

THE PENNSYLVANIA MAYFLOWER

www.sail1620.org

Spring/Summer 2021

VOLUME XXXIII ISSUE NO 1

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

Find us on Facebook



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MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR REED KNEALE



Over 400 years ago, our ancestors struggled with severe famine and sickness in their first winter in the new land, causing their numbers to drop by almost half. It is hard to imagine the grief they suffered and the strength it must have taken to carry on. The current pandemic contrasts with those difficult times of our Pilgrim ancestors.

The COVID-19 vaccines are underway. It is only a matter of time before our membership and their families can share in our traditional “in-person” celebrations. Our meetings with the Board of Assistants have gone virtual using Zoom. Our Spring meeting will be virtual as the vaccines are progressing but not fast enough to lower our risk. We expect to celebrate the first Thanksgiving this fall, and I look forward to seeing everyone in person at one of our events. Our members and committees remain busy. Listed below are the details of their many accomplishments.

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.

The General Society is revamping their website, and I am a contributing member of the committee. The updated website will streamline many processes, attract new members, and position us for growth! Funded by the dues increases, the project should be finished by the fall and secure the Society’s future.

Our newsletter team has produced this work in the heart of winter with exciting articles and needed updates. Please take advantage of your \$20 store credit. Now is the time to redeem.

Our financial state is stable. The strategy to keep a percentage of resources in the stock market has grown our assets to an all-time high. Our dues increase was less as we transition 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. As of this writing in mid-February, over 1/3 of our members have returned their dues. Thank you!

Our Nominating Committee is presenting an incredibly talented slate for consideration. We have an extraordinarily talented team of leaders volunteering thousands of hours yearly. Good luck to all the nominees, and many thanks to all that have served!

As you may know, James Buckner was our 2018 recipient of the John M. Hunt Jr. Distinguished Pilgrim award. We are catching up on 2019 and on time for 2020. This award is our highest honor for exemplary work and service to the SMDPA. The two recipients today are genuinely worthy of the prize and the \$500 that accompanies it.

Both candidates qualify based on the superb performance in Finance Officer and Secretary duties alone. Both were intimately involved with our successful conversion to the Star Chapter website during the last two years. Logging countless hours and wearing many hats, this duo is keeping us on track. I completely trust them for sound advice, on-time actions, and unselfishness at every moment. We are blessed to have them in our midst! **Three cheers for Scott Bond, 2019, and Laura Tyndall, 2020.**

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

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John M. Hunt Jr. Distinguished Pilgrim Award



2019
Scott Bond
Finance Officer



2020
Laura Tyndall
Secretary

Pittsburgh-area Pilgrim descendants celebrate 400th anniversary of Mayflower Compact

PAUL GUGGENHEIMER | Wednesday, November 11, 2020

[Permission was granted by the Tribune Review (Trib Live) to publish this article and interview in The Pennsylvania Mayflower.]



Oil Painting by Perry Moran (circa 1900) depicts the signing of the Mayflower Compact on November 11, 1620.

Four hundred years ago, a group of 102 people, all hoping to start a new life on the other side of the Atlantic, left England and sailed to the New World.

Fleeing religious persecution, they left behind everything they knew as they boarded a small boat named the Mayflower. They sailed across an ocean with just a trunk filled with supplies and the stars to navigate.

They were headed for the Virginia Territory, but stormy weather blew the ship off course. Moving along at between two and three miles an hour, it took 66 days for the ship to end up at Provincetown, Mass., where the Mayflower Compact was signed Nov. 11, 1620.

“It became the founding document for the country,” said Reed Kneale, governor of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (SMDPA). “Now, they mentioned King James and they were loyal subjects and all that. But they needed some kind

of laws to guide them, and they were wise enough to put it down on paper.”

Of the 102 people onboard, 41 men signed the compact. From there it was on to Plymouth, where they settled.

“Before they even got off the boat, they felt they needed to have some laws in place, some kind of law and order that everyone was going to follow so that everyone was treated fairly once they got off that boat,” said Pam Palchowski, assistant secretary of the Pennsylvania descendants group. “This was the start of democracy.”

For Kneale and Palchowski (Goff is her maiden name), the 400th anniversary of the signing is especially meaningful. Both trace their lineage to the Pilgrims and are official members of the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

To be accepted, a person has to prove bloodlines from their birth to their parents’ births, to their grandparents’ births all the way back to the Mayflower. It requires a lot of documentation — birth certificates, baptismal certificates, marriage certificates, etc. It can be an arduous process.

“It’s something you do as you get older,” said Kneale, 62, of Upper St. Clair. He is a descendant of pilgrims Miles Standish, John Alden and William Brewster on his father’s side and Stephen Hopkins and his second wife, Constance, on his mother’s side.

“It means a lot to me. I consider it dumb luck more than anything, but I’m grateful for it,” said Kneale. “It doesn’t mean that I’m better than anybody. It just means that I can prove my lineage.”

“The truth is we all came from somewhere, and our DNA was hearty enough to get here, especially when you talk about plagues and all the things that happened to people over the years.”

