

THE PENNSYLVANIA MAYFLOWER

www.sail1620.org

Fall/Winter 2025

ISSUE NO 2

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

Find us on Facebook



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Governor's Message

**By: Governor James Reed
Campbell Jr.**



An interesting article appeared recently in the Wall Street Journal: "You Met Grandma at a Keg Party? The Rich Order \$100,000 Memoirs for Family Only," by Rachel Louise Ensign. It described how retirees of means are commissioning their own memoirs, hiring ghost writers to recount their lives and pass down meaningful stories and lessons to their living descendants.

Rudi Pauly, 92, and her late husband owned a Washington state fruit business that packed two million boxes of apples and cherries each year. She explained her \$12,000 investment for a 185-page book that documented her family's journey to this success, beginning with her German immigrant grandparents' homesteading in Nebraska during the late 1800s: "I wanted my kids to realize the sacrifices made by the family, which led to our personal lifestyle today. I think that could be so lost."

The author described four types of providers in this rarified space. Fortunately, the readers posted comments featuring much more affordable, do-it-yourself alternatives to document one's family history: Remento, Storyworth, and No Story Lost for printed and audio-visual memoirs, plus Snapfish, Mixbook, and Shutterfly for photo books. You are welcome to search the internet for how these providers work, along with other guides for topics and questions to help prompt your reminiscences.

Of course, we in the Mayflower Society are all about family legacies! Our approved worksheets—family heirlooms essential to pass down—document our descent from 26 of America's first families. There is quite a lot you could infer from this documentation. For example, if an ancestor served in a military capacity, you could infer their patriotism and bravery. If an ancestor left a large estate, you could infer their industriousness and business acumen. And if ancestors stayed married for 50 years or longer, you could certainly infer their devotion and love for each other.

What is often missing is the stories these memoir commissions are looking to capture—the voices behind all

this documentation. If these stories are not recorded within two generations, sadly, they will be lost forever.

My younger brother remarried in July at age 65. He invited many lifelong friends from around the world to join in his wedding celebration. I was speaking to one friend, who was recently laid off from his job. Fortunately, he and his wife had been frugal savers throughout their married lives, and he could afford to retire. But this friend seemed at a loss for what to do next—perhaps continuing his decades-long pursuit of international travel; maybe moving from his Alaska home to Hawaii? He asked me for my thoughts.

I don't know what came over me in responding so quickly. Perhaps it was because I had just written the obituary for my mother, a Mayflower Society member, who had passed away in March at age 87. But I said that I would intentionally live the rest of my life however I wanted my obituary to read. I explained that obituaries seemed to be composed of common blocks: (a.) upbringing; (b.) education; (c.) career; (d.) marriage and family; (e.) church and community; (f.) hobbies and pursuits; (g.) personal characteristics. I expressed that a well-lived life is a well-rounded life, ideally one that leaves a personal legacy among all those it touches.

How would you like your obituary to read? What legacy would you like to leave?

This is my last Governor's Message. If all goes according to plan, we will have an exciting succession announcement during our upcoming Thanksgiving events. Meanwhile, I have been honored to serve you throughout my 3.5-year term. My modest legacy has been to stand on the shoulders of my predecessors and encourage our team of more than 30 Officers, Board of Assistants, and Committee members to "keep calm and carry on." I wish to sincerely thank them all for their ongoing efforts. I especially want to acknowledge my Executive Committee: Laura Tyndall, Scott Bond, Michael Saunders, Keith Kammenzind, and Lois Revenaugh, plus Dr. Heather Horton and Reed Kneale Jr. in prior years.

With everyone's dedicated support, we have maintained our membership growth, presently at 812 and counting, along with our financial health, with total cash and investments up 39% since year-end 2022. We have achieved record attendance at an increasing number of special events, including our signature Members Meetings and Thanksgiving

Worship/Dinners. We have presented an excellent educational program, featuring original publications, professional reenactors in schools, essay contests, and scholarship funds. We have expanded this wonderful newsletter, making it more reflective of our members. We have established a regional alliance of Mayflower societies to share best practices and cross-promote our respective events.

Not all has been successful. For example, we have been forced at times to suspend our online store and social media accounts due to a lack of volunteers. Moreover, we are still seeking replacements for our critical roles of Secretary, Webmaster, and Treasurer. **Do you wish to make our Mayflower Society part of your legacy?** Then please call me at (973) 580-1125—I look forward to discussing our volunteer needs and learning of your interests.



SMDPA's Upcoming Events

By: James Reed Campbell Jr.

Our Colony Governors, Michael Saunders (Susquehanna) and Keith Kammenzind (Western), will be reporting separately on their impressive activities, but they both have exciting events to announce.



The Susquehanna Colony will be holding its **Fall Meeting** on Saturday, October 25, in Gettysburg, Adams County. They will dine at the historic Hickory Farm Restaurant in the countryside before visiting the Jennie Wade House Museum in town.

The Western Colony will be holding a Fall Meeting during its **Thanksgiving** luncheon on Saturday, November 15. This year, it will be located at the elegant Duquesne Club in downtown Pittsburgh and feature a traditional Thanksgiving feast.

Both events are open to all SMDPA members and their guests.

SMDPA Thanksgiving Event

By: Jim Buckner, Elder and James Reed Campbell, Governor

On Saturday, November 22, SMDPA's annual **Thanksgiving Worship/Dinner** will be held for all members and guests. Elder Jim Buckner and his family work especially hard on the "worship" side of this day of celebration. The Buckners locate and reserve a historic church to host the worship service. The service is a time-honored ceremony, which often features historic readings, music, and singing from BOA member Brian Atwood. This year's Worship will be held at the Great Valley Presbyterian Church in Malvern, Chester County. Its current building was erected in 1889, replacing a building of



clapboard construction, which had served the congregation from 1796. Yet its first building of log construction was constructed in 1720, after the congregation had been meeting in the woods or in their homes since 1710!

After our ceremony concludes at 4:30 p.m., we will drive approximately 10 minutes west to Malvern's elegant General Warren Inne (circa 1745), which hosted both sides during the Revolutionary War. There, we will enjoy a sumptuous Thanksgiving feast with choices onsite of five delicious starters and five sumptuous desserts, plus your pre-selected entrées of either a traditional turkey dinner or a vegan and gluten-free herbed risotto. We will also present several awards, honoring our scholarship and essay winners, plus the outstanding efforts of key volunteers.

You may conveniently register and pay for this event on our website, <https://sail1620.org>. Look for details under "Events / Future Meetings."



Great Valley Presbyterian Church



General Warren Inne

SMDPA's Spring/Summer Events in Review

By: James Reed Campbell Jr.

SMDPA'S MEMBERS' SPRING MEETING



For this year's Members' Meeting on Saturday, April 11, we returned to the historic Cameron Estate Inn & Restaurant set amidst the cornfields of Mount Joy, Lancaster County. More than 50 members and guests joined us for a gourmet luncheon featuring such tasty entrees as pesto-crusted chicken with apricot-granola brie gratin, caramelized onion-crusted salmon filet with smoked tomato quiche, and pasta primavera. Dessert was limoncello raspberry cake.

Once we had fully dined and socialized, we were treated to an outstanding presentation from guest speaker, Andrew C. Lipman, Ph.D. This prize-winning historian and educator delved into his recent book, *Squanto: A Native Odyssey* (Yale University Press, 2024), which was released to wide acclaim,

including the *Wall Street Journal's* "12 Books to Read: The Best Reviews of September."

Dr. Lipman had traveled by Amtrak from his New York City home, where he serves on the faculty of Barnard College of Columbia University. He proved to be an affable guest and accessible presenter. But that in no way lessened Dr. Lipman's extraordinary level of scholarship on this topic, which included learning the Wampanoag language to better understand the nuances of the historical record and his interviews with Native Americans. Dr. Lipman's 204-page book on Squanto's extraordinary life journey back and forth across two continents contained an additional 44 pages of tightly spaced citations, plus three dense pages of acknowledgements of those many institutions Lipman visited and experts he consulted. All this research took Lipman 10 years. We came away from Lipman's talk with a unique and sympathetic perspective on our Wampanoag cousins. Their 55-year partnership with our Pilgrim ancestors represents a multicultural American origin story from which we may all take inspiration.



Our Members' Meeting was preceded by an abbreviated BOA Meeting to swear in the Officers and Assistants for our 2025/26 term, followed by motions to support the General Society's capital fundraising campaign for the Mayflower Meetinghouse in Plymouth, MA. These motions were unanimously approved for a generous cash contribution, plus a representative offering for the General Society's Silent Auction.



For more information on the Mayflower Meetinghouse campaign, please visit: <https://themayflowersociety.org/give/the-mayflower-meetinghouse-project>.

The Silent Auction closed on October 1st. You may be able to see the results at: <https://themayflowersociety.org/donate/the-mayflower-society-silent-auction/>.

And if you ever wish to view minutes, reports, and financial statements from our BOA meetings, they are posted to our website here: [Member Area/Board of Assistants Meetings/Reports](#).

We strive to be fully transparent with our members.

SUMMER SOCIAL EVENTS **In the Susquehanna Vicinity**

On Thursday, August 7, we enjoyed an immersive, all-day experience at one of the Philadelphia area's best-kept

secrets. In fact, of the 19 members and guests who attended, only one had previously heard of our destination, and only because she had grown up just three miles away.

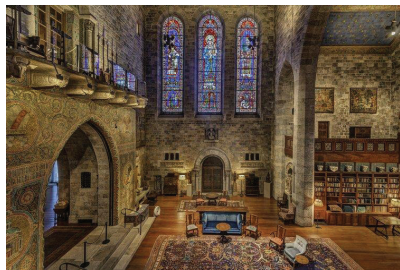
The Bryn Athyn Historic District consists of well-manicured grounds housing three Beaux Arts mansions of the Pitcairn family, whose Scottish-born patriarch, John Pitcairn Jr., was a highly successful industrialist and founder of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. (now PPG Industries). Also on-site is the renowned Bryn Athyn Cathedral, episcopal seat of the General Church of the New Jerusalem, a denomination of Swedenborgianism. All Bryn Athyn buildings were constructed between 1892 and 1938.

We began our group tour with Cairnwood, a 26,000-square-foot mansion with 28 rooms, plus a chapel in its third-story turret. Although just partially furnished, it still gave us a good sense of the progressive aesthetic of the Pitcairn family. They preferred light and airy décor open to the outdoors versus the residential architecture of their Victorian times, which often featured dark, heavily patterned and furnished rooms shuttered to the outside. A particular highlight was the two-story great room with a second-story balustrade, all painted in creamy white, which opened onto a lengthy porch fronting their great lawn. There, the family would entertain its many guests in natural surroundings.

However, this grand mansion paled in comparison to the next one on our tour. Glencairn is much more like a European castle; its Great Hall rising an astonishing nine stories high to its tower apex. Its walls are composed of granite and ruddy-colored stone carefully hewn using millennium-old techniques. There are also carved doorways, pillars, and wall insets; elaborate mosaics and metalwork; Early Medieval stained-glass windows; full-height fireplaces; and other evocative decorative flourishes. Everything was conceived by Pitcairn's son, multimillionaire businessman Raymond Pitcairn, a self-taught architect and historian, who kept 200 workers busy throughout the Great Depression constructing the 90 rooms to his improvised designs. Presently, it houses Pitcairn's collection of international, multi-denominational religious art and artifacts and is open to the public. Yet the house itself is the star and must be seen to be believed—truly one of the grandest residences in the entire country.

The adjoining cathedral mirrored Glencairn in its medieval aesthetic and splendor. Our tour guide provided so many insights into its construction and the spiritual significance of every detail that it would be impossible to relay them all here. Nevertheless, the highlight was learning of its prolific stained-glass windows, which bathed the towering interior in a gentle purple light. Apparently, Raymond Pitcairn wanted to scrupulously recreate the methods of Chartres and other Early Medieval cathedrals of Europe. In 1922, he transported skilled craftspeople from France to train his onsite glassblowers in these ancient methods, which they applied to the task for the next 20 years. The effect is otherworldly, with these windows seeming to be alive and breathing.

The entire Bryn Athyn Historic District was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 2008. Its bucolic 37-acre campus sits just one mile north of the Philadelphia border, in Montgomery County. If you do plan a well-recommended visit, prepare to be awed!



Menger Hotel



*Theodore Roosevelt
Rough Riders
Spanish-American War 1898*

**GBOA-25 in San Antonio, Texas
By: Mike Saunders, Deputy
Governor General, SMDPA**



My wife Sharon and I attended the General Board of Assistants (GBOA) in San Antonio, TX, for four days, representing SMDPA as Assistant General and Deputy Governor General. This year, the GBOA was held at the Historic Menger Hotel. The Menger is a very old but very well-kept hotel right in the center of the downtown San Antonio historic district. The Alamo is next to our hotel. In fact, we could look out from our room onto the Alamo's rear courtyard and garden area. Unfortunately, that area is now under construction as a new visitor's center is being added to increase education opportunities for visitors on the significance of the Alamo in Texas history and independence. The Alamo is still open for visitors, but the beautiful area behind it is currently closed.

We noticed when we arrived that there are several display cases in the hallway leading to the hotel's lobby, front desk, and in the hotel's bar area that contain a lot of Rough Riders' memorabilia. After a little further digging, we learned that Teddy Roosevelt spent time here in San Antonio and particularly here at the Menger Hotel in 1898. He recruited cowboys from the area into the US Volunteers for the Spanish-American War. The war was declared in April 1898 after the explosion of the USS Maine in Cuban waters, which Spain controlled. The US Volunteers, also known as the Rough Riders, were headquartered at the Menger Hotel. The Rough Riders trained daily in and around San Antonio, and after a long day of training, many of them would gather here in the hotel bar and sip a pint or two of locally brewed beer. The bar is an exact reproduction of the House of Lords Pub in London. It is well preserved and essentially looks the same as it did when installed in the 1800s.



Rough Riders



Rough Riders

I've attached a few photos of the Rough Rider displays for your enjoyment.

**Susquehanna Colony Update
By: Governor Mike Saunders**

The Susquehanna Colony Spring Event was held on Saturday, May 3rd, in the Lancaster, PA area, where we had an exceptional tour of a Colonial Farm at Historic Rock Ford, featuring the circa 1794 General Edward Hand Mansion. Situated on thirty-three acres of gardens, woods, and grounds surrounded by Lancaster County Central Park in the southeast corner of Lancaster City. This remarkable colonial estate offered Colony members the opportunity to encounter the outstanding original late-Georgian style architecture of the Hand Mansion. We were also treated to a tour of its rooms furnished in period style.



In addition to viewing architecture and rare artifacts in the house, we learned about the diverse and complex life of 18th-century Lancaster. We heard about Dr. Edward Hand's early medical career, followed by his distinguished service as Adjutant General to George Washington during the American Revolution, as well as his business and political career during the years he resided at Rock Ford.

We also learned about the Hand family and the tenants, servants, and laborers, enslaved, indentured, and free, who lived and labored at Rock Ford. We were also able to view the period kitchen garden and leafy paths. It was nice to step back over two centuries to get a taste of a bygone era, sitting in the middle of contemporary Lancaster, PA.

Following the tour at Historic Rock Ford, the group departed for The Greenfield Restaurant on Greenfield Rd. in Lancaster. The restaurant is nestled in the serene landscapes of Lancaster County and offers a unique dining experience characterized by rich history and culinary mastery. The Restaurant is owned by former White House Chef John Moeller, whom I met while working at the White House during the 1990s. The restaurant is housed in a preserved farmhouse built in 1780, and the menu was varied and quite tasty. It was also good to say hello to Chef Moeller again after several years.

Susquehanna Fall Meeting

We are set to meet in Gettysburg for the **Susquehanna Colony Fall Meeting** on Saturday, October 25, 2025. We will gather at 11:30 a.m. at Hickory Bridge Farm Restaurant, a country retreat located just 15 minutes west of Gettysburg at 96 Hickory Bridge Rd. Orrtanna, PA 17353. The restaurant is in a historic barn, highlighting old-fashioned, family-style meals made with locally sourced ingredients. For colony members desiring to stay around Gettysburg for some additional touring, Hickory Bridge Farm offers Bed and Breakfast accommodations in the 1750 farmhouse and several cottages on the property, as well as numerous hotels located in Gettysburg proper.



Following our luncheon, we will depart for Gettysburg and reconvene at the Jennie Wade House for a tour. There, we will learn the story of the only civilian to be killed during the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. Authentically furnished from cellar to attic, the Jennie Wade House is a shrine to Jennie and to life during the American Civil War. Just 20 years old at the time of the battle, Jennie was kneading dough in the kitchen when a rifle bullet pierced two doors and claimed her life.

The Jennie Wade House features guides in period attire who are well-versed in the history of the home. For years, they've enthralled visitors with passionate retellings of the tragedy that befell young Jennie and her family. Artifacts from that fatal day in 1863 are on display, including the artillery shell that punctured the roof of the house and the floorboard with Jennie's blood still on it.

There will be more information for the Hickory Bridge Farm Restaurant Luncheon and the Jennie Wade House Tour on the SMDPA website at <https://sail1620.org>.

You may conveniently register and pay for this event on our website, <https://sail1620.org>.

Look for details under "Events/Future Meetings."

Western Colony Update

By: Governor Keith Kammenzind

Greetings from the Western Colony! We have had a full social calendar this Spring. Many members, friends, and family participated in our three scheduled activities. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Thanksgiving celebration on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at the Duquesne Club in Pittsburgh.

Our first event started with a trip to Old Economy Village in Ambridge, which was attended by 20 members and their families and friends. A blacksmith demonstration and a guided tour of the village and homes of the old Harmonist Society were enjoyed by all. After the tour, we gathered for lunch at a local Italian restaurant, where we had plenty of time to socialize. It was a delightful early May afternoon!



Two weeks later, we had our Spring Meeting/Luncheon at the Edgeworth Club. A delicious luncheon was elegantly served and enjoyed. Governor James Campbell was present and addressed the members, and supported the success of our colony. After a business meeting, dessert was served, and our guest speaker was introduced. Brady Crytzer presented a lively presentation about our local frontier history. It was interesting to learn about the local history and the current names of towns, streets, and local establishments that are still in use today. We learned that Henry Brackenridge was a writer, lawyer, judge, and Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. He was a frontier citizen in Pittsburgh, and there is a town named after him, Breckenridge, PA. Trivia Fact—Henry Brackenridge was the founder of the Pittsburgh Academy, which is now the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Crytzer provided an abundance of local frontier information.



July brought our repeat sail on the Lettie G. Howard on Lake Erie. Twenty-eight of us had a great time, and the weather was perfect—wall to wall sunshine with a stiff breeze out on the lake. The crew even added some excitement when they sent their small boat out to rescue a hat that was blown from the head of one of our members. The crew was able to have us leave the dock under full sail power, which,

according to them, is a rare occurrence. Our excursion commenced a little after 1 p.m. and we made it back in time for a midafternoon meal at The Cove, right on the Lake Erie waterfront. Excellent food and great conversation concluded a most enjoyable day in Erie.



Western Colony Fall Meeting

Thanksgiving is coming sooner than we know it, and this year our luncheon will be at the prestigious (and historic) Duquesne Club in downtown Pittsburgh. Our guest speaker for this occasion will be Andrew Masich, President and CEO of the John Heinz History Center. Please be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, November 15, 12:30-3:30 p.m.: Duquesne Club, 325 Sixth Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222,

(412) 391-1500, <https://www.duquesne.org>.

Registration deadline: Friday, November 7th. We hope to see everyone there!

You may conveniently register and pay for this event on our website, <https://sail1620.org>.

Look for details under “Events/Future Meetings.”



Financial Update

By: Scott Bond, Acting Treasurer

SMDPA is still looking for a new Treasurer. If you or someone you know is interested, please reach out. I would be happy to talk to you about the position.

Like most of our personal retirement funds, we are reaping the harvest of a good market, currently. The primary purpose of our investments is to sustain our Life Membership Fund, which contributes almost \$19,000 per year to our operating budget, and houses our other restricted and unrestricted funds, like Scholarships and Thanksgiving.

As of August 31, 2025:

Vanguard Balance	\$713,282.09
Wells Fargo Checking	\$9,314.09

Total Cash and Investment Balance (w/o colony balances)
\$722,596.18

Regular Members	546
Life/Emeritus Members	266
Total Members with GSMD #	812
Juniors	71
Total Members	883

Member ages range from 6 months to 103! Average: 59

74% of our members have PA addresses; the other 26% do not, including foreign addresses.

Please help us stay current with your contact information.

Susquehanna Colony	179 non-junior members
Western Colony	203
Philadelphia (the catch-all)	430

We will be working on our 2026 Budget and Dues recommendations over the next month or two. We are somewhat behind in processing and are behind on outstanding dues for 2025.

The 3-year paid-in-advance offering at the current rate has been popular. We have 34 members who took advantage of this in 2025, and a few others have expressed interest. An increasing number of state societies have begun reinstating their Life Membership programs, which were shelved in 2020. New SMDPA Life Membership was suspended in October 2020. Our current proposal is sitting in the Finance Committee, and I’ll keep you posted.

Membership value and retention are important to us, and obviously, an ongoing challenge. 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.

Again, we are always anxious to hear from you.

Scott Bond Treasurer@sail1620.org

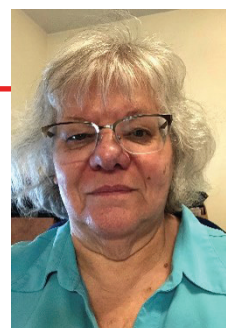
Emilio Siguenza Asst-Treasurer@sail1620.org

SPDPA Welcomes New Members

By: Ginny Fossa, Lead Historian

SMDPA has a new Assistant Historian! Peggy Shaffer recently accepted the position and will be learning the ropes to help applicants on their path to SMDPA membership. Peggy transferred to PA from CA. Registrar Althea Fejes recommended her as a candidate, as she met her at her DAR Chapter. Sharyn helped Peggy with 8 Supplemental Applications since her transfer into PA. I want to welcome Peggy to our team!

Everyone on the Historian Team is working hard with our Prospective Members to help guide them on the path to becoming new members. Sharyn Davis is still the magnet who people gravitate to when they realize her position in SMDPA. She can get one lead and turn it into three new members. Kevin Smith is the Western Colony Historian and is always ready to take on a new Prospective Member to work with. His first application is at Plymouth, awaiting approval. Lois Howanec and Sue Makosy are always willing to take on new applicants. Brenda Weaver is our Research Assistant. She is



always ready for a challenge to find the documents we need to complete the application.

We still have quite a workload of applicants. Historians have been tasked with researching applications through the Mayflower Portal at Plymouth, which was previously completed by the staff there. We are working to learn our way around the Portal and how to access the information in it. We recently had a Zoom meeting with the PA Historian Team to learn more.

