

# THE PENNSYLVANIA MAYFLOWER

www.sail1620.org

Spring/Summer 2023

VOLUME XXXVI ISSUE NO 1

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

Find us on Facebook



**Sharyn Davis, Editor**  
sharynsdavis@gmail.com

**Pam Palchowski, Editor and Chair**  
ariverboater@aol.com

## Message from Governor James Reed Campbell Jr

Dear SMDPA members,

It is a great honor and privilege to address you all as Governor. I am taking the reins from gifted leadership while continuing to collaborate with a great team. I trust that we will be able to maintain and extend the excellent level of service you have come to enjoy.

In January, the *Wall Street Journal* featured an essay, “The Lifelong Power of Close Relationships,” by Robert Waldinger and Marc Schulz. Both men are clinical therapists, directors of the Harvard Study of Adult Development, and co-authors of their recent book, *The Good Life: Lessons from the World’s Longest Scientific Study of Happiness* (Simon & Schuster, 2023). Dr. Waldinger’s TED Talk about the Harvard Study, “What Makes a Good Life,” has been viewed more than 42 million times and is one of the ten most-watched TED talks ever. You can perform an internet search to learn more.

The essay’s subtitle began, “Social fitness—cultivating strong connections to others—is as least as important as proper nutrition, physical exercise, and adequate sleep.” This conclusion derives from nearly a century of survey data, as Harvard followed a series of cohorts throughout most of their adult lives – more than 724 men and 1,300 of their male and female descendants over three generations. In the authors’ words:

“Close personal connections are significant enough that if we had to take all 85 years of the Harvard Study and boil it down to a single principle for living, one life investment that is supported by similar findings across a variety of other studies, it would be this: ‘Good relationships keep us healthier and happier.’ Period. If you want to make one decision to ensure your own health and happiness, it should be to cultivate warm relationships of all kinds.”

As direct descendants from 26 of America’s first families, we are in a unique position to appreciate the wisdom of these findings. We view our relationships with



family and friends as extending well beyond those with whom we have personally interacted – from grandparents down to grandchildren – but also to those we have come to know and respect through our research. Our relationships stretch back 400 years and even across the world to those millions of “Mayflower” cousins alive today whom we have not yet met. We are all kindred, and we work hard to keep alive yesterday’s memories and today’s possible connections.

If all of America knew what we know – just how interconnected we are – there would not be nearly as much polarization and alienation as it appears today!

For example, I serve on the Board of another lineage society. A fellow Board member and I always got along quite well, even collaborating on an extensive project. After working together for months, I finally asked about her lineage. We discovered to our mutual delight, that her ancestor moved back in 1645 from Plymouth, MA, to help found the town of Eastham, MA, along with my ancestor. These two families moved together again 20 years later to what is now Little Compton, RI, and then a few years after that to help found the town of Piscataway, NJ. Their descendants intermarried for several generations afterward. Warm relationships like these are baked into America’s collective DNA – they just need to be brought more often to current consciousness.

Therefore, let us stay strong in celebrating our Pilgrim ancestors and connecting with each other. And let “warm relationships” be our guiding theme for 2023.



First “in-person” BOA meeting in a long time!

# Pennsylvania Society Holds Thanksgiving Service and Dinner

By Sharyn Davis, Co-Editor, *The Pennsylvania Newsletter*

In a little church among the graves, members of the Society of Mayflower Descendants of Pennsylvania (SMDPA) gathered to honor the memories of their Pilgrim ancestors and celebrate Thanksgiving. The Thanksgiving service and dinner were held on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Old St. David's Episcopal Church in Wayne, Pennsylvania, of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow fame. The beautiful setting for this service was chosen by SMDPA Elder Reverend James Buckner. The quaint church, still with no electricity, was built in 1715 by Welsh colonists and is surrounded by historic gravesites.

The services were opened with the hymn, "We Gather Together," led by Brian Atwood. The presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance were followed by a welcoming message by Governor Reed Kneale and his reading of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Proclamation from Thanksgiving 1981.



Other service highlights included the readings of *Psalm 100*, by Sue Henning, the Pilgrim Pledge, by Co-Deputy Governor James Campbell, and the Mayflower Compact, by Co-Deputy Governor Heather Horton. Campbell read the Pilgrim names aloud, with members acknowledging their ancestors with a raised hand. Elder Rev. James Buckner read the necrology of the Society members who had passed away last year. The Homily was given by the Rev. Frank Allen, and the service concluded with the attendees singing "The Mayflower Hymn," compiled by Kelley Atwood. Canned goods and a monetary collection were taken to support the local food pantry and the church.

The annual Thanksgiving dinner was held in the Merion Cricket Club Cottage Room in Haverford, Pennsylvania. Kneale welcomed members and guests with a few remarks and door prizes of books, pamphlets, a framed print by Delaware artist Karen Kuhrt, and even a Pilgrim Barbie. Of course, turkey and all the trimmings were served for dinner, with a delicious piece of pumpkin pie for dessert.

Before Kneale left to return to Pittsburgh, he was delighted to honor Dr. Heather Horton as the 2022 SMDPA "Distinguished Pilgrim Award recipient." Dr. Horton is our current Co-Deputy Governor, the Education Chair, the Scholarship Chair, the current Sales Committee Chair,

and the author of a series of booklets about the Mayflower women. These books are sold in our store to further the cause of Pilgrim education. Thank you, Heather, for donating hundreds of hours to our Society. Congratulations on earning the title of "Distinguished Pilgrim!"