Palchowski, 61, of Crafton said it had long been a dream of hers to be able to prove she was related to someone who came over on the Mayflower. Encouraged by her late Aunt Charlotte, a member of the Massachusetts Mayflower Society, Palchowski became a member in 2018 under Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins.

“It was totally amazing to be able to officially say that I am a Mayflower descendant,” Palchowski said. “These people had such a strong faith, and this is what they wanted to do and they started the birth of America. To be a part of that courage and faith, it doesn’t get any better than that.”

Kneale said there are 40,000 members of Mayflower Societies across the country, but there are millions of people who have ancestry among the Pilgrims. He encourages anyone who wants to follow up to go to the SMDPA website at www.sail1620.org.

It might be a great way to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving — coming in 2021.

Paul Guggenheimer is a Tribune-Review staff writer. Permission to publish this interview in The Pennsylvania Mayflower was granted by the Trib Live.

In Memoriam

By Registrar Pamela Kolyer



Lynmar Brock

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 Lynmar Brock. Mr. Brock was a member of our society for many years and was well-liked and respected. Mr. Brock held many positions at SMDPA, including Governor from 1971-1973. Mr. Brock was also awarded the John M. Hunt Jr. Most Distinguished Pilgrim Award.

Lynmar Brock, Jr. of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully, Thursday the 17th of December 2020 at home in the presence of his wife and two sons. Lynmar was 86. Due to the pandemic, a memorial service will be delayed until late Spring/early Summer 2021. The entire obituary can be found at www.sail1620.org under Memoriam.

Thank you, Past Governor Lynmar Brock, for your dedication and service to the SMDPA.

SMDPA Growth

By Historian Ginny Fossa



COVID-19 may have limited our in-person events, but new member and supplemental applications are accepted daily. Since September 2020, we have added 13 new members: 22 approved supplemental applications and one Junior Membership. SMDPA has added 36 members in 4 months. There are 52 applications in process and 14 supplemental applications in process at the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. One hundred sixty-five member applications are being worked on currently and are considered “in the pipeline.” In comparison, at the end of 2019 membership stood at 758, and by the end of 2020, we have 801 members and growing.

Our team has expanded to 5 Co-Historians (Ginny Fossa, Lead Co-Historian, Cinda Hartman, Sharyn Davis, Lois Howanec, and Keith Kammenzind) and 2 Assistant

Historians (Lori Preiss and Mark Lanyon). Sharyn Davis, Lois Howanec, Keith Kammenzind, and I attended a three-week Zoom Historian training with Marti Bobertz from Plymouth. All 5 Co-Historians now have access to the Historian tab on the GSMD Website to access the forms, links to the books in the Library, Historian Training, and archived monthly Historian meetings with Marti. Sharyn, Lois, Keith, and I attend monthly Zoom meetings with Marti and all the Historians in each state. These meetings keep everyone informed on what is new at Plymouth and addresses anyone’s questions.

Plymouth has assigned each state a Verifier that Historians can contact directly with questions. GSMD also set up a Mayflower Historians Facebook group where Historians can post questions and get answers from other Historians and Verifiers. Both are immensely helpful.

New Members and their Ancestors

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Myers, Karen | Fuller 12th |
| Edwards, Margaret | Allerton 11th |
| Schmidt, Gregory | Hopkins 14th |
| Schmidt, Kimberly | Hopkins 14th |
| Hottle, Meredith | Howland 14th |
| Hottle, Katelyn | Howland 14th |
| Clement, Jill | Brewster 12th |
| Gifford, Janace | Brewster 12th |
| Gifford, Jennifer | Brewster 12th |
| Gifford, Joseph | Brewster 12th |
| Hackett, Susan | Alden 13th |
| Smith, Warren | Alden 9th |
| Bell, Shelly Young | Warren 12th |
| Baldrige, John | Standish 12th |
| Fejes, Althea | Warren 12th |
| Saul, Roger | Howland 13th |
| Gates, Deborah | C Hopkins 10th |
| Burns, Pamela | Alden 11th |
| Burns-Kennedy, Robyn | Alden 12th |
| Scheurenbrand-Lader, Sandra | Bradford 12th |
| Koenig, Mary Jane | Warren 12th |
| Macaulay, Frances | Warren 11th |
| Sinton, Ann | Standish 10th |
| Ruhe, Robert | Alden 11th |
| Stuber, John Eric | Howland 12th |
| Shaver, Elizabeth | Howland 11th |

New Approved Supplemental Applications

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Woods, Roger | Priscilla Mullins |
| Woods, Roger | William Mullins |
| Woods, Roger | John Alden |
| Knudsen, Kathryn | Constance Hopkins |
| Biederman, Judi | John Howland |
| Biederman, Judi | Edward Fuller |
| Biederman, Judi | Degory Priest |
| Biederman, Judi | John Tilley |
| Howanec, Lois | James Chilton |
| Howanec, Lois | William White |
| Kopelman, Eileen | Francis Cooke |
| Mogila, Marguerite | William Brewster |
| Mogila, Marguerite | Mary Brewster |
| Mogila, Marguerite | Richard Warren |
| Mogila, Marguerite | Constance Hopkins |
| Cullen, Debra | William Brewster |
| Myers, Karen | Samuel Fuller |
| Myers, Karen | Mrs. Edward Fuller |
| Davis, Sharyn | Elizabeth Tilley |
| Kammenzind, Keith | Joan Hurst |
| Kammenzind, Keith | Elizabeth Tilley |
| Kammenzind, Keith | Mary Chilton |
| Kammenzind, Keith | Richard Warren |
| Chapman, Donald | Myles Standish |
| Chapman, Donald | John Alden |
| Chapman, Donald | William Mullins |

Having Hope By Surgeon Ronald W. Simonsen



This is a difficult time. My wife, Josephine, and I have been able to quarantine, and we tell our friends that we are lucky. Of the handful of real existential conditions, the world now faces and our humankind, COVID-19 might be the easiest to survive. Our dedication to science seems to be pervasive enough to overcome the destructive superstitions trying to destroy it. The vaccines are our greatest hope for a “normal” future.

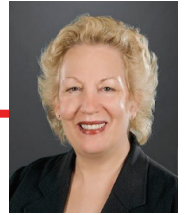
In addition, research is now demonstrating how COVID-19 can affect the body. One mechanism, the normal clotting ability that usually protects us, is a complex cascade of biochemical actions and reactions. For years, viruses have been known to cause some of the cases of DIC (Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation), a potential cause of sudden death. I have seen this during my work as a coroner. If this proves true of COVID-19, a new treatment may be available.

In the meantime, do not compromise with masking and all the other protective measures. It is normal to wonder if you are acting like a “chicken,” but it works. Maybe not

perfectly, but if we all do these things, fewer will die. I no longer practice. I think of those who are there to help us, and we must do this for them.

P.S. Get your COVID-19 immunization as soon as you can. I have had anaphylaxis in the past, myself, but by the time you see this, I too will have received my first vaccine.

2021 Dues Reminder By Judi Biederman



All SMDPA members were sent an update on our 2021 dues with an invoice to pay their annual dues. Detailed dues invoices were sent via First Class Mail and via email. A member can also view their member status on the website.

According to Judi Biederman, “payments for dues are coming in at a good pace. The donation rate is up from last year.” There have been several invoices that have been “Returned to Sender” with no forwarding address. The SMDPA staff are trying to resolve this issue.

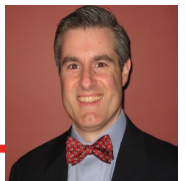
2021 Dues are \$55.00 for adult members and \$15.00 for junior members. Members can renew their dues and make extra contributions online on the website. Visit www.sail1620.org. Debit and credit cards are convenient options for payment.

Below is a list of funds where members can make additional contributions. All donations are tax-deductible under 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Tax Code.

- ~The Educational Fund, which supports classroom education endeavors.
- ~Katharine F. Little Distinguished Achievement Award Fund.
- ~Elizabeth Tilley Howland Scholarship Award Fund.
- ~Unrestricted Fund for Society discretionary use.

Please pay your dues promptly so our Society can continue to meet our financial obligations on a timely basis and so your membership remains in good standing. If you have any questions, please contact Judi Biederman at judi@biederman.net.

SMDPA Produces Reported by Brian Atwood



Although the COVID-19 epidemic has dramatically impacted our Society and our lives in general, there appears to be a light at the end of the proverbial tunnel related to the SMDPA’s activities in 2021, if our Public Relations efforts are any indication.

To kick start these efforts, a Public Relations meeting was held in November to acclimate our new PR Committee Chair, Brian Atwood, and brainstorm with the committee about future activities. The discussion was very fruitful indeed, resulting in numerous actions, including, but not exclusive to:

~ A contest was created, soliciting newsletter articles from the general SMDPA membership to better reflect the whole SMDPA community. Submitted articles could cover any topic under the umbrella of the *Mayflower*, the Pilgrims, and Plymouth. The contest was promoted on our Facebook page, in our newsletter and was sent to thousands of recipients via multiple email blasts. The winner was selected and announced in this current newsletter. The winner will receive a \$20 credit in the SMDPA Online Store.

~ In November, renowned *Mayflower* author Caleb Johnson released his first self-made film on YouTube. The documentary, narrated by SMDPA's own Brian Atwood, tells Mayflower passenger George Soule's story. To date, it has over six thousand views on YouTube, and Brian has received feedback from as far away as Tennessee and Arizona.

~ As a kind of "test run" to conduct our own Zoom webinar meetings, many SMDPA members participated in a virtual book discussion in mid-November featuring famed author Nathaniel Philbrick, held by the Boston Public Library. Philbrick's book, *Mayflower*, was the topic of discussion.

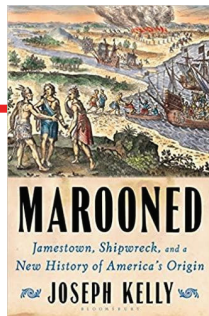
~ Also, in November, the SMDPA's Newsletter Editor, Pam Palchowski, and Governor Reed Kneale were interviewed for a terrific article in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, marking the 400th anniversary of the signing of the Mayflower Compact.

