

# THE PENNSYLVANIA MAYFLOWER

www.sail1620.org

Fall/Winter 2021

VOLUME XXXIV ISSUE NO 1

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

Find us on Facebook



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## ANNUAL SPRING MEETING 2022



Members and Friends: Please join the Society of Mayflower Descendants of Pennsylvania at their Annual Meeting on March 26th at the Desmond Hotel, Malvern, PA 19355. Our guest speaker will be Jane Hurt, Governor General, General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Jane Hurt was elected in 2017 as the 35th Governor General, the fifth woman, and the first Kansan to hold this office. She is a descendant of Pilgrims William White, Susan White, Peregrine White, Francis Cooke, John Cooke, and Richard Warren. It is an honor to have her as our speaker. Governor Hurt leads our Society and shares the importance of the Pilgrim story and what their voyage of 1620 means today, and its impact on the world.

The day will begin with Gathering and Call to Order at 11:00 am, cash-bar available. Invocation and Society Officer and Chair Reports to follow.

### MENU

#### Choices:

Chicken Piccata with garlic, capers and white wine, OR  
Herb Encrusted Salmon w/Citrus Beurre Blanc, OR  
Chef Selected Vegan dish

Includes: Warm Rolls and Butter, Chef's choice of Starch and Fresh Vegetable

Dessert: Cheesecake with Raspberry Melba Sauce

Beverage Station: Freshly Brewed Iced Tea, Premium Hot Tea, and Coffee

Cost: \$30 - Adult (Member or Guest)

Children: \$10 - (Menu: Cheeseburger, OR Grilled Cheese, OR Pasta with butter or sauce, OR Chicken Fingers. All served with French Fries, Ice Cream and Beverage)

**Tickets/Reservations: Must be completed by Monday March 21st.** Parking is free. Masking requirements for lobby or non-eating activities may be in place as required by state health or hotel requirements.

For further information contact:

Reed Kneale [smdpa-governor@sail1620.org](mailto:smdpa-governor@sail1620.org)

or

Debbie Markowitz [smdpa-events@sail1620.org](mailto:smdpa-events@sail1620.org)

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The Desmond Hotel  
 1 Liberty Blvd  
 Malvern, PA 19355  
 610-296-9800

Saturday, March 26, 2022

Annual Meeting Reservation Form

(See "Annual Spring Meeting 2022" for complete menu description)

ADULT \$30

Chicken      Salmon      Vegan Dish

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD \$10

Cheeseburger      Pasta      Chicken Fingers

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email \_\_\_\_\_

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 Cut here and mail above reservation form and your check made out to SMDPA

**Message from Governor Reed Kneale**



Happy New Year!

Our Spring Annual Meeting will be held early this year, on **Saturday, March 26th**, at the Desmond Hotel. I am excited to announce our guest speaker will be Governor General Jane Hurt; she will be flying in from Kansas to be with us. She has provided dynamic leadership at the General Society, modernizing the physical building in Plymouth, and updating the systems that membership needs to promote our mission of education while honoring our ancestors. Details for reservations are included in this newsletter.

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

- We recently hosted a virtual event with Plymouth Patuxet, "Fact or Fiction." Dr. Heather Horton negotiated and created this event based on the writings in *Mourt's Relation* believed to be written by Edward Winslow and William Bradford. Hilary Goodnow decoded the language and events in an exciting and informative way revealing new insights. She fielded questions from the 30+ attendees.

- Speaking of Dr. Horton, a big hit in our store is her new booklet, *The Woman and Girls of the First Thanksgiving*. It is available in our online store for \$3, including shipping. All proceeds will be donated to the education fund, and 200 copies have already been sold. Purchases have been from all over the country!
- I attended the Western Colony Fall event featuring noted author Caleb Johnson at Oakmont Country Club Saturday, November 20th, with over 50 in attendance. Caleb reviewed his past and some recent discoveries. The traditional Thanksgiving food and fellowship were on display. Did you know the Western Colony is over 75 years old?
- A group of members responded to my request for ideas and events. It came up with various exciting ideas, which will be presented at our BOA in February for review and approval. You can expect some fresh thinking for virtual and in-person events.
- Pam Palchowski created a Juniors' event featuring the Pirates and Phillies at PNC Park on July 31st at 1:05 pm. We reserved 45 seats and will offer them at a discount. The tickets include "tailgating" and \$10 worth of food. Each child will receive a deck of cards as this is "Kids Day." Stay tuned for more details but plan to bring your children or grandchildren for a fun time!

- Our Historians have been hard at work adding over 70 new members last year, with over 100 more in the application process! We think we will have our 3000th SMDPA member ID number in 2022!

Deb Yingst and I attended the General Society Board meeting in Plymouth a few months ago. The new website was one of the accomplishments. This project took a great deal of time and money to develop, knowing firsthand as I participated on the Tech committee that produced the new site. Take the time to sign-in on the “Members Only” side and explore the many benefits it has to offer.

Your annual dues notices have arrived. Thank you in advance for your payments! SMDPA’s 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 less than expected as we transitioned to the higher costs from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Several donations from our membership are greatly appreciated and will be put to good use for our activities. Thank you for your dues and membership!

And...

**We have a new contest: Trivia, how well do you know your Mayflower history?**

1. Who taught the Pilgrims how to fish for eel using their bare feet?
2. What is the third tallest monument to an individual in the USA?

If you can answer both questions correctly and reply by March 21st, you will be eligible for a drawing that will include some first-rate prizes from my Mayflower collection. Junior members will have preferential treatment in this contest. Submit your answers by mail to: *Kneale/SMDPA 929 S. High Street, Suite #135, West Chester, PA 19382, or email [smdpa-governor@sail1620.org](mailto:smdpa-governor@sail1620.org)*

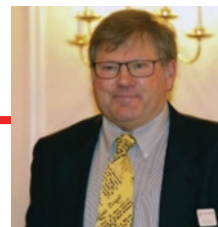
May God bless you and your family, keeping all healthy and in faith during these unique times!

Respectfully,

Reed Kneale

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

**Financial Report  
By Scott Bond, Treasurer**



2021 turned out to be a good year, financially. Spoiler alert, 2022 is off to a rocky start. Our investment account is with Vanguard and is patterned very much like a conservative retirement account, with allocations in money market, bond funds and stock funds.

SMDPA	YE 2020	YE 2021	Change	Change %
Total Cash & Investments	\$584,901.20	\$644,612.93	\$59,711.73	10.2%
*Not inclusive of Susquehanna or Western Colony balances.				

Almost 80% of our non-investment income came from dues and new member fees in 2021.

On the expense side, 53% of our total went directly to GSMD for per capita assessments, new member fees and certificates. 21% went to education-related expenses including newsletters, completing the Silver Book update project, and funding the education programs that you are beginning to hear about considering COVID-limited classroom education.

The past two years have been difficult for all of us, and we are trying to adjust our SMDPA value proposition accordingly. Stay tuned.

Beginning in the fall of 2020, Deb Miller introduced her new book, *Mayflower Compact Signers 1620-2020 Anniversary Edition*, which sold 295 copies through SMDPA, and resulted in a nice donation to the Education Fund. 117 Members took advantage of the Member Appreciation (Rebate) Program, which offered \$20 of goods from our SMDPA Store. Including the successful sale of Heather Horton’s, *The Women and Girls of the First Thanksgiving* booklet, which benefitted the Education Fund, our store staff were quite busy.

**2022 Dues Explained  
By Judi Biederman, Assistant Treasurer**



Our 2022 dues collection process is underway, and we thank everyone who has already paid. Here are answers to some questions we have been getting:

**• How much are 2022 dues?**

Regular Members - \$65

Junior Members - \$15

Life/Emeritus Members – No annual charge, however donations are appreciated!

• **Why are my dues higher than last year?**

We have had to increase our dues to pay an increase in the annual per member charge levied by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, our national society.

• **Why did I receive more than one dues notice?**

Wherever possible, we send a written dues notice via mail and an electronic notice via e-mail. This is an attempt to make sure every member receives their dues notice in the format that is most comfortable for them. It also allows them to make payment as they choose, either online by credit card or by writing a check and sending it via mail.

• **How can I make donations?**

If you wish to write a check, make it payable to “SMDPA” and send it to: SMDPA, 929 S. High Street, Suite 135, West Chester, PA 19362.

Please include a note indicating how you would like your donation to be allocated: Unrestricted Funds, Educational Programs, Katherine F. Little Distinguished Achievement Award; Elizabeth Tilley Howland Scholarship Award. Donations that do not include instructions will be allocated to Unrestricted Funds, which means they will be used in the areas of greatest need.

You may write one check including both your dues and donations, or a check for each—whichever is easiest for you.

If you wish to donate online: go to our website, [sail1620.org](http://sail1620.org), go to STORE and select DONATE. This will be a separate transaction from your dues. Donations are tax-deductible and help to support our valuable education and scholarship programs.

**Should I pay my dues now?**

YES, PLEASE! We spend a lot of time and money tracking down late dues. We would prefer our time and funds to be devoted to educational endeavors and membership amenities.

**If I move to another state, do I have to resign from the Pennsylvania Society?**

No, you are welcome to remain a member of SMDPA. We have many members that live in other states—in fact, a third of our membership lives outside Pennsylvania! If you want to transfer to the society for your new state, you will need to be a member in good standing here before the transfer can go through. That means you must pay any dues currently due to SMDPA. Alternatively, you also can take a dual membership in both states.

Life/Emeritus memberships are not transferable to another state.

**Who can I contact if I have questions about my dues, did not receive my 2022 invoice, or need another copy of my 2022 invoice?**

Assistant Treasurer Judi Biederman  
[Asst\\_Treasurer@sail1620.org](mailto:Asst_Treasurer@sail1620.org)  
215-493-3484

## 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 sympathy to the family and friends of our recently departed members. We thank you for your service and dedication to SMDPA.

Charles Beach Barlow; Date of Death – December 22, 2016. From Milford, CT.

Walter Batty Jr.; Date of Death – December 22, 2020. From Swarthmore, PA.

Lucinda Cloutier; Date of Death – February 22, 2021. From Mount Pleasant, WI.

Joyce Hall; Date of Death – October 19, 2021. From Cabot, PA.

Helen Milne Justi; Date of Death – December 11, 2021. From Vero Beach, FL.

SMDPA received a note from Henry Justi, her loving husband of 66 years. Henry wanted us to know, “Helen was a long-time member of SMDPA. She was the daughter-in-law of one past Governor and spouse of another. Helen has set sail toward a distant horizon.”

## Susquehanna Colony

### By Mike Saunders, Colony Governor

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First, please let me wish everyone the happiest new year for 2022. The last two years have been rough for our Susquehanna Colony, not getting together for any in-person functions since 2019, and I sincerely hope that that will soon change.

We have been following the happenings in South Africa and the United Kingdom in the wake of the COVID-19 Omicron variant. Both countries were several months ahead of the United States in Omicron coming on the scene, and both countries have now significantly relaxed their restrictions on group activities and meetings. The UK relaxation started today, January 19th. Last evening, I watched Parliament on Television while the Prime Minister declared that restrictions and mask mandates were ending today.

I am hoping that we in the US can soon follow their example to meet in person this spring without significant worry about consequences to our health. Look for an announcement of an in-person meeting, hopefully in April.

Sharon and I spent some time with our children and grandchildren over the holidays, and we are no worse for the wear. Our son’s boys, ages 13, 11, and 6, now live within a hundred miles of us, so we see them more regularly than the last four years when they lived in Japan. The boys have found they like to ski, and in Gettysburg, we have three ski

areas within an hour's travel. Of course, grandpa must go skiing with them. Sharon is happy to sit home and bake goodies. She never mastered putting boards on her feet and having fun sliding downhill on snow. I enjoy being with my grandkids, which is terrific for a change. Our daughter's sons are both in college now, so they don't spend time with their grandparents like they used to.

Until next time, stay well and safe. Mike

## Western Colony Update By Pam Palchowski, Editor



The Western Colony, SMDPA, met on November 20, 2021, at the Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont, Pennsylvania. Approximately 50 members and guests were in attendance to celebrate the anniversary of the First Thanksgiving Feast of 1621. It was a time to share fellowship, a delicious traditional Thanksgiving meal, and a wonderful presentation from our guest speaker, Caleb Johnson.

Colony Governor, Billie Gailey conducted the business meeting. A financial report was given, and a proposed slate of officers were announced. Jeanne Nikolaison had the honors of reading the Mayflower Compact. Special recognition was given to Patricia Hill to thank her for the many years of support and leading the Western Colony through the years. Patricia has held many offices at the Colony and State levels. Western Colony wanted Governor Hill to know that she is appreciated for all she has given to the Society over the past 40 years. Thank you, Governor, for all you do both then and now.

Our guest speaker was the world-renowned Caleb Johnson, and he shared his latest discoveries made with fellow researchers Sue Allen and Simon Neal. His presentation was riveting. He showed photos that linked his proof. Mr. Johnson is a highly respected Mayflower researcher, and it was special that he signed books and met with Colony members after the presentation.

The next Western Colony event will be the Spring Meeting in May. An invitation with details will be mailed to each member. Until then, Happy New Year.



Thank you, Patricia Hill



Celebrating with past Governor, Patricia Hill



Caleb Johnson, FASG



Discussing the anniversary of the First Harvest



Welcome address  
by Governor  
Billy J. Gailey



Family and Friends

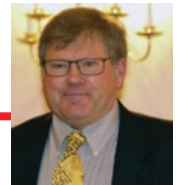


The Mayflower  
Compact read by  
Jeanne Nikolaison



William Brewster  
Cockrell

## Life/Emeritus Membership By Scott Bond, Treasurer



Did you know that our Life and Emeritus members make up 35% of our membership?

Some have had Life Memberships almost since birth, while others have purchased their Life Memberships along the way. Today, our youngest Life Member is 11 years old, and the oldest is currently 99. Life/Emeritus Membership is a pay once and forget your dues for the rest of your life. It is an SMDPA-only option, non-refundable, and non-transferable.

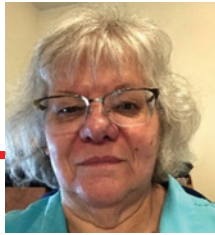
If you are fortunate enough to be a Regular Member for 50 years or more, or if you turn 100 in the current year, you automatically become an Emeritus Member, which means that you no longer must pay annual dues. Believe it or not, we currently have twenty-eight Emeritus Members. Last October, we added the one-hundred-year-old members, increasing our Emeritus numbers. In this issue, you will read more about Donald Solenberger, our latest Emeritus Member.

SMDPA, like many state societies, suspended or discontinued their Life Membership programs when GSMD raised their per capita annual dues from \$15/person to \$35/person. Our yearly per capita GSMD invoice has increased from roughly \$12,000 two years ago to an expected \$28,000 in 2022. As you can see, the lion's share of your dues goes to GSMD.

There are no dues to worry about going forward for the family, and you can retain your membership right to the end and include mention of it in your obituary if you are so inclined. For SMDPA, we keep more members, and we do not have as many dues collection issues to worry about. It's a win-win.

SMDPA has chosen to honor our longtime commitment to the Life/Emeritus programs. Although we also suspended the addition of new Life Memberships, we hope to develop a new Life Member fee structure that will work for both potential Life Members and SMDPA going forward. Stay tuned.

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



SMDPA has added eleven new members and four new Junior members since the last reporting. The Historians have been busy with assisting prospective members with navigating the application system. It is our mission to preserve the history of the Pilgrims, and this is done when we add new members. The Co-Historians are Cinda Hartman, Keith Kammenzind, Lois M. Howanec, and Sharyn Davis.

### Welcome to our Newest Members:

Brasko, Jennifer	Hopkins 12th
French, Alison	Brewster 12th
French, Taylor	Brewster 13th
Van Buren, Michael	Cooke 13th
Brenner, Cynthia	E Fuller 14th
Mulligan, Teresa	Soule 11th
Tanner, Neil	Brewster 12th
Sabin, Douglas	Warren 11th
Burkhardt, Kenneth	Alden 11th
Halteman, Sharon	Hopkins 13th
Ricker, William	Alden 12th

### New Junior Members:

Lader, Tennyson  
Davis, Enoch  
Lang, Ian  
Lang, Emily

### Approved Supplementals:

Reasner, William	Priscilla Mullins
Reasner, William	William Mullins
Reasner, William	John Alden
Palchowski, Pam	William Bradford
Healey, Roberta	William Brewster
Healey, Roberta	Stephen Hopkins
Healey, Roberta	John Alden
Healey, Roberta	William Mullins
Healey, Roberta	Miles Standish
Weaver, Brenda	John Howland
Weaver, Brenda	Elizabeth Tilley
Weaver, Brenda	Joan Tilley
Weaver, Brenda	John Hurst
Weaver, Brenda	Thomas Rogers
Hackett, Susan	Richard Warren
Hackett, Susan	William Brewster

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



For Christmas this year, Jo and I drove to Burlington, Vermont, to be with our three youngest grandchildren. After quarantining and testing prior to our gathering, we enjoyed the season with a small group of family. The Vermont family had earlier picked names for a gift exchange on Christmas Eve.

I wrote a letter to accompany my gift. The gift, a book written by Ralph Waldo Emerson, had special meaning for both of us. Her family has occupied the Waldo House in Scotland, Connecticut continuously from its construction in 1715 until its relatively recent transfer to the Windham County Historical Society. I found my connection to this quiet, pastoral site as Jonah Brewster married Joanna Waldo there in 1743.

This young woman, my distant cousin, and the recipient of my gift, understanding the gravity as well as the joys of knowing history, has graciously consented to share this letter with all of you, and she wishes you a Happy New Year.

Here is the letter:

Dear Lizzo, December 25, 2021

I am pleased that we have in common New England ancestors from the early 18th century. My thoughts have been drawn to that place and time especially since I “discovered” Thoreau’s *On Walden Pond* in high school. After finding my personal roots later, my interest has widened. I’ve begun to understand the contribution cousin Emerson has made to the enlightenment of so many.

Lincoln, paraphrasing Seward, in the company of his generals around a campfire on the battlefield in front of Richmond, was heard to say, “There was always just enough virtue in the republic to save it.” In the Spring of 1865, following the troubled election and his second inauguration that March, the Southern war machine appeared to be crumbling and a surge of confidence was sweeping through the Northern populace blotting out the significant distrust, fear, and slanderous division that threatened injury to the Union. This tide of goodwill convinced congress to pass into law the abolition of slavery.

Perhaps Lincoln, as he spoke, was thinking of the writers and orators such as Emerson who had never doubted their cause. Perhaps also in this ravished place, he pondered the debt owed to those in arms and all who had gone. They had fought for the right to vote that fall and had overwhelmingly chosen Lincoln as he had given them transcendent meaning for their sacrifice.

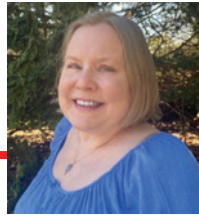
May human goodness follow us each day and preserve the republic!

Your Cousin,  
Ron Simonsen

## Mayflower Education Update

### By Heather Horton, Education Chair

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COVID-19 has changed the education landscape. Our in-person events have been limited, but we have made great strides on virtual programming. Hilary Goodnow from Plimoth Patuxet virtually presented “Truth or Lies? The Story of the First Thanksgiving” for us in November, in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the First Thanksgiving. We are looking forward to more for Women’s History Month with the 7:00 pm Thursday, March 10, 2022, virtual presentation of “Nevertheless, She Persisted: Exploring 17th-Century Women for a 21st-Century World.” The presentation will examine “What does it really mean to walk a mile in someone else’s shoes?” Explore the lives of 17th-Century women through the eyes of Mayflower passenger Elizabeth Tilley Howland and discuss how living history provides new insight into their joys, sorrows, and challenges.

In November we released a pamphlet on *Women and Girls of the First Thanksgiving*. It is available through the SMDPA store. We will release a second pamphlet in the Mayflower Women and Girls series for Women’s History Month in March.

We are in the process of revising the SMDPA Elizabeth Tilley Scholarship for 2022. A \$1000 educational scholarship will be awarded this year to a graduating/homeschooled high school senior. This will be awarded to the senior who is a member of or directly related to an active member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who submits the best essay. The essay topic for 2022 is, “How do the values of the Mayflower Pilgrims relate to your 21st century life and plan?” The applicant must have been accepted by an accredited college, university, or trade program. The scholarship is for educational purposes only and will be paid directly to the institution. The application and guidelines may be found on the [sail1620.org](http://sail1620.org) website.

**The deadline to submit the application for the SMDPA scholarship is July 1st, 2022.**

Because of school COVID restrictions, we were not able to arrange any Pilgrim re-enactor visits this year. We are looking into virtual and in person options for next year. The programs are optimized for a middle school audience-if you know of a school or class that would like a visit, please contact us. They also do programs for home schoolers. We donated Mayflower themed books to the Avon Grove Charter School and the Hockessin Public Library.

An exciting virtual program is on the horizon. Governor Kneale has contacted Andrew Giles Buckley of *Hit and Run History* regarding his film “Stephano” about the life of Stephen Hopkins. We will be arranging for members to get a free download of the movie, with a subsequent virtual

question and answer session. More information will follow via e-mail and be available on the SMDPA website when arrangements are finalized.

The Education Committee is working hard to adapt to a rapidly changing educational environment. If you have any suggestions for programming or education outreach, please let us know by contacting us at [smdpa-education@sail1620.org](mailto:smdpa-education@sail1620.org)

## SMDPAs Newest Emeritus Member

### By Sharyn Davis and Pam Palchowski, Editors

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The Society of Mayflower Descendants of Pennsylvania would like to deliver special birthday greetings to Donald Moray Solenberger. Donald will celebrate his 100th birthday on March 31, 2022. According to SMDPA rules, if a member turns 100 in the current year, they become an Emeritus Member, meaning the member no longer pays the membership dues.



A GSMD/SMDPA member since 1982, Donald joined as a direct descendant of Pilgrim Richard Warren, 12th signer of the Mayflower Compact. Donald is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), in PA. The honor of being SMDPA’s latest Emeritus Member is a milestone that Donald is proud to acknowledge.

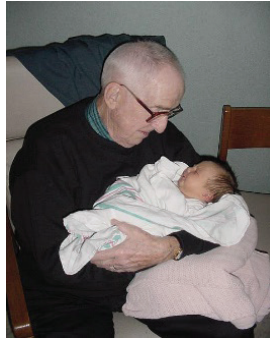
Donald was born March 31, 1922 in Upper Darby, Delaware County. After serving in World War II as an Army medic in the South Pacific, he came home, attended the University of Pennsylvania/Wharton, and graduated in 1946. He married Ann deFarges on June 21, 1947 and together they raised two children, Courtney, and Stephen. Donald and Ann were blessed with three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He spent 70+ years in the investment and life insurance business before retiring to enjoy his family and his hobbies, which include participating in and watching various sports events, canoeing, being an American Patriot, and studying American history. He even found time to write a historical novel, *Still Standing: Surviving Custer’s Last Battle*. Donald loves his family; he has always made the effort to attend his grandchildren’s school and sports events.

Donald’s unconditional love of family translates to pride and honor for Donald’s daughter Courtney Solenberger-McNeill. Courtney recalls a fun Richard Warren story told to her by her father. “As an early Pilgrim, Richard Warren performed various “duties” to help Governor Bradford; creating what was called a “double voice” in matters.” She says, “We always joked over the years that that may be why Dad talks so much, is very outgoing, is very social, and is always so very helpful to all...he inherited that gene!”

Courtney says, “I am honored to be his daughter, all my life, I have looked up to him for advice, wisdom, and insight.”

One of Donald’s favorite things to do is to sing; he tells

everyone to, “Keep a song in your heart!” So, Donald, if you listen carefully, you may hear the entire Society singing you a well-deserved round of “Happy Birthday!” Best wishes!



## Davis Shares Understanding of First Thanksgiving

BY ROBERT L. BAKER, Press Examiner

Mayflower descendant Sharyn Davis of Tunkhannock gave a program in Tunkhannock earlier this month on the first Thanksgiving, and while she wasn't there, she is proud to say that at least four of her ancestors were.

She spoke on Nov. 13 to the members of the DAR—the women who can trace their ancestry to a patriot in the American Revolution—and indirectly challenged them to try to push their ancestry back another five or six generations.

Bit by the genealogy bug a long time ago, Davis said she has always been fascinated about her ancestors, and it was around nine years ago that she finally was able to make all the connections through 12 generations to the folks who in September of 1620 on a ship bearing the name Mayflower set sail with 102 passengers from England and landed nine and a half weeks later near what is now known as Plymouth, Mass.

Half of the passengers died that first harsh winter, including the parents of her 11th great grandmother, Elizabeth Tilley, Davis said.

The following year with the help of the native peoples, the new arrivals had a prosperous spring and summer, and in the fall gathered in a bountiful harvest with a feast of thanksgiving in a tradition that has had no problems surviving 400 years.

Of the first Thanksgiving, the actual date is unknown, Davis said. But the 50 Pilgrims who survived their first year in America sat down with 90 Wampanoag men and were likely greeted with venison, duck, goose, turkey, oysters, lobster, eel, and fish alongside pumpkins, corn, and cranberries.

Davis, a library aide in the Tunkhannock Area School District, has visited Plymouth three times—the most recently in August—and would go back in a heartbeat to whet her imagination further.

She said that every time she goes, she gains a little more clarity as to the Pilgrim experience, and in her talk acknowledged some misconceptions in the American public's mind.

Davis said that probably the most egregious is that many confuse the Mayflower's passengers with the Puritans, a strict religious sect who landed a couple of generations later and settled in Salem, Mass.

She acknowledged most of those aboard the Mayflower were people disaffected by the Church of England who covenanted together in Scrooby, England, 12 or 13 years before the 1620 voyage and sailed originally to Leyden, Holland, where they could more freely practice their faith.

They left Holland for Southampton, England, with a sister ship, Speedwell, in the summer of 1620, but it had to be abandoned because of an ever-present need of repairs.

She also noted it was not smooth sailing for the Mayflower in 1620.

“Imagine seasick passengers with no restrooms,” Davis smiled. “And during a storm, one of the main beams cracked, which was repaired with a large iron screw that just happened to be on board. How lucky was that or was it providence?”

Davis also acknowledged the role of the Native Americans in the pilgrim's survival.



## John Howland Visits Grace Church Bethlehem's Fall Faith Festival

By James Buckner, SMDPA Elder



On the twenty and sixth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty and one, at the request of the governor of Plimoth Plantation, John Howland did visit the Grace Church Bethlehem's Fall Faith Festival to inform about forty and five people how it came to be that the Mayflower did leave England and come to the New World. The audience was quite attentive as I did tell them the tale of how the church at Scrooby was forced to move to the Netherlands and why it was necessary to move again to the New World. I did tell them about the stormy trip across the northern Atlantic to find ourselves north of where we were supposed to be. I told them about our search for a place to set up our colony and how we finally settled at what we called New Plimoth. I told them about that harsh winter and how half of our members died. I also told them the events that led to us having a harvest festival (Thanksgiving). The audience was very appreciative and asked many good questions. Afterwards many did use their magic boxes to capture my image standing beside others. I did most enjoy the experience.

“Had it not been for the Native Americans, more Pilgrims would certainly have died—particularly in that first harsh winter,” she said. She noted that the record showed Samoset, Squanto, and Ousamequin forged relationships that were critical.

One of the true blessings, she added, was that upon their arrival in the New World, the Pilgrims forged a civil document known as the Mayflower Compact, which set the groundwork for how a society should conduct itself and is now considered a forerunner to the U.S. Constitution developed 160 years later.

These days, in addition to her schoolwork and continuing to pursue her own family history, Davis helps the Pennsylvania Society of Mayflower Descendants evaluate lineages submitted by prospective members.

She said, among the helpful tools for anyone to see if they might have a Mayflower ancestor is at the Wyoming County Historical Society in Tunkhannock which is a collection of “Silver Books” which trace known lineages of Mayflower passengers through the first five generations.

“They are an extremely valuable part of our collection,” Historical Society curator Paula Radwanski said. The historical society is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays by appointment at 570-836-5303.

Davis noted that while many people think that the Society of Mayflower Descendants might seem like an exclusive group, with about 100,000 members, it is believed that as many as 35 million people around the world are very likely eligible.

To her DAR sisters, Davis added, “This Thanksgiving, take a moment to reflect. Think about where we would be as a nation, as a people, and as individuals if it weren’t for the 102 brave souls who took a chance on freedom, relying on their strength of character and determination, who endured personal sacrifices to lay the foundation for the country all of our Patriots fought for.”



This article is shared exactly as it was printed in the Wyoming County Press Examiner dated Wednesday, November 24, 2021.

To commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the First Thanksgiving, Mayflower descendant Sharyn Davis spoke at the November 13th Tunkhannock Chapter DAR meeting. From left are DAR Regent Nancy Walter, and DAR sisters/



Susquehanna Colony SMDPA members, Melinda Canfield (Doty), Bonnie Yuscavage (Tilley), Connie Otto (Browne), and Sharyn Davis (Warren, Howland, Tilley, Doty). Davis shared a display of Pilgrim/Thanksgiving books, a poster, her society certificate and Warren genealogy, and a sample of “hardtack.”

## Pennsylvania Mayflower License Plates for Members

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is pleased to offer a special way to recognize your membership in the Society. A confirmed member can apply for a personal license plate through a PennDOT Organization. The license plate will be made especially for SMDPA members!

Instructions and the PennDOT Application form can be viewed/printed or downloaded from the SMDPA website. Go to [sail1620.org](http://sail1620.org) click on Store, then license plate. **\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*\*** - The application form must be printed and completed with an original signature and mailed to the address indicated on the form. A single check for total payment made to “SMDPA” for the entire amount must be enclosed with the application. SMDPA will manage the payment to PennDOT.

Please contact us at [SMDPA-License@sail1620.org](mailto:SMDPA-License@sail1620.org) if you have any questions.



When your license plate arrives, take a photo, and sent it to us so we can put it in the newsletter. Congratulations to Sharyn Davis who recently received her personalized SMDPA license plate. Receiving a personalized Mayflower license plate in the mail, is almost as exciting as receiving your GSMD certificate. Thank you, Sharyn, for showing us your license plate.

## March is Woman’s History Month

PLIMOTH  PATUXET®  
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**“NEVERTHELESS, SHE PERSISTED:  
Exploring 17th-CENTURY WOMEN FOR  
A 21ST-CENTURY WORLD”**

**March 10, 2022 ~ 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

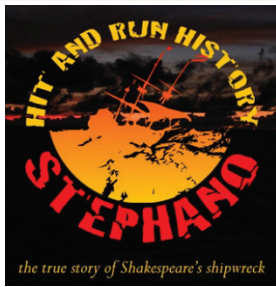
Our speaker will be Hilary Goodnow, Director of Education & Community Outreach at Plimoth Patuxet. Hilary is a Public Historian specializing in engaging, immersive, and thought-provoking historic and cultural exhibits, programs, and living history experiences for diverse audiences. She holds a MA in Public History and a BA in History and Museum Studies.

SMDPA Members – Please register, at no cost, so a Zoom link will be sent to you one week before the event. Non-member guests are permitted. Register early, this program is open for the first 100 registrations. If you have any questions, or if you need assistance in registering, please contact SMDPA at [info@sail1620.org](mailto:info@sail1620.org).

Registration is on our website at [www.sail1620.org](http://www.sail1620.org)

## Stephano Movie

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Pocahontas knew him. Squanto drank with him. Shakespeare wrote about him. And he, Stephen Hopkins, is coming to the Society of Mayflower Descendants (SMDPA) during the month of May! Throughout May, SMDPA member households may download a free movie by Hit and Run History's Stephano: The True Story of Shakespeare's Shipwreck. You can screen this film on your own time in your own home and keep your digital copy!

Two-time Emmy-nominated producer Andrew Giles Buckley and his crew are hot on the trail of Stephen Hopkins, a Virginia-bound castaway who found his way not only onto the decks of the Mayflower a decade later but immortalized on stage as the drunken Stephano in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. The 90-minute film follows the story of the only Mayflower passenger who had been to North America previously. A decade earlier, Hopkins was aboard a Jamestown-bound ship whose wreck on Bermuda inspired the Bard's final play.

Shot on location, the intrepid Hit and Run History team retraces Hopkins' life crisscrossing the Atlantic, intersecting with two of the most influential Native Americans of the time, Pocahontas, and Squanto. Wampanoag and Pawmunketuck tribe members' involvement pulls the focus of Stephano onto the key roles of Native peoples in England before the Mayflower departure in 1620.

Buckley, a Hopkins descendant, grew up hearing stories that New Plymouth's iconoclast tavern keeper may have the model of *The Tempest's* drunken and mutinous Stephano. In their Gumshoe Historian style, Hit and Run History seeks out the reality of a man who was everywhere at the founding of America. On May 14th at 3:00 pm, Buckley will hold a Live Questions & Answer event (via Zoom for SMDPA members and other society guests). The session will be hosted by SMDPA's James (Jim) Campbell. For more information, see the next article in this newsletter about Stephano. Or the SMDPA website on the Events page.

Registration is a MUST. There are limited versions of the film available, so Register Early! One movie download per household. Instructions for video download and access code will be provided upon registration. The movie may be downloaded any time in May, but we recommend viewing before the Q&A event to increase the learning and the fun!

## TICKETS

\$0.00 SMDPA Member Household Movie Download  
\$7.00 Non-SMDPA Household Ticket for Movie Download



### STEPHANO: - Live Question and Answer Session with Author Andrew Buckley

May 14, 2022 ~ 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**This event is being held virtually via Zoom.**

Please join us as we have an opportunity for a live Question and Answer session with Andrew Giles Buckley. Andrew is the creator and host of the public media series Hit and Run History. Stephano: The True Story of Shakespeare's Shipwreck, premiered on Rhode Island PBS in January 2021. This event will be moderated by SMDPA's Jim Campbell.

This session is open to persons who have downloaded and viewed the Stephano: The True Story of Shakespeare's Shipwreck movie. Even if you've not downloaded and viewed the movie you are welcomed to listen in. Information on how to access the movie will be found on our web site (TBD). Be sure to access the movie before the end of May 2022.

Registration for the Questions and Answer event is required (but free for SMDPA Members and non-SMDPA). A Zoom meeting link will be sent to you once you register.

## SMDPA Junior Outing Take Me to The Ballgame!

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**Philadelphia Phillies vs. Pittsburgh Pirates**

**July 31, 2022 at PNC Park Pittsburgh**

**Tailgate starts at 10:30 am. First pitch will be 1:05 pm.**

We have reservations (45 tickets) for the MLB Baseball game at PNC Park on Sunday July 31st. Our seats are in sections 109 and 110.

The Pirates will take on the Phillies at 1:05 pm.

Tickets are \$42.00 each (with \$10 loaded food and beverage credit per ticket.) SMDPA Junior Members and/or children/grandchildren of Members will be FREE (one child per adult). Purchase your tickets from the SMDPA website, under the Calendar Events section.

Ticket Admission will be sent to you two weeks before the game.

You MUST be a member to purchase tickets, guests/families are encouraged to attend.

**Note:** It is also Kids Day. Each child (14 and under) will receive a pack of baseball cards upon admission to PNC Park.

SMDPA tailgate party will be from 10:30-12:30. Directions will be sent with your tickets.

## Time to Gather

Members and their guests/families are highly encouraged to attend the 2022 Annual Spring Meeting. We will gather at the Desmond Hotel, in Malvern, PA on March 26th at 11:00 am. Please send your reservations by completing the reservation form on page 2 or visit the website, [sail1620.org](http://sail1620.org).

Payment needs to be received by Monday, March 21st.

This year at the Annual Spring Meeting, our guest speaker is Jane Hurt, Governor General, General Society of Mayflower Decedents. SMDPA is honored to have such a prestigious speaker. We look forward to her encouraging words for the future of our Society.

Please secure your plans to come to Malvern. It will be awesome to gather with a full assembly of members. Also, there will be a few surprise gifts for members who attend. So, safe travels and we look forward to gathering on March 26, 2022.



# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## SMDPA Officer and Assistant Slate for 2022-2023

The Nominating Committee Chair: Debra G., Miller, Committee Members: Dot Lees, Aldys Davis, Joan Miller, and Robert Heinsohn submit the following Slate of Officers and Assistants to be considered for election at our Society's Annual Meeting on March 26, 2022, at The Desmond Hotel 1 Liberty Blvd. Malvern, PA 19355.

An asterisk (\*) signifies an incumbent.

### OFFICERS

Governor (Acting) – Reed Kneale\*

Deputy Governor – James Campbell and Heather Horton

Secretary - Laura L. Tyndall\*

Assistant Secretary – Jessy Schaffer

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\*

Surgeon – Dr. Ronald Simonsen\*

### ASSISTANTS

Term Expiring April 2023: Adam Biedrzycki\*, Lauren Klein\*, Brian Atwood\*

Term Expiring April 2024: Sherri Smith\*, Heather Horton\*, Joseph (Joe) Gifford\*

Term Expiring April 2025: Shelly Young Bell\*, Vance (Robert) Dunbar, Pam Palchowski

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

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



## **SAVE THE DATE**

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**February 26, 2022** - Board of Assistants Meeting, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm, Merion Cricket Club

**March 10, 2022** - Lecture by Plimoth Patuxet Museums, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, Virtually via Zoom

**March 26, 2022** - Annual Spring Meeting, 11:00 am to 3:30 pm, Desmond Hotel, Malvern, PA

**May 1 – May 31** - Stephano: The True Story of Shakespeare's Shipwreck. See SMDPA Events page for details.

**May 14, 2022** - Stephano – Live Q & A Session, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Virtually via Zoom

**May 21, 2022** - Western Colony Spring Meeting, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, Edgeworth Club, Sewickley, PA

**July 31, 2022** - Phillies vs. Pirates , 10:30 am to 5:00 pm, PNC Park, Pittsburgh, PA