We have an amazing team of Historians who work hard and are dedicated to their positions at SMDPA. I can't thank them enough for their contributions to our team.

Fall 2025 New Members List

Sofronie, Kaitlin	William White 13th
Bateman, Karen	Francis Cooke 14th
Hassinger, Daniel	William White 13th
Glover, Susan	Edward Doty 11th
Jackson, Margaret	Myles Standish 12th
George, Gail	John Billington 13th
Blocher, Karen	Myles Standish 11th
Ferris, Emelyn	Elizabeth Tilley 15th
Neil, Pamela	William Bradford 11th
Smith, Jesse	John Howland 14th
Harper, Anissa	Edward Fuller 14th
Rush, Jacqueline	William Bradford 11th
Phillips, Rebecca	Isaac Allerton 12th
Brown, Gerald	Francis Cooke 13th

Supplements:

Curran, Stephen	John Billington
Curran, Stephen	Ellinor Billington
Shaffer, Peggy	Richard Warren
Shaffer, Peggy	Constance Hopkins
Shaffer, Peggy	Joseph Rogers
Shaffer, Peggy	Thomas Rogers
Shaffer, Peggy	Elizabeth Tilley
Shaffer, Peggy	John Howland
Shaffer, Peggy	Joan Hurst
Shaffer, Peggy	John Tilley
Burghardt, Shannon	Constance Hopkins

Juniors:

Davis, Stella Wren
Sofronie, Josephina
Sofronie, Olivia
Sofronie, Lucian
Vidoni, Jacob Evans

Education Chair Report

By: Lexie Kelly

The Education Committee evaluated and awarded three National History awards. The contestants were judged in three categories. Congratulations to the students who were awarded History Day Scholarships.



1. Senior Paper - Winner Reaves Lukens for "Thaddeus Stevens" (\$1000)
2. Junior Paper - Winners Remy Mayo and Kiran Raybon for "Susan B Anthony" (\$500 each)
3. Junior Paper - Winner Evelyn Markel for "The Democratic Influence" (\$1000)



SMDPA Elizabeth Tilley Howland Scholarship

SMDPA congratulates Merin Haussman, our 2025 Elizabeth Tilley Howland Scholarship winner.

Merin is a graduate student enrolled in Adult Studies at DeSales University. She is pursuing an MBA/MSN and is currently a wound care nurse manager at St Luke's University Health Network. She previously earned a BSN from East Stroudsburg University in 2019. She is the granddaughter of SMDPA member Plummer Dunkle.

Scholarship Essay By: Merin Haussmann

When the Pilgrims boarded the Mayflower in 1620 and set sail toward an uncertain future in the Americas, they carried with them more than supplies and hopes. My family, Edward Fuller and his wife came over with their son Samuel. While Edward and his wife did not survive the trip, it was a sacrifice they made to give their son a better life, which would change my family history. They brought a set of core values that would shape early American identity. There have been almost four centuries that separate their world from mine, yet I find that many of the values they lived by: faith, community, perseverance, and the pursuit of freedom, still hold relevance in my 21st-century life.

One of the most prominent values the Pilgrims embraced was faith. Their journey was motivated by a deep commitment to religious freedom. They risked their lives crossing the Atlantic to escape religious persecution and to worship in a way they believed was true to their convictions. In today's world, religious freedom is a constitutional right in many countries, including the United States, but the essence of spiritual devotion and moral commitment remains crucial. While my personal spirituality may look different than theirs, the idea of holding on to something bigger than myself still guides the choices I make every day. The Pilgrims' example reminds me that faith isn't just about religion; it's about having the courage to live in alignment with your beliefs, even when it's hard. I continue to have a strong foundation in my faith and in everything I do.

Another value the Pilgrims embodied was community. When they landed in Plymouth, they knew they would have to rely on each other to survive. The Mayflower Compact, which they drafted and signed before leaving the ship, was an early form of social contract that emphasized cooperation and mutual responsibility. Like the Pilgrims, I've learned the importance of building and maintaining a supportive community. Working together, sharing burdens,

and contributing to a common good are values that transcend time. Whether I'm collaborating on conference planning in my local society for nursing or helping organize a local fundraiser for my own children's school, I can see how these same communal ideals are essential to a functioning and compassionate society. I have a strong bond with my immediate family for which we have a sense of community.

One of the most inspiring aspects of the Pilgrims' journey is their perseverance. The first winter in Plymouth was brutal, many died from illness and exposure. The survivors endured, continued building their settlement, and forged ahead. That level of resilience in the face of hardship resonates with me deeply today. There was a long period of time in my life where I thought childhood kidney disease was going to shorten my life or severely disable it. Perseverance helped get me through the darkest and most trying times of my life. My goal now is to teach my own children the same resilience as the Pilgrims and now I have endured, to raise them to be strong individuals.

A crucial Pilgrim value that still echoes today is the continued pursuit of freedom. Their quest wasn't just for religious liberty but also for self-governance and the right to shape their own destinies. This legacy has carried through American history and continues to influence how I think about my own rights and responsibilities. In a time when civil liberties, free speech, and social justice are pressing issues, I am reminded that the freedoms I enjoy today were hard-won. Freedom in the 21st century includes the ability to speak out, to protest, to vote, and to advocate for those whose voices are not always heard. This also is important in not just my personal life, but my work life as I advocate for my patients and help them navigate healthcare.

The Pilgrims were not afraid to take risks for what they believed in. Their decision to leave everything familiar behind for the chance of a better life is a lesson in bravery. I must step out of my comfort zone to pursue this advanced degree. In turn, this opportunity will give me a chance to advance my already thriving career. The overall hope is to inspire my children to take risks and work hard for themselves. The Pilgrims' legacy encourages me to be bold when the situation demands it and to trust that growth often comes from risk.

In conclusion, the Pilgrims may have lived in a different era, but their values continue to resonate with me today. Faith, community, perseverance, freedom, and courage are not just historical ideals, they are active principles that guide how I live. Even though the world has changed drastically since 1620, the human desire to live with purpose, connection, and integrity remains as strong as ever. I will continue to have faith in my life pursuits that the ends will justify the means.

The Elizabeth Tilley Howland Scholarship competition is open to a student who is enrolled in the first year or later of a college or university program leading to an associate, bachelor's, or master's degree, OR a degree certification at a trade school. The recipient must be an active member of the Soci-

ety of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or a direct Mayflower descendant relation as a child or grandchild. The scholarship award, which is to be used only for education-related needs, will be paid directly to the educational institution to avoid tax consequences to the recipient. The 2025 Elizabeth Tilley Howland Scholarship deadline will be June 30, 2026, and the student must be enrolled for the 2025-2026 school year.

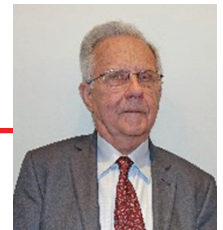


*Elizabeth Tilley
Howland
1607-1687*

Many thanks to committee members **Linda Molitoris and Heather Horton**, whose assistance was greatly appreciated.

The Education Committee is currently working with Plimoth-Patuxet to schedule re-enactor visits in the Pittsburgh area for October. Many thanks to Keith Kammenzind and Sue Makosy for their assistance as "boots on the ground" in Pittsburgh.

The Sound of History **By: SMDPA Surgeon, Ronald Simonsen**



I have a Revolutionary War musket. I found it in an auction this past Spring and was lucky enough to acquire the old flintlock 0.69 caliber. I was notified when I picked it up that there was an inscription on the breech, and it read, "13 Vg. Regt. Shenandoah." I googled this when I got home, and Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth Courthouse came right up. I called the Museum of the American Revolution. After inspecting our photos, they advised us that, "It is definitely of the period," and "To all appearances, was made by one of the many gunsmiths in Philadelphia at that time."

