

THE PENNSYLVANIA MAYFLOWER

www.sail1620.org

Fall/Winter 2023

VOLUME XXXVI ISSUE NO 2

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

Find us on Facebook



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2023 General Congress Report Governor James Reed Campbell



MEMBERSHIP: SMDPA is proud to have achieved a 43% growth in membership over the past ten years, the highest percentage growth during this timeframe of any Member Society. These efforts included adding 51 new members since October 2022. Last Fall, we initiated our first-ever Member Survey to evaluate member satisfaction with our Society and its various offerings. We heard from 113 members, nearly 20%, who gave us an exceptionally high “net promoter score” of 2.2 on a scale of 1:10, with “1” being “very likely to recommend SMDPA to others.”

In June 2023, SMDPA exhibited at the 14th annual Haverford Heritage Festival in Haverford to promote new membership. In July 2023, our Historians hosted our first-ever webinar for prospective members to help them research their ancestors, guide them through the application process, and answer any questions. We anticipate repeating these webinars for all SMDPA members on a biannual basis. SMDPA also produced biannual newsletters for all members, with plans to expand its Fall/Winter 2023 edition from 12 to 16 pages.

EVENTS: In November 2022, SMDPA hosted its annual Thanksgiving Worship/Dinner at St. David’s Episcopal Church in Wayne, while our Western Colony hosted its annual Thanksgiving Meeting and Dinner at the Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont. Our Members Survey indicated that these two events are the most highly valued by our members. In February 2023, we resumed our tradition of holding in-person BOA meetings at the Merion Cricket Club in Haverford while meeting virtually in October 2022 and July 2023. Our Western and Susquehanna Colonies hosted three events in October 2022 and June and July 2023, respectively, at the Berwick Country Club in Berwick, the Railroad

House Inn in Marietta, and the Woodville Plantation in Bridgeville.

In April 2023, SMDPA held its annual Members Meeting at the Cameron Estate Inn and Restaurant in Mount Joy. We enjoyed a record 84 attendees, including guests from four “sister societies,” to hear best-selling author and historian Eric Jay Dolin speak about the experiences of our Pilgrim ancestors in the fur trade. In July and August 2023, SMDPA scheduled its first-ever Summer Social Events, respectively, at Historic Sugartown in Malvern and the Brandywine Museum of Art in Chadds Ford. For the former event, we enjoyed 27 attendees, including guests from three “sister societies.”

EDUCATION: Last Fall, SMDPA successfully hosted Pilgrim re-enactors from the Plimoth Patuxet Museums at various schools in our Western Colony. Efforts are underway for this Fall to repeat these exceptional educational experiences at schools in our Susquehanna Colony. In March 2023, as part of Women’s History Month, we co-hosted with GSMD a national webinar on “Mutinous Women,” featuring author Joan DeJean. SMDPA also completed its series of pamphlets, “Women and Girls of the Mayflower,” and we will be undertaking a new pamphlet, “Boys of the Mayflower,” starting in August 2023.

SMDPA maintained its Elizabeth Tilley Howland Scholarship prize for graduating seniors who are “Mayflower” descendants for best essays on the topic, “How do the values of the Mayflower Pilgrims relate to your 21st-century life and plans?” Finally, we have been participating in National History Day, an independent, statewide competition for middle- and high-school students. SMDPA sponsored four Mayflower Prizes recognizing school projects that best illustrated these values of our Pilgrim ancestors: religious freedom, economic opportunity, self-governance, and multicultural respect. We presented our prizes to the winners this Spring and plan to continue our successful participation for Spring 2024.

SMDPA Reflection

By Governor James
Reed Campbell Jr



Have you ever been asked why you are a member of our Society? My reply involves this short story about 26 youngsters.

The “Mayflower” ultimately set sail from Plymouth, England, on 6 Sep 1620 with 102 passengers. Two more would be born on board, although four would die on route or when anchored. The “Mayflower” finally disembarked its 100 surviving passengers into this new Plymouth Colony on 25 Dec 1620. Within three months, half would be dead from exposure, sickness, or malnutrition.

There were 41 teenagers, children, and infants among these “Mayflower” passengers. Following the biographies compiled by Caleb Johnson on his website, MayflowerHistory.com, they traveled in four categories.

- Twenty traveled with both parents.
- Five traveled with just one parent.
- Ten traveled as servants.
- Six traveled in the care of other parents or by themselves.

Only 10 of these youngsters survived the first winter with both parents intact. Eight survived, losing one parent. Nine survived as orphans, losing both parents. Fourteen died. Two youngsters saw their siblings die. Eighteen-year-old Priscilla Mullins saw her father, mother, and fourteen-year-old brother die, leaving her alone in this frightening new environment. Six-year-old Richard More, the only “Mayflower” survivor of Royal ancestry, saw his three siblings die, ages 8, 7, and 4, while their estranged parents remained in England.

Consider the trauma for these 26 surviving youngsters. New England winters were much colder and harsher than they had proper clothes for, and food was desperately scarce. Adults were wasting away all around them. At times, only seven adults were healthy enough to care for all the sick and dying. Fear of death must have been overwhelming, with no sense of when it might end or be coming for them next.

My pastor recently gave a sermon that included this story of an unnamed young boy in London during World War II, orphaned by the Blitz bombing. He arrived at an orphanage with just the clothes on his back and a cap on his head. The social workers observed that this boy always kept his cap on, removing it only to shower or sleep. They offered him new clothes and a new cap. After a long pause, the boy agreed. The social workers saw him take off his old cap, remove the liner, and then place it inside his new cap. They asked the boy why. he replied, “This lining is from

the dress of my mother. It’s all that I have left of her. When I feel it touching my head, it’s like she’s still here with me, loving me, protecting me.”

Our Pilgrim ancestors heard of hostilities with Native Americans from prior English colonizing in Virginia, plus English explorations of Cape Cod. They were dreading similar hostilities. During the first winter, they tried to keep their dwindling numbers secret from their potential adversaries, so they buried their dead at night on Cole Hill in shallow graves with no markers.

Twelve youngsters watched one or both parents breathe their last breaths in Plymouth and close their eyes for good. One by one, they joined the furtive gatherings of adults bearing these bodies uphill in the dark. They watched through tears as the first shovels of dirt were thrown all the way to topping off the graves, with snow spread to cover any traces. Undoubtedly, solemn prayers were spoken before the weary burial parties made their way back downhill. These 12 youngsters then came “home” to freezing, hastily assembled shacks with seats forever empty where their late parents once sat before them.

Throughout this sorrowful ritual, did any adults have the presence of mind to capture a piece of the lining of the mother’s dress? Or some other personal memento for these 12 youngsters to remember their late parents, to give them some small comfort from their grief?

We all know “the rest of the story” to use the catchphrase of the late radio personality Paul Harvey. Widowed parents promptly remarried, while orphans were adopted or returned to England. Our Pilgrim ancestors came together in loving community and faith. Throughout their unimaginable ordeals during the first winter and for years to come, they would always turn to God, asking, “What is He trying to teach us? How must we atone and repent to achieve salvation?” Twenty-three of these 26 surviving youngsters grew to adulthood, with 18 having children of their own. They would live out the ideals of the “Mayflower Compact” bequeathed to them by their parents -- setting their new nation on its exceptional path toward self-governance, religious freedom, and prosperity enjoyed to this day.

I am proud to honor the sufferings and triumphs of these resilient teenagers, children, and infants, including my own “Mayflower” ancestor, Constance (Hopkins) Snow. By validating their extraordinary life stories, I seek to validate my own life story as one of their millions of grateful descendants 400 years later. That is why I am a member of our Society. I hope that you feel as strongly as I do.

