regenold (KS)	Treasurer General Steve Pike (NC)
Historian General Rev. Michael R. Denney (ME)	Counsellor General James “Jim” J. Wheaton, Esq. (VA)	Elder General Nancy R. Allen (MA)	Captain General Charles “Chuck” Provost (IN)
			Surgeon General David L. Nash, MD (FL)

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Former Governor General Jane E. Groves Riddell Hurt, Chair (KS)	Former Governor General Lea Sinclair Filson (MA)	Former Governor General George P. Garmany Jr., MD, (CO)	Former Assistant Governor General Susan E. Roser (CN)
Former Assistant Governor General Don Studley (CT)	Treasurer General Bart Henson (TX)	Member-at-Large Cherie Lawson (OK)	Former Member-at-Large Benjamin Proctor Jr. (MD)
Deputy Governor General Deborah Lasher-Hardy (ID)	Deputy Governor General Charles Johnson (MS)	Deputy Governor General Thomas Portlock (UT)	Deputy Governor General and Co-Historian Diane Douglass (CA)

GOVERNOR GENERAL Martin “Marty” W. Beerman of the Nebraska Society. Beerman is currently serving GSMD as Secretary General. Other GSMD positions he holds are Meeting and Events Committee Chair, New Product Committee Chair, Bylaws Committee, Long Term Planning Committee, Personnel Committee, and Technology Committee.



In addition, Beerman has been active in the Nebraska Society since joining in 1990, including six years as their newsletter editor and the last twenty years as webmaster. He served as Historian from 2007–2012 and 2015–2025, plus serving as Nebraska Society Governor from 2017–2020. He has also spent many years chairing the Nebraska Society Scholarship program. At the 2019 General Board of Assistants Meeting, he was recognized with a Certificate of Commendation and Appreciation. That certificate noted that as Historian, he was responsible for a record number of new applications processed, launching the Nebraska Society website, and maintaining their membership database.

Beerman participates in many genealogy and lineage organizations and has joined over forty significant societies, far too numerous to list. He is currently serving as the President of The Warren Cousins Family Society.

Beerman retired in 2021 from a career in healthcare marketing. His Master’s Degree in Healthcare Administration was from Bellevue University. Beerman spent nearly forty years working with hospitals in the Omaha area. From

2007 until his retirement in 2021, he served as Vice President of Marketing and Community Relations for Children’s Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha. During that interval, he somehow found time to serve on Boards of Directors for the American Heart Association, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, The Omaha Theater for Young People, the Omaha Children’s Museum, and several other organizations devoted to children’s health and development.

ASSISTANT GOVERNOR GENERAL Collier S. Wiese of the South Dakota Society. Wiese is currently serving GSMD as Captain General, Mayflower Guard Committee Chairman, and as a member of both the Scholarship Committee, and the Capital Campaign Advisory Committee for the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse Capital Campaign. He has also served GSMD as the Deputy Governor General from the South Dakota Society 2020–2023 and served as Acting Deputy Governor General from the Europe Society at the 2025 General Board of Assistants meeting. Wiese is also a member of the Europe Society, Australian Society, The Warren Cousins, and he has been a member of the Governor General’s 1620 Club since 2016.



Wiese holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Mortuary Science and both Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Physician Assistant Studies. He has worked as a Physician Assistant since 1995, including active duty in the US Army National Guard. He retired from his service in the Indiana Army National Guard, at the rank of Major in 2023. As part of his military service, he attended the US Army Command and General Staff College where he was designated as a Distinguished Graduate.

In Wiese’s community he belongs to the Masonic Lodge, Order of the Eastern Star, and his American Legion Post. While retiring as a Physician Assistant in 2020, he continues to provide part-time services in the community hospital system. He and his wife, Dawn Merritt, are part owners of the Armour Brewing Company and are actively involved with operations. They have two adult sons.

SECRETARY GENERAL Della Regenold of the Kansas Society. Regenold joined the Kansas Society in 2012. She served GSMD as Assistant General from 2017–2020, Deputy Governor General from 2020–present and is currently serving as *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* Chair, Editorial Review Committee Chair, and as a member of the Scholarship Committee. Regenold received the 2023 Governor General Commendation Award for her work on *The MQM*.



In addition, Regenold has also been very active in the Kansas Society having served as Junior Membership Chair from 2013–2014, a position on the Kansas Board of Assistants, Corresponding Secretary from 2014–2017 and served as the Kansas Society Governor from 2017–2020. The Kansas Society nominated her for the GSMD Commendation Award for volunteer contributions in 2016. Her service encompassed updating the then newly launched website with membership information, facilitating the provision of additional membership services.

Regenold holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business. For the past forty years she worked for a municipal bond attorney assisting with the bond financings of municipal projects across Kansas counties, cities and school districts.

TREASURER GENERAL Steve Pike of the North Carolina Society. Pike has served the GSMD as Deputy Governor General and has been very active in the North Carolina Society since joining in 2008, serving as Treasurer, Deputy Governor, and Governor. While serving North Carolina, Pike implemented a new Life Membership program based on IRS mortality tables, an assumed increase in membership fees over time and modern portfolio theory, introduced a new Member Handbook, and led the Board of Assistants to double the annual Scholarship Award from \$2,000 to \$4,000 due to the Society’s financial strength.



Pike holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics and a Master of Business Administration. He worked forty-one years in the banking industry for different banks including NationsBank and Central Carolina Bank until 2003 when he co-founded Investors Trust Company in Chapel Hill—a public trust and investment company chartered by the North Carolina Commissioner of Banks. Pike served as President of Investors Trust Company from 2007 until his retirement in 2021.

Pike has found time over the years to volunteer for leadership roles on different non-profit boards including: Treasurer for Durham Historical Preservation Society, Treasurer for Vestry of St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, Development Chair for Durham Educational Network, Vice President for Durham Library Foundation (current Finance Chair), Chairperson for Carolina Meadows (a Continuing Care Community) and President of Hope Valley Country Club.

HISTORIAN GENERAL Rev. Michael R. Denney of the Maine Society. Denney is currently serving GSMD as both the Elder General and the Historian General. Denney also serves the Maine Society as both Elder and as Historian. The Maine Society recognizes his talents in both roles. Denney has a passion for genealogy and loves genealogical research and New England history. Denney's genealogical training includes GSMD's Historian Training and he is a regular participant in Historian calls, webinars and workshops. He has also participated in a New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) six-week seminar on Mayflower Research and a NEHGS Seminar: "Go to Records" and additional genealogy webinars.



Denney is an ordained minister for the United Church of Christ, serving as Pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Ossipee, New Hampshire, and is a member of the Board of Directors for the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ.

In addition, Denney teaches World Religions and Public Speaking at Franklin Pierce University. He earned a Master in Theology at Notre Dame College and a Master of Divinity at Bangor Theological Seminary.

COUNSELLOR GENERAL James "Jim" J. Wheaton, Esq. of the Virginia Society. Wheaton is currently serving GSMD as Counsellor General following his election in 2023. Wheaton received his JD from the University of Virginia in 1985 and served as a Law Clerk for Judge J. Dickson Phillips Jr., United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He worked for thirty years with two law firms in Virginia and as Chief Compliance Officer, General Counsel and Vice President for Legal and Governmental Affairs for a publicly-traded tax industry company. He is admitted to the Bar in Virginia, Massachusetts, the US Supreme Court, the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. He has held teaching positions at the University of Virginia, Boston University and William & Mary law schools, and he is now a Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Special Education Advocacy Clinic at William & Mary Law School. He previously directed the Startup Law Clinic at Boston University School of Law, a position that required him to be very familiar with the formation and organization of LLCs, corporations, nonprofits, and intellectual property issues, among other skills. He is a frequent speaker on and regular expert witness about business entity issues.



Wheaton has been very active in the Massachusetts Society, serving as their Counsellor and working with their Board officers on a variety of issues. He was previously the Counsellor for the Virginia Society, where he led a comprehensive bylaws revision project. He joined The Mayflower Society in the early 1990s, and he is also a member of several other lineage organizations.

Wheaton has served on numerous other nonprofit organization boards and is an active Scouting volunteer. His interest in genealogy was inspired by a Cub Scout requirement when he was eight years old. He is the father of four adult children.

ELDER GENERAL Nancy R. Allen of the Massachusetts Society. Allen holds a Master of Divinity degree from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, and has twenty-five years of pastoral experience including preaching, teaching, spiritual guidance, mission and administration.



Allen currently serves the Faith Community Church, Plymouth, Massachusetts, as the Visitation Pastor where she is designing and organizing a congregational care team to visit shut-ins and the sick, is issuing invitations and training for individuals to participate on the care team, and is teaching women's bible study and preaching as assigned. She has previously served as a pastor of a church in West Wareham, Massachusetts, and at the Wellspring Church in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts.

CAPTAIN GENERAL Charles "Chuck" Provost of the Indiana Society. Provost has served GSMD on the General Board of Assistants for the past eighteen years and is Charter Member of the Mayflower Guard, having attended every Color Guard event since its inception. In addition, Provost represented GSMD on the 2020 Tournament of Roses Parade float by participating in fundraising for the float, decorating the float, and riding on the float.



Provost has also been very active in the Indiana Society having served on the Board as Treasurer for nine years. As Treasurer, he was instrumental in guiding the Indiana Society through re-incorporation and non-profit reorganization and in planning the 2016 General Board of Assistants meeting arrangements in Indianapolis.

Provost is a retired small business owner. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and a Master of Business Administration degree with emphasis in finance and administration. As a young man, he started an industrial

construction company. His company built test facilities for the aerospace industry. His company's projects include supersonic wind tunnel modifications for NASA and Boeing. His company also provided equipment for rocket engine research and development and for space launch complexes. He believes that his greatest strength is not the technical knowledge, but his ability to work with others. He and his wife are the parents of two adult children.

SURGEON GENERAL David L. Nash, MD of the Florida Society. Nash is currently serving GSMD as Surgeon General following his election in 2023. Nash's medical training began at the University of Minnesota, followed by a Surgical Internship at Duke Medical Center and Residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Mayo Clinic with a subspecialty in Pediatric Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. For thirty-one years, Nash served on the staff of the Mayo Clinic as Assistant Professor and has continued to practice at Mayo for the past decade as an Emeritus staff physician under a supplemental contract.