~ In mid-December, Brian Atwood conducted a 15-minute, one-on-one, recorded Zoom interview with renowned *Mayflower* author Caleb Johnson. The topic discussed was "Were the Pilgrims oppressors?" The video is currently being reviewed and edited for additional visual content by our PR Social Media guru Adam Biedrzycki and will be posted on our Facebook page for viewing.

Brian's focus, going forward, is on leading the SMDPA efforts towards the "First Thanksgiving" 400th anniversary in November!

A First Adventure By Governor Reed Kneale

SMDPA recently hosted a book discussion on Zoom! The book, *Marooned*, tells of the early days of Stephen Hopkins. We were fortunate enough to have the author, Dr. Kelly to engage in the riveting discussion. SMDPA member James Campbell made the introduction and facilitated the discussion. Brian Atwood, Chair of Publicity and Public Relations, coordinated with James Campbell to produce the first of its kind event. New insights into Hopkins exploits, including shipwrecks and Jamestown, were provided to the more than 70 attendees. Members can find an audio/visual recording of this presentation on the SMDPA Facebook page. We hope to add more events featuring other Pilgrims soon.



Thanksgiving 2021 By James Buckner, Elder



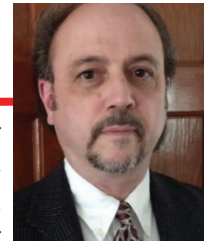
COVID-19 has canceled many of our 400th-year celebrations planned for 2020. The wind may have been taken out of our sails, but we have plans to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the First Thanksgiving this November. Our annual Thanksgiving service has been scheduled for the Saturday before Thanksgiving (November 20th, 2021) at St. David's Episcopal Church.

L.D. Geller, the author of *The Pilgrims A Brief History*, describes the First Thanksgiving: "The first Thanksgiving was a festival enjoyed by real people whose anxieties and hopes for survival in a strange environment were given release." Think about comparing this statement to our world today.

We are all looking forward to a day of celebration. We have hope that on November 20th, we will be able to get together in person safely and celebrate the First Harvest of 1621.

Once plans are established, information will be posted on the web site, www.sail1620.org. Information will also be included in the next issue of *The Pennsylvania Mayflower*.

The Mayflower Guard By Captain Keith Kammenzind



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. 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 is drawn from direct descendants of the passengers who sailed on the Mayflower hence the name Mayflower Guard. The presentation of SMDPA flags, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and other patriotic ceremonies (respecting and honoring our forefathers, as well as those living and deceased who lived and died to continue the freedoms they sought) are very moving occasions when presented as a part of our SMDPA meetings and events. SMDPA Captain Keith Kammenzind (sumtertwo1@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.

Our first goal is to have the Mayflower Guard attend the Thanksgiving 2021 Celebration. Their duty will be to present the colors and retire the colors at dismissal.

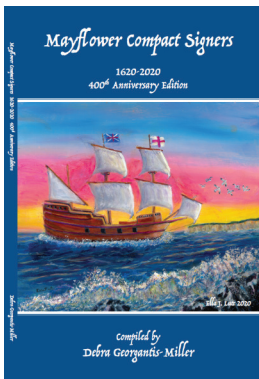


Shop Talk and Rebate Reported by Bruce Miller, Sales Chair



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.

According to Bruce Miller, the \$20 rebate is a success. Since November 2020, there have been 42 orders shipped. Mostly the tote bags, coins, bezels, and the new Mayflower Compact Signers compiled by Deb Georgantis Miller. There are several options of gifts at the store. More items will be added in the future.



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 LOGO LIBERTY WINWARD CANVAS TOTE \$20.00

Amazing Scholarship Opportunity Announced by James Buckner, Education Chair

ELIZABETH TILLEY HOWLAND SCHOLARSHIP 2021

Four \$1000 educational scholarships will be awarded this year to graduating high school/home school seniors who are members of, or directly related to an active member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants of Pennsylvania and who have been accepted by an accredited college, university, or trade program. Two scholarships will be awarded for the best essays. Two will be awarded for best videos. The scholarship awards, which are to be used only for education-related needs, will be paid to the educational institution. SMDPA has the right to adjust the awards depending on the number of applications and number of essays or video presentations.

To be considered for this scholarship, the applicant must complete the application, and follow the rules that are listed on the SMDPA website: www.sail1620.org.

The applicants will be judged on a minimum 750-word essay or minimum 2-minute video on the topic “*As the 400th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving approaches, compare the approach to interacting with Native Americans used by the Plymouth settlers to that of the Jamestown settlers and how the approach impacted the success of each settlement*”.

All submissions must be postmarked by July 1, 2021

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SMDPA Officer and Assistant Slate for 2021-2022

The Nominating Committee Chair: Joan Reed Miller, Committee members: Dot Lees and Robert Heinsohn submit the following slate of Officers and Assistants to be considered for election at our Society’s Annual Meeting on April 16, 2021. An asterisk (*) signifies an incumbent.

