

Fall 2021

Pilgrim News

Society of Mayflower Descendants of the District of Columbia



Calendar:

MEETINGS

Board of Assistants:

Saturday, 16 Oct 2021

Saturday, 30 Jan 2022

Membership:

Sunday, 27 Feb 2022

Sunday, 22 May 2022

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Saturday, 20 Nov 2021

Compact Day Dinner

Cosmos Club

Washington D.C.

SCHEDULED BY

GSMD

Heritage Breakfast

Wednesday,

13 Apr 2022

Time TBD

Army Navy Club,

Washington, DC



How did two members of the Society of Mayflower Descendants celebrate the 4th of July in Washington, DC?

Our Treasurer, Kent Boese and Past Governor, Annie John, were invited to attend the annual July 4 wreath laying at the gravesite of Elbridge Gerry in the Congressional Cemetery. Gerry is the only signer of the Declaration of Independence buried in the District of Columbia.

The event was sponsored by the District of Columbia Sons of the American Revolution. As has been the tradition since 1953, the event is a gathering to which Lineage, Patriotic, Fraternal and Service organizations, as well as unaffiliated individuals are invited, bringing together friends who belong to one or more of these organizations. The event takes place annually at the Congressional Cemetery, located at 1801 E Street SE, Washington, DC 20003. DCSAR presents a wreath, and provides cut flowers for all others to place on Elbridge Gerry's grave in honor of all the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. As you will see in the photo, dress is "summer chic" - blazers, light dresses, straw hats, and fans appropriate to a sub-tropical July morning in Washington!



The DCSAR has done a wonderful job keeping his gravesite clean and well-marked. It was a beautiful event which also honored DC and Capitol Police law enforcement officers. Let's plan on being there next year and every year!

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/388/elbridge-gerry>

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



I want to especially thank the members of the Board of Assistants for their continued service. We have scheduled a virtual Membership meeting in September and an in-person Compact Day Dinner in November. In the meantime, here is a brief update on four projects that are currently in progress.

The first project is the quarterly publication of our newsletter, called “Pilgrim News”. Board Member Suzy Mulligan is leading this project as editor. You should have received the first two editions already. One of Suzy’s articles from our newsletters also appeared in the Summer 2021 Mayflower Quarterly Magazine. The next “Pilgrim News” will be published in early October 2021.

The second project is the publication of the 2020 – 2021 Member Directory, called “The Register”, which commemorates the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower’s arrival in Plymouth Harbor. Member Lise Harvey is the lead and the compiler for this project. The Register will include information for all Members who do not “opt out”. The parents of Junior Members have consented to include their children as well. We will be sending out a digital draft by email for members to review. For those who want a printed copy, we ask that you notify us so that we only print copies for those who wish to receive one.

The third project is the outreach to those Life Members for whom we do not have an email address. Life Member, Molly Greene is leading this project. She is the daughter of a former Governor of our Society, Brigadier General Michael J.L. Greene, who served from 1995 to 1997. She provides me periodic update so that we do not lose touch with our Life Members.

The fourth project is the downsizing of property in storage, including deaccession of books and reference materials, to reduce storage costs to the Society. Past Governor and current Counsellor, Donald Lamson, is leading this project. Donald has made great progress. Those members who bid and paid for items from our library now have them. You can read Donald’s Property Committee Report elsewhere in this newsletter.

In closing, I want to reiterate the debt of gratitude we owe these volunteers, officers and other members of the Board of Assistants, without whose good works our Society could not function.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Moore Campbell
Governor

DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Sunday, February 28 (virtual):

February 28th was our first virtual membership meeting of 2021. The meeting was well attended with 41 members and guests. Our speaker, Louise Walsh Throop, gave an engaging presentation that revealed two lesser-known facts about some of the *Mayflower* passengers.

Sunday May 23, 2021(virtual):

On May 23rd, we conducted our second virtual membership meeting of 2021. The meeting was attended by 19 members and guests. Our speaker, Kurt Frevert, project manager for the construction contractor of the National World War II Memorial, presented “The Birth and Growing Pains of the National World War II Memorial.”

Sunday, September 26, 2021(virtual):

This was our third virtual membership meeting of 2021. Our speaker was Dr. Kevin Butterfield on the topic of “Joining Together in America: From the Mayflower to Today”. He is the Executive Director of the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon. He received his B.A. in History from the University of Missouri, an M.A. in History from the College of William and Mary and a PhD in History from Washington University in St. Louis.

Saturday, November 20, 2021:

Compact Day Dinner reservation confirmed for an in-person event at the Cosmos Club. Thank you to Priestly Toulmin for his past sponsorship at the Cosmos Club and to J. Thomas Tanner for his current sponsorship on this date.

Our speaker will be David Martin Trebing, who is a Mayflower Society dual member (DC and MA). His remarks will on the subject of partnering with the New England Historical and Genealogical Society (NEHGS). He is the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the NEHGS.

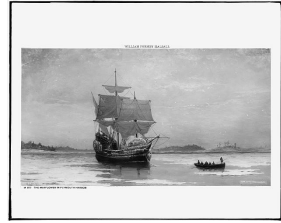
Respectfully Submitted:

Ann Campbell, Governor

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Glenn Williams

Plymouth continues to have challenges processing applications. Because of Plymouth's 400th anniversary and other factors, Plymouth has been experiencing high volumes of membership applications. In response, they have hired and trained additional staff. Nevertheless, they are currently processing December applications.



We've learned that one way to speed an application is to provide compelling proofs. That includes attaching solid references that GSMD's verifiers easily accept. That includes finding previously approved applications with reliable references. GSMD is making it easier to locate useful applications.