Nash is currently the Governor of the James Chilton Colony in Florida. He has prepared several talks for the Colony meetings and had the pleasure of giving a talk on "The Seasoning: Death and Survival of the Pilgrims" at the GSMD Hereditary Fortnight Breakfast in Washington, DC, on April 9, 2025.

Nash is committed to upholding the highest standards of the office of Surgeon General, ensuring the health of GSMD while respecting our shared heritage. In addition, he pledges to continue advancing the health, unity, and mission of GSMD.

GSMD Hereditary Fortnight Breakfast in Washington, DC

MARTIN W. BEERMAN, SECRETARY GENERAL

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants' (GSMD) Hereditary Fortnight Breakfast is Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at the Army Navy Club Ballroom in Washington, DC. Join Governor General Lisa Pennington and your Mayflower Cousins for this special event with keynote speaker Richard Pickering, Deputy Executive Director and Senior Historian, Plimoth Patuxet Museums.

ABOUT RICHARD PICKERING

Richard Pickering serves as Deputy Executive Director and Senior Historian at Plimoth Patuxet Museums, the living-history institution that interprets seventeenth-century Plymouth Colony and the Wampanoag homeland.

Over nearly four decades at the museum, Pickering has held numerous roles—including historical role player, research associate, director of education, and director of special projects—before assuming his current leadership posts. In his capacity as senior historian, he leads research initiatives, oversees interpretive programming, and works to bridge scholarly inquiry with public engagement.

Pickering is known for his dedication to making history accessible to general audiences. He describes himself as a public historian—a mediator between academia and informal learners—who seeks to present nuanced, complex historical narratives in ways that resonate with museum visitors.

Raised in Braintree, Massachusetts, Pickering first joined the museum as a historical interpreter (portraying figures such as Philip Delano) and gradually transitioned into leadership and scholarship. He has also contributed to public-facing publications—for example, editing a facsimile edition of William Bradford's "Of Plimoth Plantation" with accessible annotations.

Army Navy Club Ballroom
901 Seventeenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
\$55 per person

Menu: Scrambled eggs, breakfast potatoes, bacon and sausage, fresh fruit, breakfast breads, mini-croissants, orange juice, coffee, and tea.

Reservations: Deadline is April 1, 2026. Seating is limited.

To register, visit the Members section of the GSMD website (www.TheMayflowerSociety.org) and click on the link for Members Events to locate the registration link for the Hereditary Fortnight Breakfast.

Army Navy Club Dress Code:

Men are required to wear a coat and collared shirt. Women's attire should be comparable.

Questions? Contact Secretary General Martin Beerman at SecretaryGeneral@TheMayflowerSociety.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Amendment 4: **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7a: Certificate of Good Standing**
Amend by striking and inserting as follows:

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

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

Proposed Amendment 5: **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7b: Fees for Transfer by Transferring Member Society**

Amend by striking and inserting as follows:

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

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

Proposed Amendment 6: **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7g: Reinstatement of a former Member Society Member**

Amend by striking and inserting as follows:

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7g: Reinstatement of a former Member Society Member</p> <p>A former member of a Member Society may be re-instated in said Member Society by complying with such provisions governing like cases, as said Member Society may have established. However, no former member of a Member Society, who has been dropped from said Member Society for non-payment of dues, may become a member of another Member Society until re-instated in the same Member Society of which he was formerly a member. But any former member who is so re-instated, or who becomes a member of any other Member Society,</p>	<p>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7g: Reinstatement of a former Member Society Member</p> <p>A former member of a Member Society may be re-instated reinstated in said Member Society by complying with such provisions governing like cases, as said Member Society may have established. The fees to reinstate shall not exceed two years' dues plus a reinstatement fee not to exceed 25 percent of one year's annual dues to cover the current year. However, nNo former member of a Member Society, who has been dropped from said Member Society for non-payment of dues, may become a member of another Member Society until re-instated reinstated in the</p>	<p>ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP Section 7g: Reinstatement of a former Member Society Member</p> <p>A former member of a Member Society may be reinstated in said Member Society by complying with such provisions governing like cases, as said Member Society may have established. The fees to reinstate shall not exceed two years' dues plus a reinstatement fee not to exceed 25 percent of one year's annual dues to cover the current year. No former member of a Member Society, who has been dropped from said Member Society for non-payment of dues, may become a member of another Member Society until reinstated in the same Member Society of which the member</p>

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

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

Proposed Amendment 7: **ARTICLE V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Section 4: Executive Committee Members-at-Large**

Amend by striking and inserting as follows:

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ARTICLE V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Section 4: Executive Committee Members-at-Large</p> <p>There shall be three Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee. The three Members-at-Large shall be elected from an East and West division. At least one, with a maximum of two Members-at-Large shall be from the East division. The East division shall consist of the Member Societies whose greater portion lies east of the Mississippi River and shall include Europe. The West division shall consist of the Member Societies whose greater portion lies west of the Mississippi, and shall include Minnesota, Canada and Australia. In the case of dual memberships, a member's Member Society shall be considered to be the Member Society that first received the initial application of the member, unless the member is an officer representing another Member Society.</p>	<p>ARTICLE V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Section 4: Executive Committee Members-at-Large</p> <p>There shall be three Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee. The three One Members-at-Large shall be elected from an East and West division. At least one, with a maximum of two Members-at-Large shall be from the East division. The East division shall consist of the Member Societies whose greater portion lies east of the Mississippi River and shall include Europe. The West division shall consist of the Member Societies whose greater portion lies west of the Mississippi, and shall include Minnesota, Canada and Australia. each of the following three regions, consisting of 18 Member Societies each:</p> <p>Region 1: ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA, NJ, DE, MD, VA, DC, NC, SC, GA, FL & EU.</p>	<p>ARTICLE V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS Section 4: Executive Committee Members-at-Large</p> <p>There shall be three Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee. One Member-at-Large shall be elected from each of the following three regions, consisting of 18 Member Societies each:</p> <p>Region 1: ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA, NJ, DE, MD, VA, DC, NC, SC, GA, FL & EU.</p> <p>Region 2: OH, KY, WV, TN, AL, MS, LA, IN, IL, MI, WI, MN, IA, MO, AR, ND, SD & CN.</p> <p>Region 3: NE, KS, OK, TX, MT, WY, CO, NM, ID, UT, AZ, WA, OR, NV, CA, HI, AK & AU.</p> <p>In the case of dual memberships, a member's Member Society shall be considered to be the Member Society that first received the initial application of the member, unless the member</p>

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
	<p>Region 2: OH, KY, WV, TN, AL, MS, LA, IN, IL, MI, WI, MN, IA, MO, AR, ND, SD & CN.</p> <p>Region 3: NE, KS, OK, TX, MT, WY, CO, NM, ID, UT, AZ, WA, OR, NV, CA, HI, AK & AU.</p> <p>In the case of dual memberships, a member's Member Society shall be considered to be the Member Society that first received the initial application of the member, unless the member is an officer representing another Member Society.</p>	is an officer representing another Member Society.

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

Proposed Amendment 8: **ARTICLE VII: GENERAL CONGRESS Section 7: Minutes**
Amend by striking and inserting as follows:

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

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

Proposed Amendment 9: **ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS Section 1: Who May Submit an Amendment**
Amend by striking and inserting as follows:

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS Section 1: Who May Submit an Amendment</p> <p>Amendments, alterations and additions to these Bylaws or the Society's Charter must be submitted in writing, by a vote of the General Board of Assistants or of a Member Society, to the Secretary General of the General Society, at least six months before the session of the General Congress at which such amendment is to be considered and the Secretary General shall mail a printed copy of all proposed amendments to the Secretary of each Member Society at least five months before such session.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS Section 1: Who May Submit an Amendment</p> <p>Amendments, alterations and additions to these Bylaws or the Society's Charter must be submitted in writing, by a vote of the General Board of Assistants or of a Member Society, to the Secretary General of the General Society, at least six months before the session of the General Congress at which such amendment is to be considered and the Secretary General shall mail a printed copy of email all proposed amendments to the Secretary of each Member Society at least five months before such session.</p>	<p>ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS Section 1: Who May Submit an Amendment</p> <p>Amendments, alterations and additions to these Bylaws or the Society's Charter must be submitted in writing, by a vote of the General Board of Assistants or of a Member Society, to the Secretary General of the General Society, at least six months before the session of the General Congress at which such amendment is to be considered and the Secretary General shall email all proposed amendments to the Secretary of each Member Society at least five months before such session.</p>

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

customframes.com™
by Church Hill Classics

Frame Your Legacy,
Honor Your Mayflower Ancestry In Style!

\$20 OFF \$150+ with code: GSMD
customframes.com/GSMDmagazine



Why I Joined The Mayflower Society

ROBERT L. CRISWELL

It Started Out as a Simple Search to Find Our Family Background—But

My father had written two document stories: “Notes about the Criswell Family” which he wrote from memory based on verbal information he had received from his father and “My Mother’s Family” which was based on information he obtained from several of his aunts.

The earliest Criswell was “James” born in Ohio ca. 1805. I found a book listing approximately fourteen James Creswells living in Colonial America, none of whom matched my ancestor. I verified that the information regarding the descendants of James Criswell was correct, as well as was the information in “My Mother’s Family” who were first generation Irish immigrants.

I was aware that my mother’s Aldrich family were all New Englanders. During vacations we would spend time in Freeport, Maine, visiting relatives and friends. I traced my mother’s ancestors back to a “Sprague.” When I mentioned I discovered the Sprague surname to family members while attending an Aldrich Family reunion, I was told that Sprague was a descendant of Mayflower Pilgrim Francis Eaton. When our daughter and her family moved to Massachusetts, the local library had a set of the Massachusetts vital records. This information enabled me to track and verify my mother’s lineage.

With help from the New Jersey Society Historian, I joined the New Jersey Society in 1983 as a descendant of Francis Eaton and later found three additional Mayflower passengers, Thomas Rogers, Richard Warren, and Stephen Hopkins, all through my mother.

M.A. BETZLER JACKSON

This Journey Was Thrilling, But Bittersweet

Since my parents both dabbled in genealogy when I was growing up, I had a good sense that my ancestors came from Germany and other parts of Northern Europe, and arrived in America from the mid-1700s to the mid-1800s. My maternal grandfather’s family were the outliers, going back as far as 1638/9. Those progenitors founded the town of Rowley, Massachusetts, less than two decades after the Pilgrims’ arrival and only fifty miles from Plymouth. But that distance was as close to the *Mayflower* as we thought our family would get.