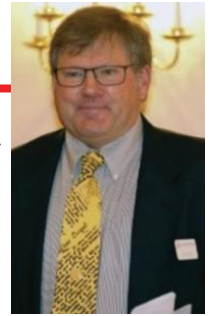


“Mayflower” Teenagers, Children, and Infants

Bartholomew Allerton*
Mary Allerton*
Remember Allerton*
Francis Billington*
John Billington
Love Brewster*
Wrestling Brewster
William Butten
Robert Carter
Mary Chilton*
John Cooke*
Humility Cooper
John Crackstone
Samuel Eaton*
Samuel Fuller*
William Holbeck
John Hooke
Constance Hopkins*
Damaris Hopkins
Giles Hopkins*
Oceanus Hopkins
John Langmore
William Latham
Desire Minter
Ellen More
Jasper More
Mary More
Richard More*
Joseph Mullins
Priscilla Mullins*
Joseph Rogers*
Henry Samson*
Elias Story
Edward Thompson
Elizabeth Tilley*
(Son) Tinker
(Son) Turner
(Son) Turner
Peregrine White*
Resolved White*
Roger Wilder

Died the first winter (14) *Left descendants (18).
Source:<http://mayflowerhistory.com/mayflower-passenger-list>.

SMDPA Treasurer Report By Scott Bond



At the October 21st Board of Assistants meeting, I read 46 names that had not yet paid their 2023 dues. Sadly, this is 75% higher than last year’s normal number of 27.

We are always open to hearing from you regarding our value proposition. Feel free to send your comments or questions to Treasurer@sail1620.org. I will respond.

As of October 15, 2023:

Vanguard Balance	\$539,258.15
Wells Fargo Main Checking	5,097.41
Wells Fargo Merchant Checking	1,199.05
Total Cash and Investment Balance (w/o colony balances)	\$545,554.61

As of October 15th, SMDPA has 283 Life/Emeritus members, 577 Regular members (before Drops), and 42 Junior members. We are a good-sized organization.

Our SMDPA 2024 Budget:

Total Income	\$70,000
Total Vanguard Transfers to Balance the Budget	15,400
Total Expenses	(85,400)
Balanced Budget	\$0

To support the budget, 2024 Dues will remain at \$70. No increase – if GSMD’s Per Capita Dues remains at \$35. That is right, 50% of your \$70 dues is paid to GSMD, leaving SMDPA with the other \$35 to go toward SMDPA expenses.

Again, feel free to contact us, we welcome any open communication from our members. We look forward to hearing from you. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Scott Bond - Treasurer@sail1620.org

Judi Biederman - Asst-Treasurer@sail1620.org

Check out our website:

www.sail1620.org

Thanksgiving Service and Dinner Celebration



This year's SMDPA Thanksgiving Service and Dinner will be held at the historic Donegal Springs Presbyterian Church. The worship service is free, but you must reserve your dinner tickets. Please RSVP by November 10th.

In a time-honored tradition, we will also be accepting food donations at the end of the service.



Donegal Presbyterian Church Complex is an historic Presbyterian church complex on Donegal Springs Road in East Donegal Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The church was built in 1732. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. The Thanksgiving dinner will be held at the church eliminating the need to drive to another place. It will be a catered traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

TICKETS

- \$40.00 Adult SMDPA Member Ticket
 - \$40.00 Adult Nonmember/Guest/Other Society Ticket
 - \$20.00 Junior or Child Guest of Other Society
 - \$20.00 Junior or Child of SMDPA Member
- More information can be found on the SMDPA web site -www.sail1620.org

- THE DINNER – Choice of two Entrees
- Roast turkey with gravy
 - Vegetarian lasagna

Meals include salad, rolls, mashed potatoes, green beans, buttered corn, assorted pies, lemonade, and coffee.

RSVP must be received by NOVEMBER 10, 2023
Reservations can be made online at www.sail1620.org

	Adult \$40	Juniors \$20	Turkey	Lasagna
Member Name				
Member Name				
Guest Name				
Guest Name				
Child Name				
Child Name				
	\$	\$	Grand total:	\$

Your Phone Number - _____

Cut here and mail above reservation form and your check made out to SMDPA
 Pennsylvania Society of Mayflower Descendants
 929 South High Street
 Suite 135
 West Chester, PA 19382

In Memoriam

By Althea Fejes, Registrar

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.



Kenneth Benner	Western
Robert Coates	Western
Barbara Frable	Susquehanna
Kenneth Fullom	Susquehanna
Michael Gardner	Philadelphia
Patricia Hill	Western
Frances Macaulay	Philadelphia
Katherine Neal	Susquehanna
Shirley Olver	Philadelphia
Susan Rakestraw	Philadelphia
Henry Smith	Philadelphia



Patricia Hill made a difference for many new applicants as they started their process of becoming a member of the SMDPA. She was patient, kind, supportive and encouraging to anyone who needed help. She was an excellent historian and if a member reached a roadblock and became frustrated, she would fix the problem. Her passion for the mission of the SMDPA was unmatched.



Patricia Hill
Western Colony Past Governor
SMDPA State Officer
SMDPA Distinguished Pilgrim
Friend to Many

Patricia Ann (Grenet) Hill, 90, of Cabot, passed away on Friday, Aug. 25, 2023. Patricia was born June 26, 1933, in Butler; she was the daughter of the late Henry and Marion (Jamison) Grenet.

Patricia was a 1950 graduate of Butler High School.

She was a longtime member of Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church. Patricia was active in her community and was involved with the Butler Little Theatre, the Birmingham Village Players Theater in Michigan, and the Mayflower Society, where she held the position of Governor of the Western Chapter. She also enjoyed researching genealogy and doing needlepoint.

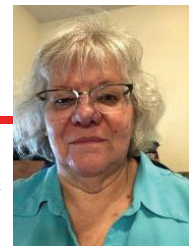
She is survived by her two sons, Timothy J. (Linda) Hill, of Hot Springs, Ark., and Patrick Tyler Hill, of Saxonburg; her grandchildren, Shannon, Jeffrey, Shane, Ryan, Justin, and Daniel; her great-grandson, Jackson; and her former daughter-in-law, Nancy Hill.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, James Hill, whom she married on May 28, 1954, and who passed away on March 8, 2006; her son, Jeffrey Hill; one brother; and three sisters.

We will miss her Pilgrim Spirit. We thank you for your years of service and friendship.

SMDPA Growth

By Ginny Fossa, Lead Co-Historian



The Historian Team is growing! We have added three new Assistant Historians: Sue Makosy, Susan Hackett, and Charlene Servian. They are working with new prospective members to gather their documentation for their application. We have also added a Research Assistant, Brenda Weaver. She will help us find the elusive document we need and cannot find. We also have a new Historian in the Western Colony, Jeanne Nikolaison. She will work exclusively with Western Colony's prospective members. They are working hard and learning which documents are acceptable to The Mayflower Society. Our Co-Historians are Sharyn Davis, Cinda Hartman, and Lois Howanec.

We started submitting applications and documentation digitally this Spring. It has been a learning experience, but Sharyn and I have worked through it, and it has become an easier process.

Thank you to all the Historian Team for their hard work and dedication to SMDPA!

Welcome to our Newest Members:

LeBoeuf, Hunter	Howland 14
LeBoeuf, Janet	Howland 13
Krem, Christine	Cooke 12
Cotter, Deborah	Alden 11
Turner, Stephen	Brewster 12
Reeves, Jyl	Warren 12
Weiss, Pamela	Brewster 12
Thompson, Christine	Howland 12
James, Gail	Bradford 12

Curran, Catherine	Bradford 13
Long, Brenda	Soule 11
Patterson, Thomas	Allerton 12
Waite, Stephen	White, Susanah 13
Carter-Betancourt, Cynthia	James Chilton 12
Lanyon, Beth	Samuel Fuller 12
Hamstra, Tyler	John Alden 12
Ennis, Kevin	John Alden 10
Santiago, Mary	Thomas Rogers 13
Warren, James	Hopkins 14
Kerns, Matthew	Cooke 14
Breyfogle, Mary Lynn	Thomas Rogers 12
Holdridge, Terry	Warren 12
Kearns, Richard	Howland 11
Horton David	Alden 11
Carl, Jennifer	Bradford 13
Youlton, Julie	Bradford 13
Pettit, Abigail	White 13
Batten, Thomas	Priest 12
Quillman, Haden	Bradford 13
Quillman, John	Bradford 13
Barnes, Ann	Hopkins 14
Barnette, Margaret	Hopkins 11
McCahill, Candace	E Fuller 12
Sullivan, Susan	Hopkins 13
Thomas, Katherine	Howland 11
Webb, Geoffrey	Brewster 12
Hayes, Cheryl	Soule 12
Martin-Plugh, Deborah	Billington 11
Davis, Sarah	P Mullins 14
Taylor, Sean	Alden 11
Boyden, Kenneth	Brewster 12
Preiss, Aaron	R White 12
Nann, David	J Rogers 11
Brams, William	Alden 11
Williamson, Eugene	Alden 12
Windhorst, Erin	More 12
Gregori, Ruth	Rogers 12
Keisling, Daniel	Soule 12

Membership Transfer:

Weiss, Pamela from New Jersey – Brewster 12

Supplements:

Cunningham, Mary Ann- Francis Eaton, Sarah Eaton, Samuel Eaton, Eleanor Billington, Francis Billington, and John Howland

Cunningham, Courtney- Francis Eaton, Sarah Eaton, Samuel Eaton, Eleanor Billington, Francis Billington, and John Howland

Cunningham, Donald- Francis Eaton, Sarah Eaton, Samuel Eaton, Eleanor Billington, Francis Billington, and John Howland

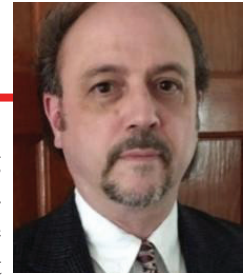
Kitchen, Carolyn- Edward Doty

Curran, Catherine- Francis Billington

Makosy, Susan- Richard Warren

Weaver, Brenda- Joseph Rogers

Western Colony Update By Governor Keith Kammenzind



With the Covid pandemic being lifted, Western Colony has been active. Our Spring meeting was held at the Edgeworth Club, our summer event was held at Woodville Plantation, and we had a special event at Old St. Luke's Church in September.

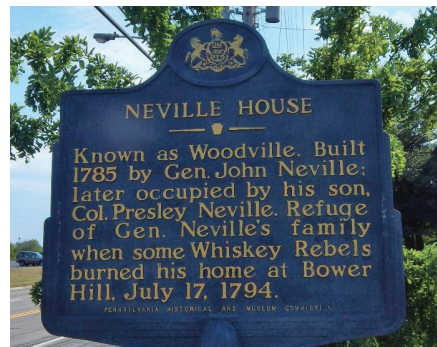
It was wonderful to gather in the Spring and reconnect with our SMPDA members and friends. We had a delightful luncheon followed by a musical program by The Wayward Companions. Past Governor Lois Lang facilitated the meeting. Billy Gailey, the Governor, was not able to attend the meeting. Keith Kammenzind was elected our new Western Colony Governor.



The Wayward Companions



*Lois Lang
and Governor
Kammenzind*



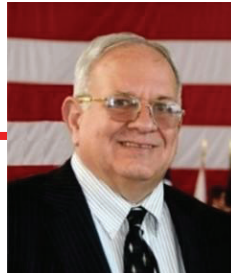
Our Summer Social Event was held at Woodville Plantation in Bridgeville, PA, on July 19th. We toured and explored the home of John and Presley Neville, a link to the late 18th Century. It was a bonus to hear a lecture by Brady Crytzer about the Whiskey Rebellion. We gathered for lunch at a local restaurant after the tour was over.

The Western Colony, along with Old St. Luke's Church and Woodville Plantation, worked together to plan a rededication ceremony that occurred in September. More on this event is highlighted in this newsletter.

Our Fall meeting and Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at Oakmont Country Club on Sunday, November 18th. An invitation was sent to all members.

Susquehanna Colony Meets in Lewisburg

By Governor Mike Saunders



With Covid-19 in our back window, Our Susquehanna Colony got together recently for our Fall Colony Meeting and luncheon. Twenty-two members and guests gathered at the Bull Run Tavern in Lewisburg, PA, on Saturday, October 7th. We started the meeting with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pilgrims Pledge. We then had a short business meeting where the minutes from the last meeting were approved, and the Treasurer's Report was read and approved. We then discussed a suggestion by Dotty Lees to make a motion for a gift to the Red Cross or Samaritans Purse for relief of Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii fire victims, and it was passed unanimously for \$1000.00. Samaritans Purse was the group's choice for the donation. Our Treasurer, Dotty Lees, said that the check for \$1000 was sent to Samaritans Purse following my email to her the following day.

Our old business was to discuss the nominating process for colony officers. I again asked volunteers to chair and participate in the nominating process without any takers. Sharyn Davis volunteered to speak to new members about the openings and opportunities for taking on a leadership role in the colony. I hope that we have some traction along those lines.

Under new business, it was decided the next meeting will be held on May 4th, 2024, in the Harrisburg area. That essentially closed the meeting portion of the event, and the

group ate lunch from the wide-ranging menu. Our meals were well prepared, and the prices were very reasonable. We will put this restaurant on the list for future reference. We did have one possible hiccup: a bicycle race and festival were happening in downtown Lewisburg that morning. Luckily for us, participants and spectators all started to depart from their parking places just as our group arrived, so as far as I can tell, no one had to circle the restaurant looking for a parking place.

After lunch, the guest speaker, Northumberland author, and storyteller John Moore, enlightened us about local history. John's talk gave us the account of Emma Bucknell, who was unlucky enough to be traveling on the R.M.S. Titanic on her maiden and final voyage. Mrs. Bucknell was the widow of one of the major benefactors of Bucknell University in Lewisburg, for whom the University is named. John's talk entitled; "How Emma Bucknell Managed to Survive the Sinking of the R.M.S. Titanic" was based on newspaper accounts of the era. His wife Jane Moore gave a dramatic reading of Emma Bucknell's personal account of her rescue. In it, Emma Bucknell said that she suddenly found herself adrift in a lifeboat in the freezing North Atlantic Ocean. To her horror, she realized the sailors who were supposed to save her and the others in the boat did not know how to row. What did Emma do? John Moore explained how Emma and another woman in the lifeboat acted, teaching the crew members how to row the boat, helping with the rowing, and making their rescue successful. The talk was well received by the audience. We finished and departed the restaurant at about 2:30 PM.

Pennsylvania National History Day, SMDPA Winners

By Heather Horton;
Education Chair



April 2023, SMDPA awarded 4 Mayflower Prizes at Pennsylvania National History Day in Scranton, PA. We had many excellent entries. Our Senior Project Prize went to Jacob Liu, who writes:

My name is Yutao (Jacob) Liu, and I go to Westtown School in West Chester, a Quaker institution. My teacher is Teacher Jonathan Ogle. This project is a paper that I wrote on Quakerism in Pennsylvania, more specifically about the Delaware Valley. The paper started from the Quaker origins in Britain, its settlement into Pennsylvania, and ended with the influences that Quakerism had on Pennsylvania. In the influence section, the paper highlighted the freedom of

conscience, which is greatly emphasized by William Penn, the proprietor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Nevertheless, the paper also mentions the creation of solitary confinement in the Eastern State Penitentiary, created by Quakers, to illustrate a critical perspective. The paper used primary sources such as The Papers of William Penn, The Journal of George Fox, etc.

As for sports, I jump on my school's track team & swim for the school. I play the acoustic guitar.

The other SMDPA History Day winners are:

JUNIOR PAPER - Ram Bandi
SCHOOL - Springhouse Middle School, Breinigsville, PA
TITLE - The Steam Engine: The Great Invention That Revolutionized the World
TEACHER - Joshua Abrams

JUNIOR PROJECT - Anthony Wang, Daniel Xu, Gaurav Perugu, Ken Zeng, Vishank Somala
SCHOOL - Springhouse Middle School - Breinigsville, PA
TITLE - The Enlightenment: The Revolution of Reason
TEACHER - Joshua Abrams

SENIOR PROJECT (in the paragraph above) - Jacob Liu
SCHOOL - Westtown School, West Chester, PA
TITLE - Quakers in Pennsylvania: A Theological Vision
that Opened a New Frontier
TEACHER - Jonathan Ogle

SENIOR PAPER - Elina Chen
SCHOOL - Masterman Julia R Secondary School,
Philadelphia, PA
TITLE - The Forgotten Father of Black Nationalism: Paul
Cuffe and African American Colonization of Sierra Leone
TEACHER - Liz Taylor



Are We There Yet?