James Goss, the 2022 Elizabeth Tilley Howland Scholarship Essay winner, was introduced by the Education Chair, Dr. Horton, and she invited James to read his winning essay. James is the son of SMDPA member Daryl Goss; he is a graduate of Abington High School and is attending West Chester University. Best wishes, James, as you continue your education and congratulations on the scholarship win.



After a beautiful meal and great conversation with our Pilgrim cousins, it was time for the evening to end. It appeared as guests were leaving that they were standing a little taller, proud of their Pilgrim heritage.

"This year's Thanksgiving events enjoyed our highest attendance in recent memory, even pre-pandemic," said Campbell. "We were oversubscribed! Credit goes to our wonderful team of volunteers, including Secretary Laura Tyndall and Event Chair Deborah Markowitz."

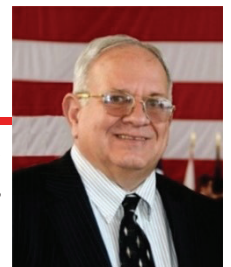


Outgoing Governor Kneale will assume the Nominating Chair role when Co-Deputy Governor James Campbell assumes the Governorship on January 1, 2023. "The members of the SMDPA are in good hands as the BOA is populated with seasoned veterans," Kneale said. "Jim brings many new skill sets and enthusiasm to the leadership role. I wish them continued success in meeting the needs of the members and fulfilling the mission in our constitution and bylaws."

This article was also printed in the Mayflower Quarterly, Spring 2023 edition.

## Susquehanna Colony By Colony Governor Mike Saunders

Hi Mayflower Cousins! A couple of weeks ago, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Punxsutawney Phil, that infamous



woodchuck, saw his shadow and predicted another six weeks of winter for us all. Looking at the current weather forecast, you must wonder what he was thinking.

This past weekend, several of my grandsons, their parents, and I assaulted Ski Liberty in Fairfield, PA, with our skis. The snow was “pretty slushy” with spring-like conditions. Around here in Gettysburg, some of our trees are beginning to think of spring by starting their budding process. Hey, it is still the middle of winter, isn't it? Anyway, for those of us who are handy with a calendar, guess what; official spring is only six weeks away from February 2<sup>nd</sup> anyway.

Being inquisitive, I decided to investigate the history of Groundhog Day. As with most absurd events, the history of Groundhog Day in Pennsylvania is shrouded in lore, and deciphering truth from myth can be difficult. Yes, Groundhog Day is celebrated both in Punxsutawney and in Quarryville in Lancaster County at the Slumbering Groundhog Lodge. However, rumor has it that the Quarryville groundhog, Octorara Orphie, is actually stuffed.

According to what I've read in PennLive, Groundhog Day likely has a basis in the European Christian holiday of Candlemas Day, which was on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. On this day, people would take their candles to church to have them blessed in hopes of blessings for their household for the rest of winter. As happens with holidays, lore began to creep into this religious holiday. One popular English folk song of the time included these lyrics:

*If Candlemas be fair and bright,  
Come, Winter, have another flight,  
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,  
Go Winter, and come not again.*

From this, it is not a far stretch to see how people connected shadows with longer winters and no shadows with the coming spring. When Europeans began to settle in Pennsylvania, they brought many of their traditions with them. Candlemas Day came with them to the New World as a tradition.

According to lore, they brought with them another Candlemas tradition: weather predictions by animals. In Europe, people would refer to the badger as the animal whose shadow they would look for. However, since badgers are not found in southeastern Pennsylvania, they opted for the next best thing: the groundhog (aka woodchuck). (Frankly, badgers are ornery, and I doubt I would want to confer about the weather forecast with a live one).

Anyway, enough of the local trivia. Here in Susquehanna Colony, we are also thinking of spring. Traditionally, our colony meeting and dinner are scheduled in the spring, generally following the SMDPA Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Cameron Estate Inn & Restaurant in Mount Joy. Governor Jim

Campbell and I and our wives had a wonderful dinner there a few months ago. I am sure the members attending will be very pleased with the Cameron Estate Inn. It is a great venue located in a beautiful area for the Annual Spring Meeting and dinner. I hope to see many of you there on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We have started to survey restaurants in and around the Harrisburg area for our Spring Colony Meeting. Based on our normal attendance at these kinds of functions, that narrows the field somewhat. Also, several venues we have contacted are still experiencing staffing shortages, so they have cut back on their banquet facilities. As this solidifies, expect communication from me in the next couple of weeks with a venue and a date. Have an outstanding remaining few weeks of winter, and remember, spring is just around the corner

– Cheers, Mike

## 2023 Annual Spring Meeting – Exciting Speaker and Venue

By Governor James Reed Campbell Jr.

We are pleased to announce an exciting speaker and venue for our Annual Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are meeting at the historic Cameron Estate Inn & Restaurant, 1855 Mansion Lane, Mount Joy, PA 17552 – centrally located for SMDPA members in pastoral Lancaster County. We will meet in the Springview Ballroom from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. A cash bar will open at noon, followed by a gourmet luncheon at 12:30 pm and our speaker at 1:00 pm.

To register, please visit our website at: <https://sail1620.org/meetinginfo.php?id=86&ts=1673532760>. Act soon, as seating is limited to 100, and we expect a sold-out event!