The DC Mayflower Society currently has fifteen membership applications in Plymouth. We've tried everything possible to accelerate the process. We know it's frustrating for our new members. It's also a challenge for our Historian team.

Here are application statistics:

New members approved in 2021: 12

New members waiting for GSMD approval: 15

New members completing applications: 4

Applications in progress: 30

Supplements in progress: 15

Not all applications will move forward. A significant factor delaying applications is locating and delivering birth, death, and marriage certificates. Where possible, we use long-form certificates that identify parents, including the mother's maiden name, as a primary source. We need parents' names to prove lineage. Generally, only family members can request long-form certificates. In some cases, there is a reluctance to ask for certificates. This ten minute video, provided by the GSMD, is helpful in the Do's and Don'ts when submitting an application. <https://themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/explore-your-roots/application-dos-and-donts/>

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Clarice Lorraine Shaw

Robyn Reed Eustis

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

Donald Lamson

The Board this year authorized the Property Committee (“Committee”), to de-access the Society’s book collection through a two-step process. The Society offered the collection to the membership by auction, selling 16 volumes to two members, following indications of interest by six members. Another volume was donated to the DAR Library. The remainder was offered to book dealers and an area library. There were two bids and an expression of interest (“EOI”), with a high bid of \$1200 for the remainder. The EOI was contingent and lower in amount. The Board accepted the high bid as in the best interest of the Society.

The Board also authorized the disposal of the remainder of the Society’s storage unit as trash, with the exception of items identified by the Historian (e.g., files) for transfer to a smaller storage unit. With a few exceptions, the remainder consists of miscellaneous pieces of office equipment and book shelves in distressed (i.e., poor) condition and with minimal value. The files will be transferred to a smaller, presumably less expensive storage unit. Miscellaneous items include a ship’s model and a framed print. A recommendation for treatment of those items will be forthcoming. Any members with an interest in acquiring one or more of the remaining pieces are invited to contact the Committee at Lamson3@verizon.net.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Mayflower plant has quite an interesting history. The plant is called the trailing arbutus which is an ancient planting dating back to the last glacier period. In Plymouth, back in Spring of 1621, the plant was abundant, and served as a welcome first sign of spring to the weary pilgrims

after surviving their first winter. Here are a few links to learn more about the Mayflower plant.

<https://vnps.org/2001-trailing-arbutus-epigaea-repens/>

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/trailing-arbutus/mayflower-trailing-arbutus.htm>

TREASURER'S REPORT

From the Treasurer's Desk

Kent Boese

Our books continue to be in good order and our finances are healthy. The Society is currently in the midst of collecting annual dues for the 2021/2022 membership year. If you have not mailed in your dues, please do so. If you have sent in your dues but have not received a requested membership card, please contact the treasurer.

Dues Collection Status

The D.C. Society currently has 248 members who pay annual dues, which are due on September 1st of each year. Members with open balances on November 1st will be assessed a \$15 late fee. Members with open balance older than one year risk being dropped from the Society.

As of 25 September 2021, the status of dues collection is as follows:

- ◆ Paid annual members.....168 (67%)
- ◆ Annual unpaid dues.....58 (23%)
- ◆ Members with open balances older than 1 year.....13 (5%)
- ◆ Members with open balances older that 2 years..... 8 (3%)

Update on Members Owing Dues

As indicated above, in Quarter 3 we have 8 members owing dues for a period greater than two years and 13 not current in the 2020/2021 dues year. According to the Society's By-Laws, members whose annual dues remain unpaid for a period of one 12-month year (September 1 – August 31) shall be dropped from the rolls on the following September 30th.

If an annual member chooses not to be an active/dues-paying member, we recommend the member pay dues currently owed and resign, rather than being dropped from the rolls. Paid up members may request reinstatement in future without penalty.

Members with questions regarding their dues status should reach out to the treasurer. It is our goal to prevent any member from being dropped from our rolls without this being their intention.

RESOURCES & LECTURE SERIES

Officers

Governor

Ann M. Campbell

Deputy Governor

Vacant

Recording/

Corresponding/

Membership Secretary

Shelley Rodgers

Treasurer

Kent C. Boese

Historian

Glenn S. K. Williams

Librarian

Gail Adams

Counselor

Donald Lamson

Captain

Bruce Babcock

Elder

Sarah S. Seemann

Surgeon

Vacant

Jr. Membership Chair

Julie Stuftt

Assistants

Chris Westcott

Shirley Wilcox, C.G.

Beth Gable Hicks

Suzy Mulligan

Past Governors

Barbara Carpenter

Janet Downing

Timothy Finton

Glennon Harrison

Annie John

Donald Lamson

David Stringfellow

J. Tom Tanner

Nicholas Ward

Beth Gable Hicks

GSMD Virtual Lecture Series

The new lecture series begins again in January 2022. Visit <https://themayflowersociety.org/history/lecture-series/> to view past video's in the lecture series.



HELPFUL RESOURCES

Library of Congress

www.loc.gov

Here you can find pre-1850 digital books

World Cat

<https://www.worldcat.org/>

World Cat connects you to the collections and services of over 10,000 libraries worldwide.

GSMD Library

www.themayflowersociety.org

Log into www.themayflowersociety.org. Click VISIT in the Menu Bar. Click on The Library. Scroll down to resources where you will find Library Catalog links to Genealogies and the General Collections.

New England Historic Genealogical Society

www.americanancestors.org

Hathitrust Digital Library

<https://www.hathitrust.org/>



**Society of Mayflower Descendants
District of Columbia
c/o Shelley Rodgers
1509 Oakcrest Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302**

TO: