

# THE PENNSYLVANIA MAYFLOWER

www.sail1620.org

Fall/Winter 2021

VOLUME XXXIII ISSUE NO 2

SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER  
DESCENDANTS IN THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF  
PENNSYLVANIA (SMDPA)

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## MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR REED KNEALE



400 years ago, our ancestors had survived famine and sickness in the new land. They had the good faith of the Native Americans, having made a lasting peace treaty, and learned how to grow corn successfully - setting up the first Thanksgiving based on bountiful farming, fishing, trading, and hunting.

Unfortunately, the church service and dinner for November 20, 2021, commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the first Thanksgiving, has been canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. I trust we will be able to plan for our Spring Meeting. It has been too long and there have been too many missed events.

We are sponsoring reenactors from Plimoth Patuxet that will visit our schools across the state through virtual meetings. The reenactors will be in costume and act in character, representing some of our pilgrim ancestors. The reenactors support our mission for education and honor the memory of our forefathers.

Our members and committees remain busy with many accomplishments under their belts as detailed below.

Our Historians have been hard at work adding over 70 new members last year, with over 100 more in the application process! Our numbers total over 800 members at year-end.

Please take advantage of your \$20 store credit; it is now time to redeem.

Deb Yingst and I attended the General Society Board meeting in Plymouth a few weeks ago. The new website was one of the accomplishments. This project took a great deal of time and money to develop. Participating on the Tech committee that produced the new site was my privilege. Take time to sign-in on the "members only" side and explore the many benefits it has to offer.

Our financial state is solid as our strategy to keep a percentage of resources in the stock market has grown to an all-time high. Our dues increase was minor as we transition to the higher costs from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Our mission is to provide value to members when meetings are not possible by using other means. Thank you for your dues and membership!

Your Board of Assistants (BOA) have met and decided

to organize a committee to discuss ideas and plan activities for our members that are educational, fun, and celebrate the memory of our ancestors. Together we can brainstorm many ideas that we can develop to provide our members value. Please review the Member Alert at the end of this Newsletter, and respond to volunteer to be a member of this planning committee.

Feel free to contact me personally or anyone else on our BOA your thoughts, and ideas.

May God bless you and your family, keeping all healthy and in faith during this time!

Respectfully,  
Reed Kneale  
Governor SMDPA, [smdpa-governor@sail1620.org](mailto:smdpa-governor@sail1620.org)

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## Plymouth Historian Walkway By SMDPA Executive Committee

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To our Valued Members:

The Executive Committee is pleased to announce the purchase of three Historian Bricks in participation with the “2020-2021 Commemorative Historian Brick Walkway Program” in the GSMD garden side of the Genealogy Research Library. This program honors past, and current Historians, their work, and contributions to our Society.

The Honorees are:

Mary (Mimi) Connelly 2006-2007  
Valerie (Val) Cullen 2007-2017  
Virginia (Ginny) Fossa 2018-2021



Mary’s selection is posthumous due to her recent passing. Val worked a complete decade for the SMDPA in this role. Virginia (Ginny) is our current Historian as many new members are aware.

Our Historians are often the first contact in a new member’s journey through the application process, dedicating thousands of volunteer hours and unselfish support of our cousins.

The growth of our society would not be possible without their guidance and expertise.

Three cheers for the Historians who are now being honored and memorialized in Plymouth!

We trust you will all have a chance to visit in the future.

With pilgrim pride and warm regards,

Scott Bond, Laura Tyndall, Debbie Yingst, Deb Georgantis-Miller, and Reed Kneale

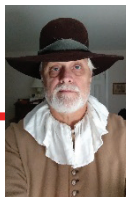
## Thanksgiving 2021 By James Buckner, Elder

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Last year, when we canceled our First Landing Thanksgiving event, we were ready to plan our First Thanksgiving Harvest and Service Celebration for 2021. Although we were preparing and thought we would be together again, COVID-19 had other plans.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, we regret that we felt it best to cancel our Thanksgiving Service for 2021. The decision to cancel was for the health and safety of our members and guests. We are looking forward to having the service next year.

Once plans are established, information will be posted on the web site; [www.sail1620.org](http://www.sail1620.org). Information will also be included in The Pennsylvania Mayflower.



## A Thankful Reflection

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As a deeply religious people, the Pilgrims undoubtedly prayed at the 1621 harvest feast. Their prayers were spontaneous, however, and the exact words not known. A typical prayer might be:

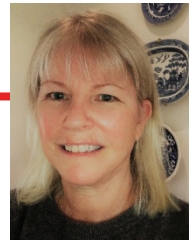
O Lord our God and heavenly Father, which of Thy

unspeakable mercy towards us, hast provided meate and drinke for the nourishment of our weake bodies. Grant us peace to use them reverently, as from Thy hands, with thankful hearts: let Thy blessing rest upon these Thy good creatures, to our comfort and sustentation: and grant we humbly beseech Thee, good Lord, that as we doe hunger and thirst for this food of our bodies, so our soules may earnestly long after the food of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, Amen.