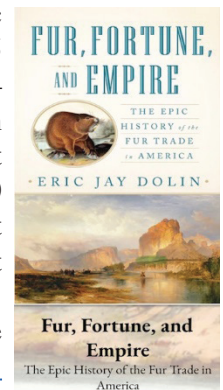
Our speaker, **ERIC JAY DOLIN**, is a best-selling author of fifteen books. He will be speaking on his sweeping narrative, **Fur, Fortune, and Empire: The Epic History of the Fur Trade in America**, which was chosen by the *Seattle Times* as one of the best nonfiction books of 2010, and also won the James P. Hanlan Book Award from the New England Historical Association. Dolin will be giving special focus



Eric Jay Dolin,  
Award-winning author

to his Chapter 4, “The Bible and the Beaver,” which details how our Pilgrim ancestors entered the fur trade of Maine to help repay their London investors and ensure the solvency of their fledgling Plymouth Colony.

Dolin's other books include **Leviathan: The History of Whaling in America**, which was chosen as one of the best nonfiction books of 2007 by



the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Boston Globe*, and also won the 2007 John Lyman Award for U.S. Maritime History; and **A Furious Sky: The Five-Hundred-Year History of America's Hurricanes**, which was a finalist for the Kirkus Prize, and was chosen as one of the best books of the year by *The Washington Post*, *Booklist*, *Library Journal*, and the editors at Amazon. His most recent book, published in 2022, is **Rebels at Sea: Privateering in the American Revolution**. A graduate of Brown, Yale, and MIT, where he received his Ph.D. in environmental policy, Dolin lives in Marblehead, Massachusetts, with his family. For more information, visit [www.ericjayedolin.com](http://www.ericjayedolin.com).

**Our Venue: Cameron Estate and Inn**

The area around Donegal Spring was carved out of William Penn's land grants and first settled by Scots Irish immigrants in 1714. The adjacent Donegal Presbyterian Church was established shortly thereafter in the 1720s. James Stevenson patented 312 acres of land north of the Church where the Cameron Estate Inn now stands, and he named the property "Seat of Beauty." One of James Stevenson's descendants, Major William McKinley, became the 25<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.



In 1981 the Cameron Estate was transformed into a country inn when Lancaster County culinary celebrity Betty Groff, who for decades was the face of Pennsylvania Dutch cooking, along with her husband Abe, purchased the estate. Today the estate continues as a country inn and restaurant where one can enjoy the hospitality of days long gone and where brides find a bucolic destination wedding. For more information, visit <https://cameronestateinn.com>.

**Weekend Vacationing:**

Our event is centrally located for those SMDPA members doing same-day travel. However, it could also make an excellent base for a weekend trip for the whole family. Lodgings in Mount Joy, Manheim, and Elizabeth include the Cameron Estate Inn, affordable chain hotels, and local bed-and-breakfasts. The closest attractions include Nissley Vineyards, National Watch and Clock Museum, Turkey Hill Experience, Mount Hope Estate & Winery, Wolf Sanctuary of Pennsylvania, plus all that nearby Mount Gretna, Hershey, Lancaster, and Amish country have to offer.

For tourism information, visit:

Discover Lancaster

<https://www.discoverlancaster.com/things-to-do>

Lebanon Valley <https://visitlebanonvalley.com>

Visit Hershey and Harrisburg

<https://www.visithersheyharrisburg.org>

Explore York <https://www.yorkpa.org>

**The Cameron Restaurant Luncheon Menu**

The Springview Ballroom will be the gathering place for our gourmet luncheon.

**Salad:** Spring Mix Greens Topped with Balsamic Vinaigrette with Almonds, Mandarin Oranges

**Entrees (one of two choices):**

- Lump Crab Cake and Red Pepper Aioli with Spinach, Feta and Roasted Pepper Frittata di Pane

-- or --

- Pork Loin with Orange-Apricot-Ginger Glaze

**Dessert:**

White Chocolate Raspberry Bread Pudding

**2023 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING AND LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM – \*\*\*\*\*Due by April 8th, also register on line [www.sail1620.org](http://www.sail1620.org)\*\*\*\*\***

Adult \$45    Junior \$20    9 & under \$10

Circle Meal Choice    Price Paid

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

Pork    or    Crab    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Pork    or    Crab    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Pork    or    Crab    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Pork    or    Crab    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Pork    or    Crab    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Pork    or    Crab    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Preferred method of payment is through our website. If you need to send a check, mail above reservation form with your check, made payable to SMDPA, to: SMDPA, 929 High Street, Suite 135, West Chester PA 19382

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## SMDPA Officer and Assistant Slate for 2023-2024

Past Governor Reed Kneale and the Nominating Committee submit the following Slate of Officers and Assistants to be considered for election at our Society's Annual Meeting on April 22, 2023. The meeting will be held at 10:30 am at the Cameron Estates Inn, Mount Joy, PA.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Position</u>
James Campbell	Governor
Dr. Heather Horton*	Deputy Governor
Scott Bond*	Treasurer
Judi Biederman*	Assistant Treasurer
OPEN	Secretary
OPEN	Assistant Secretary
Ginny Fossa*	Historian
Althea Fejes*	Registrar
Sue Henning*	Assistant Registrar
Reed Kneale*	DGG
Mike Saunders*	AGG
Keith Kammenzind*	Captain
James Buckner*	Elder
Melanie Lynagh*	Counselor
Lois Lang	Membership
Dr. Ronald Simonsen*	Surgeon

### Assistants

OPEN	BOA at large	2023
Lauren Klein*	BOA at large	2023
Peter Bort	BOA at large	2024
Sherri Smith*	BOA at large	2024
Lois Lang	BOA at large	2025
Pam Palchowski*	BOA at large	2025
Brian Atwood	BOA at large	2026
Deb Markowitz	BOA at large	2026
Pam Palchowski	BOA at large	2026