OFFICERS

- Governor – Reed Kneale*
- Deputy Governor – Deborah Yingst*
- Secretary - Laura L. Tyndall*
- Assistant Secretary – Pam Palchowski*
- Treasurer – Scott C. Bond*
- Assistant Treasurer – Judi Biederman*
- Co-Historian (Lead) – Ginny Fossa*
- Co-Historians – Cinda Hartman*, Keith Kammenzind, Lois M. Howanec, Sharyn Davis
- Registrar - Althea Fejes
- Assistant Registrar – Sue Henning*
- Membership Officer – Nancy Larsen, Ph.D.*
- Elder – James Buckner*
- Captain – Keith Kammenzind*
- Counselor – Melanie Lynagh Esq.
- Surgeon – Dr. Ronald Simonsen*

BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

Term Expiring April 2022: Debbie Markowitz *,
Daryl Goss, Shelly Young Bell
Term Expiring April 2023: Adam Biedrzycki,*
Lauren Klein*, Brian Atwood*
Term Expiring April 2024: Sherri Smith,
Heather Horton, Joseph (Joe) Gifford

Any additional nominations may be delivered to the Secretary Laura Tyndall at 929 S High St, Suite 135 West Chester, PA 19382, at least one week prior to the meeting in accordance with the Bylaws, Article IV Election of Officers.

SMDPA Committees

Audit: Laura Klein
Archivist: Open
Bylaws Committee (ad hoc): Melanie Lynagh, Esq. (Chair)
Education and Scholarship: Heather Horton (Chair)
James Buckner
Elder Thanksgiving Service: James Buckner
Finance Committee: Scott Bond (Chair)
Finance Committee: Melanie Lynagh, Esq., Reed Kneale, Sr.
Junior Membership: Debbie Markowitz
Newsletter: Pam Palchowski Editor (Chair)
Newsletter: Sharyn Davis
Nominating Committee: Joan Reed Miller (Chair)
Nominating Committee: Robert Heinsohn, Dot Lees
Parliamentarian: (ad hoc) Joseph (Joe) Gifford (Chair)
Photographer: James Buckner
Publicity/Community Relations: Brian Atwood (Chair)
Registrar: Althea Fejes
Sales: (ad hoc) Bruce Miller (Chair),
Social Events (ad hoc): Debbie Markowitz (Chair)
Social Media: (ad hoc) Adam Biedrzycki (Chair)
TIS Coordinator: (ad hoc) Debra G. Miller (Chair)
Sail1620 Website: Laura Tyndall and Scott Bond

Newsletter Contest – The Results

Public Relations Chair, Brian Atwood, asked the members of SMDPA to be newsletter contributors. The request was for stories written by members, about all things Mayflower/Pilgrim/Plymouth-related. There was a contest for the best SMDPA Member-submitted article to be published in this issue of *The Pennsylvania Mayflower*.

We received multiple articles, and it was a challenge to pick one best winner; it was a tough decision for all the voters. The submitted articles were unique, creative, passionate, and amazing. But we did pick a winner.

Congratulations to Karen Nilsen, whose article titled *My Mayflower Story* shared her family connections and highlighted her Grandma Snedeker. Karen will receive a

\$20 gift certificate to the SMDPA Store.

Congratulations to our 2nd place winners, Larry Nickol for his poem, *Tapestry*, and the Pete Gifford family for their story *Family Affair*. These three outstanding articles are found in this newsletter.

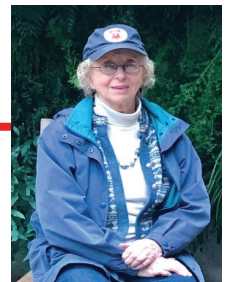
There was one more 2nd place winner, but that submission will not be in this issue of *The Pennsylvania Mayflower*. Heather Horton, the author of the final 2nd place article agreed to have her article posted later in the Spring. It will be well worth the wait.

Congratulations to all of our award-winning authors. We look forward to receiving many more contributions to the newsletter in the future. The next deadline for newsletter submissions will be August 28th.

Congratulations to our Newsletter Contest WINNER!

Thank you, Karen Nilsen, for sharing your story and writing from the heart. Readers will become a part of the story and will relate to their own Mayflower stories. You will receive a \$20 certificate to use in the SMDPA Store.

My Mayflower Story Karen (Hitchcock) Nilsen



I've known, from the time I was a child, that I had Mayflower ancestors. This was all due to my grandmother's grandmother, who lived to be a very old woman.

One of the most interesting things about my father's family is that Mayflower connection. My father was born in 1907 and when he was growing up in Iroquois County, Illinois, his mother's grandmother, Hannah (Twitchell) Snedeker, lived with them; she came to be known as "Grandma Snedeker" even though she was the great-grandmother. Her daughters died long before she did.

Hannah lived to be 103; she was the one who really connected the Illinois descendants to the Mayflower. She was born in Broome County, NY, and knew from her mother Eliza (Alden) Twitchell that they were descended from John & Priscilla Alden.

Broome County is about 350 miles due west of Plymouth, MA, and the descendants of John and Priscilla (Mullins) Alden, who had come over in the Mayflower in 1620, had gradually been moving in that direction as most of the land closer to the Atlantic shore had been settled.

Lineage

This is my lineage back to John & Priscilla Alden -
John Alden (1598-1687) m. Priscilla Mullins
Joseph Alden (1628-1696) m. Mary Simmons
John Alden (1674-1730) m. Hannah White

Noah Alden (1725-1797) m. Joanna Vaughan
 Israel Alden (1747-1817) m. Lucy Markham
 Benjamin Alden (1774-1851) m. Hannah Graham
 Eliza Alden (1805-1865) m. Miles Twitchell
 Hannah Twitchell (1825-1928) m. Charles Snedeker
 Elizabeth Snedeker (1857-1901) m. William Lynden
 Thurber
 Nettie Thurber (1877-1950) m. Lewis Hitchcock
 Cecil Hitchcock (1907-1980) m. Ruth Conroy
 Karen Hitchcock m. Paul Nilsen

The first four generations in the above lineage lived in Massachusetts, the next three in Broome County, NY, and the rest in Illinois.

In the 1820 census, the first Alden families appear in Broome County; there were almost 20 of them. By 1850, there were more than 150 Alden families there. There were so many of them that an Alden Association was formed in Binghamton, the county seat.

This is what my father's sister Juline remembered about Grandma Snedeker – Hannah Twitchell married Charles Snedeker in 1857. We always called her Grandma Snedeker, even though she was our great-grandmother. Both of our grandmothers had died before any of us were born; she was our mother's grandmother.



Grandma Snedeker was about five feet tall, a trifle plump, and had tiny (size 4) feet. Mother could only get her a size six pair of high button shoes, the smallest available, and then stuff the toes with tissue paper. At night we were astonished to see her wearing a white linen nightcap with a lace crocheted edge. In addition to this, she always slept with her head under the covers to “avoid the risky night air,” she told us. Mother explained that when grandma was young, people believed that night air caused the infections and diseases which were dreaded so much, such as smallpox, diphtheria, and “lung fever.” Grandma wore a small bag of strong-smelling asafetida around her neck at night to ward off these diseases.

Once, she told us about her California life with her daughter and son-in-law, Alfred and Mary Woodmansee. She went to live with them following the death of her husband, Charles Snedeker, in 1898, in Aurora, IL. She was living in San Francisco in 1906 at the time of the Great Earthquake when a good part of the city burned. She vividly remembered “camping and sleeping” in Golden Gate Park, the huge crowds of people wandering around, and how frightened she was. (She returned to Illinois as soon as it was possible.)

She was a charter member of the Women's Relief Corps, the ladies' auxiliary of the GAR. The GAR (Grand old Army of the Republic) was founded by Union Army

veterans after the Civil War. (I wear her GAR Ladies Auxiliary medal on my red blazer with my DAR pins.)

When Grandma first came to live with her granddaughter Nettie and her family, she took a large, woven, navy blue and white coverlet out of her trunk to tell its story. When she was about fifteen (in 1840) living with her family in a log cabin on their farm in Broome County, NY, she helped make this coverlet. The men sheared the sheep; the mother and girls cleaned the wool, carded it, spun out the yarn on a large spinning wheel (outdoors when possible), then dyed it themselves with berries and roots. After that, they wove it in two patterned strips on their loom, which was then joined together to make the coverlet. Hannah's mother gave her this coverlet as her wedding portion when she married and traveled out to Illinois.

(I have the coverlet hanging on my living room wall)



Grandma Snedeker told us how she found out that she was a descendant of John & Priscilla Alden. She said when her husband went to war in 1861, she and her daughter Libby went to her parents' farm in Broome County, NY. While there, she asked her mother, born Eliza Alden, about their Alden ancestry.

She was 32 when she married; one of her obits claimed that she had worked in a rubber mill. (The 1850 census shows her at a location/workshop with some cousins, perhaps making waterproof coats with that fascinating new substance rubber.)

Her long, busy, fruitful life was well documented in the Feb 11, 1928 issue of “The Watseka Republican” of Watseka IL:

Mrs. Snedeker's parents, at the time of her birth on Feb.11, 1825, lived on their farm near Windsor, NY, in a log cabin. Her mother cooked over the huge fireplace and baked her bread in a brick oven. They slept on “corded” beds with straw mattresses. Few books were in the home, but the Bible had a prominent place. A small log school house on her father's farm was the only school she ever attended as a pupil. It was a crude structure with benches against the wall for seats and no desks.

Reading, writing, arithmetic, and grammar were taught. When she was 20, in 1853, she made a very eventful trip to the home of her brother, George, at New Haven, CT, starting her journey in a stagecoach and later boarding for New York City the first railroad train she ever saw. Her journey to New Haven was completed by boat. At her brother's home, she first saw a kerosene lamp and a sewing machine. For a time, while staying at her brother's home, she did fine needlework for other people.

After her marriage to Charles Snedeker in 1857, they moved to Aurora, Illinois, where her husband was a

Civil War volunteer. Mrs. Snedeker made good use of her needlework during this war and was untiring, sewing, and knitting for the soldiers. Mrs. Snedeker has traveled more than many women of her time. She and her husband attended many GAR encampments until he died in 1898. Since that time, she has attended several, and besides has made several trips to New Haven, CT, and two trips to the Pacific Coast.”