George Webb, “Short direction for the daily exercise of the Christian,”  
London 1625. Courtesy of Plimoth Plantation

## In Memoriam By Althea Fejes, Registrar

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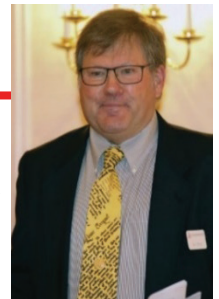
The members of the Board of Assistants of the Society of Mayflower Descendants of Pennsylvania would like to express their sincere sympathy to the family and friends of our members who have passed recently.

Norbert Wade Geer  
George Thomas Wilcox  
Walter Fiske Hagar

We thank you for your service and dedication to SMDPA.

## Treasurer Report By Scott Bond, Treasurer

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Although COVID has put a damper on our 400th Anniversary celebrations for the second straight year, we are conducting significant activities virtually.

SMDPA has done well, thus far, in 2021. In this uncertain financial environment, we had \$637,517.12 in total Cash and Investments as of Aug 31st.

GSMD imposed significant increases that took effect in 2021. SMDPA followed suit with a smaller increase, the first in several years, and we put a hold on new Life Memberships until we can determine a model that is fair to both Members and SMDPA. With COVID limiting our in-person activity, we rolled out a Member Appreciation program that you should have heard about, and 105 members have taken advantage of, so far.

Our Assistant Treasurer has busily collected more than \$26,000 in dues.

Our Historians have generated more than \$13,000 in new member and supplemental membership fees. (More than \$7,300 of that has been paid to GSMD as application fees)

To-date, our investments have generated almost \$4,400 in income.

Member Appreciation Program: \$20 of merchandise from our SMDPA Store through the end of 2021. One hundred and five members (13%) have taken advantage of the program resulting in \$2,024 of complimentary product and \$473 of additionally purchased product being shipped to members. This program is available through 12/31/2021 to any member in good standing.

In addition, our on-line Store has generated an unprecedented 70 orders in 2021 for \$1,693.

Our own Deb Miller's Mayflower Compact Signers 1620-2020 Anniversary Edition book has been sold on our Store and as part of the Member Appreciation Program. We have shipped 280 copies. Book sales and the sales of the Compact Signers Mini Booklets contribute to our Education Fund.

Reminder: SMDPA has good-looking Pennsylvania Vanity Automobile License Plates available. Look under Store on our SMDPA website for information and instructions.

Each society, including SMDPA, pays a Per Capita Membership Fee to GSMD. That fee increased from \$15/person in 2020 to nearly \$35/person in 2021. Following the reconciliation of our membership list, I wrote a check for \$23,760 to GSMD.

Colony Stipends totaling \$3,400 to-date have been written to Susquehanna and Western Colonies.

Nancy Larsen has done a wonderful job reviving the Silver Book program for several PA Libraries and Historical Societies (\$6,800).

Dr Heather Horton has taken the reigns of coordinating the use of Plimoth Patuxet re-enactors for the Fall of 2021. COVID is challenging this program, too, and Heather is trying to introduce both in-person and virtual offerings this year – hopefully. Even with the Western Colony taking a pass on the program this year, the program will cost nearly \$10,000.

Oh, and we still pay for newsletters, insurance, our mailbox, banking services, printing, postage and shipping, archive services, and for software to run our website, ZOOM, and accounting services.

We are still here!

## **2021 Dues Report** **By Judi Biederman, Assistant Treasurer**



The 2021 SMDPA dues collection process is in its final stages. Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues for this year, allowing us to collect the funds needed to keep our society operational.

During 2021, we tried to improve our dues notification and communication processes, sending written and electronic dues notices in January, e-mailing reminders in June, mailing reminder postcards in July, placing phone calls in August, and mailing final notices in September.

We also offered several payment options, accepting both checks sent by mail as well as online payments via credit cards.

Unfortunately, at the time this article is being written, we still have 26 members whose dues remain outstanding. Final notices have been mailed, and any member with unpaid dues as of the October 16 board meeting will be suspended from SMDPA membership.

This number is slightly better than last year at this time, when we had to send out 54 final notices, and please know that the suspension is easily remedied by paying a reinstatement fee along with the outstanding dues. However, no matter how the suspension might be resolved, SMDPA incurs costs when it must communicate regarding late dues.

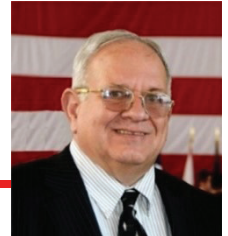
For instance, during the last two years we have spent more than \$300 and countless hours of time to send out reminders and notices regarding late dues. Personally, I am happy to donate the

time required, but I would rather see that time and money spent on educational or service efforts.

Please, if your dues remain outstanding, pay them as soon as possible. Going forward, I am available to help with questions and receptive to any suggestions on how we might improve our dues collection process.

Judi Biederman  
Assistant Treasurer  
judibiederman@gmail.com

## **Susquehanna Colony** **By Mike Saunders, Governor** **Susquehanna Colony**



Back in August, planning for an in-person October meeting of the Susquehanna Colony had begun. During September, several venues in the Harrisburg area ---were considered as potential meeting sites. As the month progressed, an increase in COVID-19 infections caused concern.

It is now October, the plan coming together is now on hold due to another significant outbreak of the Delta variant of COVID-19. A short, informal survey of several members indicated an in-person get-together might not be in the best interest of our members at this time.

Information found on the PA Department of Health website showed an increase of infections for the vaccinated and unvaccinated. [www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/County-Dashboard.aspx](http://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/County-Dashboard.aspx)

As of October 3rd, the statistics found on the CDC website looked less promising for an in-person meeting in our colony area than the information found in September. [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view|PennsylvaniaRisk|community\\_transmission\\_level](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view|PennsylvaniaRisk|community_transmission_level)

Given the current infection rate of both the vaccinated and unvaccinated, we thought it best to defer meeting in person a while longer. Since our last newsletter, the good news is that we have had 19 new members join our Colony. Great job of increasing our membership by the team of Co-Historians lead by Ginny Fossa.

Stay healthy,  
Mike Saunders  
Susquehanna Colony Governor

## **Western Colony** **Governor Lois Lang**

## **Our Spring Meeting** **By Billie J. Gailey**

The Western Colony, SMDPA met on Saturday, May 15, 2021 at the Edgeworth Club in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. Members and guests were welcomed to the first "in person" meeting of the colony since 2019.

The meeting consisted of the Colony social gathering, business

meeting, luncheon, and program. The Colony was especially pleased to welcome Emily Lapisardi as our guest speaker. Ms. Lapisardi is an accomplished singer, organist and pianist who currently serves as the Director of Musical Activities at the Most Holy Trinity Chapel at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Ms. Lapisardi also portrays historical



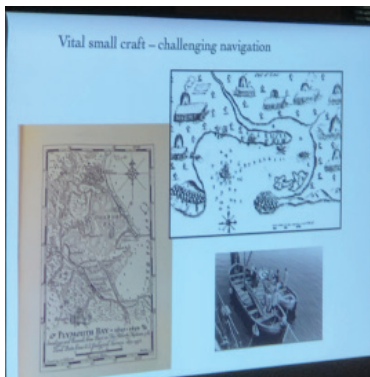
figures in one woman shows. At the Edgeworth Club her topic was "The Dangerous Mrs. Greenhow", which was a portrayal of Washington, D.C. socialite and Confederate spy, Rose O'Neill Greenhow. Her characterization of Mrs. Greenhow in period attire was extraordinarily well received by Western Colony members.

## 2021 Update: THE WESTERN COLONY, SMDPA IS ALIVE AND WELL AND DOING HER WORK

The Western Colony, SMDPA met on Saturday, July 17th at the Chartiers Country Club, outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Members and guests had a business meeting with Colony Governor Lois Lang presiding, followed by the traditional luncheon and a very special guest speaker.

Peter Arenstam came from his home in Plymouth, Massachusetts to discuss "The Maritime History of the Plimoth Colony". As the longtime captain of the Mayflower II and current director of the Howland house in Plymouth, Arenstam is uniquely qualified to discuss early Plimoth.

We could go on, but the photos tell the story:





Bette Ruh (on the left) with her daughter, Beth enjoyed the day. Bette is a longtime member of Chartiers Country Club and was our hostess for the day. Thanks for making us welcome, Bette.



Thank you, Peter Arenstam for sharing your unique knowledge about maritime trade in early Plimoth. The early economy of Plimoth was a critical part of the development of that community. Your discussion of ship building and trade brought those days to life for our meeting.

\*\* Special thanks are extended to our photographer, David Ruhe. David is the husband of our Corresponding Secretary, Linda Ruhe and clearly a gifted photographer.

## Western Colony Thanksgiving

Our Thanksgiving Meeting will be on Saturday, November 20th. We will be remembering the First Thanksgiving in 1621 and celebrating the 400th anniversary of that event. Members will be receiving their invitations with details in October.

## SMDPA Growth By Ginny Fossa, Lead Co-Historian

The Historian group is expanding! We have two new Assistant Historians! Barb Sabin and Susan Hackett. With over 100 Mayflower Lineage Matches received from GSMD so far this year, their assistance will help guide these prospective members become our new members. Please welcome Barb and Susan to the team along with Co-Historians: Cinda Hartman, Sharyn Davis, Lois Howanec, Keith Kammenzind and Ginny Fossa. Assistant Historians: Lori Pries and Mark Lanyon.



## New Members and their Ancestors

Forker, Pamela	Fuller 11th
Forker, Lee Robinson	Fuller 11th
Schaeffer, Jessica	White 13th
Weaver, Cheryl	Fuller 11th
Cook, Bradley	Howland 13th
Dunbar, Robert	Warren 12th
Galloway, Linda	Soule 12th
Saul, Alexander	Howland 14th
Saul, Amanda	Howland 14th
Kammenzind, David	Howland 11th
McAfoos, Gary	Warren 13th
Wild, Patricia	Billington 10th
Becker, Marlene	Hopkins 12th
Cunningham, Mary Ann	Billington 13th
Cunningham, Courtney	Billington 14th
Cunningham, Donald	Billington 14th
Pollard, Donna	Doty 11th
Flint, George	Alden 10th
Dreibelbis, Beckie Jo	Howland 10th
Dreibelbis, Ellen	Howland 11th
Dreibelbis, Samuel	Howland 11th
Fienup, Sally Jo	Howland 11th
Julius, Kara	Howland 11th
Sabin, Barbara	Cooke 11th
Bloomer, James	Brewster 13th
Moyer, Eugene	Howland 11th
Wilson, Christina	Browne 9th
Young, Megan	Fuller 13th
Biggs, Catherine	Alden 10th
Yeager, Susan	Hopkins 10th
Barczykowski, Cynthia	Alden 11th
Kline, Susan	Howland 11th
Mehlmann, Mary	Billington 13th
Case, Thomas	Hopkins 13th
Barb, Kelly	Standish 13th
Marencic, Mariel	Alden 11th
Trimble-Schubert, Susan	Standish 11th
Brown, Casey	Hopkins 14th
Hathaway-Price, Laura	Howland 13th
Thomas, Lorene	Bradford 13th
Holroyd, Christopher	White 12th
Wright, Bruce	Rogers 13th
Sullivan, Gary	Bradford 13th
Beach, Elizabeth	P Mullins 11th
Broomell, Sally	Hopkins 12th
Greeney, Allyn	Chilton 12th
Hillegass, Anne	Chilton 12th
Sammon, Elaine	Soule 12th
Sammon, Rebecca	Soule 12th

## New Approved Supplemental Applications

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Susan Hackett	Richard Warren
Eileen Kopelman	James Chilton
Karen Lynn McCullough Burbidge	Joan Hurst, Elizabeth Tilley and John Howland
Debra Cullen	Francis Cooke
Heather Horton	Richard Warren
George Hazelton	Peter Browne, Francis Cooke
Suanne Harns	S Fuller, F Billington, John Cooke
Rebecca Oesterle	Stephen Hopkins

## Junior Members

Sydney Grogan	John Alden
Collins Grogan	John Alden

## Empathy

### By Dr. Ronald W. Simonsen, Surgeon



Empathy is a conscious activity that becomes possible when a person lives and grows beyond his or her infantile life. It is more than compassion, which requires a special feeling and almost certainly an act of kindness. In its earliest visage it can be recognized in a momentary flash of memory granted to us by the unbroken advancement of neural connections. We see a reaction in the other's face and feel a sense of meaning in their body language. We are permitted through this knowledge to claim our role. Eons of evolution have led to a complex circuitry that allows us to grasp the effect of our action and from that conceive a moral outcome- the basis of truth and justice.

Empathy, just as other skills such as athletic and musical talents, may appear in some to be endowed, but it, like others, can be wonderfully influenced by conscious practice. With empathy, the best classroom is adversity. As the neural connections reach maturity, empathy at its finest can be invisible and its pleasure becomes a passion. For example, medicine is a painful path to follow and once entered, leads inexorably away from the comfort of one's childhood. Empathy allows relationships to be truly democratic and science can then be a guide.

May the electorate of this grandest experiment of humanity choose those who practice empathy to represent them. May we all help each other shine the light brought to Plymouth 401 years ago and illuminate the demons of the dark superstitions that have always accompanied humankind and get us to a safer place. Our journey is not done.

P.S. I am anxious to read Jeremy Banks' latest book, [Intellectual Baggage](#).

P.P.S. Remember your flu shot.

## Of Plagues and Population By Brian S. Atwood, SMDPA Public Relations Chair

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For almost two years, the nation has been plagued with a mysterious illness that has ravaged its citizenry - in some cases, wiping out entire families or even towns. A fearful population is afraid to leave the seemingly safe confines of their homes and finds themselves suspicious even of their closest friends and allies. The mental anguish of the affliction has deeply stressed everyone and causes young and old alike to suffer ever-deepening psychological wounds, no doubt with a long-lasting impact.

The nation's leaders were called into question, further compounding the issue, with claims that their weaknesses have not only been ineffective in ending the scourge but have also been primarily responsible for the unprecedented and unchecked influx of foreigners into the nation's borders. The outsiders brought their share of pestilence and dependency to the already stressed society, having trouble feeding and caring for its own.

Nations which were once powerful and held sway over others through a delicate mixture of fear, superior manpower, intimidation, and a degree of diplomacy, are now greatly diminished in all these areas, prompting rebellious factions from within and assertions of dominance from without - with the looming possibility of war an all-too-present reality.

Sound familiar?

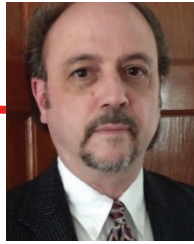
This was the plight of the Wampanoag people of Pawtuxet, wiped out by a plague - assumed to have been smallpox - killing all residents in the period just before the arrival of the Pilgrims in 1620. Now the land was ripe for resettlement by the Mayflower's passengers. The Pilgrims themselves would similarly face widespread illness and death in those initial years before finding the peace and prosperity that followed.

Their circumstances seem to eerily reflect those of the present day, when the combination of a widespread pandemic caused by COVID-19, and shifts in our nation's population, by way of a sudden, extreme uptick in immigration, are again the heated topics of our own time.

The parallels between 1620/21 and 2020/21, while seeming upon casual consideration almost amusing on the surface - especially to those of us who are members of the Mayflower Society - should act as a vivid reminder to us to respect the cyclical nature of history (lest we be "doomed to repeat it"), and to learn from the great triumphs and tragic mistakes of our forebears.