### Adhoc Committee Positions, Nonvoting

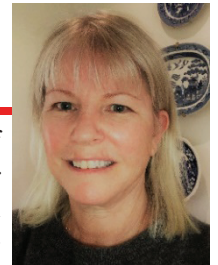
OPEN	Auditor
Dr. Heather Horton*	Education
Deb Markowitz*	Juniors
Pam Palchowski*	Newsletter Co-editor
Sharyn Davis*	Newsletter Co-editor
OPEN	Nominating
Joe Gifford	Parliamentarian
OPEN	Public Relations
Deb Georgantis Miller	Sales, Store
Dr. Heather Horton*	Scholarships
Deb Markowitz*	Social Events
OPEN	Social Media
Laura Tyndall*, Scott Bond*	Webmasters

-----  
An asterisk (\*) signifies an incumbent.

Any additional nominations may be delivered to Secretary Laura Tyndall at 929 S. High Street, Suite 135, West Chester, PA 19384. Additional nominations are accepted one week prior to the meeting in accordance with the Bylaws, Article IV Election of Officers.

## In Memoriam

### By Althea Fejes, Registrar



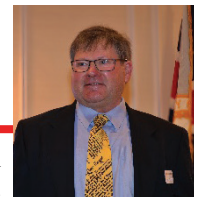
The members of the Board of Assistants of the Society of Mayflower Descendants of Pennsylvania would like to express their sympathy to the family and friends of our recently departed members. We thank you for your service and dedication to SMDPA.

**Katherine Dorr Neal** entered eternity on August 18, 2022; she was 108 years old. She worked at a doctor's office in high school and was encouraged to become a nurse. At the start of World War II, she joined the Woman's Corps as a nurse and attained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. Katherine took pride in being a direct descendant of a family that came to America on the Mayflower. She was a member of "Mayflower Descendants." She obtained a certificate and was a very proud member of SMDPA.

**Susan Rakestraw** was 94 years old when she died on the morning of July 11, 2022. Susan enjoyed many passions starting in high school as the captain of the field hockey team. She played on the basketball team, ice hockey, and baseball teams. She lived in WY, where her parents owned a ranch, where she enjoyed trap shooting, fly fishing, and assisting with ranch duties. She was an avid golfer and played with professionals, celebrities, and royalty. She was an active bridge player and an expert at needlepoint. Susan was proud of her family ancestry and was a lifetime member of the SMDPA. Our thoughts are with her brother, Col. Charles Colke, who is also an SMDPA life member.

## Financial Report

### By Scott Bond, Treasurer



As of Dec 31, 2022, SMDPA counted 852 GSMD Members, including 284 Life Members. Our Historian crew is super-fantastic! As a result, I have an invoice due to GSMD sitting on my desk for \$28,365, which is due Apr 1st – no joke.

One member highlighted that I keep mentioning the GSMD per capita dues increase announced in 2020 as a reason. Yes. Yes, I do, and you might see that again next

year, too. All Regular Members jumped immediately from \$15 to \$35, and Life Members graduated \$5/year over four years to bring them up to \$35 in 2024. The BOA made the decision to gradually increase our dues to meet the GSMD increase, and as you might expect, our costs are going up, too.

On the positive side, we have eliminated annual Junior dues, opting for a one-time Junior Application fee of \$15 upon joining.

<b>Income Category</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Dues	\$37,300	43.9%
Draw on Vanguard Funds	18,000	21.2%
New Member Receipts	12,900	15.2%
Investment Income	8,000	9.4%
Program Revenue	6,200	7.3%
Donations	2,600	3.1%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>	
<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Percent</b>
GSMD	\$37,100	43.6%
Education	15,000	17.6%
SMDPA Expenses	12,600	14.8%
Programs	9,000	10.6%
Newsletters / Programming	4,600	5.4%
Colony Stipends	3,800	4.5%
Misc	2,900	3.4%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>	

We also want to inform you of another GSMD proposal to be voted on in September. The intent is to double Application and Supplemental Application costs from \$125 to \$250 effective January 1, 2024. Again, this is tentative, but if you are thinking of applying, you might want to consider doing so this year. Stay tuned.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel to reach out to Scott Bond at Treasurer@sail1620.org.

## **SMDPA Dues**

**By Judi Biederman, Assistant Treasurer**



The 2023 dues process is well underway. Dues notices were sent out to all members via mail and e-mail in January, with a due date of March 31. As of the end of February, we had received dues from about 60 percent of our membership.

We have had to increase our dues again in order to pay an increase in the annual per-member charge levied by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, our national society. For 2023, our dues went up slightly to \$70 per

member. However, we have eliminated dues for our Junior members. Going forward, Juniors will pay a \$15 initiation fee but no yearly dues.

Also, because of the GSMD increase, we are not offering any new Life Memberships. We are researching the issue and hope to offer them again at a later time. Existing Life Memberships are still valid.

When paying your dues, please consider making a donation to SMDPA. Donations are tax-deductible and help to support our valuable education and scholarship programs. You may designate 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.

If you have not yet paid your dues, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible to avoid a late fee of \$10, which will be added to all dues still outstanding after March 31.

Dues may be paid by check or online via credit card. Please make checks payable to “SMDPA” and mail them to:

SMDPA  
929 S. High Street, Suite 135  
West Chester, PA 19362

If you would like an electronic invoice to pay online with a credit card, please send an e-mail request to me at judibiederman@gmail.com. And, of course, please reach out with any questions.