My father died in 2016, and I inherited his genealogy records, including a nearly four-foot-long tree diagramed on graph paper. It was a well-formed tree with one noticeably stunted branch—my paternal grandfather’s mother, Naomi Gertrude Baker Betzler, had died young when my grandfather was a child, and my grandfather was raised by his paternal grandparents. All my grandfather knew of his mother’s family was the name of her father: John Baker.

My father had done most of his research pre-internet when searching for a working-class laborer with a common name was difficult, if not impossible. For that same reason, I was not holding my breath when I logged on to [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com).

But the search proved almost ridiculously easy. I immediately found Naomi’s death certificate, which contained both her parents’ names. That information led to her mother’s death certificate, which listed her father (my third-great-grandfather) Cebury Perkins. A few webpages later, I found myself surprisingly staring at the tombstones of my fifth-great-grandparents—Gideon and Meribah Perkins—who were both born in Massachusetts in the mid-1700s. I had been led to believe that everyone on my father’s paternal lines had arrived in America between 1800 and 1850, but I was flabbergasted to find just a few more generations back that I was a descendant of Mayflower Passenger



▲ M.A. Betzler Jackson (left) and her cousin Melanie Taplett (right) in front of *Mayflower II*.

George Soule. In all, it had taken about an hour to get from Pittsburgh in 1911 to Plymouth in 1620.

More research showed Gideon was also a direct descendant of Myles Standish and John Alden. His wife, Meribah Eaton Perkins, was the great-great-granddaughter of both Francis Eaton and Samuel Fuller. There were also connections to the Mullins, Cooke, Billington, and Chilton families.

To double check this research, I requested a line match from The Mayflower Society, who confirmed my lineage through generation seven from the *Mayflower*. I was fairly confident in the connecting generations, so I made an appointment with a local Mayflower Historian to review my paperwork. Unfortunately, COVID shutdowns meant canceling that meeting and by the time things opened back up, I had moved on to other endeavors.

In February 2023, I wrote an article for my local municipal magazine promoting our public library’s free genealogy databases. In the article I used my Mayflower discovery to show how easy it is to trace your lineage. A few weeks after publication, I got a message from someone in Texas who had found the article online and thought we might be related. Indeed, Melanie Taplett’s third-great-grandfather Cebury Perkins is also my third-great-grandfather. Melanie and I are fourth cousins.

As luck would have it, Melanie has clients in Pittsburgh, so just a few months later we were able to meet for

dinner. We got along like, well, cousins. We shared our research. Her enthusiasm about applying for Mayflower status was so infectious that I restarted the process. We had one person whose lack of documentation was holding us up—Cebury Perkins’ wife Sarah Ann Banks. But Melanie was tenacious, ultimately hiring a genealogist who was able to dig up just enough information to satisfy The Mayflower Society. A bizarre discovery during this research showed that my husband is also descended from the same Perkins line, so Melanie is my husband’s cousin too.

This past May, Melanie and I met in Plymouth to get in touch with our mutual past. Highlights were posing by Myles Standish’s grave, standing aboard the *Mayflower II*, and touring the Plimoth Grist Mill. We are also descended from the gristmill’s original owner John Jenney. In addition, we made a quick pilgrimage to Salem to pose by the statue of our tenth great-grandfather Roger Conant.

This journey has been thrilling, but bittersweet. My father was so proud of his family, and I am saddened that he never knew of his Mayflower connection. The fact that not one, not two, but multiple ancestors were passengers on the *Mayflower* would have had him strut like a peacock. So, ultimately, I joined The Mayflower Society to honor my father, Clarence John Betzler.

NANCY HAMRICK THORNE SKALA

Since Childhood My Favorite Holiday Has Been Thanksgiving

I was an only child as were both my mother and father. Dad’s parents died before I was born, so the only family I knew was my maternal grandparents as there were no aunts, uncles or cousins.

When I was ten years old, my mom shared that my dad had been adopted at birth but I was never to mention anything about it to him, and I never did. When I asked my maternal grandmother about our heritage, she said we were Pennsylvania Dutch but nothing more.

While vacationing in St. Maarten in 1975, my dad passed away unexpectedly at the age of fifty-five. Because he was in a foreign country there was no autopsy performed. I had four sons and a daughter and wondered if there might be a predisposition to certain medical conditions. Initially, my focus was medical but it turned into so much more.

I knew only that my dad was born February 1, 1920, in Aurora, Illinois. I was living in Maine at the time so I wrote to the Kane County Courthouse asking if they had a record of any boy births on that day. The answer

was yes! They sent a copy of his birth certificate and my genealogical quest began. From the birth certificate I learned his birth name.

My last twenty-four years of research lead me to my Mayflower relatives, of which two have been proven: Thomas Rogers and William Brewster.

On this amazing journey of compiling a family tree, I have found a very large family indeed. My dad had four half-siblings and I actually have nine half first cousins. If I had known about my rich family lineage, history classes would have held more meaning. I want my children and grandchildren to know their family’s place in history.

I joined The Mayflower Society to learn more about the Mayflower experience and to preserve our family’s place in it. It was important to officially be on record with the Society as descendants. Many families say they think there may be a Mayflower connection, but never officially prove it. Had I not done the research, there is a good chance my family would have never known about their Mayflower lineage.

Since childhood, my favorite holiday was Thanksgiving. Who knew?

General Society of Mayflower Descendants Forty-fourth General Congress

MARTIN W. BEERMAN, SECRETARY GENERAL



PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS SEPTEMBER 11-16, 2026

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants invites all members to gather in **Plymouth, Massachusetts**, for the **Forty-fourth General Congress, September 11-16, 2026**, where America's founding story unfolds at its source. Walk the very ground where the Pilgrims settled in 1620, and experience a town where history is not preserved behind glass, but lives in the landscape itself.

From Plymouth Harbor and the iconic *Mayflower II* to Burial Hill, Pilgrim Hall Museum, and the Forefathers Monument, Plymouth offers an immersive journey into the courage, faith, and perseverance that shaped a nation. At the heart of this experience stands The Mayflower Society's own **National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse**, a place of reflection, gathering, and living legacy for descendants—connecting past, present, and future in one sacred, historic and inspiring space.

September brings crisp coastal air and golden light, ideal for exploring historic sites, seaside paths, and centuries-old streets. Join fellow descendants in a place of profound meaning, where shared heritage, reflection, and fellowship come together in the town that began it all. Plymouth is not merely a destination—it is a homecoming for all Mayflower Descendants!

SCHEDULE

Schedule is subject to change. See the Congress registration website for schedule updates. All events are at Hotel 1620 unless otherwise noted.

Friday, September 11

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Credentials pick up.

8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Tour: Plymouth County Register of Deeds and Burial Hill, including lunch at the Mayflower Society House.

10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pilgrim Henry Samson Kindred.

3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Soule Kindred in America.

4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Warren Cousins (Plimoth Patuxet Museums).

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. DNA Committee (Governor General's House).

5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Pilgrim William White Society.

Saturday, September 12

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Credentials pick up.

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tour: Salem, including Witch Museum, House of Seven Gables, Richard More grave, Witch Trials Memorial and lunch on your own.

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting and Lunch (*Executive Officers only*).

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. DNA Workshop with The Genetic Genealogist Blaine Bettinger, including lunch.

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Thomas Rogers Society (Plimoth Patuxet Museums).

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Winslow Heritage Society.

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Pilgrim Francis Cooke Society/Society of Myles Standish Descendants.

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Billington Family Society.

4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Elder William Brewster Society.

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Descendants on Deck at *Mayflower II*.

Sunday, September 13

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Credentials pick up.

7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Church Service at Plimoth Patuxet Fort/Meetinghouse, including transportation and breakfast.

10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Pilgrim Progress – Mayflower Society House. (assemble by 10:15 a.m.)

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Opening Ceremonies – Plymouth Memorial Hall.

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mayflower Society House Colonial Gardens Reception.

2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Insignia and Sales.

3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Treasurers Meeting.

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mayflower Guard Meeting and Rehearsal.

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Historians Meeting.

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. General Board of Assistants Meeting. *Required attendance for GBOA (GSMD Officers, DGGs and AGs).*

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Pilgrim Isaac Allerton Society/Pilgrim Hopkins Heritage Society.

Monday, September 14

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Credentials pick up.

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Insignia and Sales.

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tour: America 250 Celebrating Lexington and Concord.

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. First Congress Business Session. *Assigned seating for GBOA officers and Member Society Delegates. Silent observers are allowed to be seated at the rear of the room, as space permits.*

12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch.

Tuesday, September 15

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Credentials pick up.

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Insignia and Sales.

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tour: Boston Tea Party Museum, JFK Library and lunch on your own at Quincy Market/Faneuil Hall.

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Second Congress Business Session. *Assigned seating for GBOA officers and Member Society Delegates. Silent observers are allowed to be seated at the rear of the room, as space permits.*

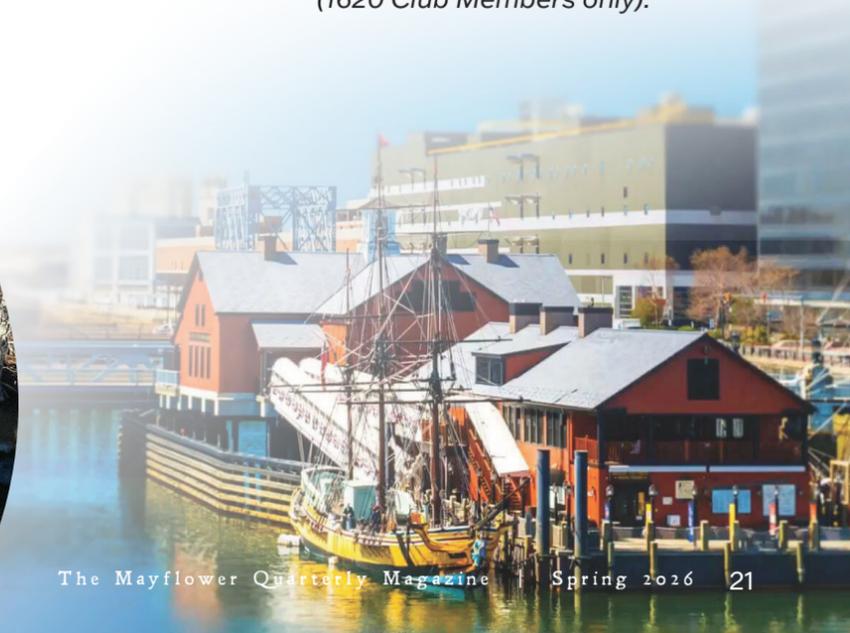
12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch.

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Indian Pond Country Club Cocktail Reception and Banquet/ Installation of Officers with Keynote Speaker D. Brenton Simons, President Emeritus and Chief Stewardship Officer at American Ancestors.

Wednesday, September 16

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. New Executive Committee Meeting (*Executive Officers only*).

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Governor General's 1620 Club Event – Plimoth Patuxet Museums (*1620 Club Members only*).



CONGRESS TOURS AND SPECIAL EVENTS



Plymouth Deeds and Burial Hill Tour

Friday, September 11
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Step back into the seventeenth century as you spend the morning at the Plymouth County Register of Deeds, where history quite literally comes to life on the page. You will have the rare opportunity to view original land records and documents bearing the signatures of Mayflower passengers—a thrilling moment for any descendant. Enjoy a delicious lunch at the Mayflower Society House, surrounded by the timeless beauty of this historic home and its Colonial Revival Gardens. In the afternoon, join David Furlow for an engaging walking tour of Burial Hill, where many of Plymouth's earliest settlers rest. Learn the stories behind the names and discover how their legacy shaped the nation that followed.



Salem Tour

Saturday, September 12
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Immerse yourself in the coastal charm and fascinating history of Salem, where colonial architecture and maritime tales meet the lore of 1692. Begin your morning with a guided tour of the House of the Seven Gables, the storied mansion that inspired Nathaniel Hawthorne's classic novel. Wander through period rooms and gardens overlooking Salem Harbor. Enjoy lunch on your own and time to browse the unique shops and galleries along Essex Street, filled with New England character. In the afternoon, step into one of America's most haunting chapters at the Salem Witch Museum, where dramatic exhibits and storytelling bring the witch trials to life and shed light on their enduring lessons. You will also visit the Salem Witch Trials Memorial and the grave of Mayflower Pilgrim Richard More.



DNA Workshop with The Genetic Genealogist Blaine Bettinger

Saturday, September 12
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Morning Session:

"Exploring Your DNA Results Live"

Participants will work through what the testing company sites look like, what results look like, and how to review and work with results.

Afternoon Session: "Decluttering Your DNA"

Participants will learn how to organize DNA results from one or more testing companies for greatest impact.

The hands-on workshop includes time for questions and discussion, and lunch.

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

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



Descendants on Deck at Mayflower II

Saturday, September 12
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Join us for an unforgettable golden early-autumn evening onboard *Mayflower II* as Plymouth Harbor drifts into sunset. Enjoy passed appetizers and a cash bar while taking in sweeping harbor views and the timeless silhouette of the *Mayflower II*. As the light softens over the water, share stories, laughter, and unhurried moments with cousins old and new in a setting that connects past and present in a powerful way. At their leisure, guests will have the opportunity to explore the ship and capture individual or group photos

against the historic backdrop of Plymouth Harbor and guests will also be able to reenact the signing of the Mayflower Compact with unique photos of the occasion. The evening includes remarks by Plimoth Patuxet Museums Deputy Executive Director Richard Pickering.



Church Service at Plimoth Patuxet Fort/Meetinghouse

Sunday, September 13
7:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

The special church service, led by Elder General Rev. Michael Denney, offers a rare opportunity to reflect, give thanks, and feel the spirit of the Pilgrims in the very setting where early colonial faith took root. After the brief service, continue the celebration with a delightful breakfast of freshly brewed coffee and tea, paired with an inviting assortment of pastries, artisan breads, and morning treats. Round-trip transportation is included from Hotel 1620.



Pilgrim Progress

Sunday, September 13
10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
(arrive by 10:15 a.m.)

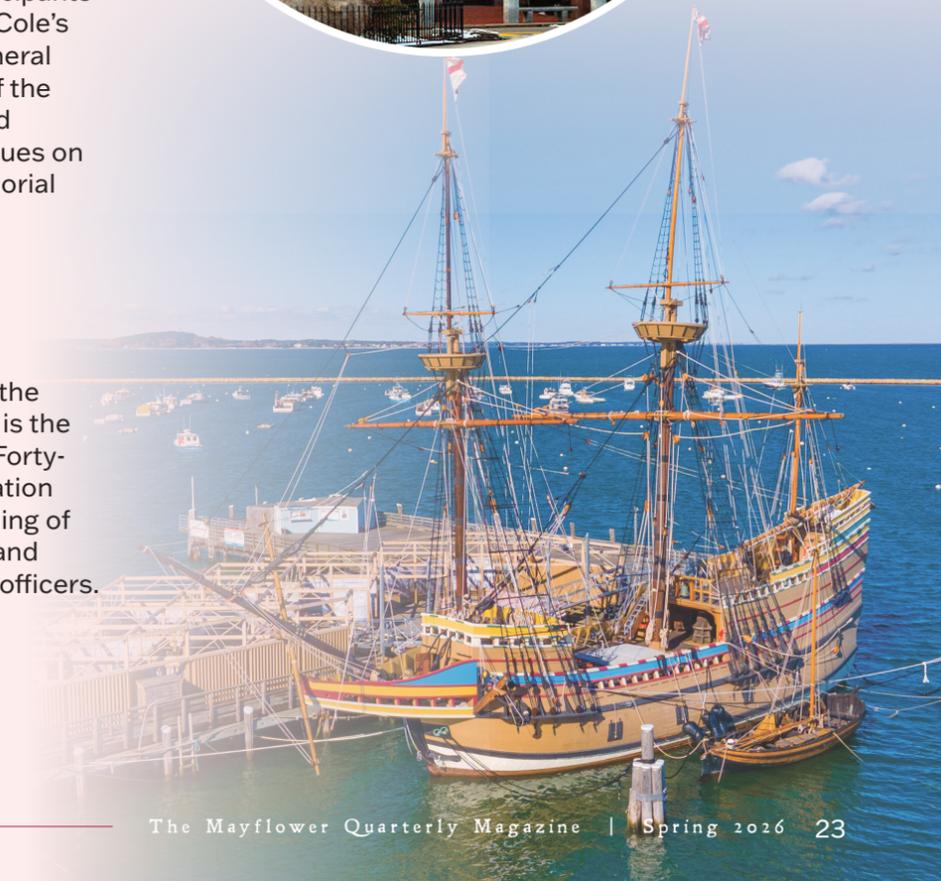
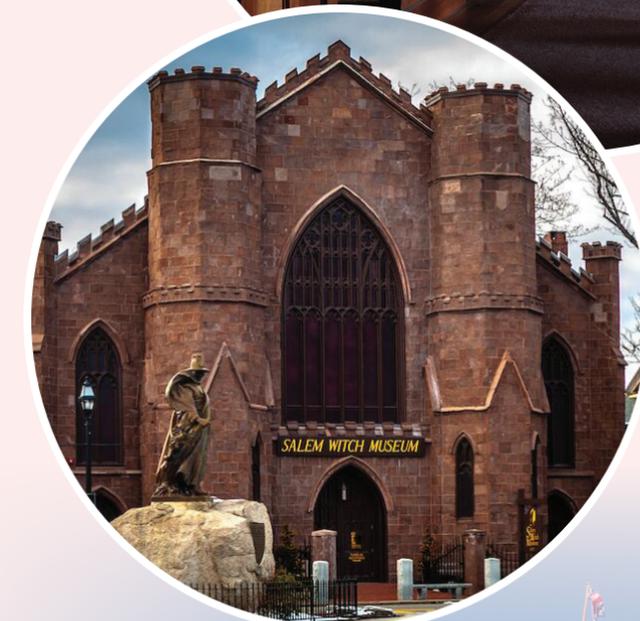
Pilgrim Progress begins at the Mayflower Society House. Wear your own Pilgrim attire to step back in time and remember your Mayflower ancestors. Participants in Pilgrim attire will lead the procession to Cole's Hill for a wreath laying led by Governor General Lisa Pennington, followed by the reading of the names of the fifty-one passengers who died during the first winter. The Progress continues on Leyden Street to the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse for Opening Ceremonies.



Opening Ceremonies

Sunday, September 13
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies at the Plymouth Memorial Hall is the official beginning of the Forty-fourth Congress and includes the Presentation of the Colors by the Mayflower Guard, reading of the Mayflower Compact, ancestor roll call and necrology of General and Member Society officers.





Mayflower Society House Colonial Gardens Reception

Sunday, September 13
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate family in the charming Colonial Revival Gardens at the Mayflower Society House. Surrounded by heirloom blooms, manicured pathways, and timeless design, this reception sets the perfect stage to relax and catch up with cousins and friends.

Enjoy a selection of light refreshments as you wander the gardens or settle in for heartfelt conversation. Whether you are swapping genealogy discoveries, sharing family memories, or simply soaking in the beauty around you, this gathering promises connection, joy, and the warm feeling of coming home.

General Society Officers and Member Society DGGs and AGs are required to attend Monday and Tuesday Business meetings and should not register for Lexington and Concord or Boston tours.



America 250 Celebrating Lexington and Concord Tour

Monday, September 14
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Travel to the very birthplace of the American Revolution with this inspiring day trip to Lexington and Concord. Begin with a guided visit to the Old North Bridge, where “the shot heard ’round the world” was fired—an evocative spot that connects directly to the spirit of liberty. Take time for lunch on your own in charming Concord, known for its quaint cafés, bookshops, and small-town ambiance. In the afternoon, step inside Orchard House, the lovingly preserved home of Louisa May Alcott, author of *Little Women*. Walk the rooms where she wrote her beloved novel and gain insight into the family who inspired it.



Boston Tour

Tuesday, September 15
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Experience Boston’s revolutionary energy and modern vibrance on this full-day adventure. Begin at the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, where live reenactments, restored ships, and immersive exhibits let you relive the moment that sparked a revolution. Enjoy lunch on your own and free time at Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market, where historic meeting halls meet bustling shops, street

performers, and classic New England fare. Conclude your day at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum, a stunning waterfront space celebrating the life and legacy of America’s thirty-fifth president through inspiring exhibits, films, and artifacts.

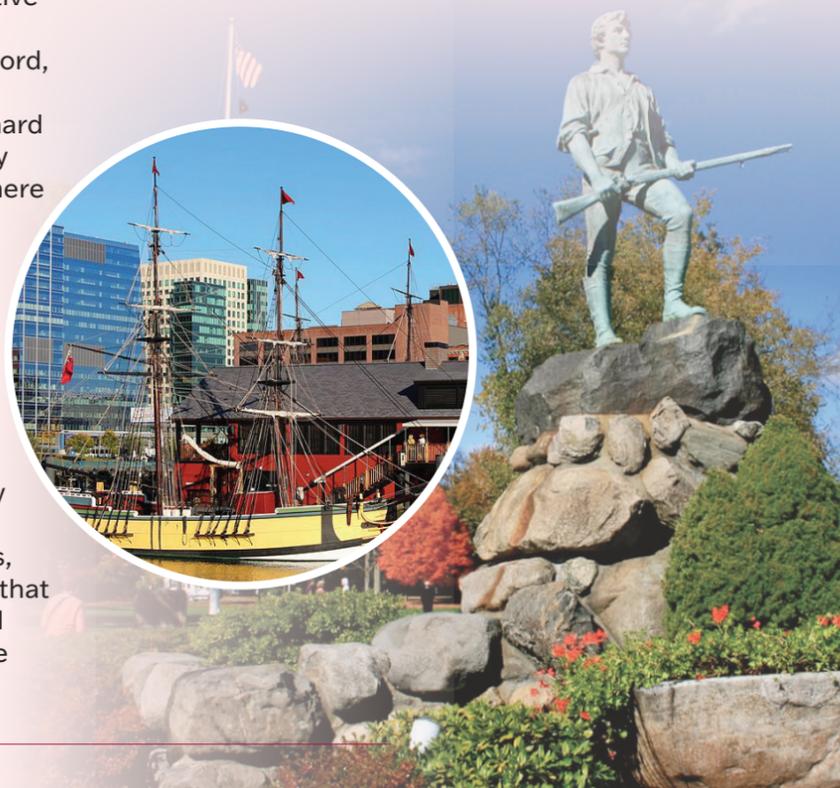


Indian Pond Country Club Cocktail Reception and Banquet

Tuesday, September 15
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Installation of General Society Officers with Keynote Speaker D. Brenton Simons, President Emeritus and Chief Stewardship Officer at American Ancestors. Brenton Simons OBE has changed the face of nonprofit-based genealogy in America and beyond by bringing the best scholarship to millions of users as President and CEO (2005–2024), and President Emeritus and Chief Stewardship Officer (2024–present), of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the founding genealogical society in the world (established 1845). Otherwise known as American Ancestors, it is the anchor location of the long-running PBS television series *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* He orchestrated an historic expansion of the institution, now serving almost 450,000 members and millions of online users with 1.4 billion records in 139 countries.

An award-winning author, he has been widely featured on television, radio, and in print and online media in the United States, United Kingdom, and elsewhere.



CONGRESS ACCOMMODATIONS



**Hotel 1620 at
Plymouth Harbor
180 Water St.
Plymouth**

Rate is \$209 per night, not including taxes, fees or incidental charges.

All Congress events are at Hotel 1620 unless otherwise noted.

To book online beginning March 2, visit www.hotel1620.com. Promo code is **GSMD2026**. Hotel link is also included on the Congress registration website.

To make a reservation by phone beginning March 2, call 508-747-4900 and reference **GSMD2026**.

Individual room reservations must be made by August 10, 2026, to obtain the special group rate. Reservations made after this date are subject to room availability and at prevailing rates.

The special group rate is available for stays September 9–16. Check-in time is 4:00 p.m.; check-out time is 11:00 a.m.



10 Plaza Way
Plymouth



16 Plaza Way
Plymouth



25 Summer St.
Plymouth

Hampton Inn & Suites, 10 Plaza Way, Plymouth, and **Fairfield by Marriott**, 16 Plaza Way, Plymouth, are offering ten percent off standard room rates. Book online using the links on the Congress registration website for the discount.

A limited number of rooms are also available at the **John Carver Inn & Spa**, 25 Summer St., Plymouth. Sunday through Thursday rate is \$159 per night; Saturday/Sunday rate is \$332 per night. Register by calling 508-746-7100. Rooms must be booked by August 1, 2026, unless otherwise sold out.

For other accommodations in the Plymouth area, visit See Plymouth, the official tourism site for the Town and County of Plymouth, at www.seeplymouth.com/listings/lodging.



REGISTRATION

**Congress registration begins
Monday, March 2, 2026.**

March 2 through May 31:
Registration Fee \$100.

June 1 through July 15:
Late Registration Fee \$125.
NO REGISTRATIONS AFTER JULY 15.
NO ONSITE REGISTRATION.

Salem, Lexington/Concord and Boston Tours
registrations end June 15.

All attendees are required to register and wear the
official badge to all meetings, events and tours.
The official registration badge serves as your tickets
and your paid receipt.

To register, login to the Members Only section of the
GSMD website at www.TheMayflowerSociety.org and
select Members-Only Events. Congress registration
opens Monday, March 2.

Cancellation Policy

- Registration Fees are not refundable. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Requests for Salem, Lexington/Concord and Boston
Tours cancellation must be received by June 15. These
tours may be canceled with a full refund if minimums
are not met.
- Requests for refunds on other events excluding
the three tours above, must be received by July 15.
Cancellations incur a ten percent fee. No refunds after
July 15. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Congress registrations are not transferable
by the registrant. Contact [SecretaryGeneral@
TheMayflowerSociety.org](mailto:SecretaryGeneral@TheMayflowerSociety.org) with cancellation questions.

All Mayflower Society members are welcome at Congress!

This Mayflower Congress is a wonderful opportunity
to meet and reconnect with Mayflower cousins and be
involved in Society business and decision-making. All
General Society officers are urged to attend. Mayflower
Congress is not just for General Society Officers. All
Mayflower Society members and family/guests are
welcome in Plymouth to enjoy fantastic tours, listen to
interesting speakers and connect with Mayflower cousins
from near and far.

Questions? Email Secretary General Martin Beerman at
SecretaryGeneral@TheMayflowerSociety.org



Newbury Street Experience: Scholarship, Beauty and Mayflower Legacy

MARTIN W. BEERMAN, SECRETARY GENERAL

PRE-CONGRESS SPECIAL EVENT – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

- Exclusive visit to New England Historic
Genealogical Society/American Ancestors,
including VIP tours of the Family Heritage
Experience and the Brim-DeForest Library.
- Lunch on your own along Newbury Street,
Boston's premier dining and shopping destination
in the historic Back Bay.
- Explore the renowned Isabella Stewart Gardner
Museum's art exhibits and gardens.
- Private dinner at the Mayflower Society House,
hosted by Governor General Lisa Pennington.

This Newbury Street Experience is a thoughtfully
curated day which blends scholarship, culture, and
fellowship, and offers a rare opportunity to engage with
our shared history in settings that are both intellectually
rich and quietly elegant.

Departing from Hotel 1620, participants travel to
Boston for a private, guided experience at New England
Historic Genealogical Society / American Ancestors,
hosted by President and CEO Ryan J. Woods and Chief
Research Officer Lindsay Fulton. Guests will tour the
Family Heritage Experience and the Brim-DeForest
Library, and see select manuscripts, rare printed works,
and representative family history materials related
to the *Mayflower* and early Pilgrim history. These
manuscripts will be presented with expert curatorial
context, followed by time for personal research in one of
the world's premier genealogical libraries.

Lunch and the early afternoon are yours to enjoy
along Newbury Street, one of Boston's most celebrated
thoroughfares. Lined with classic brownstones,
Newbury Street offers an inviting mix of independent
booksellers, fine art and antique galleries, jewelers,
and specialty boutiques, alongside well-known fashion
houses and refined cafés. Whether browsing a gallery,
enjoying a leisurely lunch, or simply taking in the
architecture and street life, this interlude provides a
relaxed counterpoint to the morning's scholarly focus.

The afternoon continues with a visit to the Isabella
Stewart Gardner Museum, one of Boston's most

remarkable
cultural
landmarks.
Created as a
fifteenth-century
Venetian palazzo,
the museum
centers on a lush
interior courtyard and
houses masterworks by
Titian, Rembrandt, Botticelli,
Vermeer, and Sargent. Guests may explore the historic
galleries, enjoy the tranquility of the courtyard garden,
and visit the contemporary wing, experiencing the
museum as its founder intended—intimate, immersive,
and deeply personal.



The day concludes back in Plymouth with an elegant
private dinner at the Mayflower Society House, hosted
by Governor General Lisa Pennington. In this historic
setting, participants will enjoy conversation and
camaraderie with fellow members, bringing together
scholarship, beauty, and fellowship in a fitting close.

Participation includes transportation, guided
experiences, and the private dinner, and is available to
Mayflower Society members for a \$1,000 philanthropic
donation in support of the National Pilgrim Memorial
Meetinghouse renovation, which will help preserve
this enduring symbol of our shared Pilgrim heritage for
generations to come.

This is a limited capacity event. Please call Executive
Director Cheryl Soares at 508-746-3188 to reserve
your place.



MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

AUSTRALIA

Planning a trip to Australia? Consider visiting with your Mayflower cousins!

We have been aware that quite a number of Mayflower Society members from the United States of America (USA) have visited Australia over the last twelve months or so and we were disappointed not to have the opportunity to meet and host them during their stay. One prominent member of The Mayflower Society and his wife visited Australia earlier this year, and even took a balloon flight which went right over the house of our Australia Society Secretary. Sadly, we only learnt of this, after their visit was concluded!

We are separated from other Mayflower Societies by distance and history, and thus value the contacts we can have with our Mayflower cousins. Consequently, I have been asked by the members of the Australia Board of Assistants to write this article for *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* in the hope that we can encourage Mayflower members to visit Australia and stimulate opportunities to host our Mayflower cousins while they are down under.

So how might we assist? Firstly, we have members spread across most of Australia, which is the same size as the lower forty-eight states of the USA. When you are in the planning stage, we can certainly help make some suggestions about areas to stay and how to plan for the regions and experiences in which you are most interested.