By Ronald Simonson, MD,
SMDPA Surgeon



How do you navigate? What is the level of confidence that you really do know where you are, where you have been, or where you want to be tomorrow? Our teachers provided us with predictable bearings to navigate the earth and sky and also what they knew of that other universe...the mind. There is still a long journey ahead before we know everything, and we call it life. We think of it deeply. I have a memory that I have kept close from a Spring morning in 1958. I was still an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh, and Robert Frost had come to read for us. His words have rung clear when I have needed them, and I have been lucky... "I took the one less traveled by."

My schedule seems less unpredictable now, so when my first thoughts on morning awaking are quickly past, and I recognize the moment is now, like others, I accept that I need to choose and then live it as best I can. It seems so easy, but I have never before appreciated so much of what I've had from the day I was born...freedom! Freedom to explore- places, books, meeting with others, speech, ideas, and choices. Sure, there are rules, starting with your mother, then mores, manners, neighborly cues, and finally laws. There is also dissent and, if peaceful, protected by law. I sat on a big rock in the center of Central Park with my teenage son in 1981, among a million other dissenters, and listened to Pete Seeger.

This was brought to America by our ancestors, and a long line has fought to preserve it for the next generation. The Mayflower Compact established a framework of self-governance, and it succeeded. Their idea, born of the human mind, fragile beyond description, and plain of concept, has survived a perilous path. It not only survived, but it has

achieved a record of steadily coming out better. Could it be that the seed of this abstraction, protected in the universities of 16th century Europe, escaped and stowed away to sprout on the new continent, or was this idea already a well-cared-for scion of the stirring studies from young William Brewster's years at Cambridge? This journey has been the greatest of all human endeavors, and everyone living under its banner can claim a role. This is why meaning is so important for us as well as a beacon to all, wherever they may be.

It had been a warm afternoon, dry and still, and approaching dinner time when I, a boy of seven years, heard all the bells in Warren begin to ring as one and declare the end of WWII. Neighbors on Madison and Marion came out and joined in the street to listen and watch the growing rush of traffic driving wildly back and forth on Pennsylvania Avenue. Cars honking and voices cheering wafted toward us across the Lacy Elementary schoolyard. It had all come together in a way that kindled a feeling of great relief, and although a child, I understood the meaning of peace over the world, and it was good. I heard someone say, "The war is over," and my first thought was, "Now the soldiers will come home." Summer was nearly ended, and I'd start third grade.

Since then, a succession of wars has befallen us... from Korea to Afghanistan and now Ukraine, and there has been no real end. Weary in the wake of their suffering and destruction, it is normal that humanity begs for a common understanding that might allow us to start the process of finding the meaning in all of this, accept the results, arrive at a solution, and move on.

By 1948, W.C. Meninger, M.D., a founder of the prestigious psychiatric clinic in Topeka, Kansas, had already written of his concerns about the deleterious effects of war on mental health, and a world congress of leaders from many interests met that year in London to explore what was to be expected. His studies of those living through WWII had revealed a significant increase in symptoms such

as irrational and irresponsible behavior. That this could pose long-term repercussions in international relations was thought probable since everyone, those who were touched and also those who, although secure, had lived under the threat, demonstrated this adverse reaction.

Entering the atomic age, an ambiguous sense of the actual danger was the new intangible atmosphere, but as the Cold War unfolded, the wicked Iron Curtain became the genuine menace in everyone's mind. This godless barrier had to be breached, and the battle cry was heard from every institution. When the sweeping federal Civil Defense Program came to every community, Warren was no exception. We were taught to 'duck and cover,' and some of us volunteered to report all the airplanes passing over to the regional control center in Pittsburgh – altitude, direction, multi-engine, or single. Our lives rebounded with each step and felt entirely normal. Dr. Meninger told us of humanity's predisposition under the threat of war to erode their innate knack of recognizing an abnormal situation. Could it be that our proxy wars have served our subconscious minds as a tedious attempt to assuage our guilt for keeping the A-bomb long after the Nazis had been defeated?

If this is true, atonement is possible, but only if we can summon our political will to recycle all of the world's enriched nuclear material by placing it under international control for the purpose of peaceful disposal, just as the leading scientists in the Manhattan Project recommended.

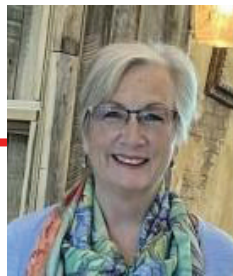
Treaty negotiations have helped postpone the final death knell but have acted only as a band-aid on a gaping wound. The bomb came to us in secrecy on August 6th,

1945, and the public grew to understand it in fragmented segments that, by 1959, seemed to me to have been grossly understated after I read Hiroshima Diary. Most nations have declined the bomb, but those who chose it competed vigorously. In the 1970s, tactical nuclear weapons became a battlefield component in our official contingency plan for war with the Soviets in Central Europe. Their force is measured in kilotons, as was the bomb in Hiroshima.

Debate is discouraged and sadly muted, thus permitting denial wherever you look. Could this be the root cause of our malaise- the agitation, inequality, and endless war that we try not to feel? How much sacrifice will it take to slow the clock, or is there a better way to survive the bomb? Sure! We know the answer! Many will help us, and the stars will be our guide if we lay a course and set sail. Will we conclude this harrowing passage, a time of opaque and chilling danger when we somehow held the line, no matter the confusing noise that threatened to deafen us and the smoke and fire that tried to blind us? Let us go toward the light as opportunity allows and carry our idea to a higher level, brothers and sisters all.

If all of this can be true, I then hope that by this gift, veterans and their families will be able to reconcile their dark and lonely experiences with their place in history. Finally, the faces from all our battles can be allowed to rest in peace. After more than 75 years, it is time. With foresight and courage, we are almost home.

Welcome to Lois Ann Revenaugh New SMDPA Secretary



The SMDPA would like to thank Laura Tyndall for her service as our secretary for the past several years. Laura has passed the torch to Lois Revenaugh. We want to welcome Lois and introduce her to our Society members and friends. Welcome aboard and we are glad you have joined the Board.

My journey of discovery began at a family reunion, where a cousin's unsubstantiated claims motivated me to delve deep into my Mayflower roots, linking me to Thomas Rogers and Francis Cooke.

From 1995 to 1998, I served on the National Board of Directors of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) as National President, National Vice President, and District V Vice President. In 1998, I embarked on a memorable journey to four major cities in China as part of a 41-member delegation representing businesswomen. This experience broadened our perspective and highlighted our commitment to promoting professional collaboration on a global scale.

Throughout my 36-year career at The Flint Journal in Michigan, I actively engaged with numerous non-profit organizations, serving on their boards of directors, and contributing to the betterment of Genessee County, Michigan. Currently, I volunteer at St. Luke's Hospital, Carbon Campus.

Daniel South Dedication

By James Reed Campbell Jr.

“The past is never dead. It’s not even past.”

– William Faulkner, *Requiem for a Nun*

On Saturday, September 16, the Western Colony was proud to reclaim a fellow “Mayflower” descendant from the past and give him the honor his extraordinary life deserved.

Daniel South Jr. (1747-1811) was born about 1747 in New Jersey, likely in Cranberry, Middlesex Co. He was a sixth-generation descendant of “Mayflower” passenger Edward Fuller (1575-1621). South’s great-grandparents, Daniel Lippington (abt. 1630-abt. 1694) and Hannah (Bonham) Lippington (abt. 1659-1689), were pioneer settlers of Piscataway, Middlesex Co., having married there on 19 Sep 1677, just ten years after the town was formed. South’s parents, Daniel South Sr. (abt. 1720-bef. 1775) and Mary (MNU) South (abt. 1715-aft. 1775), were pioneer settlers of Allegheny Co., Pennsylvania, having moved west within a few years after South was born and before towns there were even established. Thus, pioneering ran throughout South’s lineage.

In 1759, at age 12, South enlisted as a drummer boy with the British to fight in the French and Indian Wars. He served under Gen. John Forbes and Col. Henry Bouquet to evict the French troops from Fort Duquesne. Nearly 20 years later, South enlisted once more as a Patriot in the American Revolutionary War. He retired from active service to lead a prosperous life. South married the widow Euphemia (Smyth) Nixon and had ten children together. They lived on South’s 211-acre estate in present-day Bridgeville, approximately seven miles southwest of downtown Pittsburgh. South died in 1811, a respected member of his community, and was buried beneath a flat table stone in Old St. Luke’s Church in nearby Carnegie.

Over the next century, Old St. Luke’s suffered schisms, declining enrollment, and ultimately abandonment in 1930. The surrounding woods grew to almost completely obscure this historic stone building and its ancient cemetery. In 1975 or 1976, Rev. Canon Richard W. Davies (1927-2020) of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh re-discovered Old St. Luke’s and began a gradual restoration effort. Around that time, a young Keith Kammenzind also visited Old St. Luke’s with his parents, met with Rev. Davies, and came across the weathered gravestones. These encounters



kindled interests in history and genealogy that led Kammenzind, a “Mayflower” descendant, eventually to become Governor of the Western Colony.

In February 2022, Kammenzind visited the grounds again, and South’s deteriorating stone caught his renewed attention. He used his genealogy skills developed as a Western Colony Historian to discover that South had multiple Mayflower lineages. Kammenzind wondered aloud whether a replacement stone could be created and erected. He approached the Board of the Pennsylvania Mayflower Society for financial support. With a pledge in hand, Kammenzind then approached the Board of Old St. Luke’s to host a two-day event to rededicate South’s grave and celebrate his life as a military veteran and “Mayflower” descendant.

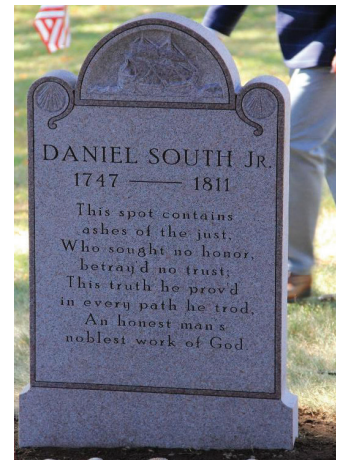
Fast forward to Saturday, September 16. The day brought beautiful Autumn weather for an uplifting af-

ternoon church service at Old St. Luke's attended by Western Colony members as well as local dignitaries. The Rt. Rev. Scott Quinn presided, while organist Jeffrey Gray led the assembly in hymns and songs. Afterward, South's new headstone was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Ketlen Solak, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Four of South's descendants traveled from Ohio to lay pink roses upon his gravesite. The service was immediately followed by a cocktail reception, catered by the Western Colony's Reed and Michele Kneale.

Rainy weather on Sunday, September 17, did not dampen public attendance. Nearly 100 participants throughout the day were treated to tours of the church and burying grounds, exhibits from four lineage and historical societies, including Daughters of the American Revolution, 18th-century period dancing, and period military demonstrations. Media coverage included placements within six area publications,

while local TV news channel KDKA-CBS sent a crew to film a full two-minute segment subsequently featured on that evening's broadcast. Most gratifying to Kammenzind, the Pennsylvania Mayflower Society's information table, staffed by Western Colony Historian Jeanne Nikolaison, had nine attendees leave their information about applying for membership; another two prospects reached out the following week.

South's new headstone promises to last another century or two. The Society of Mayflower Descendants gained a gateway ancestor and reclaimed a family member from the past. The Western Colony and Kammenzind's team of dedicated volunteers can be thanked for this remarkable and memorable experience, unique in the 127-year history of the Pennsylvania Mayflower Society.



Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Andrew Muhl.

Thanksgiving and the Fall Harvest Member Question

By Co-Editors Pam and Sharyn



This holiday season, let us reflect on the First Fall Harvest of our ancestors. What is one of your family traditions that you believe may be similar to your Ancestor's traditions?

Jennifer Dickson: Each October through January, my husband and son hunt for white-tailed deer on our property. They start during archery season, continue through rifle season, and conclude at the end of flintlock season. I support them by keeping the fire burning in the fireplace and by providing them with delicious-smelling comfort food when they come in from the cold. We harvest several deer annually (within the limit of our game commission-provided licenses). We keep a couple to eat throughout the year and donate the others to an organization called "Hunters Sharing the Harvest," which distributes the meat to local food banks. I feel particularly close to my ancestors as I enjoy the experience of the hunt and the nutritious free-range meat that I savor throughout the year. I expect that those who came before me would have shared what they could spare with their community, and I like to think of others sitting down to a healthy and wholesome meal that we helped to provide. I know that there are some who do not approve of hunting, but the deer are so abundant in my area that they need to be managed, and we feel like stewards of our land. The main difference between our family and those that came before us is our chest freezer!

Karen Burbidge: Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the multitude of blessings bestowed upon us each and every day by God and being grateful for His love, guidance, and support. While it's important to do this each and every day, Thanksgiving provides the opportunity to refocus our attention on all we have rather than what we don't have, realizing we need to appreciate our relationships with friends, family, and God. As the saying goes, "The most important things in life are not things." For my family, Thanksgiving is a great reminder of this tenet.

James Campbell SMDPA Governor: The Thanksgiving traditions I most treasure are those foods unlikely to be encountered throughout the rest of the year. My mother always makes pumpkin pie with Hubbard squash, to lend it more flavor and texture. My mother also makes cranberry sauce from scratch, also lending more flavor and texture. We chuckle when Thanksgiving guests would be expecting cranberry sauce to be plopped out of a can and wriggle on a plate. One year, we had a Thanksgiving guest from France. She expressed that she was relatively familiar with

everything served except cranberry sauce, exclaiming, "I have never experienced this combination of tart and sweet – so unusual!" We also feature mashed turnips, owing to my paternal Grandfather's training as a French chef and his looking for ways to spice up our offerings – parsnips in addition to potatoes, for example. Finally, we always enjoy creamed onions, perhaps a nod to my maternal Grandfather's southern roots. When all four dishes appear on our table, then it feels like Thanksgiving.

Terri Enright: Think of all the things we are thankful for over the past year. Gathering friends and family and eating a big meal to celebrate!

Laura Tyndall: A tradition in our family is that the youngest person in that gathering has to prepare the turkey jelled cranberry slices, which is the last thing to go onto the festive table. We have a turkey-shaped cookie cutter (and now leaves and acorns) that has been passed through at least 3 generations. It is fun to watch the thrill of a child making a traditional and tasty part of the meal.



Deanna Stratton: We say Grace before we eat.

Priscilla Schneider: Three generations of my family come together on Thanksgiving Day and have always participated in a foot race called "The Turkey Trot." It is Tradition!

Ashley Reasner: Inviting friends and people I do not know for dinner at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Michael Saunders: Susquehanna Governor: When the grandkids are here for Thanksgiving, we go all out with a Mayflower-related Thanksgiving celebration. We are all reminded of our family Heritage. They learned about the Pilgrims in school, so this really brings it home. We share the history of the first Thanksgiving in 1621. The grandchildren know that their ancestors were actually participants in the first Thanksgiving. We explain how this was a celebration of a successful harvest and that they invited the Native Americans who befriended them to the celebration. We also mention that they had similar kinds of food available, including turkey, vegetables, and other goodies, the same as the Pilgrims had at the First Thanksgiving.

Reed Kneale past SMDPA Governor: Over three days, we always break out our black powder muskets for demonstrations of accuracy and engage in outdoor skill games. Just kidding...we enjoy breaking bread together and sharing one thing we are grateful for before feasting on fowl and pies.

Jyl Abbott Reeves: Ohhhh, how I miss my mother and our family traditions. My mother would store many root vegetables to be served around the holidays. Her father was an avid hunter, so he would have plenty of venison and

turkeys to share. He was also the town lawyer & if people did not have the money to pay for his services, he bartered for a chicken or something similar. My mother carried on the traditions of serving butternut squash (my sister still hates it), potatoes, turkey, rabbit (from our neighbor; I was amazed watching her clean it in the sink!!), and pumpkin pies. My father was the General Manager of the ABC station, and if any of his employees were stuck in Harrisburg, they were invited around our table. Friendship, fellowship, and the fall harvest.... sigh *

Mimi Barclay Johnson, Former Governor SMDPA: For our Barclay-Johnson family, a shared tradition for all ages is gathering together for prayers of thanks followed by eating lobster, venison, turkey, corn(bread), squash, creamed onions, spinach, beans, spiced cider, and cranberries!