## **Truth Must Be Our Compass**

**By Ronald W. Simonsen, M.D.  
SMDPA Board Surgeon**



Truth must be our compass. For all of us in the USA, the proprietors of humanity’s greatest experiment, truth has been the most indispensable function of all reasons that have provided for our continued cooperation, progression, and happiness. So, how do we ascertain what is truth? More important than finding the answer is knowing the question. Answers take time and patience. The courage to ask and the energy to search come more easily with practice. Although answers sometimes seem to simply pop up, serendipity is usually not about dumb luck. Dr. Fleming, the father of penicillin, had known his microorganisms intimately when the unexpected happened, and he was prepared. It can be the same for all of us. Truth is possible.

In a Special Forces camp in An Loc, SVN, in 1966, I met a Ukrainian. Sitting with friends one evening around a table in the center of a tent in the small compound housing

Detachment B-33, 5th Special Forces Group, and my medical team, I listened eagerly as he told his story. He had been a teenager near the end of WWII when he became a Ukrainian Freedom Fighter. Outnumbered, they fought the Russian army and were forced to slowly retreat across the Carpathians. After a long struggle, only a handful survived to cross the Iron Curtain. He came to the US and joined our army. In the escalating tempo of Vietnam that year, NVA & VC regiments entered our province on the Cambodian border. Occasionally, at unexpected intervals, our radio operator would burst into the mess hall and announce, “We heard the Russians!” They were close by.

In 1990, I went to Russia to protest in favor of a complete test ban on all nuclear weapons. We were guests of the Kazakh people. Once again, I saw that it’s not always the majority who control the narrative, and it’s not easy to get it back from thugs once they have it.

So, talk to others, cherish relationships, listen, and think. We will get past the storm if we support each other from the winds of disinformation engulfing the world. Prepared with truth, all together, we may proceed to expose and excise the drivers of carnage.

Is this naïve? A little. Unrealistic? I hope not. Outrageous? Maybe. Overly optimistic? No! It’s a rebuttal in a debate that our Pilgrim ancestors would have understood. It’s a response to the shrill voices that threaten violence and destruction. It is what led them to seek a better way, and it is for us to carry their cause forward as far as we can.

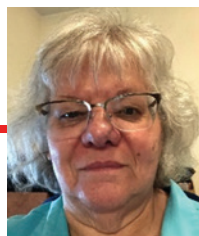
On the way home from Russia, I pondered. I felt so small, but I had done all I thought I could have. Then, a new star seemed to shine for me, and it has kept me looking forward. The Ukrainians, in a declaration of independence from the Soviets, demanded the removal of all nuclear weapons from their soil, and the huge arsenal was taken back to Russia. A few years later, another star joined to be my guide. Senator Sam Nunn explained to our audience at Chautauqua Institute that fissionable material from Kazakhstan had been transported to the US and by then was lighting one out of seven light bulbs.

Memories of family and friends, from good times and bad, form the backbone of our resilience. Our journey has only begun.

P. S. Covid is much better managed, but not gone.

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

SMDPA has added 35 new members and five new Junior members since the last report. The Historians continuously assist our perspective members in navigating the application system. The Co-Historians are Cinda Hartman, Keith Kammenzind, Lois M. Howanec, and Sharyn Davis.



## Welcome to our Newest Members:

Jones, Laura	Howland 12
Santoro, Diana	Howland 13
Johnson, Emily	Samson 10
Yando, Amy	Brewster 13
DeFlice, Ashley	Brewster 13
Lacy, Nannie	Bradford 11
Gomella, Mary	Bradford 12
Gomella, Leonard	Bradford 13
Gomella, Patrick	Bradford 13
Gomella, Andrew	Bradford 13
Gomella, Michael	Bradford 13
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

## New Junior Members:

Gomella, Adam  
Jonsson, Renee  
Siani-McGuire, Vivienne  
Siani, Brody

## Approved Supplements:

Sabin, Barbara	Bradford 12th
Curran, Stephen	Bradford 12th

## Thanksgiving Birthday Surprise

According to Lead Co-Historian Ginny Fossa, she received application documents from Mary Patricia “Tricia” Gomella in July. At the end of September, she asked if SMDPA could get her mother, four sons, and grandson approved as members by Thanksgiving. Since her mother is over 90, her mom’s application would go to the top of the pile, but Plymouth would put the other applicants at the bottom of the pile to be approved through the normal process. Ginny

asked Dr. Erin Schoepner, the Director of Genealogy and Research Services, if SMDPA could get the entire family approved at once, and she said, “yes!” The applications were mailed to Plymouth, and all were approved. Althea Fejes, the Registrar, got the certificates printed and mailed to Tricia Gomella in time for the Thanksgiving celebration.

Tricia’s mother, Nannie Lou “Nancy” Lacy, was celebrating her 95th birthday right after Thanksgiving. The family dressed as Pilgrims and celebrated with their new member Mayflower Society certificates. It was a wonderful gift for the whole family and a special surprise for their matriarch Nancy!

SMDPA would like to congratulate the entire Murray family, Nancy, Tricia, Patrick, Michael, Leonard, Andrew, and Adam, on becoming SMDPA members.

We wish Nancy Murray a very Happy 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. A memory that will always be cherished.



## Mayflower Education Update

By Heather Horton, Education Chair

2023 Scholarship and Educational Prize Opportunities

It’s spring and time for our scholarship competitions. First, for SMDPA descendants only, is the Elizabeth Tilley Howland Scholarship, which is a \$1000 educational scholarship awarded to a graduating high school/home school senior who is a member of or directly related to an active member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and who has been accepted by an accredited college, university, or trade program. The scholarship award, which is to be used only for education-related needs, will be paid to the educational institution. Entries are to be a minimum 750-word essay on the topic “How do the values of the Mayflower Pilgrims relate to your 21st-century life and plans?” Entries must be postmarked by July 1, 2023.

More information can be found at [sail1620.org](http://sail1620.org) under the member information, general scholarship information 2023.

Second, SMDPA is also sponsoring four prizes for National History Day at the state level. \$1000 Prizes for Best Senior Essay, Best Junior Essay, Best Senior Other Project, and Best Junior Other Project. Papers and websites will be submitted electronically, as in the past, but performances, exhibits, and documentaries will be presented live at the



University of Scranton on April 22-23.

Entries are made through your local National History Day contest. More information is available at [sail1620.org](http://sail1620.org). The National History Day website is [NHD.org](http://NHD.org). The 2023 theme is “Frontiers in History: People. Places, Ideas.”

Finally, we are looking at Plimoth Reenactor visits for the fall of 2023. This year they will be done in the Susquehanna Colony area. We are looking for 4-5 schools in that area that will have four classroom presentations each. The target age range is grades 3-6. Please contact Heather Horton, Education Chair, if you have a school in this region that would be interested.

## Rededication Project in Western PA

By Keith Kammenzind, SMDPA Captain



Old St. Luke’s Church in Scott Township, near Pittsburgh, is the oldest Episcopal Church in Southwestern Pennsylvania. It was founded after the French and Indian War. There is an abundance of history surrounding this church, including the cemetery that is on its land.

Daniel South was born in 1747 in New Jersey and died in 1811 in Chartiers Valley, PA. Mr. South was a veteran of both the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War. He participated in the campaign against the French at Fort Duquesne under General Forbes and Colonel Bouquet.

Mr. South was an early settler in the Chartiers Valley. He is of Mayflower descent. His Great Grandfather, fourth generation, is Mayflower passenger Edward Fuller.

The Society of Mayflower Descendants of Pennsylvania, in conjunction with Old St. Luke’s and Woodville Plantation, are working together to plan a rededication ceremony in the fall. Details will be posted to the SMDPA website in the summer.

## A Pilgrim’s Story

By Scott Bond, Treasurer

I am Scott Bond, a descendant of Francis Eaton, his wife, Sarah, and their son Samuel (b 1620), who came on the Mayflower as “a sucking child.” Sarah died that first winter in Plymouth.

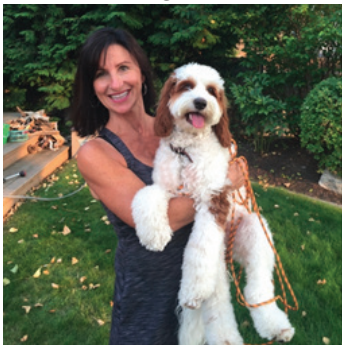
My sister-in-law and genealogy mentor, Marion Ghigliione, is aware of my Mayflower lineage. After almost 60 years of living in the prairie province of Saskatchewan,

Canada, she moved to Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada. Kelowna is 2,800 miles from my home in West Chester, PA. Her home is nestled in the Okanagan Valley on the eastern shore of Okanagan Lake and is surrounded by more than 20 vineyards.

At a small social function during the summer of 2016, Marion met Gail Eaton, born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and living only two doors down. Gail, it turns out, descends from Francis Eaton and his third wife, Christian Penn, and their son, Benjamin (b 1627). After laying out our documentation side-by-side, Marion determined that Gail and I were 10th cousins.

In August 2017, my wife, Alison, and I vacationed in Kelowna and finally met Cousin Gail Eaton, her husband, John, and their dog, Lola. Good people, as you would expect of a Mayflower descendant!

Interesting, “eh”?



Gail Eaton and Lola.



Gail Eaton and Scott Bond at the Okanagan Feast of Fields event, Aug. 13, 2017.

- Civil Service
- Patriotic Service

D.A.R. Registrars are glad to help determine your eligibility and assist you through the process. You may contact a local D.A.R. chapter through the organization’s website. Here is the link to the “how to join” page. <https://www.dar.org/national-society/become-member/how-join>

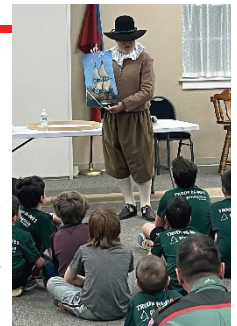
You can use the following link to the Patriots to Passengers Project webpage. This is a bridge project between the two lineage societies. <https://theflowersociety.org/genealogy/patriots-to-passengers/>

Submitted by SMDPA member Bonnie Yuscavage Registrar, Tunkhannock Chapter D.A.R.

## John Howland Shares His Story

By James Buckner, Elder

On Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, I reenacted for the Woodlands Trail Boys of Trail Life Troop PA-0011. I pretended to be my ancestor, John Howland. I told them why we left England to go to Holland and then why we felt we couldn’t stay there and our decision to come to the new world. I described the treacherous journey across the ocean and how we established our colony in New Plimoth. I described the events of the first winter and the events leading up to the first Harvest Feast, which is now called Thanksgiving. The boys were well-behaved and very attentive. It was an enjoyable experience.



## SMPDA Member Question By Co-Editors Pam and Sharyn

Question: In 1620, our ancestors prepared to journey to a new world. In preparation, they faced the challenges of deciding what they could and could not take.

It is 2023, and let’s pretend the members of the SMDPA are going on a journey to a newly discovered land. We are very limited in what we can bring. What would you bring? (NO ELECTRONICS ALLOWED.)



**James Campbell** - One of the tragedies of our Pilgrim ancestors is that they arrived in virgin waters teeming with fish, shellfish, and eels, and yet they failed to bring any means of capturing this sustenance. This oversight contributed to half of them perishing that dreadful first winter of malnutrition, illness, and exposure. Therefore, I would make sure to bring fishing tackle to our next Pilgrim adventure.



*\*Editor’s note: to Continue our spotlight on Ancestry organizations, that may be of interest to our members, we are spotlighting D.A.R. This article is submitted to SMDPA by one of our own members; Bonnie Yuscavage is the Registrar, Tunkhannock Chapter, as well as a member of SMDPA. Thank you, Bonnie, for being an awesome member contributor.*

The application process for Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) is similar in many ways to the application process for the Mayflower Society. Of course, the amount of people connected to a Mayflower lineage is much larger. If you suspect you have a Revolutionary War Patriot, you can look at the D.A.R. website to see if that person already has a number. If so, you may connect to one of their descendants in that line who is already a member. You need to provide proof of each next generation’s birth, marriage, and death as you would with Mayflower. If your potential patriot ancestor is not already recognized through D.A.R., you would need to prove their service in the following criteria:

- Signers of the Declaration of Independence
- Military Service

**Candace McCahill** - As a Mayflower passenger, I would have taken seeds for planting, fresh water, and my wedding ring.

**Scott Bond** - I'd bring easy-to-wash, quick-dry, and weather-appropriate clothing and a couple of pairs of durable footwear. A good book, which can hopefully be shared by others, bringing their own good books. An ample supply of paper and writing implements to maintain a diary of my/our adventures. A basic set of tools and essential hardware. Plus, my pillow.

**Betsy Beach** - Knitting needles and yarn.

**Carolyn Kitchen** - I would bring a handful of significant books. Not knowing in the future what might have been lost to time or specifically banned, I would choose a selection of both fiction and non-fiction to bridge the knowledge gap between today and tomorrow.

**Althea Fejes** - One of my grandchildren or all of them.

**Reed Kneale** - I will bring a Swiss Army knife, my Bible, and a pistol and ammo.

**Tom Thorpe** - We would bring our dog, Beezee. Good for protection and hunting game. Beezee is mostly lab and part Australian cattle dog.

**Jim Buckner** - A Bible.

**Susan Mathews** - My pillow & blanket.

**Mike Saunders** - I would bring two things. One is my tent. (Got to have shelter). The other is my backpack. (It has everything else that I need). I carry both on my back. No personal electronics are needed.

**Carol Hodes** - I'd bring seeds and tools to grow food since there are no guarantees that there will be crops to harvest.

**Janet Pete** - I would bring a Bible, seeds, clothing, and tools.

**Judi Biederman** - I would bring as many antibiotics as possible, Advil and aspirin, durable, comfortable shoes, and water purification. I will bring coffee.

**Heather Horton** - I would bring clothes, a lot of toothbrushes and toothpaste, a good multipurpose knife, a complete sewing kit, a Firestarter kit, dice and rules for playing Farkle, Yahtzee, and the Appalachian trail game, two decks of cards, and According to Hoyle (card rule book-I travel with these now), paper and pencils/pens, a French horn mouthpiece, (Dennis Brain played a Mozart horn concerto with a mouthpiece, a rubber hose and a funnel in concert in 1956), books-probably my confirmation Bible, Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, John Sandford's Storm Front and Deadline, and Georgette Heyer's Cotillion and Friday's Child. I would fill my remaining space allotment with dark chocolate.

**Gayla** - Family photos, money, and jewelry in that order.

**Peter Bort** - I would bring fishing gear, a wood saw, a knife, a sleeping bag, sundries, and concentrated foodstuffs until crops can be harvested. If hunting would be good, a hunting rifle. A mechanical compass. A few carpentry tools. Maybe I'd get a swimming lesson before the voyage!

**Bruce Hunt** - I suppose that I would bring the necessary personal items and a minimal amount of clothing. I also would pack a few books, some that I have already read (the Bible, for one), and then a couple that I have on my reading list.

**Brian Atwood** - I would bring along my acoustic guitar, lots of extra strings, and all my sheet music. After all, our new homeland shouldn't be devoid of music!

Thank you to everyone who contributed. Our next newsletter will be in October.

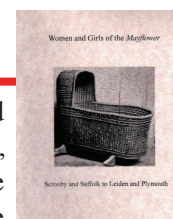
## SMDPA Store Update Mayflower License Plate



The PA SMDPA Vanity License Plate program is still alive and well. We currently have 11 serialized plates and 14 personalized plates on the road. PennDOT tends to update its prices every two years, so an increase on July 1, 2023, is likely. If interested, you can access the application and instructions on our website. Under Store, look for License Plates.

## New Booklet

Since 1988, March has been proclaimed Women's History Month. Heather Horton, SMDPA Deputy Governor, has added the fourth booklet in the Series of Woman of the Mayflower. The fourth booklet, entitled "Women and Girls of the Mayflower: Scrooby and Suffolk and to Leiden and Plymouth," is currently available at the SMDPA store. In a recent interview, our author said about the new booklet, "it includes excerpts from the thrilling first-person account of the Scrooby Pilgrims' initial unsuccessful attempt to flee England for Holland." All four booklets are available online at [www.sail1620.org](http://www.sail1620.org).