The 13th Virginia was authorized by Congress on September 16, 1776, assembled at Fort Pitt on February 13, 1777, and after countless contests, disbanded at Fort Pitt on January 1, 1783. Experts at the Fort Pitt Museum were recommended to help me in my quest for the person who carried this musket. Soldiers were often given their personal arms after the war was over, and their unit was dismissed. I hope to learn who he was, what he became, and how his musket survived to reach me today as the 250th anniversary approaches.

Brothers in arms who have tempted death on the field gain exclusive understanding of what we have shared, especially for our unity under the Stars and Stripes. I choke sometimes, mainly for them, and try to hide it. We pledged our lives so readily. We stand by our sacred flag, faithful and unaltered, to consecrate our oath on the Constitution from which we find sufficient will to withstand any discomfort, fatigue, or fear.

On August 6, 1945, 80 years ago, our nation, hanging on a pivotal moment of grave danger, finally found relief after

its long season of struggle when the mushroom cloud rose over Hiroshima. In response, a question was pressed upon the President. "Keep the bomb or place it under some sort of international control as had been accomplished for poison gas after the First World War?" He kept it. Did he not foresee the outcome of picking this compromised path? Knowledgeable voices had cautioned the President that feverish competition would follow. Use on civilians was also debated at the highest level. General LeMay, theater commander of the bombing missions, had warned his peers that they would all hang for war crimes if they lost the war. For weeks after Hiroshima and Nagasaki newsreels rolled mutilation of life and devastation of city to provide a striking spectacle of horror for all the average citizens. Since that fateful day this grisly creature will only serve one person- the President. The concept of deterrence is theirs to determine.

The tightly wrapped security that had cloaked the Manhattan Project was transplanted into a coordinated government program of double-talk, diplomacy, and threat which promoted an illusion of peace. However, wandering off into a wilderness phantasm would not be totally ignored. Many people around the world tried to deal with this constant threat of sudden mass annihilation - a fragile system held in perpetual alert. The Hibakusha were a recurring reminder of reality.

Today, most of humanity grapples with anxiety, and when failing to identify the source, they grow angry and suspicious of others and fall for false prophets. A conflict was inevitable.

We cannot all be politicians. We can and must defend the Constitution with whatever talent we can muster and in whatever way that opens so that virtuous leaders can step forward and wrestle the monstrous menace. Empathy will reign, and the Declaration will be true as our forefathers wanted.

I remember a time in my life. I was barely two, and my mother held my hand when we stood at the water's edge of my beloved Allegheny. Naval cannons were test-fired from the nearby forge, and the projectiles passed over our cottage a mile downrange. A physical reaction shook me to my bones, and I hated it. I dreaded it, and I came to understand it. I accepted that I would be a soldier someday if I had to. I wasn't afraid then. I am now.

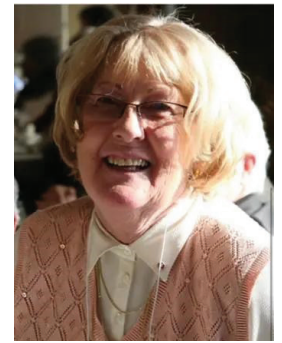
So now, bring up the battle flags, followers of the Enlightenment, and we will march toward the sound of battle once again, mindful of the rustle of our past and the breath of our comrades.

In Memoriam
By: Althea Fejes

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



Joan Miller - June 19, 1931, to May 24, 2025. Joan started her membership journey with the SMDMD, where she served on many committees and later served as governor. Joan and her family moved to Pennsylvania and joined SMDPA. She always shared her love for the Pilgrims' history with new members and the public. Joan enjoyed social engagement and speaking about her passion for genealogy. Joan was the SMDPA Educational Chair and loved visiting fairs; the Haverford Festival was a favorite. Joan served as Deputy Governor General for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in 2017. She was also the GSMD Representative for SMDPA. Joan's resume includes past SMDPA Education Chair and Governor of the Susquehanna Colony. She was always available to answer any Mayflower question, and she did! Joan was Governor of SMDPA 2011-2012, Governor of the Pilgrim Henry Samson Kindred, and author of numerous articles. Her smile and positive attitude were infectious at meetings and area events. Many remember Joan for her role as the SMDPA Nominating Committee Chair. How many of us did Joan recruit as an Officer, BOA, or Committee Member?



Joan has touched many of us in so many positive ways. She will be missed by all her Pilgrim cousins that she led through the life of being connected.

Joan, you completed your work with a smile and enthusiasm. The lessons that you have taught us will continue to be our foundation. Governor Miller, you can rest now in God's care. God bless you and your family.



Other SMDPA Departed:

Reported in September 2024:

Alice Boucher - May 26, 1931 - July 11, 2024. Alice fostered a lifelong love of education, learning, and serving others in the health care field. She was a voracious reader, especially in medieval history. Alice researched and authored a family genealogy history, with some branches stretching back to the 1500s. She was a member of both the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Mayflower Society (a 13th-generation Richard Warren descendant).

Christopher Finch—November 24, 1956 - January 30, 2024. Christopher worked in the construction and school maintenance industries. His special interests included photography, fishing, and cycling.

Reported in October 2024:

Ruth Ann Gregori - September 16, 1937 - October 20, 2024. Ruth loved baking (especially cakes & cookies),

planting flowers, watching & feeding the birds and squirrels (especially her favorite squirrel named Herman).

Glenda Mae Shores—January 1, 1936 - October 3, 2024. Glenda enjoyed every aspect of life: family, work, and hobbies. She enjoyed researching the genealogy of her Alden family back to the Mayflower and became a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants.



The still water of Pricilla Bay, Plymouth, MA

**The Medal of Honor
SMDPA Feature Article
By: Kevin P. Smith, Western
Colony Historian**

Did you know that the only female recipient of the **Medal of Honor**, our nation's highest military honor, was awarded to Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, a Mayflower descendant?



(photo credit at article's end)

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker was born in Oswego, NY, on Nov 26, 1832, to abolitionists Dr. Alvah and Vesta Whitcomb Walker. She was the second youngest of six children they had together, five of which were daughters. Her parents were very progressive for their time and on their views of raising children. They encouraged them to think freely, and they allowed Mary to wear bloomers (pants) instead of the traditional clothes that were expected of women to be worn at that time. They also encouraged their daughters to obtain a secondary education which was not the norm. Mary followed in her father's footsteps and became a doctor. She attended medical school at Syracuse Medical College and was the second woman to graduate from this college.

After graduating from medical school she married another medical school student named Albert Miller, who she would later divorce. They opened a practice together in Rome NY, but the practice soon failed because the public in general was far from ready to accept a female doctor. At the beginning of the Civil War, Mary went to Washington D.C. in 1861 to volunteer for the Union as a surgeon and obtain an officer's commission, as was the expected standard. Her offer to the military to volunteer as a surgeon was rejected. Still, she tried to volunteer as an unpaid volunteer surgeon at the U.S. Patent Office Hospital in Washington D.C. this was

also rejected. Undauntedly she helped organize the Women's Relief Organization that assisted families who came to Washington to be with their loved ones in hospitals. In 1861 Mary went to Virginia as a nurse and started treating soldiers. She also made a request to the War Department to volunteer as a spy for the Union.

Finally in 1863 her request to practice as a surgeon was accepted. She became the first female U.S. Army surgeon of the Civil War, but she was contracted as civilian and therefore had no military rank. During the war while working as a surgeon, Dr. Walker often crossed battle lines to care for soldiers and civilians alike both north and south, often while under fire. During one such sojourn in 1864 she was captured by the enemy after helping a Confederate surgeon care for his wounded. She was held for four months as a POW. In August of 1864 she was released from captivity during a prisoner exchange and became the assistant surgeon of the 52nd Ohio. After the War she was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Andrew Johnson, in part for her bravery of treating wounded beyond the battle lines. She received for her service during the Civil War a military pension for a disability (partial muscular atrophy) of \$8.50 a month which in 1889 increased to \$20 a month.

Post War

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker became a champion for many causes after the war including dress reform, women's suffrage, health care and temperance, she also authored books on women's rights and dress. She often opposed wearing women's long skirts and petticoats for not only their discomfort and lack of mobility but also for collecting and spreading dust which could be detrimental when caring for patients. She was arrested numerous times for impersonating a male for wearing "men's clothing". She once replied to criticism for her attire: "I don't wear men's clothes, I wear my own clothes." In 1871 she was arrested when attempting to register to vote. In 1907 she published the work "Crowning Constitutional Argument" she argued that some states had already granted women the right to vote, therefore the vote should be granted nationwide. In 1912 and 1914 she would testify in front of congress for women's suffrage.

Dr. Walker was proud of her Medal of Honor and wore it every day in public. In 1919, nine hundred Army Medals of Honor were revoked after the standards for awarding the medal had changed, including that of Dr. Walker. The reason given for revoking Dr. Walker's was that she was not a member of the military but a civilian. Yet the two other civilian surgeons from the Civil War, both men, who were awarded the Medal of Honor were allowed to keep theirs. No matter, Mary refused to acknowledge this and proudly wore the medal until she died on Feb 21, 1919, in Oswego NY at the age of eighty-six. Her casket was adorned with the American flag, and she was buried wearing a black suit. Her death came one year before women were granted the right to vote, a right she fought for so many years to help obtain. In

1977 the Carter administration restored her Medal of Honor. Unto this day, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker is the only female recipient of our nation's highest military honor the Medal of Honor.

Dr. Walker has left an impressive legacy that has been celebrated throughout the years since her death. A liberty ship (cargo ship) was named after her during W.W. II. In 1982 the USPS issued a 20-cent stamp in her honor. In 2012 a 900 lb. statue was unveiled of Dr. Walker in front of the Oswego NY town hall, her hometown. The medical facility at SUNY Oswego is named for her and the Whitman-Walker Health Clinic in Washington D.C. is named for both her and the poet Walt Whitman, who volunteered as a hospital steward during the Civil War. In 2000 she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY. In 2024 a U.S. Quarter was issued with her likeness on the reverse side. And in 2025 Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia (named for a Confederate general) was renamed in her honor as Fort Walker.

I have always been fond of Dr. Walker and her story, I find it endlessly fascinating and inspirational, and I hope you have as well. Dr. Mary Edwards Walker is a descendant of Francis Eaton, Sarah Eaton, Samuel Eaton, Peter Brown, John Alden, Priscilla (Mullins) Alden, William Mullins, George Soule, John Billington, Eleanor (Armstrong), Billington, Francis Billington, Samuel Fuller and Francis Cook.

Photo Credit from above: Watercolor portrait of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker by Emily Taylor Edwards-Turner. Emily Taylor Edwards-Turner's Instagram is emtaylorheartist



This is a photo of the U.S. Quarter that was issued in 2024 with the likeness of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Wiki



This is a photo of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker with her Medal of Honor Wiki

Genealogy Bits and Pieces
What Does "Removed" Mean in Cousin Relationships?
By: Lois Revenaugh



Recently, at two family reunions, I kept hearing the same question: "What does it mean when someone is a cousin 'once removed' or 'twice removed'?" Even experienced family researchers sometimes get tangled up in this! Let's break it down step by step.

First, the easy part: cousin levels

Your cousin number (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) tells you who you and your cousin share as your most recent common ancestors (MRCA).

1st cousins share grandparents. For example, your mom's kids are 1st cousins with her sister's kids.

2nd cousins share great-grandparents. Example: Your Grandma Smith's grandchildren are 2nd cousins with her brother Bob's grandchildren.

3rd cousins share great-great-grandparents.

A handy tip from genealogist Diahhan Southard: count the Gs.

- Grandparent = 1st cousin
- Great-grandparent = 2nd cousin
- Great-great-grandparent = 3rd cousin
- ...and so on.

Now, the tricky part: "removed"

The word removed simply means you and your cousin are in different generations.

- Once removed** = one generation apart.
- Twice removed** = two generations apart.

Here's an example:

- Your dad and his cousin Barbara are 1st cousins (they share grandparents).
- You and Barbara are 1st cousins once removed because you are one generation below her. Her grandparents are your great-grandparents.

Putting it all together

So, what about a 4th cousin, twice removed?

A 4th cousin means your most recent common ancestors are 3rd great-grandparents.

Twice removed means there is a two-generation gap between you.

In other words, one of you might be the great-great-grandchild of that ancestor, while the other is the great-great-great-grandchild.

Genealogy
Descendants of Early American Governors 1607-1860
By: Keith Kammenzind, Governor of Western Colony

As a member of SMDPA, who is interested in genealogy, did you know that there is a lineage society for those of us descended from early American Governors? I was lucky enough to be a charter



member of this organization, being accepted as a descendant of John Howland. I just obtained a supplemental under the first governor of Rhode Island, Benedict Arnold. His daughter Damaris married John Bliss, and they built a house in Newport which is still on Wilbur Avenue. It is the oldest house in Newport. Yes, this Benedict is, unfortunately, the great-grandfather of the infamous traitor of the same name, which makes him my 2nd cousin, 7x removed. I guess there's one in every family...

If anyone is interested in joining this organization, you can visit their website at www.earlygovernors.org.



Genealogy

My Research Surprise

By: Carol L. Hodes

Several surprising facts surfaced in the process of my genealogy research. An interesting ancestor, my great-great-great grandfather, John Daniel Leinbach, esq. (1746-1817; DAR A069401), was a Patriot of the American Revolution, who fought for Pennsylvania. Daniel served in the 7th Co. 5th Bat of the Berks County Militia with the rank of lieutenant in 1777 and captain in 1780. Daniel was elected to the PA State Assembly in 1790, they met in the PA State House in Philadelphia, now called Independence Hall. This is where the Declaration of Independence and US Constitution were adopted and signed.

While researching my application for the Mayflower Society, I discovered that both my late parents are descended from Daniel, who had three wives and 23 children. My mother is from his daughter Catharine, the only daughter of his second wife, and my father descends from his son Jacob, the first son of Daniel's third wife. My parents had no knowledge of this relationship during their lifetime.

I also learned through my research that Daniel purchased his chair when his term in the state assembly expired, but the chair has disappeared from our family. If you find the chair, please contact me. This is a "walnut Chippendale ball and clawfoot chair" with the following unique inscription on the back: "*Daniel Leinbach, esq. of Gilbertsville, Montgomery County, was a member of this Colonial Assembly, and when his term expired, he bought the chair he had used in the Assembly from the State as a memento, paying \$5 for the unique piece of furniture.*" My research will continue.

Genealogy—How I became an SMDPA Member

By: Kevin P Smith, Western Colony Historian

I started my genealogy research in the spring of 2022. My discovery of



my Mayflower Ancestor was accidental and an incredible surprise. I have always been an enthusiast of American history, with a particular interest in the American Civil War. At that time, I was aware of one ancestor who served in the Civil War. I wanted to see if I had any other ancestors that served in the Civil War, and what about uncles or cousins, even distant cousins? This was my primary focus.

Of course, with this type of research, you will need to build back your family tree to find these individuals. Along the way, I discovered many notable individuals from history with whom I was related, and even some from whom I descended. This was something that never crossed my mind when I started my research, that I might make such discoveries. I still remember how thrilled I was to discover that I was a descendant of the poet Ann Bradstreet and that Emily Dickinson is a sixth cousin. Seeing how my initial primary research focus was on the Civil War, to discover that Lincoln's Secretary of State, William Seward, is a third cousin was very thrilling.