Grandma enjoyed her last years. She was very seldom ill during her long life. She was helped financially by her Civil War Widow’s Pension. She died in 1928 at the age of 103 in Gilman, IL, at the home of her granddaughter Nettie (Thurber) Hitchcock.

Newsletter Contest Contributor

It was great to receive a poem as an expression of creativity with our Mayflower theme. Larry gained inspiration by spending a lot of time researching and documenting his connection to Pilgrim Richard Warren. Larry realizes how quickly time passes and how important it is to consider our history and our ancestors because we are part of the thread, determining who we are.

Larry received a sheet of Mayflower stamps as a contributor prize. Thank you, Larry, for sharing your passion.



TAPESTRY By Larry Nickol

Like cyclic rhythms of butterflies’ wings,
Our minutes, our moments hastily pass,
Like leaves that fall in random breeze,
And lie unseen on earth and trees.
Though passions surge and melt again,
The moments drift until the end.

Recalling names from long ago
Do bring to life, the ones that lived
With kindred thoughts, and passions wrought
By conquered love and demons fought.

So when I leave, please think of me
As one who always wished to be
The one whose fervent love embraced
One’s smiles and tears throughout the years,
The one, at times, both flawed and proud,
Did seek to be then wise and true.
Each strife I faced, each love I knew
Each birth I saw, each one I lost,
Evoked the cue that moments passed
Would stir some smile or somber thought,
But, oh, so fast does mem’ry fade,
Behind the shade of timeless flow,
I neither wished to stay or go.

Define one’s life by days combined.
Remember well the best in one.
Remember well the best of times.

From those who came before your age,
Do seek their wisdom to assuage
The anguished moments you will know
As life proceeds and hardships grow.

So reap the field, collect the grain
And share with those who come again.
So as you are, they too will be,
So sharing this, gives life to me.

LN

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Newsletter Contest Contributor

Congratulations to the Gifford Family for combining your talents and creating a wonderful story about your family's quest to be a Mayflower family. Congratulations to Peter, Jennifer, Joseph, Jill, and Janace who are all Giffords. We especially liked the photo of Malachi dressed as William Brewster. Thank you for participating, and you will be receiving a sheet of Mayflower stamps for your family prize. Congratulations.



Malachi Gifford dressed as a Pilgrim for his first-grade class Thanksgiving Party.

A Family Affair By the Gifford Family

All memberships in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) are family affairs reaching back to the families of 1620, but the Gifford family has had a recent journey to finding our Mayflower ancestors. It has always been a part of family lore that we were related to William Brewster and other Mayflower passengers. Our family has always been proud of our history and passed that joy through the generations.

Our interest and application stem from Robert L. Gifford, Jr., who joined the society in 1980, documenting his lineage from Mayflower passenger William White through his mother and her family. He also traced the Gifford family back to Edward Doty and William Brewster, although there were places where he could not find the required documentation to complete an application on those two lines.

His application was approved under older rules, so our family could not use it to prove our own lineage. Robert was a diligent researcher, and when Peter, his son, shared his interest in applying to the GSMD, Robert mentioned that there was a Brewster Genealogy book that listed Robert's grandfather as a Brewster descendant. Peter began the application process believing it would go smoothly. As often happens, things got in the way, and the application languished for several years, during which time Robert passed away.

Interest in genealogy continued to stay on the mind of our family, and in 2017, we found that the book *The Brewster Genealogy* by Brewster Emma is not accepted as a sole reference. We needed to fill in a second source for a few generations. This sent Peter on a merry chase through New England city registries, marriage records, and birth records until the application was finally finished and accepted in 2019.

All four of Peter's children expressed interest in following their father and grandfather in joining the GSMD. He provided the initial application documentation and fees as a Christmas gift in 2019.

After submitting the appropriate documentation, Jenn, Joseph, Jill, and Janace were all approved. The five are now members located in western PA, central PA, NJ, and Paris, France!

To continue the story and legacy of our heritage, the next generation has started showing interest in learning about their ancestry. During Thanksgiving time, Peter's grandson, Malachi, was given an assignment in his first-grade class to come as a member of the first Thanksgiving celebration. Initially, he preferred dressing as a Native American, but once he learned more about his connection to the Pilgrims, he dressed as William Brewster. He proudly reported to his class that William Brewster was his 14th great-grandfather. It seems we may have another generation interested in joining! As more grandchildren arrive, the stories will continue to be shared, and we will continue to explore our family history.

This has been a great learning experience for the whole family, with much gratitude to Robert Gifford for his work on our family history. Peter's daughter, Jill Clement, recently discovered that we have another line to Frances & John Cooke going through Robert Gifford's father's family. A new research project and application emerges for the next generation of Mayflower descendants. And so it goes.

Two Colonies By Pam Palchowski

Over the past 12 months, SMDPA has not been able to meet in person but business has been on going. Due to the pandemic, most were told to work from home, limit your time out of your house, and wear a mask. A challenge was getting toilet paper! We have done this. We have learned to Zoom and master our electronics. But we did not meet in person.