Secondly, while you are in Australia we would certainly value the opportunity to meet up with

Mayflower cousins when you are in our local areas. For example, over the last few weeks, my wife and I have been in the United Kingdom (UK) and have been very generously hosted and taken around local sites by Mayflower members in England, who while closer to the USA than Australia, still feel distant from the Mayflower heartland. Australian Mayflower members feel the same enthusiasm for linking up with their cousins, even if we may not have the same level of history, as the UK does.

Obviously, it needs to be dependent on the time availability of both the visitors and our local members, but perhaps Australian Mayflower members might be able to host our visiting cousins for half a day or a day and show them some of the local sites. For example, when Former Governor General Jane Hurt was in Brisbane a couple of years ago, we took her to Lone Pine, which is the largest Koala Sanctuary anywhere in the world. She thoroughly enjoyed her visit.

We would like to think that the opportunity of meeting up with your Mayflower cousins in Australia may enhance any such trip down under, and we would certainly like to have the opportunity to welcome you and to assist you in planning your visit.

If you have interest in visiting with your Mayflower cousins in Australia, you could start by emailing me at governor@mayflowersociety.org.au

Looking forward to seeing you in Australia!

Submitted by: Bill Elliott, Governor

thrive when working collaboratively and accomplish more than they ever could have hoped to manage alone. Since I utterly despise group projects and think that the results are usually appalling, I find this quite shocking. Just to top it all off, you might discover that in a pinch, there are really people on

earth who do not disappear with an excuse and a shrug when things get difficult—instead, they show up, put their shoulders to the wheel and shove, and see the mucky, exhausting job through until it is finished. These things—these people—deserve celebrating. The Society of Mayflower Descendants (Europe), referred to hereinafter as SMD(E), should therefore be experiencing a prolonged period of ecstasy. We have the most marvellous people, and they have accomplished great things.

After nearly three years of concerted effort, as of November 2025, the SMD(E) has been registered with Companies House in London; we have been recognised as an incorporated entity within European law. We have paid the bill from the solicitor's office, too, which feels miraculous. The wider General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) has witnessed our protracted struggles related to the process of legal incorporation, and in some cases, come to our aid. Now, I can report that we have done it. It is a tangible reality. We can get insurance, as well as plan towards more ambitious projects such as public outreach, endowing scholarships, and making charitable donations. We can begin to think about growth, not just mere survival. It is splendid.

But that is not all. During October 2025, Governor Carmen Kew and Historian Julie Wilson were invited to be guests at the re-opening of the Pilgrim Museum in Leiden, the Netherlands, in its new location. It is an important step forward for SMD(E), for it comes in recognition of our support for European-led efforts to celebrate the European origins of the Mayflower history. This is an essential part of our formal Objects, which are, for the public benefit, to:

- Understand the endeavours and challenges associated with the 1620 *Mayflower* sailing.
- Celebrate the Community forged by the 1620 *Mayflower* Compact.
- Create a viable and sustainable SMD(E) founded on the aims of the 1620 *Mayflower* sailing.

Yet, more was to come. In November 2025, the SMD(E) board, including Carmen Kew, William English, CBE,



▲ (Left-to-right) Julie Wilson (Historian, the Netherlands); Greg Geissler (Treasurer, England); Ann (NT); Frederick Forman (senior collections and house officer at Ightham Mote); Carmen Kew (Governor, England); Bernadette Gillow (General Manager, Ightham Mote and North Kent Portfolio); Nick (NT); William English, CBE (Deputy Governor, England); Donna Heys (Secretary, England).

Donna Heys, Julie Wilson, and Greg Geissler gathered with representatives of England's National Trust at Ightham Mote in Kent, UK. We began our Compact Day celebration with a presentation of a beautiful heritage certificate in the name of Charles Henry Robinson, the last private owner of Ightham Mote. For the first time, a GSMD document will be on display in a public property in England. We hope that this public display will spur visitor engagement with the Mayflower story, as well as provide greater visibility for the British properties that are part of our Mayflower heritage. Just as in the case of the Pilgrim Museum in Leiden, you are all an essential part of this vision: please visit, please tell them that you are a Mayflower descendant, and please let them know that you are there because of your connection through the SMD(E)/GSMD!

We were not finished yet, though. Also in November, member Mark Primmer spoke to The Rochambeau Chapter, NSDAR (the Daughters of the American Revolution) in Paris, France. He presented the goals and glories of the SMD(E) to a European heritage association, pursuing the shared historical, educational, and cultural goals of the SMD(E), while also promoting French-American friendship. Their members may be eligible to be our members; our goals are linked, and we will be stronger working in concert with such organisations.

The presentations to the public is part of the SMD(E)'s quiet effort to establish itself in the public eye. It is our intention to gain a reputation for the quality of our endeavours, and the warmth of our welcome towards anyone interested in the Mayflower story. We



▲ (Left-to-right) Ward Hoskins (curator, Pieterskerk); Carmen Kew (Governor, SMD(E)); Sarah Moine (curator and director, Pilgrim Museum, Leiden); Julie Wilson (Historian, SMD(E)); Sebastiaan Lagendaal (managing director).

also want to forge strong connections with any organisation or individual who is presenting Mayflower history with accuracy and dignity. Once we are through the

current period of transition, we can stop being so genteel about it: our next project will be to reach out, to be seen, and to be heard. We are laying that foundation now. We have begun well and hope to do even better.

There are two final items on my list to share. One is an invitation directed to everyone here: please join us in the SMD(E) as an Associate Member! This simple, inexpensive gesture will help sustain us through this period of transition. It will also give you access to our events. You do not have to renew if you grow tired of us. Alternatively, you could make a larger donation towards the costs associated with incorporation, including insurance and accounting. We are so grateful

for all the assistance we have received; we are also aware that there are serious financial demands yet to come.

My second item is also an invitation, this one directed to anyone who is able to travel to England during early July 2026, and who is also a Full or Associate Member of the SMD(E): please join us in Scrooby, UK! A most marvellous time of education and fellowship has been planned for our third annual In-Person Gathering. Donna Heys, our Secretary, has planned an event including three internationally-recognised speakers, tours of the Mayflower heartland, and plenty of opportunities to eat good food in better company. I am looking forward to it enormously and would love to see you there. Details can be found at: <https://mayflowersmde.wixsite.com/mayflowereurope>.

Tonight, as of this writing, I am within hours of the end of my first three-year elected term as SMD(E) Governor. It has been more difficult—and also more glorious—than I could have ever imagined. So much has happened, so much has been learned, and so much has been accomplished. I am filled with gratitude for the people who have expanded my small world during this term of service. I am a little shocked that I have survived it. I have also signed up for another stint.

Submitted by: Carmen Kew, Governor

HAWAII

Hawaii Society Continues to Thrive

The Hawaii Society Board of Assistants continues to be fully engaged! Our Historians are busy assisting folks with both new and supplemental applications, with a total of sixty-three prospective members in varying phases of their applications. The Treasurer continues to advance electronic payment methods using Zelle and PayPal with most of our members now using one of these two payment methods, which are far faster, more secure, and easier for everyone than mailing checks! The entire Board continues to learn and make use of Microsoft 365 for Non-Profit Businesses.

At our June 28, 2025, Board meeting, the Governor appointed a committee to begin reviewing all of the Hawaii Society's governing documents for relevance, correctness, and compliance with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants' (GSMD) guidance, with particular attention to the option to conduct some society business virtually since our members are scattered across multiple time zones. As a result,

all our Board and Member meetings are held virtually via Teams; however, because of the up to six-hour time zone challenges, it has often been difficult to reach the required quorum to conduct society business, even in an online

virtual meeting. After more than three months of work, the committee recommended that the Hawaii Society move fully to vote by mail or email for both biannual elections and for revisions to our governing documents. The committee also recommended several other minor changes to the governing documents to more closely align our practices with the GSMD, while still retaining existing member



▲ Screenshot of the Hawaii Compact Day meeting.

safeguards and options for member input. The Board approved the committee's recommendations in early October, and the revisions were sent to all active members for a vote on October 11, 2025, who unanimously approved the revisions.

Also in October, we were thrilled to hear from Executive Director Cheryl Soares that our donation of a Hawaiian Shell Lei Necklace, Shell Earrings and a book for the GSMD Silent Auction fetched \$850 with the proceeds to be applied to the restoration of the Mayflower Meetinghouse!

In mid-November, we held our annual Compact Day meeting with fifteen members and prospective members joining virtually from Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, Arizona, Texas, California, Florida, and Maine!

Professor Troy Smith gave a wonderful in-depth presentation on "The Mayflower Compact: Origins and Outcomes" that was well received by all!

The Hawaii Society is planning to participate in a joint meeting in April 2026 with a number of other Member Societies coordinated by Member-at-Large Beth Lambricht. This joint meeting will feature guest speaker Richard Pickering, Deputy Executive Director and Senior Historian at Plimoth Patuxet Museums! He will speak on "Revolutionary Ideas started here"—that is, the seeds of democracy and a free government that sparked 250 years ago in an American Revolution. Pickering's topic will be a great one with which to celebrate America250 in 2026!

Submitted by: Bill Stiles, Governor

INDIANA

Indiana Society Welcomes Governor General



▲ Indiana Society Board members with Governor General Lisa Pennington.

The Indiana Society welcomed General Society of Mayflower Descendants' (GSMD) Governor General Lisa Pennington and her husband David A. Furlow to the Fall Membership meeting and luncheon held on November 22, 2025. Governor General Pennington presented the program "Lighting the Candle: Why We Must Tell the Pilgrim Story", which highlighted a list of

many "firsts" established in Plymouth including the first elected governor in North America, first law (1623, trial by jury), first Bill of Rights (1636) and first benefits for militia veterans, among others. The Governor General gave the history, updated the progress on the Meetinghouse, and provided information on new DNA discoveries, and on services offered by GSMD.

We also celebrated our 2025 Indiana Society Scholarship Recipients:

1. **Corbin Casassa**, son of Tony and Jill Casassa;
2. **Julia Hardacre**, daughter of Joe and Suzanne Hardacre; and
3. **Monique Caraman**, daughter of Emanuel and Kristiana Caraman.

Submitted by: Diana Soule McDowell, Corresponding Secretary

MAINE

Maine Society Compact Day Luncheon

The Maine Society gathered on November 15, 2025, at the Portland Elks Lodge for its annual Compact Day luncheon—a day filled with warmth, reunion, gratitude, and remarkable stories. Governor Anne Tewhey opened the program with reflections on a year of significant progress for the Maine Society. Among the highlights were her own transition into the Governor's

role in May and the appointment of our own Rev. Michael Denney as Historian General of the General Society, in addition to his service as Elder General.

This year also brought important updates to our membership systems, offering smoother communication and easier online access for reservations, dues, and donations. These improvements position the Maine Society well for continued growth.



▲ (Left-to-right) Judith Elfring (Past Member Society Historian and descendant of Captain Mitchell), Anne Tewhey (Governor), Kristin Krause (author).

After a hearty Thanksgiving luncheon, members were treated to an engaging presentation by Kristin Krause, author of *Last Voyage of the Hornet: The Story that Made Mark Twain Famous*. Krause's retelling of the dramatic final voyage of the clipper ship Hornet, captained by Josiah Mitchell of Freeport, Maine, brought the room to life.

The Hornet's fate reads like an epic story: a fire at sea, the ship ablaze in the

His lineage includes:

- James Chilton, Mrs. James Chilton and their daughter Mary Chilton;
- Francis Cooke;
- Stephen Hopkins and his wife Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins;
- Isaac Allerton and his wife Mary (Norris) Allerton and daughter Mary Allerton; and
- Richard Warren.



▲ Members and guests look through Maine Mayflower scrapbooks. (Left-to-right) Jill Bryant, Gordon Haldeman, Kristin Krause, James Guy.

This remarkable ancestry deepens the sense of legacy carried aboard the Hornet during its final voyage. Three of Captain Mitchell's descendants were present at the luncheon, creating a moving connection between past and present.

Krause's book captures the intensity, resilience, and humanity of Josiah Mitchell's story—and judging from the enthusiasm in the room, many of us left eager to read more.

Submitted by: Lee Connolly, Treasurer

vast Pacific, and Captain Mitchell and thirty members of his crew adrift for an astonishing forty-three days before finally reaching Hawaii—starved, exhausted, and barely alive. By sheer providence, a young Samuel Clemens—known to history as Mark Twain—was in Hawaii at the time. His interviews with the surviving crew and subsequent publication of their story helped propel his rise to national fame.

Adding even more fascination to the tale, Captain Mitchell was a five-time Mayflower descendant.

NEW YORK

New York Holds Seventy-first Annual Mayflower Ball

The 2025 soiree was a truly magical event. The Seventy-first Annual Mayflower Ball, an elegant evening on New York's historic Fifth Avenue, returned to the storied University Club with the dulcet tones of the Alex Donner orchestra providing music to dance the night away. This magnificent event—representing the true warmth of the New York Society's signature event—celebrated five exceptional young ladies highlighting their unique talents and representing many different Member Societies: Nebraska, New Jersey and Texas, in addition to New York. It is the common thread of lineage, coupled with a national scope, that sets the Mayflower debutante ball apart from others. Our distinctive heritage, and our embracing cousinage, which witnesses these presentations each year—recognizing accomplishments and legacy—while maintaining a lifelong relationship with our alumnae debs, of which this year we had seven in attendance. We are delighted by these debs, and look forward to learning about their future successes as well as their ultimate membership, a testament to the bond of family and shared history. Next year—we anticipate another sold-out event as well as a greater number of debutantes—**plan on joining us at the University Club on Saturday, November 7, 2026.** And, as Governor Emeritus Steve Madsen so wisely reminds us, "Purchase your Ball tickets as soon as the invitation has been mailed. You will not regret being the early bird who gets to go to the Ball."

Submitted by: Alexis Morledge, Executive Director



▲ (Left-to-right) Martha Bell Speas (Stephen Hopkins), Emma Morgan Woodruff (John Howland), Abigail Alling Woodruff (John Howland), Elizabeth Matthews Abelow (William White) and Caroline Elizabeth Brooke Bosley (Edward Fuller).

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Holds Annual Meeting and Thanksgiving Celebration

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina held its Annual meeting and Thanksgiving Celebration on November 1, 2025, in Lewisville, North Carolina.

Celebrations began Friday night when Acting Governor William Ewalt and his wife Kathy hosted a Governor's dinner at the historic Nissen House in Lewisville, North Carolina.

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at the Mary Alice Warren Community Center also in Lewisville, North Carolina. The Annual Meeting included:

- The adoptions of new bylaws and standing rules;
- The unveiling of the new website that contains a member management system;
- A review of the Annual Budget;
- A presentation of certificates by the Historian;
- The election of an outstanding slate of candidates to fill open positions;
- An informative presentation by Martha Ward Scholarship winner **Ashley Gilbert** on her PhD

thesis in development about taverns in the Southern colonies in the pre-Revolutionary war era; and

- A great time was had by all.

At the Society of Mayflower Descendants in North Carolina meetings, the 'Mayflower Cup' is always on display. The Mayflower Cup was a prestigious literary award established in 1930 by the Society of Mayflower Descendants of North Carolina to honor the Pilgrim Fathers and promote interest in North Carolina literature. A handcrafted silver cup, created by Asheville silversmith William Waldo Dodge Jr., was placed on permanent display in Raleigh's Hall of History, while a replica was awarded annually to a North Carolina resident who published an outstanding nonfiction work. A board consisting of leaders from the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association and faculty from the University of North Carolina and Duke University selected the winners. The first recipient was Marcus Cicero Stephens Noble for *A History of the Public Schools in North Carolina*. Wartime metal shortages, rising costs, and limited Society involvement in the judging process eventually contributed to the award's discontinuation in 2002, ending more than seventy years as the State's oldest literary honor. Our Mayflower Cup is believed to be a replica of the ones that were given to the recipients.

Submitted by: Debby Warner Anderson, Editor, Tarheel Pilgrim Newsletter

UTAH

Utah Society Held Its Fall Banquet on November 7, 2025

The Utah Society held its Fall 2025 Banquet on Friday, November 7, 2025, at the Sons of Utah Pioneers National Headquarters. It was a beautiful evening on the benches of the Salt Lake Valley. Following the conducting of society business and the presentation of certificates to new members, over seventy-eight society members enjoyed an engaging and memorable program. The banquet was catered by Brown Catering, and the meal was delicious.

Highlights of society business included voting on and sustaining a new Utah Mayflower Board for the 2026–2029 term, beginning in January. We are pleased to welcome our new board, along with our newly elected Governor, Ted Arnoldus.

The banquet continued with Deputy Governor General Thomas Portlock sharing a report from the General Board of Assistants (GBOA) meeting held September 4–7, 2025, in San Antonio, Texas. All society members were invited to attend. The next General Board of Assistants meeting will be held in Plymouth in conjunction with Congress 2026, scheduled for September 11–15, 2026.

For the evening's program, attendees enjoyed a musical number arranged by Dan Newbold, a descendant of Thomas Rogers. Verdi White performed a patriotic medley, accompanying himself. Following the music, our Secretary, Lori Liljenquist, a descendant of Richard Warren, introduced the evening's guest speaker, Judge Kelly Schaeffer-Bullock.

Judge Schaeffer-Bullock delivered an insightful presentation illustrating how the principles of the

Mayflower Compact are woven throughout American history, including their influence on the Constitution of the United States of America and even the preamble to the Utah Constitution. Her remarks served as a meaningful reminder of the freedoms our ancestors fought to establish and preserve.

This past year, the Utah Society also celebrated its "Pilgrims to Pioneers" initiative, recognizing descendants of Mayflower passengers whose families later crossed the plains as pioneers before the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. Lapel pins, medallions, challenge coins, and mugs featuring a newly created

design were made available for purchase. Additionally, a new Utah Society certificate was announced and is now available for purchase on the website. Designed to complement the "Pilgrims to Pioneers" medallion, the certificate includes the member's Passenger and Pioneer, GSMD number, and their Member Society number—a beautiful legacy to pass down and a meaningful way to honor one's heritage.

Submitted by: Thomas Portlock, Deputy Governor General

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Society Hosts Governor General Pennington

The Wisconsin Mayflower Society had the honor of hosting Governor General Lisa Pennington at our 2025 Compact Day meeting held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. Over seventy members attended the meeting, four of whom were new members. We were served a fantastic Thanksgiving meal catered by the consistently phenomenal Machine Shed Restaurant.

The Wisconsin Society Governor Jeff Stark and Treasurer Janet Brophey also generously presented a check to Governor General Pennington for the continued restoration of the Mayflower Meetinghouse in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Our amazing members donated a total of \$5,595, which surpassed the goal of \$5,000. Governor General Pennington then gave a fascinating presentation on why the story of our ancestors is still so important and must continue to be shared.

Having Governor General Pennington at the 2025 Compact Day meeting was extra special, and the Wisconsin Society looks forward to seeing the renovations of the Meetinghouse as they are completed.

Submitted by: Deidra Stapleton, Publicity Assistant



▲ Governor, Jeff Stark, and Treasurer, Janet Brophey with Governor General Lisa Pennington.



Experience the Best of NEW ENGLAND

Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and tastes of New England. From quaint island villages to the breathtaking beauty of the coastline, summer in New England is a truly delightful experience. Discover the region's rich maritime heritage, savor a traditional Lobsterbake, and marvel at grand mansions of the Gilded Age. Return to the comfort of your onboard sanctuary and bask in the warm camaraderie of fellow guests and crew.

Small Ship Cruising Done Perfectly.®



LARGEST STATEROOMS



AWARD-WINNING EXCURSIONS



REGIONAL CUISINE



Call today for your FREE Cruise Guide
888-343-0185
 AmericanCruiseLines.com



Online Discoveries: The Historical Records Survey Projects

DALE H. COOK

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this column in *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* has always been to introduce readers to genealogical resources with which they may not have been familiar. This month's resource was created in 1937 as a project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of the Federal Government. The WPA was a New Deal agency which employed millions of those needing jobs to carry out a wide range of public works projects. One series of projects of particular interest to genealogical researchers are the Historical Records Survey Projects (HRS). Their official mission statement was the "discovery, preservation, and listing of basic materials for research in the history of the United States." The HRS inventoried and indexed historical records in state, county, and local archives. Those indexes were published, and scans of many are freely available online. Note that the HRS did publish some records, but the main use of their indexes may be to help you locate records.