A few months into my research, I was having a conversation with my nephew about my overall progress. At that point in time, my primary focus had shifted to trying to identify the first immigrant ancestor in all my lines that came to America. (I did end up discovering an additional three great-grandfathers who served in the Civil War) Josh asked me if I had found an ancestor who was on the Mayflower. No, I had not, and I told him I wasn't expecting to find one because there was no rumor anywhere in my family that we had such a connection. Plus, I was not aware of any deep New England ties.

Fast forward months later to October 2022. I was researching a paternal line of mine that settled in Allegany County, New York, that migrated from Upstate New York via Rhode Island. On Ancestry.com, I received a hint for a potential ninth great-grandmother named Dinah (Barber) Wilcox. What got me excited was that her profile picture was a Mayflower Descendant grave marker. Now, even though I was still pretty sure that I was not a descendant of a Mayflower Passenger, once or twice during my research, I looked at the Mayflower Passenger list to maybe familiarize myself with some of the surnames, just in case one came up in my research. The surnames Barber or Wilcox did not ring a bell. With my heart rate elevated with excitement and after a few more hints for potential ancestors, I came to the name George Soule. My first thought was - who the heck is George Soule? This was not a name that stood out to me when reviewing the passenger list. But I really couldn't fault myself because there are 101 names on the list, and to be honest, off the top of my head, I probably could have named only a few Mayflower Passengers prior to my research.

After a few hours of intensely studying this possible Mayflower line, a line that I never even dreamed could have existed, I knew it was correct. But knowing it was correct wasn't good enough; I wanted to try and prove it

and be accepted into the Mayflower Society. I received the results of my Mayflower Lineage Match before Christmas in 2022. The first six in my line had been proven, but I had to prove the remaining nine generations. I spent the entire year of 2023 researching and gathering documents, which ultimately led to my acceptance into the Mayflower Society in March 2024. I am now volunteering as an Assistant Historian for Western Colony.

Fall Member Question By: Editors Sharyn & Pam

A topic that has been discussed at a few SMDPA meetings over the past several months has surfaced again. What is on your Bucket List, or what have you achieved from your Bucket List?



Pam Neilli, new SPDPA member from Harrisburg. I am eagerly awaiting the two Mayflower tours offered by Feat Travel: “The Path of the Pilgrims” in Massachusetts and “The Mayflower Heritage Tour” in England and the Netherlands! Unfortunately, I may have to wait two more years for these events, but I am certain they will be worth it! In the meantime, I am looking forward to meeting more Society members!

Mike Saunders, Susquehanna Colony Governor. I had two new knees on my bucket list! I have achieved my goal of crossing this off my list!

Pam Palchowski, Newsletter Editor. Now that I am retired, I would like to go to Pirate Baseball games while visiting opposing team stadiums. I also hope to see another Banana Ball game—maybe in Savannah, GA.

Kevin Smith, Western Colony Historian. I want to sign the Mayflower Descendants book at the Mayflower Pub located on the Thames in London. Christopher Jones moored The Mayflower there, and it’s the location where many of our ancestors boarded.

James Campbell, SMDPA Governor. This Spring, I plan to revel in three monster music festivals over one epic week: New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Festival International de Louisiane, and Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival.

Scott Bond, Treasurer - Publishing family history books so my grandchildren know their roots. Already crossed off: marrying my high-school sweetheart, raising good kids, and celebrating 52 years of global adventures together.

Ginny Fossa, Lead Historian - I have two areas on my bucket list. First was to travel. My husband and I were lucky enough to cruise to Bermuda and Hawaii. We spent a week in Yellowstone in a cabin in Monmouth Hot Springs. We visited Niagara Falls, Williamsburg, VA, Plymouth, MA (before I became a member), and Mexico while visiting my parents in AZ. It wasn’t always easy, as my husband had a stroke in 2002, but we didn’t let that stop us! Travel was accomplished.

My second bucket list item is what I’m doing right now! I

enjoy helping applicants become members of the Mayflower Society. I have been the Lead Co-Historian for 8 years now, and I’m still learning my way through the process. My reward is the kind words I receive after they have been accepted. I’m also the Registrar for my local chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) as well as the Children of the American Revolution (CAR).

Sharyn Davis, Newsletter Editor- Living near US Route 6, and traveling on it every day through Historic downtown Tunkhannock, I have always wanted to travel the entire route from Cape Cod to California. I have visited the very beginning of US Route 6 out on Cape Cod. Hopefully, when I retire, I’ll have the chance to take my picture at the other end in Long Beach, CA.



Adding an Extra Lock: How to Set Up Multi-Factor Authentication

By: Cynthia D. Ridgeway

Imagine locking your front door, but then also adding a deadbolt. Even if someone somehow got hold of your house key, they still couldn’t walk right in. That’s what **multi-factor authentication** (often called **MFA** or **2FA**) does for your online accounts—it adds a second layer of protection beyond just a password.



What Is Multi-Factor Authentication?

Usually, when you log into an account, you just type in your username and password. If a scammer guesses or steals that password, they’re in.

With MFA, logging in requires two (or more) proofs that you are really you:

1. Something you know—like your password.
2. Something you have—like a phone to receive a code, or an app that generates one.
3. Something you are—like a fingerprint or face scan (on some devices).

So even if your password is stolen, a hacker still can’t get in without that second proof.

Common Ways MFA Works

- Text Message (SMS): After entering your password, you receive a code on your cell phone that you must type in.
- Authenticator Apps: Free apps like Google Authenticator, Microsoft Authenticator, or Authy create short codes that change every 30 seconds.
- Email Codes: Some services send a code to your email.
- Biometrics: Fingerprint or face recognition (common on smartphones).

How to Set It Up (General Steps if your Grandkid isn't around)

The exact steps vary by service (like Gmail, Facebook, or your bank), but the process is similar:

1. Log in to your account on a computer or phone.
2. Find the "Security" or "Account Settings" section. Look for an option labeled "Two-factor authentication" or "multi-factor authentication."
3. Choose your second factor. Most people start with text messages or an authenticator app.
4. Follow the instructions. The service may ask you to enter your phone number, scan a barcode with an app, or set up backup codes in case you lose your phone.
5. Save backup options. Many accounts let you print or write down a set of one-time codes. Store them in a safe place, just in case.

Tips for Success

- Start with important accounts. Your email, bank, and shopping accounts (like Amazon) should be first.
- Use an authenticator app if possible. Text messages can be intercepted, but apps are safer.
- Don't skip backup codes. They're your lifeline if you lose your phone.
- Take it step by step. You don't need to set it up everywhere in one day.

The Bottom Line

Multi-factor authentication may sound complicated, but it's simply adding an extra lock on your digital door. Once it's set up, logging in usually only takes a few seconds longer—and the peace of mind is worth it.

Mayflower Connections

By: Sue Henning

We were on a tall ship sailing tour in Traverse City, Michigan, on Grand Traverse Bay. There were 8 of us, and 6 are Mayflower descendants. As George was telling someone about John Howland, one of the ship's crew, Maverick Aggson, looked up and said that he, too, was related to John Howland. His family now lives in Kansas. He's the one kneeling on the deck. Sue Henning enjoyed the day with the other members of her family: George Henning III, George Henning IV, Andrew Henning, Kylie Henning Potter, and William Henning.



SMDPA Vanity License Plate Program

By: Scott Bond

Yes, the SMDPA Vanity License Plate program is still alive and well with close to 30 members proudly showing their Mayflower Descendant colors on the highways and byways.

In preparation to celebrate America 250 in 2026, the big news is that Pennsylvania has introduced a new license plate design—for all of us—SMDPA included. The SMDPA plate

design was approved in June, and I am already seeing the new plate design on the roads.