Although we live in a time of significant advancements in science, technology, and information, our basic needs, and the human difficulties we encounter remain very much the same as those experienced by the Wampanoag and Pilgrims alike. It was survival *itself* - augmented perhaps by the desire to provide the inheritance of a better future for their children - that motivated the efforts of the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims. These very human "truths" were "self-evident" to *both* peoples at that time, as they remain today.

## The Mayflower Guard By Keith Kammenzind, Captain



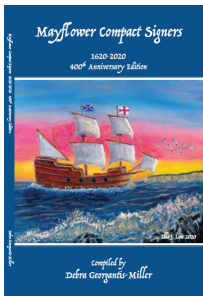
The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) has created The Mayflower Guard to serve as a ceremonial color guard. SMDPA is looking for society members to participate in our Mayflower Guard. Members can be male or female and should be willing to attend meetings and events appropriately dressed as were the Pilgrims. The Mayflower Guard will visibly promote the education and understanding of the Pilgrims through their historically correct apparel.

What makes the Mayflower Guard different from other military guards? The Mayflower Guard draws from direct descendants of the passengers who sailed on the Mayflower hence the name. The presentation of SMPDA flags, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and other patriotic ceremonies are very moving occasions in which the Guard participates.

SMDPA Captain Keith Kammenzind ([sumterto1@verizon.net](mailto:sumterto1@verizon.net)) is looking for Honor Guard volunteers to participate in SMDPA ceremonies, parades, and SMDPA special events throughout the Commonwealth of PA. Please forward your name and interest to Captain Kammenzind via his email

## Shop Talk and Rebate

Have you used your \$20 rebate offer at the SMDPA Store? On October 24th, 2020, the Board of Assistants voted to offer a one-time rebate to the current members due to the postponing and curtailment of services. This rebate will expire 12-31-21.



### MAYFLOWER COMPACT SIGNERS 1620-2020 ANNIVERSARY EDITION \$21.00

“The signatories of the Mayflower Compact are often referenced collectively as mere names to be honored as having established the combination by which the political future of Plymouth Colony was secured.” In the elegantly designed Mayflower Compact Signers: 1620-2020 400th Anniversary Edition, Debra

Georgantis-Miller has “personalized these ancestral figures by providing biographies to establish their individual identities and, by appending genealogical links to living descendants, demonstrate the lasting heritage of the Pilgrim adventure.” \*

## SMDPA Has Positions Open By Debra Georgantis-Miller

If you are a member of SMDPA, you are invited to review the following positions that are currently vacant. Being involved with your society is rewarding. Which job is best suited for you?

### SALES

The Sales Chair is responsible for Society sales, inventory, and record keeping. Skills include a comfort level with computerized order management and excel reporting. Position reports to the Assistant Treasurer.

### JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

In addition to the duties set forth in SMDPA Bylaws, the committee will be responsible for writing letters of invitation to become regular members to those junior members having “J” numbers, i.e., those who are between the ages of 18 and 25 and who have not submitted official lineage papers.

The committee will work with the Registrar to maintain current addresses, phone numbers, and adult member contacts for all “J”, Regular, and Life Junior members.

The chairperson shall maintain the Society’s Pilgrim traditional clothing collection and, interfacing with the Elder, oversee the recruiting and dressing of children for the annual Thanksgiving Church Service procession.

### PHOTOGRAPHER

The Photographer will complete photographic assignments to produce quality photographs for use in SMDPA Newsletter, publications, promotional materials, internal communications, or for other purposes. The photographer should be present at all SMDPA activities to include Annual Meeting, picnics, and Thanksgiving Service. The photographer will work closely with the Newsletter, Publicity, Social Media, Junior, Thanksgiving, and Social Chairs.

## Member Alert

SMDPA Governor Kneale would like to hear from you!



We are requesting any active member to consider joining our new Planning Committee to brainstorm, and plan opportunities/activities that will be a value for our members. There will be 2 planning sessions, in person or telephonically for MEMBER INPUT to occur in November and December 2021. If you would like to participate in these sessions, please let Gov. Kneale know by November 11th. You can email [smdpa-governor@sail1620.org](mailto:smdpa-governor@sail1620.org) or call directly at 724-880-0233. Thank you. Governor is looking forward to hearing from you.

## A Nor’easter Night By Deb Yingst, Deputy Governor



My family and I will not soon forget experiencing the night of March 2nd, 2018, at the Mayflower Society House. According to an old English proverb, “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb”. We can certainly attest to the first part of the proverb!

In his book ‘Information Roundup’ (1948), George Stimpson writes that the saying was first alluded to in print in ‘A Wife for

a Month' written in 1624 by John Fletcher who collaborated on many plays with Francis Beaumont and probably collaborated with Shakespeare on 'The Two Noble Kinsmen' and 'King Henry VIII'.

Sadie Stein, in her article 'Folk Wisdom' published in the 'the Paris Review' on March 2, 2015, writes that Thomas Fuller recorded "Comes in like a Lion, goes out like a Lamb" in the 1732 compendium, 'Gnomologia: Adagies and Proverbs; Wise Sentences and Witty Sayings, Ancient and Modern, Foreign and British' while Wikipedia calls the proverb "an old Pennsylvania" saw. Is it mere coincidence that I am descended from the Pilgrim Edward Fuller, and we reside in Pennsylvania?

In the early morning hours of Friday, March 2nd I was awakened by the roaring wind and the rain beating against the windows in the apartment of the Mayflower Society House, the house built by Edward Winslow, the great grandson of the Pilgrim Edward Winslow. We had prepared the night before for the coming nor'easter, finding candles and candleholders in the house, buying flashlights, extra water and filling the gas tank in our car.

I love telling my friends that Plymouth is the only place that I could ever walk to "work". I was filling in at the GSMD Sales Office. It is a very short distance from the apartment to the administrative offices at the Mayflower Society campus. However, on this particular morning John, my husband, offered to drive me over to the offices. The wind and rain were already a force to be reckoned with. To try to use an umbrella proved to be pointless!

Later that morning, John decided to view the storm from the cupola atop the Mayflower House. The rain was blowing horizontally off the harbor and visibility was poor. He decided he probably should not be in the cupola after all and returned to the safety and warmth of the apartment.

After getting the candles ready if we needed them, John and I, and his sister bundled up and walked in the rain up to Main St. to the New World Tavern for dinner. While we were there, the lights went out. We knew it was time to return to the apartment. We were greeted by darkness. Yes, the power had also gone out at the Mayflower House. The lounge was soon bright and cozy with candlelight and we decided to stay together for the night downstairs in this room rather than try to sleep upstairs in the bedrooms.

We enjoyed the time to sit and talk to one another; the howling of the wind, the rain beating on the windowpanes and the sudden gusts rattling the windows provided an ever-present symphony in the background.

We settled in on the floor to try to get some sleep. If you ever spend a windy night in the apartment, be prepared for the squeaking of the pantry door. Don't let your imagination run wild imagining that Lydia Jackson is coming through the door to investigate what these strange people are doing in her house!

Eventually, we got used to the raucous lullaby and fell asleep. Suddenly, I was awakened by a louder noise that rattled all the windows. It wasn't until morning that we saw a large branch had broken off the linden tree in the front yard, planted by Penelope Winslow, Edward's daughter. The branch was blocking Winslow Street.

The next time I awoke I quickly realized something was very different. The quiet was startling! The rain had stopped, and the constant wind had subsided. It was 3:30 am in the morning of Saturday, March 3rd. There was still no power. Ever hopeful, I tried to get a little more sleep telling myself that perhaps when I woke up again the power would be restored. It was not to be.

The light of day boosted our spirits. Thankfully, we had a full tank of gas in the car. With regret, we decided to pack up and return home to Pennsylvania a day early.

We all agreed there is a reason that the house Edward Winslow built is still standing two hundred and sixty-four years later. Our prayers were answered; the house had sheltered us and kept us safe. I truly wish the old walls could talk. What an epic story that would be! And that is why I decided to tell our tale of a frightful, nor'easter night spent in this magnificent house; a night when March came in like a lion.

## SMDPA Members Answers

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Question:

How long have you been a SMDPA member and what is your favorite Mayflower Memory?

**Shelly Bell** - I have been a member for one year. My favorite Mayflower/Pilgrim memory is Being admitted as a member during 2020, the 400th Anniversary Year of the Pilgrims landing in the New World, and now being able to celebrate this Thanksgiving as a Descendant on the 400th Anniversary of that First Thanksgiving!

**Sharyn Davis** - I have been a member for 6 years. One of my favorite memories was sharing lunch at a Susquehanna Colony meeting with a fellow DAR chapter sister and three new members who I helped with their membership applications. They were Connie Otto (Peter Browne), my Dad, Harry Sweppenheiser (Edward Doty), Melinda Canfield (Edward Doty), and Bonnie Yuscavage (Elizabeth Tilley). A great time was had by all.

**David Cade** - I have been a SMDPA member for 28 years, although a Mayflower Society member for over 40 years, having previously lived in Virginia. My favorite Mayflower/Pilgrim memory is having then-Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell meet my two young Mayflower daughters in full Pilgrim costumes at "The Pilgrim" bronze sculpture on Kelly Drive in 1999.

**Jessy Schaffer** - I have been a SMDPA member for 6 months. My favorite memory is finding out that I had any Mayflower connections. I now have one approved application for my William White and Susanna Jackson through Resolved White. I am now working on completing my supplemental applications for my John Alden/Priscilla Mullins line; however, I have one generation giving me lots of problems. I'm so happy to finally have lineage society worthy lines on my father's side of the family. I have had many numerous lineage society lines scattered on my mother's side of the family and these Mayflower lines were the first ones on my dad's side.

**Karen Burbidge** - I've been a member of SMDPA for eight years. My favorite Pilgrim/Mayflower memory is my first trip to Plymouth in June 2019 for our 40th anniversary. My SMDPA license plate arrived two days before our trip. It was very moving to visit the area my ancestors lived and something I'll never forget.

**Frank Mehlman** - I have been a SMDPA member for 2 months. My favorite Mayflower/Pilgrim memory is receiving my membership certificate after a year of family research.

**Peter Dustin** - I have been a member for 6 years. My favorite Mayflower/Pilgrim memory is "discovering": the message is not drab brown fat delectable turkeys cut from paper; colorless black draped men necked with white blaze-like collars, shod with eye-popping gold buckles; the story is kaleidoscopic dress, sometimes white gobble meat.

**Susan Pennington Yeager** - I have been a member of The Mayflower Society for less than a year. My favorite Mayflower memory is the day I received an email from Ginny Fossa letting me know that I had successfully provided proofs of lineage for Stephen Hopkins and my application would be submitted to Plymouth.

**Pam Palchowski** – I have been a member for 3 years. My favorite Mayflower/Pilgrim memory happened on November 17, 2018, when I said the Pledge of Allegiance for the first time as a Pilgrim Descendant of Stephen Hopkins and a member of the Western Colony of the SMDPA. A dream comes true!

**Laura Tyndall** – I've been a SMDPA member for 3 years. My favorite Mayflower/Pilgrim memory is the moment of discovery via Ancestry.com that I was a Pilgrim descendant. While a teenager I had the privilege of knowing my great-grandmother in Lynn, MA until I was 13. She always said, "we have deep New England roots". I had no idea as to how deep. I was past my half-century mark when I made the discovery and confirmed the connection with at least 2 pilgrim ancestors (William Bradford and Richard Warren). I've enjoyed learning more about that period in history and visiting Plymouth, MA.

**Judi Biederman** - I have been a Mayflower member for 4.5 years. My favorite Mayflower memory occurred while I was searching for documentation to support my original membership application. When I found the final "missing link," I realized I had not only proved my lineage to Francis Cooke as I had been seeking to do, but also to eight other Mayflower passengers!

**Mike Saunders** - I have been a SMDPA member for 8 years or my 10 years in the Society. My favorite Mayflower/Pilgrim memory was during the summer of 2021, when my wife, Sharon (William Brewster) and I (Edward Fuller) took a bus tour of Cape Cod with several friends from this area. Our bus tour included touring the Mayflower II, a visit to the Plymouth Plantation and dinner at the Plantation visitor center with re-enactors at dinner. We thoroughly enjoyed our tour and reveling in our connection to our Pilgrim ancestors.

**Scott Bond** - I was approved Sep 30, 2016; having been processed by Historian Val Cullen and her husband, Burt. My lineage to Francis Eaton was essentially handed to me via my grandmother. My father, David Eaton Bond, was not a fan of his middle name, and I didn't even know what it was until I was in my late teens. My own interest in genealogy didn't come to life until I was almost 65. A surprise / favorite memory was Val's telling me of additional Mayflower lineages: Peter Browne via Patience Tinkham in generation 5, the two Alden lines in generation 4 (John Alden via Mehitabel Alden), Samuel and Edward Fuller via Elizabeth Fuller in generation 3, and John and Eleanor Billington. She was excited! Maybe I'll pursue some supplementals someday. Benjamin C. Bond didn't marry Louisa Eaton until 1837, which pushed me to pursue when the first Bonds emigrated from England. The answer 1630. Lesson learned: if possible, pursue each branch of your family tree.

**Debra Georgantis-Miller** – I have been with SMDPA and on the board since 2005. My favorite story, Mom, Dad, and I were looking for Pickering in Blackstone, MA, we could not find it but saw a roadside crew working. We asked them if they knew where it was. They said "sure, hop into the back of our truck and we will take you there". I can't believe we did this. We went through some dirt roads, up a hill to a chestnut tree and there was Pickering Cemetery! We jumped out of the truck, took pictures of Phebe Emma Pickering Pratt, my 4th Great Grandmother. We jumped

back into the work truck and back to our car. Later we found out this was our connection to John Howland.

**James Campbell** - I have been a SMDPA member for three years, although I have been a SMDNJ member since 2014. My favorite Mayflower/Pilgrim memory stems from the 2017 GSMD Congress. We were on a chartered bus trip to visit Mayflower/Pilgrim sites on Cape Cod. One of the stops was the Old Cove Burying Ground in Eastham. Four of my ancestor families were among the seven families who broke away from Plymouth to found the town of Nauset (now Eastham) in 1644. These families included my Mayflower ancestor Constance Hopkins and her husband, Nicholas Snow. They are buried there, along with two other ancestor families of mine.

As we paid respects to these graves and monuments, one of my fellow bus passengers turned to me and said, "This must feel like hallowed ground to you."

I was just beginning to come to terms with my newly discovered Mayflower ancestry and hadn't thought it all through yet. But I did think about it the whole bus ride back to Plymouth. I considered the sacrifices of teenaged Constance, to have survived the "dying time" of the first winter of 1620/21; and then to grow into womanhood, marry, and raise a family of 12 children while carving out a homestead in this wilderness. And it began to dawn on me that, yes, hers was an epic journey of faith, courage and perseverance and her resting place is, indeed, hallowed ground for me and her hundreds of thousands of descendants. I have thought that way about my Mayflower ancestors ever since.

**Thank you to all our members who have participated in sharing their history and memories.**

## Try Some Pilgrim Cooking By Heather Horton, Education/Scholarship Chair

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Our Thanksgiving is not like the first Thanksgiving. The amount of energy we use to get our food and the availability of ingredients are very different. On the anniversary of the Pilgrim's first Thanksgiving in Plymouth, why not try a recipe from *The Pleasure of the Taste*, (available from [plimoth.com](http://plimoth.com))? This work was created by the Partnership of Historic Bostons, a non-profit history group that celebrates daily life in 17th century Massachusetts. The primary advisers were Lorén Spears and Kathleen Wall. Ms. Spears is a member of the Narragansett Indian Tribe and has served as the executive director of the Tomaquag Museum in Exeter Rhode Island. Ms. Wall has been colonial foodways culinarian at Plimoth plantation. The book includes Native American recipes and colonial recipes and attempts to give a modern perspective as well as the 17th century approach.