## MEMBERS SURVEY – ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS FOR THE FUTURE By Governor James Reed Campbell Jr.

We wish to thank all those SMDPA members who completed our first Members Survey back in July-August,

2022. We received 113 responses, or a 19% response rate, when closer to 5% would have been considered successful. This remarkable response rate testifies to the high level of importance you attach to your SMDPA membership.

Our respondents ranged widely in terms of how long they had been SMDPA members, from recent (1-5 years, 52%) to long-standing (16+ years, 21%). Family members (30%) figured most prominently for what caused them to join SMDPA. One respondent replied, “[I joined SMDPA] to prove to a doubtful family that our grandfather was correct. Then to learn more about the Pilgrims and the truth of why they came. No one doubts me anymore!” Other prompts included internet searching (25%), which suggests that SMDPA continue to invest in relevant content and meta-tagging on its website.

Despite known delays from GSMD, four-fifths of respondents were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with SMDPA’s application and approval process. Many credited SMDPA Historian Ginny Fossa and her team for being “wonderfully helpful.” Several respondents requested periodic classes/workshops and networking opportunities for applicants, something we hope to implement later this year.

Not surprisingly, respondents ranked highest (31%) having their “Mayflower” lineage confirmed and receiving their certificate as the key benefit derived from their SMDPA membership. But second- and third-ranked benefits were newsletters, webinars, emails and other communications from GSMD (23%) and SMDPA (22%), respectively. Nine-tenths of respondents were either very likely or somewhat likely to renew their SMDPA membership, a very encouraging sign.

Nearly half of respondents attend at least one SMDPA each year, with many respondents recalling their past favorites. Our annual Thanksgiving Service/Dinner was the most frequently cited SMDPA event, but the presentation from historian Sue Allan (a.k.a, “Mayflower Maid”) also appears to have been memorable. (“She was beyond fabulous. You could have heard a pin drop in that room.”) Several respondents offered suggestions for future SMDPA events, including a summer BBQ, more virtual events, an “under 40” luncheon for younger members, research days, and others.

When asked, “Which of our topics are most interesting to you right now,” our respondents offered a wide range: Pilgrim-specific and general historical topics, genealogical topics, DNA technology, how to access digital records, women’s historical topics, and more. Please continue to share topics and events you believe may be of interest to you and your fellow SMDPA members.

Our survey concluded with what professional researchers consider the most important question that any organization asks of its members and customers, “How likely are you to recommend SMDPA to others?” On a scale of 1-to-10, with 1 being “Very likely” and 10 being “Very unlikely,”

respondents gave SMDPA a score of ... [drum roll] ... 2.2! For context, ratings above a “5” are considered successful, while ratings above “3” are considered exceptional.

Naturally, our leadership team is very gratified to have received such a high rating after enduring the hardships and constraints of the pandemic. But with this high rating comes high responsibility: to maintain or extend SMDPA’s excellent level of service. Please feel encouraged to provide your feedback on how we may best meet your needs and expectations. Email me personally at [smdpa-governor@sail1620.org](mailto:smdpa-governor@sail1620.org). Thank you once more!

## SMDPA Website Masters

---

Laura Tyndall and Scott Bond have been working hard to keep our SMPDA website up to date. They provide important information for prospective members and for all our current members. Our website is [www.sail1620.org](http://www.sail1620.org).

One key finding from our current Members Survey was the desire for educational opportunities. Therefore, we are pleased to alert members to the webinars offered by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) throughout 2023. SMDPA Secretary Laura Tyndall has diligently posted the full year’s offerings to our website under “Future Meetings/Events”: [https://sail1620.org/meetinginfo.php?p\\_or\\_f=f](https://sail1620.org/meetinginfo.php?p_or_f=f) All these webinars are free, require no pre-registration, and are open to the public. Access to past events is available via the Mayflower Society. <https://themayflowersociety.org/history/lecture-series/>

Thank you, Laura and Scott, for all your hard work in keeping our members up to date with current news, upcoming events, and historical SMDPA information. Sign into the website to explore many interesting articles and fun facts about everything Mayflower.

## Privacy Policy

---

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants “GSMD” and The Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania “SMDPA,” are committed to protecting your privacy and developing technology that gives you the most powerful and safe online experience. This Statement of Privacy applies to the GSMD and SMDPA websites and governs data collection and usage. By using these websites, you consent to the data practices described in this statement.

The GSMD and SMDPA make available the current/updated policy manual on their websites in the Members Only section.

[TheMayflowerSociety.org](http://TheMayflowerSociety.org) – General Society of Mayflower Descendants

[Sail1620.org](http://Sail1620.org) – Society of Mayflower Descendants of Pennsylvania

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



## SAVE THE DATE

---

<b>April 22, 2023</b>	SMDPA Spring Meeting/Elections	Cameron Estate
<b>May 13, 2023</b>	Western Colony Spring Meeting	Edgeworth Club
<b>June 24, 2023</b>	Board of Assistants Meeting	Virtual Program
<b>July 2023</b>	Western Colony Summer Program	TBD
<b>October 21, 2023</b>	Board of Assistants Meeting	Merion Cricket Club
<b>November 18, 2023</b>	Thanksgiving/Worship Dinner	Donegal Presbyterian Church

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