If interested, you can access the application and instructions on our website. Go to SAIL1620.ORG, on the far right, click Store, and look for License Plates.



*Our original plate design—
first order April 2018*



*Our new 2025 plate design—
who will own the 1st one?*

The serialized version of the plate costs \$50. The personalized version costs \$180. I have not received word on the cutover date for the new design from PennDOT, but it should be available soon.

Some FAQs about replacement SMDPA plates:

1. The plate is peeling, and the member is okay with the following number in series. Complete the MV-46 and submit with no fees.
2. The plate is peeling, and the member wants to keep the same configuration, complete the MV-46, and submit with a \$136 check.
3. The plate is peeling, and the member already has a personalized plate. Complete the MV-46 and submit it with no fees.
4. The plate is fine, and the member wants the new Liberty Bell style, complete the MV-44, and submit with a \$14 check for the next number in the series.
5. The plate is fine, and the member wants the new Liberty Bell style in the same configuration. Complete the MV-44 and submit with a \$136 check.
6. The plate is fine, and the member wants their already personalized plate to be in the new Liberty Bell style, complete the MV-44, and submit with no fees.

If you have questions regarding the replacement of an older plate with the new design, please contact Scott Bond at Treasurer@sail1620.org.

Holiday Recipes to Share

*Recipe chosen by Susquehanna Governor Mike Saunders
Recipe was chosen from: The First American Cookbook -
American Cookery 1796
Cookbook Author: Amelia Simmons*

Pumpkin Pudding (18th-Century Style)

And for a unique recipe that tastes as good as it sounds:

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of cooked pumpkin (mashed; roasted fresh is best)
- 2 cups of whole milk or cream
- 3 large eggs
- ¾ cup brown sugar or maple syrup (both were used historically)
- 1 tsp cinnamon



- ½ tsp ground ginger
- ¼ tsp ground cloves or nutmeg
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 tbsp molasses (optional, for richness)
- 1 tbsp flour (optional, for thickening)
- Butter for greasing

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C).

1. Prepare pumpkin: If using fresh pumpkin, roast it until tender, then mash well.
2. In a large bowl, beat the eggs, then stir in the milk or cream, sugar/maple syrup, molasses (if using), and spices.
3. Add the mashed pumpkin and flour (if using). Mix until smooth.
4. Grease a baking dish with butter (a deep pie dish or ceramic casserole dish works well).
5. Pour in the pumpkin mixture and bake for 45–60 minutes, or until it's set like a custard (a knife in the center should come out mostly clean).
6. Let it cool slightly before serving.

To Serve: Serve warm or chilled, with a dollop of whipped cream or a drizzle of maple syrup. For a historical touch, serve it with hard sauce (a mix of butter, sugar, and brandy or rum).

Historical Context: Early American settlers, particularly in New England, used pumpkins extensively, boiled, roasted, mashed, or baked into puddings. Pies came later, but puddings were a staple at fall and harvest-time feasts, including early Thanksgivings.

According to Wikipedia, *American Cookery* is the first known cookbook written by an American. The cookbook was published in 1796. This was the first cookbook to include New England favorites such as Indian Pudding, Johnnycake, and what is now called Pumpkin Pie. Recipes have been adapted from early American colonial recipes.

Thanksgiving Family Recipe: “Creamed Onions”

By James Reed Campbell Jr.

My maternal grandmother on our Mayflower line was born and raised in North Carolina before moving to the Queens borough of New York City as a young woman in the 1920s. There, she met and married my Irish American grandfather and settled in the Bronx borough, where my mother was born and raised. My mother conceded that her mother was not the most gifted of cooks. Yet she was known for two signature Southern dishes: fried chicken and biscuits, and creamed onions. I cannot recall my mother ever making fried chicken for us, but she always included creamed onions on our Thanksgiving table.

When my mother passed away in March at age 87, I inherited her recipes. Sadly, creamed onions were not among them, so I will never know her technique. Instead, what follows is a recipe on page 552 from *The Gourmet Cookbook* (Condé Nast Publications, 2004), edited by Ruth Reichl. Here, the onions are rendered as golden, whereas my mother's remained pearly white.

GOLDEN CREAMED ONIONS

Serves 10 | Start to finish: 2 hrs.

Lightly caramelizing the onions before adding the cream gives this classic a whole new dimension. Don't limit the dish to the Thanksgiving table; it's just as delicious with roast beef, steak, or your Sunday night meatloaf. Note that we're not calling for pearl onions here, but for the slightly larger white boiling onions that are about the size of walnuts and are less labor-intensive.

- 3 lbs. small white boiling onions
- 2 tbs. unsalted butter
- 1 tsp. sugar
- ¾ tsp. salt
- 5 c. water
- ⅔ c. heavy cream
- Freshly ground black pepper
- ⅔ c. finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley



Blanch onions in a 5-qt. pot of boiling water for 2 mins. Drain in a colander and cool until they can be handled and then peel.

Combine onions, butter, sugar, salt, and water in the same pot; bring them to a boil, and boil uncovered, stirring occasionally, until most of the liquid has evaporated, 40 to 45 mins. Continue to cook onions over moderate heat, swirling them in the pot, until golden and beginning to brown, 5-to-10 mins.

Add cream and boil until the sauce is slightly thickened, about 1 min. Season with salt and pepper to taste and stir in parsley.

COOK'S NOTE: The creamed onions, without the parsley, can be made up to 1 day ahead and refrigerated, covered. Reheat in a skillet over moderately low heat, stirring until hot, and then thin the sauce with water if necessary. Stir in the parsley.

Save The Date—Spring Members' Meeting

Saturday, April 11, 2026

By: James Reed Campbell, Governor

Our Spring SMDPA Members' Meeting is one of our signature events for “new beginnings”. I am pleased to announce details for SMDPA's annual Members' Meeting. Next year, we will be gathering on Saturday, April 11, 12:00 noon. We will meet at the Corinthian Yacht Club of Philadelphia in Essington, Delaware County. This historic venue fronts the Delaware River and is conveniently located near Interstate 95 and Philadelphia International Airport. Adjacent is Governor Printz State Park, where you may explore a collection of reconstructed log cabins to honor this site of New Sweden (circa 1643), the first European settlement in Pennsylvania.

Our guest speaker will be historian, educator, and author Rod Gragg. Gragg is Director of the Center for Military and Veterans Studies at Coastal Carolina University, where he also serves as an adjunct professor of history. He has written more than 20 books, which have earned the Fletcher Pratt Award, the James I. Robertson Award, and other honors, while being selected for the Book-of-the-Month Club, the History Book Club, and the Military History Book Club. Gragg will be discussing his recent book, *The Pilgrim Chronicles: An Eyewitness History of the Pilgrims and the Founding of Plymouth Colony* (Regnery History, 2023).



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Did You Know? The General Society of Mayflower Descendants has a YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@mayflowersociety/videos>. WOW!

SAVE THE DATE

Sat., Oct. 25, 2025	Susquehanna Colony Fall Meeting	Gettysburg, PA
Sat., Nov. 15, 2025	Western Colony Thanksgiving	Pittsburgh, PA
Sat., Nov. 22, 2025	SMDPA Thanksgiving Worship/Dinner	Malvern, PA
Sat., Apr. 11, 2026	SMDPA Members Meeting	Essington, PA

All meeting times and events are subject to change. Please check our website regularly for the latest details. All members will be able to conveniently register and pay online for all SMDPA events.

www.sail1620.org

**Reservations with payment
 By: SMDPA Event Committee**

Registrations are now open for SMDPA's upcoming events. All reservations and payments can be easily made online. Our most popular events are the annual Thanksgiving events! To view details and to register conveniently online, please visit SMDPA's "Future Meetings / Events" webpage.

www.sail1620.com