I decided to give the **Way Bread** a try. Basically,  
boil 1 ½ cups water,  
mix with 1 cup stone ground corn meal (available from [plimoth.com](http://plimoth.com)) in a heat safe bowl (glass, metal, or ceramic).  
Spoon the batter into hot, well-oiled skillet (such as an iron skillet).  
Flatten cakes.  
Cook 6 minutes, flip, press down lightly and cook another 5-6 minutes.

The process is like making pancakes. The cakes should be golden brown, and the middle smooth and white.

Variations: 1. Sweet-Dried fruit such as raisins, blueberries, currants, or cranberries 2. Savory-Herbs (chives 1 Tbsp minced), spices (1 tsp sea salt), cheese (2-4 Tbsp grated hard cheese) I had a suspicion that the plain Way Bread might not be to our taste, so I divided the batter into 3 parts and tried different variations. We liked the cheese, chives, and sea salt the best.

Plain, raisin, and cheese chive shown.



Plain

Raisin

Cheese/Chive

## MAYFLOWER DOGS

By Mike Haywood



The humans on the Mayflower were not the only passengers — records show that two dogs joined them, a mastiff, and a springer spaniel. They were experienced working dogs and must have been extremely important to the colonists, as space on board was at a premium and the dogs had to be fed during the voyage and thereafter.

This is my portrait of these animals. I have donated the original to the GSMD.

Here's a brief account of the dogs (from <https://dogtime.com/.../16719-the-story-of-the-mayflower...>)

.....“The first mention of these two early canine settlers appeared in the 17th century publication “Mourt’s Relation,” a document describing the lives of America’s early colonizers.

Pilgrim John Goodman, a 25-year-old Mayflower passenger, brought his Mastiff and English Springer Spaniel along for the voyage. Though the names of these dogs were not recorded, they have been recognized in history for helping the pilgrims establish their settlement on Cape Cod.

Goodman’s dogs became essential members of the settlement,

providing protection and accompanying their owner on hunts.

One January day Goodman and fellow pilgrim Peter Browne took a team of men into the wilderness to collect materials for thatch roofing. Around noon that day, Goodman and Browne took the dogs further out into the brush. Hours passed, and the team lost sight of Goodman and Browne. Alarmed, they went back to the village and gathered a search party, but it seemed the men were lost.

As it grew dark, Goodman, Browne, and the two dogs gathered close together for warmth. It was cold and snowy, and the men had wandered a full five miles off course. Throughout the night, they heard roaring in the distance that the men took to be lions. They held the dogs close to them to keep them from running towards the dangerous beasts.

The following morning, with the help of his dogs, Goodman and his companion tracked their way back towards their village. They reached the camp around nightfall, half-frozen and hungry. Without the Mastiff or Spaniel, the men likely would not have survived the night. Neither of the pilgrims had dressed for the weather, and Goodman’s toes were so frost-bitten that his boots had to be cut from his feet by a fellow villager.

Sadly, due to illness, Goodman did not survive that first winter in the New World, but his dogs were cared for by the remaining pilgrims. While it is unclear whether or not Goodman’s dogs were present at the first Thanksgiving that following November, painter of United States history, Jean Leon Gerome Ferris, included the English Springer Spaniel in his depiction of the pilgrims’ famous meal with the native Wampanoag tribe. I also included the springer spaniel in my painting “Pilgrims Landing”

Permission was granted from Mike Haywood to share this article with SMDPA.

Permission was granted from GSMD to use the portrait of the Mayflower Dogs.

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

<b>November 20, 2021</b>	Western Colony Thanksgiving meeting	Oakmont Country Club
<b>February 26, 2022</b>	Board of Assistants Meeting	Merion Cricket Club
<b>March 19, 2022</b>	Board of Assistants Meeting	Merion Cricket Club
<b>April 23, 2022</b>	SMDPA Spring Meeting/Elections	Merion Cricket Club
<b>May 21, 2022</b>	Western Colony Spring Meeting	Edgeworth Club
<b>October 8, 2022</b>	Board of Assistants Meeting	Merion Cricket Club
<b>November 19, 2022</b>	Thanksgiving/Worship Dinner	TBA

Planning for all in person events has been a challenge over the past two years. Going forward, it does seem like we will be able to have meetings and get together. If you have any ideas or activities that you would like to share, please let us know.

It has been suggested that next summer we get together to attend two Pirates vs. Phillies baseball games. The Pirates play the Phillies in Pittsburgh the last weekend in July. The Phillies play the Pirates in Philadelphia the last weekend in August. Both cities are amazing to explore. This would be a fun way for all of us to join with family and friends and cheer on your side of the state!

Please send an email to [ariverboater@aol.com](mailto:ariverboater@aol.com) if you are interested in these events.

**All meeting times and events are subject to change. Please watch for updates on the web site.**