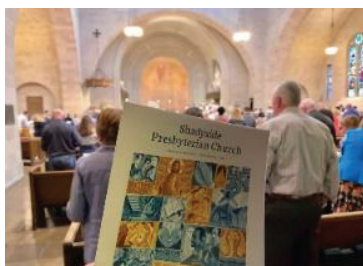
Charlene Servian: When I was growing up in Connecticut, we had Thanksgiving at our family homestead in Granby. After the main meal, the men and older youth would go into the backyard at the farm and do skeet shooting with 22s and shotguns. I could envision the Pilgrim men and Indians showing off their hunting skills after their meal. BTW-We stopped doing this in the early 1980s as the newer neighbors did not quite understand our 'tradition' and kept calling the police.

Pam Palchowski, Editor: When I was a child, we would spend holidays in New England. We would go to the Cranberry Bog to get the fresh cranberries for the table. There would be a variety of nuts, creamed onions, and all the turkey trimmings. We would give thanks and break bread. There was always football involved after the meal.

Carlotta Hutton: Our Grandparents, the Frost and Head family, would travel East from the Midwest every year. We would all meet at the Haverford Hotel in Haverford, PA, every Christmas. Warm and wonderful memories!

Michelle Morrison: Some of our traditions are giving thanks, playing games, spending some time outdoors, and opening our gathering to people whom we know do not already have a place to go for the holiday. I believe each of those are traditions of the first Thanksgiving!

John Baldridge: One of the family traditions that I believe may be similar to my Ancestor's tradition is attending church and singing the Psalms. Although the Puritans eliminated choral music and musical instruments in their religious services because these were associated with Roman Catholicism, they did sing Psalms. Many Protestant Churches practiced psalmody, and I take comfort in knowing that I am singing some of the very same Psalms as my ancestors.



Scotti Sawyer-Kershner, Past SMDPA Governor: Cooking is our Thanksgiving tradition, and our holiday choices are similar to our ancestors. We always made fresh cranberries either crushed or cooked with just a bit of water until they pop open. Today, I make a Cranberry Orange Relish. I add one tablespoon of sugar to one pound of fresh cranberries, and one orange, and then it gets chopped. Or I cook 1lb of fresh berries with 1/3c of water and sugar to taste. This will set as it cools. Happy Thanksgiving.

Dr. Lori Lange: Prayers to God for his blessings and thanksgiving. My ancestors are John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley.

Carol L. Hodes: My mother always made a potato-based stuffing. The recipe is probably more of a German-Scandinavian tradition.

Sharyn S. Davis, Editor: Several years ago, I began a new tradition when I found our Pilgrim connection. I purchased a tablecloth and have embroidered the names of our GSMD-proven Pilgrims around the center. Anyone who joins us for Thanksgiving dinner is asked to sign their names on the tablecloth, and I embroider them for future generations to enjoy. It's fun to welcome new people into the family and will be special in years to come to look back and remember those who dined with us in the past. I'd like to think we welcome guests to our table just as the Pilgrims welcomed the Native Americans to theirs.

“How to Prepare for Thanksgiving Discussions” is an article that is well worth reading. The article can be found on our SMDPA website. The article reflects on our Mayflower Ancestors, the Wampanoags, and the first Thanksgiving. <http://www.sail1620.org>.

Member Spotlight Painting with Light

By James Buckner, Elder



It is an honor to spotlight one of our SMDPA officers, James Buckner. He has touched the lives of many people in his role as an Elder, Educator, and Friend. His talents are endless. His ability to use his camera to capture light is incredible. Thank you, Mr. Buckner, for sharing your talents; you are appreciated.

My name is James Robert Buckner (if you are a Waltons fan, it is Jim Bob). I was born on Cape Cod on January 3, 1951 AD. However, we moved to Ohio when I was 3 years old. I first became interested in photography in high school. We had to take a graphic arts shop, and a part of that was learning to take pictures and then develop the film. My first camera was a little white Polaroid camera. After graduating from high school in 1969, I joined the U.S. Navy. I was active from 1970 till 1976. When in Japan for my last year, I bought my first 35mm camera. It was a Pentax K-1000. It was then that my interest in photography really took off.

After getting off active duty on Feb 11, 1976, I met the girl I was going to marry for the first time on Friday the 13th of February. I proposed to her on April Fool's Day, and we were married at the end of July before starting Bible college in August. At college, I took pictures for the yearbook. Over time, I bought better cameras. I took a professional photography course from the New York Institute of Photography. I have done wedding pictures, but my main interest was taking pictures of lighthouses, covered bridges, and waterfalls. After graduating from college, I started teaching. I mostly taught science but also taught photography and was in charge of the yearbook. I have won ribbons at our town fair and in the camera club to which I belong. It was in this club that I learned a technique called "painting with light." The Mayflower ship is an example of that.



I have always had a love for history which expanded to include family history and genealogy. My uncle from Cape Cod was the first to discover my connection to the Mayflower. At first, we thought I went back to William

Brewster, but that did not pan out. However, we were able to establish my connection to John Howland and Richard Warren. Then I found out about the Society of Mayflower Descendants and immediately wanted to join. Getting the documentation was relatively simple since all the ancestors lived in the Plymouth/Cape Cod area.

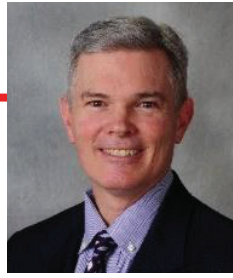
After joining, I wanted to be involved as much as I could. With my background in education, I found myself as the Education Committee Chair. After interacting with the reenactors from Plimoth, I said to myself, "I would love to do that." I had a set of period clothes made by the same lady who made them for the reenactors in Plimoth. The first time I reenacted in a school was for my granddaughter Lyla's 3rd grade class. I pretended to be my 11th great-grandfather, John Howland. I told them about our voyage, including me falling overboard. A couple of weeks later, I got a note from the teacher. She said that she had just shown the Charlie Brown Thanksgiving DVD. In it, they show John Howland falling overboard. One of the kids yelled out, "That's Lyla's Grandfather". I guess I made an impression. After that, I started visiting more schools, Boy Scout meetings, libraries, and churches.

I have always been interested in spiritual things. I enjoy a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I was ordained in 2013 and have enjoyed serving as the Elder for both the State Society and the Susquehanna Colony. I enjoy planning and participating in our annual Thanksgiving Services. I want each member to know that if I can ever do anything for you, let me know. I am looking forward to many more years of serving the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Summer Social Events

By James Reed Campbell Jr.



My aesthetics professor at Syracuse University, Dr. Larry Bakke (1932-1990), once lectured about composition and negative space. He explained how he enjoyed visiting Colonial Williamsburg for its authenticity. “What’s remarkable,” he said, “is not as much the historically preserved buildings, but more the historically preserved spaces in-between these buildings!” SMDPA members were able to experience this kind of historic authenticity at our first-ever Summer Social Events.

On Saturday, July 29, 27 SMDPA members and guests from four “sister societies” enjoyed a private group tour of Historic Sugartown in Malvern. It consisted of eight buildings situated right where they were initially erected alongside rural Sugartown Road in the 19th century. I believe only the Book Bindery had been moved from another location. We were taken through the preserved General Store, School Room, Garrett House, and Bank Barn. Afterward, we settled around a long table inside the Carriage Museum for an excellent boxed lunch from Dixie Picnic. Executive Director Zach Birro and his two tour guides saw perfectly to everyone’s needs. All through our experience, we gained an excellent sense of what it felt like to live within the relative micro-communities of our ancestors from this period.

On Saturday, August 26, 34 SMDPA members and guests from three “sister societies” headed to the Brandywine Museum of Art in historic Chadds Ford for private group tours of the studios of two of America’s most renowned artists: N.C. Wyeth (1882-1945) and his son Andrew Wyeth (1917-2009). We also got to see the first floor and grounds of N.C. Wyeth’s family home. Both studios were much like the artists had left them, with various props for compositional reference, photos, books, films, toy collections, and other tools for their inspiration. They are situated in what were then farmer’s fields, which have since grown into verdant woods. Both studios featured large picture windows to capture the more neutral and consistent northern light. I especially appreciated seeing the scaffolding N.C. Wyeth used to paint a 14-foot-high mural of William Penn and the colonization of Pennsylvania, which is also on display.