SCOPE OF RECORDS

The entry point for the Historical Records Survey Projects is by Sargent B. Child and Dorothy P. Holmes, *Check List of Historical Records Survey Publications: Bibliography of Research Projects Reports* (Washington, DC: Federal Works Agency, 1943). A scan in PDF format is available on the Internet Archive.¹ It is divided into sections, each subdivided alphabetically by state:

1. Inventories of Federal Archives Listed in the States;
2. Federal Archives in the States: Miscellaneous Publications;
3. Inventories of State Archives;
4. Inventories of County Archives;
5. Inventories of Municipal and Town Archives;
6. Transcriptions of Public Archives;
7. Vital Statistics;
8. Church Archives Publications: Inventories;
9. Church Archives Publications: Directories;
10. Manuscript Publications;
11. American Imprints Inventories;
12. American Imprints Inventories: Newspapers;
13. American Portrait Inventory;
14. Guides to Civilian Organizations;
15. Miscellaneous Publications;
16. Appendix I: Microfilm;
17. Appendix II: Papers and Articles Concerning the Historical Records Survey;
18. Appendix III: Manuals of Instructions;
19. Appendix IV: Reports, Summaries and Miscellaneous; and
20. Appendix V: Depositories of Unpublished Material.

EXAMPLES OF HRS CONTENTS

Here are a few notes about one HRS publication which I have used.

Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in Massachusetts, Preliminary Edition (Boston: The Historical Records Survey, 1939).²

This guide omits some of the major depositories such as the Massachusetts Historical Society, which were still being cataloged when the guide was being prepared. Thus, it focuses mainly on smaller and less known depositories. Those include town, city, church, and other libraries with significant historical collections, museum collections, and historical society collections. Each entry contains a summation of significant holdings.

The entry for the Brockton Public Library is typical, showing:

- Letters, 1823–1922, five pieces;
- Deeds, 1766–1855, eleven deeds to land in Bridgewater and the vicinity;
- Legal documents, 1787–1861;
- Military commissions and enlistment records of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, 1869–1878, and lists of members of the company of Nehemiah Lincoln, 1814;
- Lists of members of the Fourth Church of Christ in Bridgewater, 1740–1849;
- Letter on the appointment of delegates to the Ordinary Council, 1808, etc.;
- Account books, general store, 1782, shoemaker's day book;
- North Bridgewater Library Association, treasurer's account, 1870–71;
- Brockton Library Finance Committee, 1903–31;
- North Bridgewater Library Association, secretaries' reports and minutes of meetings, 1858–62;

- Record of marriages performed by Eliot Whitman, J.P., 1822;
- Brockton Public Library, 1877–1909;
- Scrapbooks of the Brockton Centennial Celebration, 1921;
- Genealogical data on the Howard and Cary families; and
- Broad sides, etc.

This collection contains twenty-four volumes and one hundred six pieces, forty-six percent of which are arranged chronologically; there is no catalog.

The entry for the Shrewsbury Historical Society shows:

- Beaman Collection, papers of Jabez, Ezra, Ezra Beaman Jr., 1756(1775–96)1820, military papers, 109 pieces;
- Wheelock Collection, papers of Gershom and Erastus Wheelock, 1731(1819–73)1873, store accounts, town records, church and organization records, deeds, 242 pieces;
- "Chatauqua Scraps," 1884–85;
- A general collection of miscellaneous manuscripts;
- The papers of the Stone (Baird, Stone, Rice, Breck), Smith, H. A. Maynard families;
- Town Records;
- Military papers;
- Deeds and plot plans for Shrewsbury land;
- Shrewsbury Historical Society records; and
- Organization records, etc., 553 pieces.

All of the manuscripts have been arranged according to various principles; the general collection has been arranged chronologically and is kept in folders. All of the holdings have been cataloged.

Many entries include notes describing the collection holder and availability of materials.

LOCATING HRS PUBLICATIONS

Because HRS publications appear in a variety of locations online finding a particular publication may require some searching. I have found them on sites for the Internet Archive, FamilySearch, the Hathi Trust,³ and a variety of state, library, and society sites. If you enter into a search engine the title for a desired HRS publication you may be able to locate an online copy or one in a nearby library.

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, Massachusetts. Dale is a member of The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine staff as Contributing Genealogist.

1. <https://archive.org/details/Researchbiblio/mode/2up>.
2. Online at the Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/preliminaryediti00hist>.
3. <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/mb>.

Need help with your lineage application?

HIRE EXPERT HELP FROM OUR RESEARCH SERVICES TEAM

The genealogy team at the Mayflower Society Research Center is here to help with your family history questions. Whether you're looking to have a family genealogy put together, want help figuring out a possible Mayflower connection, or are stuck on a tricky research problem, our team is happy to jump in. While we specialize in Mayflower research, we're also experienced general genealogists with a strong knowledge of New England history and research resources.

GET EXPERT HELP

- Preparing an application for GSMD membership
- Compiling your Mayflower lineage
- Assembling Family genealogies
- Other lineage society applications
- Working through brick walls

Please email ResearchServices@TheMayflowerSociety.org to discuss your project.

Scan the QR Code or visit the Research Services online at themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/research-services/.



ADVERTISEMENT

A History of Quiet Strength



See Plymouth
MASSACHUSETTS
SeePlymouth.com

Governor William Bradford Statue, Mayflower Society House, Plymouth MA



SALES

CELEBRATE SPRING WITH THE MAYFLOWER SOCIETY'S SIGNATURE FLOWER AND COLORS



\$15

Vintage Floral Tote Bag

100% organic cotton canvas. 6" gusset makes it easier to hold everything you need. Printed in the USA with fade-resistant inks. Machine washable and color safe. Measures 14.75" x 14.25" x 6" (with gusset opened).



\$10

Vintage Floral Go Bag

Perfect for carrying small everyday essentials. 100% organic cotton canvas with metal zipper and faux leather zipper pull. Printed in the USA with fade-resistant inks. Measures approximately 9" x 7.25" x 1".



\$45

Mayflower Ship & Passengers Name Scarf

Custom designed for GSMD. Scarf's outer borders contain the names of all Pilgrims with descendants. Measures 54" long x 12" wide. Silk.



\$10

Mayflower Plant Hand Pressed Glass Medallion

This custom hand-pressed glass medallion is made in an historic glass-making region of the US. Due to the handmade nature of the glass, expect variations. Measures approximately 3" in diameter.



\$100

\$90

Mayflower Coin Necklace

SALE!

Flower pendant handcrafted in Massachusetts by The Difference Coin Jewelry. The pendant is hand-pierced from a rare oval shaped Turkish coin by one of The Difference's artisans, and then plated in a 14 Karat Gold and Rhodium Finish.

Pendant is approximately 1" in diameter, and includes a 20" 14 Karat Gold Plated snake chain.



\$85

Woman's Shawl Wrap

Super soft blanket wrap embroidered with Mayflower Society logo on left chest. Measures 44" x 64". 80% polyester/20% viscose. Machine wash.

Visit TheMayflowerSociety.org/shop for these items and more!

NEW PREMIUM DONOR GIFTS

Based on windows in the Mayflower Meetinghouse, these stained-glass panels are handmade by Cape Cod artist Mary Brophy. Your donation goes towards the restoration of the Mayflower Meetinghouse. The stained glass is available for a limited time in limited quantities, so to reserve yours today contact Membership and Sales Manager Alexandra Cervenak at Sales@TheMayflowerSociety.org.

GSMD Seal
\$1,000 donation
 Measures 12" x 11"

Mayflower
\$500 donation
 Measures 9" x 9"



Visit TheMayflowerSociety.org/shop for these items and more!

To order please visit our web shop or contact:

Alexandra Cervenak
 Membership and Sales Manager
 508-746-5058
Sales@TheMayflowerSociety.org

To order Insignia and gravemarkers, please visit our web shop or contact:

Meg Averett
 Insignia Chair
Insignia@TheMayflowerSociety.org

Great news: Our web shop can now accept international orders! Please see our website for details: TheMayflowerSociety.org/shop.

Insignia Introduction: Getting Started with Insignia

New members have the opportunity to start their journey with Insignia. This product is an excellent introduction for first-time participants or for individuals who have not previously ordered Insignia.

Choosing the Member Insignia Starter Set ensures a smooth transition into membership and provides a solid foundation for future involvement at a reduced cost.

Set includes one Member Medal with straight top bar and one Ancestor bar.

The Member Medal has a straight gold top bar engraved with your Member Society's name that is affixed to a ribbon above the Member Medal and is worn over the heart. The Member Medal ribbon should display Ancestor bars only.

The oval Member Medal may be engraved with Member's name or GSMD membership number, please provide this information in "Engraving" box. Personalized engraving is included in the price.

An approved application to the Mayflower passenger is required to purchase the Ancestor bar. Additional Ancestor bars may be purchased separately for each approved supplemental or acquired Passenger Inheritance Program lines.

Eligibility: GSMD members.

Insignia Protocol: To be worn only at society functions with Ancestor bar(s) attached to the ribbon.



The Mayflower
Quarterly Magazine

18 Winslow Street
Plymouth, MA
02360-3313 USA



PERIODICAL
VOLUME 92, NO.1
SPRING 2026

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

Every gift strengthens our shared mission to preserve the legacy of the *Mayflower* and ensure that future generations can learn from the story that shaped a nation. Your generosity keeps history alive across our educational programs, our research, and work across the country to honor our Pilgrim ancestors.

Ways You Can Support The Mayflower Society

- **Support the Mayflower Meetinghouse**
Make a commitment to help transform this historic landmark and the stories it holds into an educational center.
- **Make a Planned Gift**
Create a legacy that reflects your values and supports our mission for years to come.
- **Give to Our General Fund**
Fuel our ongoing work of education, preservation, member programs, and stewardship.

How to Give

- Visit <https://TheMayflowerSociety.org/donate/>
- Mail your gift to:
The Mayflower Society
18 Winslow Street, Plymouth, MA 02360
- Reach out directly to discuss other opportunities to give such as through pledges, DAFs, stocks, and more.

For more information, please contact our Executive Director, Cheryl Soares at ExecutiveDirector@TheMayflowerSociety.org or 508-746-3188 Ext. 21. We would be delighted to connect with you and discuss how we can partner together, **we can't wait to hear from you. Thank you for your generous support. Together, we ensure that our history continues to educate and inspire.**