We have two colonies in the Society of Mayflower Descendants of Pennsylvania, the Western Colony, from the Greater Pittsburgh area, and the Susquehanna Colony, from the Greater Harrisburg area. Both colonies canceled all meetings and events for the past year. Governor Patricia Hill from Western and Governor Mike Saunders from

Susquehanna informed their members that all events and meetings were canceled. Both colonies are hopeful that their Spring/Summer meetings and events will be able to take place, following all guidelines of safety.

With vaccines being administered daily, and the number of COVID-19 cases decreasing, there is optimism and hope. If the colonies do have their Spring meeting, communication will be posted to the web site, and each colony will reach out to their members.

Please be safe and protect yourself. We are still in the 1A phase of getting vaccinated, and we are encouraged to follow the guidelines of safety.

The deadline for the next issue of The Pennsylvania Mayflower will be Aug 28th. There will be updated information for the fall in the next issue. We are looking forward to celebrating the 400th anniversary of the First Thanksgiving on Saturday November 20th.

The Keukenhof Spring Garden

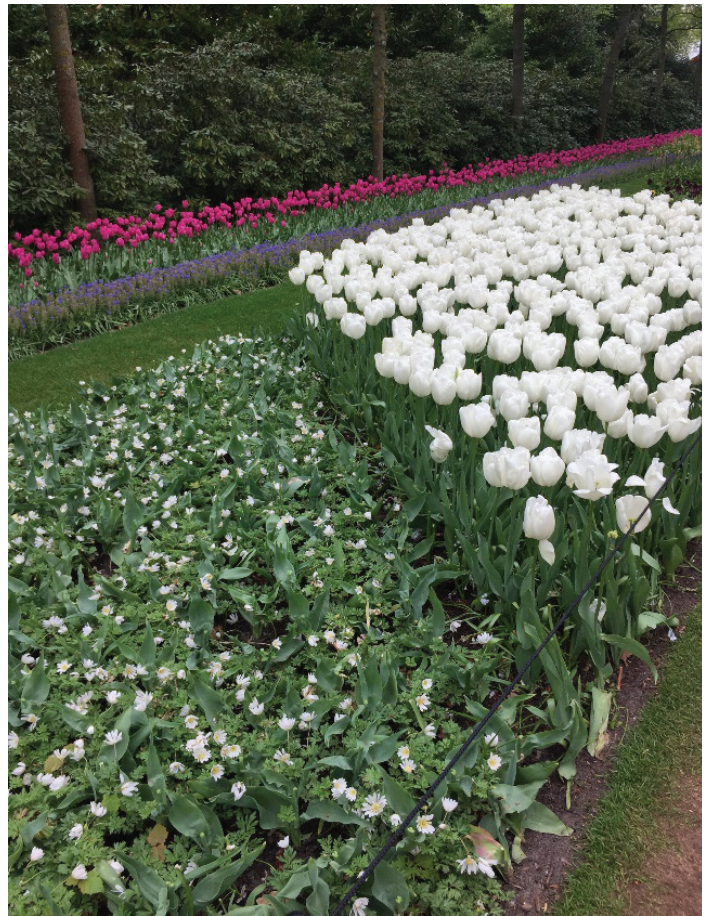
By Heather Horton, Francis Cooke descendant

In 2019, my husband and I investigated a Holland river cruise for 2020, but they were sold out. We took the last available Viking cabin for 2019. One of the highlights of the trip was the Keukenhof Gardens. Keukenhof, or Kitchen Garden, is one of the largest flower gardens in the world, located in Lisse in the Netherlands. It is 79 landscaped acres of bulbs, hardscape, sculpture, landscaped streams and ponds, as well as an indoor flower show. The unique feature of Keukenhof is it is only a spring garden. Each year almost



7 million bulbs are planted. Most are donated by growers in hopes of generating bulb sales of new varieties. While it is especially famous for the tulips, it has all different sorts of spring bulbs as well as spring flowering trees and shrubs. The open season for Keukenhof runs from mid-March to mid-May and varies slightly year to year depending on blooming conditions. In 2019, 1.5 million people visited Keukenhof-26,000 per day. Here are a few photos for your enjoyment.

Thank you Heather for taking us on a quick virtual journey to Lisse, Netherlands. Flowers are a welcome sight this time of year.



**Pennsylvania Society of Mayflower Descendants
SMDPA
929 S. High Street, Suite 135
West Chester, PA 19382**



SAVE THE DATE

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|--------------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| April 3, 2021 | Board of Assistants Meeting | 10:30am to 12:00pm | Zoom Meeting |
| May 15, 2021 | Western Colony Spring Meeting | 12:00pm to 2:00pm | TBD |
| April 17, 2021 | SMDPA Spring Meeting/Elections | | Zoom Meeting |
| July 1, 2021 | Scholarship Applications for high school seniors are due www.sail1620.org for details | | |
| August 28, 2021 | Deadline to turn in reports and articles for the Fall/Winter newsletter. | | |
| October 16, 2021 | Board of Assistants Meeting | 10:30am to 12:00pm | Merion Cricket Club |
| November 20, 2021 | Thanksgiving Worship/Dinner | 2:00pm to 5:00pm | Radnor, PA 19406 |

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