Afterward, we all enjoyed boxed lunches set aside for us in the museum cafeteria, followed by self-guided tours of the museum collections. An exhibit of 20th-century American artist Joseph Stella (1877-1946) proved a revelation, with his decorative paintings of flora and religious imagery offering jewel-like imagery that seemed more akin to stained glass than paint-on-canvas. Thank you to those 61 SMDPA members and guests who joined us in fellowship. If you

have ideas for similar group tours of historic properties and exhibits for next year’s Summer Social Events, please let us know at smdpa-governor@sail1620.org.



Governor Campbell and Mrs.



Gathering for lunch.



General Store with our guide.



Summer Cemetery Visits

By Sharyn Davis, Co-Editor



What did I do on my summer vacation? Early in June, just after school was out for the summer, I took my iPad and headed to a local cemetery just south of where I live. I'm very familiar with Orcutt's Cemetery (a.k.a. the Clark Cemetery) near Noxen in Wyoming County since my family had used it from its early beginnings, right up until two years ago when we said "goodbye" to my Uncle Elmer.

The family lore is that the cemetery's first interment was for a young man named Asahel Barnes in 1823. Mr. Barnes was visiting the area when he died unexpectedly. The creeks in the area were swollen that April from the snow melt, and Mr. Barnes' family could not return his body to be buried in the family plot. My 5th great-grandparents, Philemon and Elizabeth Clark, offered a place on their farm as a final resting place for the young Mr. Barnes. Two hundred years later, his headstone still stands, albeit crooked and somewhat hard to read. That afternoon, I vowed to learn how to clean his stone properly; I photographed it and placed a GPS marker in the Find-a-Grave app on my iPad.

My goal then was to photograph and GPS as many stones in the cemetery as possible and fulfill Find-a-Grave photo requests for people who cannot make it to the cemetery on their own. Before I arrived home that day, I had three emails from people who had made some of those photo requests. They were so appreciative of my efforts on their behalf. One of the women and I exchanged emails and have corresponded since the first day she emailed her thanks.

She recently sent me a link to a 48-state tour of cemetery preservation workshops and said she hoped to attend one in her area. As a member of DAR and being called to community service focusing on old cemeteries, I checked out the tour online. As luck would have it, a free cemetery preservation workshop was being held in the Wilkes-Barre City Cemetery in Luzerne County on a Friday when I had no other plans. My mind was made up; I would attend.

While at another cemetery project earlier that week, Cindy Holdridge (a DAR and SMDPA member) asked me if I was attending the Wilkes-Barre workshop. I told her I was and would meet her there. We were welcomed by Wilkes-Barre's Mayor George C. Brown, Dr. William V. Lewis, Jr., Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and several other local officials.

Mr. Jonathan Appell, the founder of Atlas Preservation in Southington, CT, ran the workshop. He talked a little about the history of cemeteries, the types of materials used to make headstones throughout the years, and how to clean headstones properly. Brushes, scrapers, water sprayers, and bottles of cleaning solution were handed out to anyone

wanting to try cleaning a monument. I chose to clean the white marble stones of two brothers, veterans of the Civil War, who are buried next to each other.

In the afternoon, Mr. Appell chose a badly heaved and leaning stone and walked us through the process while he reset and leveled the stone. The last demonstration of the day was the repair of a cracked-in-half marble tablet headstone of a relative of Dr. Lewis. Although the stone was so terribly deteriorated to the point of being unreadable, it was satisfying to see it standing in one piece again.

Atlas Preservation's 48-state tour is winding down for this season, but follow along and watch the videos on their website. <https://atlaspreservation.com/> If you are interested in cleaning or repairing the headstones of family members or those buried in your local cemeteries, please take the time to learn the proper way to clean them.

It just goes to show how one little trip to the local cemetery can turn into learning new things, meeting new people, and sharing new ideas, all while preserving history and providing much-needed community service. Oh! As a bonus of attending the workshop, I talked with Joan Cavanaugh, a knowledgeable cemetery friend. She helped me locate the headstone of my husband's great-grandmother. We will be going back to clean and care for her stone.

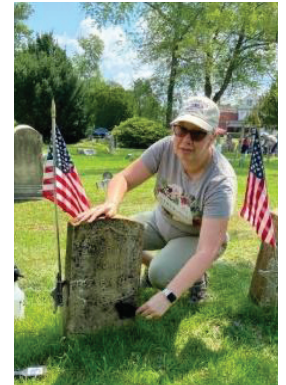


Photo Credit-Cindy Holdridge and Lorraine Smith



The Pennsylvanian Mayflower Series Lineage Agencies for SMDPA Members

By Secretary Lois Revenaugh



During a previous SMDPA meeting, we discussed using Artificial Intelligence to write job descriptions, articles, etc..... So, I thought I would query, "What lineage societies can I join as a member of the Mayflower?" (BTW - when I simply used Google with the same question, all I got were the family lineage societies along with the state societies. I guess AI is a much better way to find answers.)

Here is the answer:

As a member of the Mayflower Society, you would be eligible for membership in several other lineage societies that recognize Mayflower ancestry. Here are a few lineage societies that Mayflower Society members may qualify for:

1. General Society of Mayflower Descendants (Mayflower Society): The Mayflower Society itself is a lineage society that requires documented descent from one or more passengers who arrived on the Mayflower in 1620.

2. Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor: This lineage society recognizes descendants of the original settlers of Windsor, Connecticut, including those with Mayflower ancestry.

3. Descendants of the Founders of New Jersey: This society is open to descendants of the original settlers of New Jersey, including those with Mayflower ancestry.

4. Society of the Descendants of the Colonial Clergy: If you have Mayflower ancestry and are descended from a colonial clergyman, you may be eligible for membership in this society.

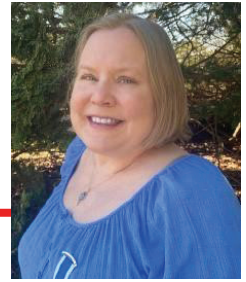
5. Order of the First Families of Maine: This lineage society recognizes descendants of individuals who settled in Maine prior to statehood in 1820, including those with Mayflower ancestry.

6. Descendants of the Founders of Hartford: If you have Mayflower ancestry and can trace your lineage back to the original settlers of Hartford, Connecticut, you may be eligible for membership in this society.

These are just a few examples of lineage societies that Mayflower Society members may qualify for. There are many other societies that focus on specific regions, surnames, or historical events, so it's worth exploring further based on your specific lineage and interest.

America's Oldest Wooden House: the 1638 Braman-Nothnagle House in Gibbstown, NJ

By Heather Horton



The oldest surviving homes of the Mayflower Pilgrims are those of their children: the Jabez Howland House in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and the John Alden House in Duxbury, Massachusetts. However, there are the remaining foundations of John and Elizabeth Tilley Howland's first home in Duxbury and John and Priscilla Mullins Alden's first home in Duxbury. None of the wooden structures of these residences remains.

Fortunately, a wooden cabin in New Jersey was built sometime between 1638 and 1648, approximately the same period as the Alden and Howland homes would have been constructed, and remains standing on its original site. The C.A. Nothnagle Log House, also known as the Braman-Nothnagle Log House, is the oldest surviving wooden structure on its original site in North America. (For those interested in historical preservation- it's currently for sale for \$262,000- with its 1732 addition- see 406 Swedesboro Rd, Gibbstown, NJ, on Zillow with many photos.)

It was built in the Colony of New Sweden, a brief attempt by Sweden to establish their own colony in North America in the areas of present-day Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The Braman-Nothnagle House measures 16 by 22 feet, somewhat larger than a typical cabin, which would have been about 12 by 12. (The Alden house foundation was 38 by 10.5 feet, and the c 1638 John Howland house was 33 by 17.5 feet.) It may have been built by Benjamin Braman. The cabin was made of oak logs that were squared with what appeared to have been hand axes (by my eye). No nails were used during construction. The builder used wooden pegs called trunnel pins or treenails. The trunnel pins start as a wooden dowel with a wide wedge at one edge. They are hammered into place, and the wedge keeps them in position. The cabin corners had double dovetail joints. The fireplace bricks probably were taken from the ballast on a ship from Europe. The hardware in the fireplace is consistent with having been forged in a Nordic country in the 1590s. The logs were graveled and chinked; two were removable to increase ventilation. The original floor was dirt, but a wood floor was added about 100 years after initial construction. The cabin was occupied until 1918, then preserved for historical interest while the owners lived in the 1732 addition.

There is a Wikipedia entry, C. A. Nothnagle Log House - Wikipedia, but there are far more photos on the realty listings. I was unable to get an appointment to view the house.

SMDPA Member Reenactor

By Cindy Lake Holdridge

Recently, I was invited to perform at the Sayre Historical Society Museum. It was a presentation of five historically essential individuals in our town's history. My role was to dress in period clothing to tell the story of Mary Packer Cummings. (1839-1912).

Mary's father, Asa Packer, was born in 1805 in Mystic, Connecticut. At seventeen years of age, he walked from his home to Brooklyn, Susquehanna County, PA. He wanted to become a carpenter's apprentice with his cousin Edward.

Asa and Edward came to the nearby small village of Springville to work. Asa built a home there that is still lived in today. Asa also met a young girl in Springville, Sarah Blakeslee, whom he would marry in 1828. They lived there for a time. Asa would farm in the warm months and go to nearby Tunkhannock on the Susquehanna River in the winter. There, he would build canal boats. He was barely able to support his family.

By 1830, Asa moved his family to Mauch Chunk, PA. It was booming with transportation on the Lehigh River. There, he built and operated coal arks. Mary's father amassed a large fortune from the canal system transporting coal from Northeastern PA to Philadelphia. Later, he invested in railroads.

Asa Packer died in 1879. His wife Sarah died in 1882. Mary's three sisters were deceased by 1873. Her two brothers, Robert and Henry, died in 1883 and 1884, respectively. In 1885, Mary was forty-six years old. She was single and the only immediate family member yet living. Mary would have to marry to inherit the family fortune. State laws at the time prohibited married women's right to inherit.

Mary chose her husband to be Charles Cummings, a close family friend. She had him sign a prenuptial agreement filed in Carbon County, PA. They married in April 1885. Per the agreement, Mary inherited the home, property, and family fortune. Charles was given \$100,000 of Lehigh Valley Railroad stock. Mary inherited fifty-four and a half million dollars, making her the wealthiest woman in the United States. Mary and Charles divorced eight years later, in 1893.

Some examples of Mary's independent spirit, intelligence, and foresight: in 1885, who knew a prenuptial agreement was possible or even used? Also, women of this period rarely chose to suffer the disgrace of a divorce.

This present-day reenactment has now become personal to me. Born in 1945, I grew up in a rural community near the small village of Springville. I was raised by a single mother and a widowed grandmother. I graduated high school with limited choices, just like Mary in 1885.

Mary never lived in Sayre, but her brother Robert did. Her father, Asa, had sent Robert to Sayre to manage the large

railroad workshops. Now in control of her family's wealth, Mary gave several generous gifts to the town of Sayre. The first was her belated brother Robert's home to be a hospital for railroad workers. It would be named Robert Packer Hospital.

Robert also built the Packer House, later called the Wilbur Hotel. Mary gave that to the newly formed nurses' training school in 1901. In 1912, she had the children's ward built at the Robert Packer Hospital.

Fifty years later, in 1962, I would choose to leave the rural community of Springville, the same rural community where Asa and Sarah lived. I attended nursing school at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre.

Because of Mary, I had that choice. Nursing would become a forty-year career for me. Did she know that in her mother's hometown, years later, a young teenage girl would benefit from her largess?

I am close to eighty years of age, and I still hear the words from those in my life who have tried to discourage my choices. I think of how brave Mary was. Now that I've portrayed her story, I feel energized by her intelligence and independent spirit. I am grateful for her gifts to Sayre. Those gifts are still benefiting us today.



Sales and Promotions and Fulfillment

By Laura Tyndall



Just in time for Thanksgiving, SMDPA is offering a hundredth anniversary reprint of "The Story of the Pilgrims." This volume was originally produced and printed by the John Hancock Insurance Company in 1923 on the 300th anniversary of the arrival of the ships Anne and Little James, which brought many of the original Mayflower Pilgrims' families to be reunited in Plymouth. It reviews the original passengers, the events which led up to their decision to come to America, and the early years of the Colony, with some illustrations.

The booklet is the perfect source to have available for Thanksgiving and compact enough to be included in holiday cards to family and friends. (It measures 4.5 inches x 6 inches)

The cost of each booklet is \$4 (includes shipping and handling). Details can be found here: <https://sail1620.org/catalog.php?cat=1&pid=74>

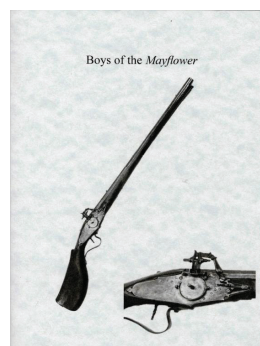
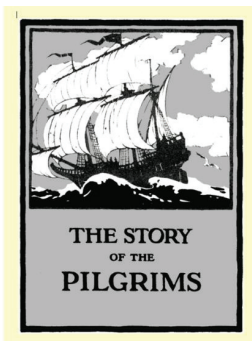
Note -booklet sale proceeds go to the SMDPA - Elizabeth Tilley Howland Scholarship Fund.

BOYS OF THE MAYFLOWER

New Booklet Available

You have seen the Compact Signer booklets, then we printed the "Women and Girls of the Mayflower" booklets. Now we have "Boys of the Mayflower!" Each booklet includes short bios of the Mayflower males under 21. The booklet includes pictures and information on the gun recovered from the John Alden homestead. The gun is now in the National Firearms Museum, and the story includes a first-person account of Francis Billington firing his father's gun on the Mayflower, as well as the only newspaper obituary of a Mayflower Pilgrim. "Boys of the Mayflower" is perfect as a Thanksgiving table favor or to include in a card to a grandchild.

All booklets are available online at <http://www.sail1620.org>.



SMDPA Position Openings

By Governor James Campbell

Please go to our website <http://www.sail.org> and explore the many areas of information.

Job Descriptions have been posted on the SMDPA website in the Members Area, on the side navigation panel. The URL is https://sail1620.org/SMDPA_Roles_and_Job_Descriptions

Thank you to our webmasters, Laura Tyndall and Scott Bond.

Help Wanted

SMDPA Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer



After five years of faithful service, our financial team of Treasurer Scott Bond and Assistant Treasurer Judi Biederman will be stepping down at our next Annual Meeting. We are grateful for their contributions, which included significant upgrades to SMDPA's operations. They both were integral to our success.

We need your help! Scott and Judi have pledged to help train their replacements. If you wish to volunteer, or if you know another SMDPA member whom you believe would make a strong candidate, please contact Reed Kneale, Chair of our Nominating Committee, rkneale@occluss.com. You may also reach out directly to Scott, scott.bond@verizon.net, or Judi, judibiederman@gmail.com, to learn more about what their important roles entail.

A professional financial background is not strictly necessary for the Treasurer, although it would be an advantage. Solid administrative and interpersonal skills are the most important qualifications for an Assistant Treasurer. In either case, you will be joining a wonderful team and providing an invaluable service for the ongoing financial health of our Society.

To view the full job descriptions, please visit https://sail1620.org/SMDPA_Roles_and_Job_Descriptions

Thank you for your prayerful consideration! – James Campbell, Governor, smdpa-governor@sail1620.org
SMDPA Website Masters

Pennsylvania Society of Mayflower
 Descendants
 SMDPA
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SAVE THE DATE

November 18, 2023	Thanksgiving/Worship Dinner	Donegal Presbyterian Church
February 17, 2024	Board Of Assistants Meeting	Merion Cricket Club
April 28, 2024	SMDPA Spring Annual Meeting	Cameron Estate Inn
June 22, 2024	Board of Assistants Meeting	Virtual Program
July 19, 2024	Summer Social Event	TBA
August 23, 2024	Summer Social Event	TBA
October 19, 2024	Board of Assistants Meeting	Merion Cricket Club
November 23, 2024	Thanksgiving/Worship Dinner	TBA

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